



A Tribute To Jackie Robinson

1919 - 1972

"I NEVER HAD IT MADE"

Jackie Robinson, who earned a place in history by breaking major league baseball's color barrier in 1947 and ascending to the Hall of Fame in 1962 came to the end of his personal history October 24, 1972 apparently from the result of a heart disease.

Robinson was stricken early Tuesday morning at his New York home and was administered to by police summoned by his wife. He was then rushed to Stamford Hospital but was dead of arrival at the age of 53.

Robinson was able to prove his versatility off the field as well as on. After he retired from baseball, he accepted an executive position with Chock Full O'Nuts, One of New York City's largest chain restaurants. He later resigned from the \$50,000 per year position because of the company's failure to hire blacks to managerial positions.

His involvements included civil rights, finance as he was named chairman of Freedom National Bank of Harlem, and business where he ran the J. & R. Construction Company in Englewood, N. J.

Robinson's achievements often came in the face of physical impediments and loneliness that accompanies a man who will speak his mind on issues that others often avoid.

In addition to being a diabetic, Robinson completely lost the vision in his right eye and had impaired vision in the left which laser beam treatments improved to 20 - 30. Robinson also suffered a stroke in 1968.

Robinson worked on a book with journalist Al Duckett, "I Never Had It Made", with the title painting a symbolic picture of the Jackie Robinson story. In the book, Robinson says, "I have believed in one irrefutable fact in my life. I was a Black man in a white world . . . I never had it made."



Jackie Robinson shown here going after umpire after spat with Cubs' Andy Pafko, was first (in 1946) black athlete to play in modern professional baseball.

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