

Jackie Robinson's impact on America

There were many African Americans in the United States who have influenced the 20th century. A well known former baseball player named Jackie Robinson was one of these influences. Robinson was born in Cairo, Georgia in 1919 and had been a part of a family with five kids including him. His mother was a sharecropper who took care of Jackie and his siblings until he went to college. At a young age, he had excelled in many sports, he attended UCLA where he played and performed well in baseball, basketball, football and track.¹ He was an amazing and talented athlete that would go on to be in the Hall of fame for his incredible baseball skills. Even before he rose to fame, he advocated for civil rights in America. Baseball gave him a stage to voice his concerns and protest for equality for all. Jackie Robinson was an influence during the 20th century by using baseball to encourage other African Americans to play, creating opportunities for others, and protesting for civil rights.

Robinson broke the color barrier for black people in baseball. He started his professional career with the Negro leagues as a second baseman. His skill and potential were seen by the Dodgers, a famous MLB team. He was recruited by the Dodgers and played for their farm team named the Montreal Royals in 1946. In 1947, Jackie became the first African American to be on a professional baseball team after he was promoted to the Dodgers, he became the first African American to play on a Major League Baseball team.² He changed the course of sports and how

¹ "UCLA Celebrates Jackie Robinson Day," UCLA, accessed May 21, 2019, <https://uclabruins.com/news/2014/4/15/209467368.aspx>.

² "Jackie Robinson," Baseball Hall of Fame, accessed May 20, 2019, <https://baseballhall.org/hall-of-famers/robinson-jackie>.