

# Satchel Paige Statue

## Recognition at Bismarck Municipal Ballpark

A volunteer committee is raising funds through the Bismarck Recreation Council (BRC) to install a life-size bronze statue of Satchel Paige at the Bismarck Municipal Ballpark. Your support will help recognize the historical legacy of this Hall of Fame ballplayer in our community.

### Celebrating Local History

In 2012 during renovation of the Bismarck Municipal Ballpark, my dad, Jack Schwartz, felt that Satchel Paige should be recognized for his contribution to baseball in Bismarck-Mandan and specifically at the Municipal Ballpark. My dad is gone, so I have decided to take up his cause in collaboration with Bismarck Parks and Recreation District to ensure this important piece of Bismarck's baseball legacy is not forgotten. The plan is to have a bronze statue of Satchel Paige constructed and placed at the Municipal Ballpark to celebrate his playing time in Bismarck and his contribution to the game of baseball. Please join me in celebrating this very important part of Bismarck's local baseball history by contributing to this important project. As my dad would say, "Many thanks in advance!"

--Mike Schwartz



## Leroy "Satchel" Paige

Leroy "Satchel" Paige began his professional pitching career in the Negro Leagues in the 1920s. During the 1930s, Paige played with Negro National League Pittsburgh Crawfords, as well as teams in Bismarck and the Dominican Republic. In the late 1930s, he signed with Kansas City Monarchs "B" team. At the age of 42, Paige made his American League debut with the Indians in 1948. Paige pitched for the Indians again in 1949, then spent three seasons with the St. Louis Browns from 1951-53. He then returned to the minors, playing one final game in the majors with the Athletics at the age of 59 in 1965. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1971.

## Satchel in Bismarck

In August 1933, Paige pitched and won seven games in Bismarck, giving the city the right to claim the "unofficial" semi-professional state championship title that year.

During the 1935 season, Paige's team earned a regular season record of 55-6. He led the Bismarck team to the national semi-professional championship, the first time an integrated team in any sport won a national championship. At the tournament, Paige won four games and struck out 60 batters, a tournament record that still stands.



Bismarck Recreation Council  
701-222-6455 • BRC@bisparks.org