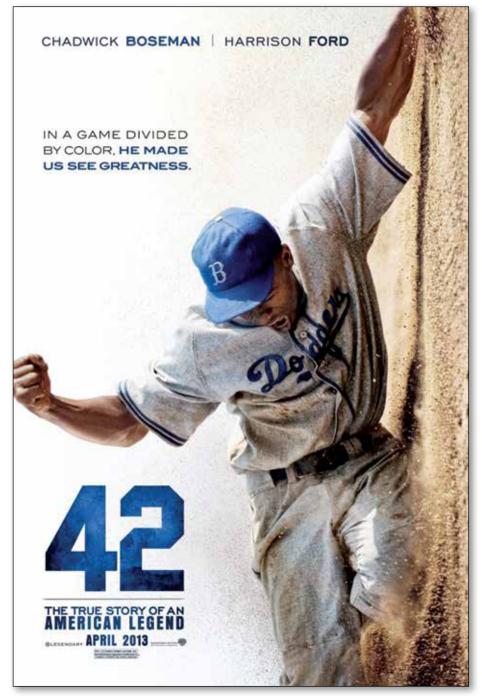


Tenth Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference



March  $2^{ND}$  2013



"42" Movie Poster: Three Southern Association ballparks, Rickwood, Engel, and Luther Williams, are featured in "42," Legendary Pictures' Jackie Robinson biopic. *Courtesy of Legendary Pictures.* 

## Tenth Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference

Rickwood Field | Birmingham, Alabama Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

9:00	A.M.	Morning coffee and donuts
9:30	A.M.	Welcome and introductory remarks
9:45	A.M.	David Brewer
		"Hollywood and the Ballparks of the
		Southern Association: An Overview"
10:15	A.M.	Chuck Stewart
		"Cobb, the Movie: A Week at Rickwood Field"
10:45	A.M.	Morning break – Collector Exhibits
11:00	A.M.	Dan Creed
		"Chattanooga Rolls Out the Red Carpet for Jackie, Finally"
11:30	A.M.	Lunch with Special Guests from the Engel Foundation,
12:30	P.M.	Jeb Stewart
		"Jackie Robinson and the Movies Come to Birmingham:
		Rickwood's Review of the Making of 42"
1:00	P.M.	Branch Rickey and the Southern Players
		Clarence Watkins: Branch Rickey Johnny Bowlin: "Ed Stevens: The Other Side of 42" Clarence Watkins: Dixie Walker Gerald Watkins: "Ben Chapman: A Forgotten Yankee" Clarence Watkins: Bobby Bragan
2:45	P.M.	Open Panel Discussion: Impact of the Movies on the Ballparks
3:15	P.M.	Closing Remarks



Dixie Walker (center) and Brooklyn's long-time radio and television broadcaster, Red Barber (right). *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins*.



"Ty Cobb" studying his lines, during 1998 ESPN commercial filming at **Rickwood Field**. *Courtesy of Sam Fisher*.



Camera crew captures action at second base, during Rickwood filming of "Cobb." *Courtesy of Sam Fisher.* 



Dixie Walker at home, reading with his children, after learning that he had been traded by the Dodgers. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins*.



1943 Brooklyn Dodgers. **Dixie Walker**, is middle row, third from left. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins*.



Local Chattanooga talent dressed as umpires, with the iconic **Ebbets Field** scoreboard in the background. *Courtesy of Dan Creed.* 



Jackie Robinson with Clay Hopper, 1946 Montreal Royals manager. Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.



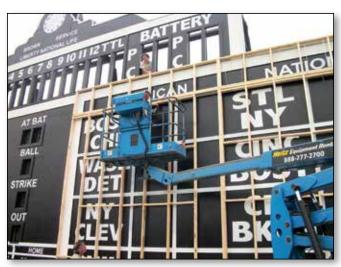
Branch Rickey, who took over as the Pirates' GM after leaving Brooklyn, smiles triumphantly with new Pirate signees. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.* 



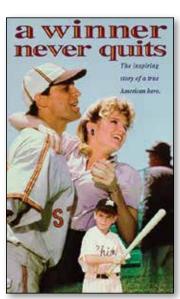
Birmingham native, **Bobby Bragan**, spent four seasons with the **Brooklyn Dodgers**. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins*.



Alabama filmed its 1993 "Cheap Seats" video at Chattanooga's Engel Stadium. Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.



"42" construction department members alter the appearance of Rickwood Field's iconic scoreboard. *Courtesy of Friends of Rickwood.* 



"A Winner Never Quits," a 1986 made-for-TV movie, filmed in-part at Engel Stadium, told the story of Pete Gray, the former Memphis Chick and St. Louis Brown veteran. Courtesy of Clarence Watkins



Macon's Luther Williams Field has an impressive film biography, including appearances in "42," "Bingo Long," and Clint Eastwood's "Trouble with the Curve." Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.



## Tenth Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference Presenters:

Johnny Bowlin A native of Pleasant Grove, AL, now residing in Meadville, MS, Johnny Bowlin has been a member of the Friends of Rickwood since 2006, and is a graduate of UAB with a degree in history, and a graduate of New Orleans Seminary with a master's degree in theology. He is a huge fan of the Cleveland Indians and minor league baseball, with specific interest in the New Orleans Zephyrs and Jackson Generals. An author of four student devotionals written in conjunction with Go! Ministries, he served previously as a contributing writer for the New Orleans Zephyrs' *Bleacher Creature* fan newsletter, and is currently a regular contributor to *Bluffs and Bayous Magazine*, published in Natchez, MS.

**David M. Brewer** Employed since 1998 as the Executive Director of the Friends of Rickwood, David Brewer has served as the primary coordinator for the restoration and revitalization of Birmingham, Alabama's Rickwood Field. A graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, he holds an M.A. degree in History, with a focus on American social history, the American Industrial Revolution, and historic preservation. A presenter at the 2010 SABR National Convention, he is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research and the American Baseball Foundation's Development Commission.

**Dan Creed** Chattanooga resident, Dan Creed, is an avid collector of Lookouts memorabilia, and a longtime advocate for the preservation and redevelopment of Engel Stadium. A graduate of Covenant College (Lookout Mountain, GA), his baseball accomplishments include 25 years as a college umpire, having hosted the 2006 Southern Association Conference at Engel Stadium and the 2008 Chattanooga Baseball Conference. A presenter at the 2010 SABR National Convention, he has been a participant in previous Southern Association Conferences, and last season produced and hosted the Chattanooga radio show, "*The Boys of Summer*."

**Chuck Stewart** Serious collector of baseball history and artifacts, Chuck Stewart attended his first game at Rickwood Field in 1964. A resident of Auburn, AL, he has focused his collecting primarily on the history of Rickwood Field, and since childhood has acquired an extensive collection of vintage gloves and one-of-a-kind artifacts related to Rickwood, the Birmingham Barons, and the Birmingham A's. A long-time member of the Friends of Rickwood, he is the author of *Angels at Rickwood: Angels, Conductors, and Willie Mays*, a heartfelt story written for his daughter on her thirteenth birthday.

Jeb Stewart A graduate of Randolph-Macon College and the Cumberland School of Law, Jeb Stewart practices law in Birmingham, AL. He joined SABR last year and became a member of the Board of the Friends of Rickwood Field in 2010. He has previously published articles online at the "Baseball Chronicle" and had an article published in the 2010 edition of *The Rickwood Times* newspaper. A father of two sons (Nolan and Ryan), he is a recent newlywed and is looking forward to taking his wife, Stephanie, to the 2013 Rickwood Classic.

**Clarence Watkins** Author of **Baseball in Birmingham** (Arcadia Press), Clarence Watkins is a member of the Friends of Rickwood Board of Directors and is a long-time collector of Southern Association history. A 1972 graduate of Memphis State University, he is a member of Birmingham's Triple Play Club and SABR. He also presented his research at the 2010 SABR National Convention and the 2010 Jerry Malloy Conference. His second Arcadia Book, **Baseball in Memphis**, was released in April 2012.

**Gerald Watkins** A graduate of Jacksonville State University, Gerald Watkins is an avid reader of baseball history, and advanced collector of baseball memorabilia. A Birmingham banker for over thirty years, he is the former owner of Triple Crown Sports Collectibles, where he organized more than sixty baseball card shows, and specialized in coordinating player appearances. An officer in Birmingham's Triple Play Club, he also serves on the American Baseball Foundation's Development Commission, and served as a sports memorabilia appraiser for the Birmingham History Museum. An eight-year member of the Friends of Rickwood Board of Directors, he currently serves as the organization's Chairman.



Birmingham's Rickwood Field served as the film location for all of the baseball scenes for Warner Brother's 1994 film, "Cobb." Jackie Robinson starred as himself in this 1950 production "The Jackie Robinson Story," along with Ruby Dee as Rachel. "Soul of the Game," HBO's 1996 Negro League drama, featured Rickwod Field as Washington D.C.'s Griffith Stadium. *All Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.* 



Ballplayers & extras pose for a group shot during the Rickwood filming of "Soul of the Game." *Courtesy of Sam Fisher.* 

Special thanks to: Dr. Johnie Grace and Martin-Grace Benefit Group Triple Play Baseball Club Skip Nipper and sulphurdell.com Liz Rybka



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