



HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT CHICAGO
HAS MADE TO AMERICA'S FAVORITE PASTIME

For Additional Information:
Michelle Benson
708.907.5301

**CHICAGO BASEBALL MUSEUM'S "BUCK O'NEIL AND BLACK BASEBALL IN CHICAGO" FILM
SELECTED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE BASEBALL FILM FESTIVAL
HELD AT THE HALL OF FAME**

[Chicago – September 7, 2010] The Chicago Baseball Museum is pleased to announce that its documentary "Buck O'Neil and Black Baseball In Chicago" has been selected for participation in the Baseball Film Festival this October 1-3 at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York.

This year marks the Fifth Annual Baseball Film Festival at the Hall of Fame. Selected films can be of any length and genre, but must have been released within the last five years and feature baseball as a primary or secondary theme.

The Festival will begin Friday night at 6 p.m. with a Salute to "61" with a special program featuring Billy Crystal and Bob Costas followed by a Special Screening of "61". "Buck O'Neil and Black Baseball in Chicago" will be shown on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in the Bullpen Theater.

"Buck O'Neil and Black Baseball in Chicago" first premiered on WYCC-TV on Nov. 9, 2008.

Film Synopsis

The Chicago Baseball Museum documentary, shot by filmmaker John Owens, offers a unique look at the early days of black baseball, much of it through the eyes of O'Neil, the one-time Negro League legend. Lookingglass Theatre ensemble member Anthony Fleming III narrates the film.

The film features O'Neil's last known in-depth interview, which took place in Kansas City in 2004, two years before his death at 94 years of age. In the sitdown, he reminisces about Negro League baseball in the days of segregation as well as the Major Leagues in the early stage of integration. That interview, along with recollections from former Negro Leaguers and Major League players touched by O'Neil, is the foundation of "Buck O'Neil and Black Baseball in Chicago."

Born in Carabelle, Fla., John (Buck) O'Neil went on to spend more than 30 years with the Cubs as a scout and the first black coach in the Major Leagues. He was instrumental in the development of Cubs stars Ernie Banks, Lou Brock, Lee Smith and Billy Williams among dozens of African-American players. He also had close relationships with Minnie Minoso, Oscar Gamble and other White Sox personnel over the years.



HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT CHICAGO
HAS MADE TO AMERICA'S FAVORITE PASTIME

Although O'Neil fell one vote short of induction before he passed away, many recognize his to be a Hall of Fame career. As a first baseman with the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro American League, he claimed a pair of batting titles. Later in his career, in the role of scout, coach and goodwill ambassador, O'Neil did much to bridge the racial gap that existed in the game and our nation.

In his youth, O'Neil was a frequent visitor to the South Side, where he watched the Chicago American Giants play in Negro League games at the Southside Grounds at 39th and Princeton, the original White Sox home that the Comiskey family rented out to Rube Foster, the owner of the American Giants. As the affable O'Neil once said, "The South Side was outstanding, man."

After the 1940 season when Southside Park burned down, Louis Comiskey, son of Sox founder Charles A. Comiskey, generously allowed the Giants to relocate to Comiskey Park at 35th and Shields, where they competed against O'Neil and his Monarchs teams often. He also took part in four East-West All-Star Games, which were played at Comiskey Park annually from 1933-1960.

White Sox Board Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf lauded this film: "As you watch this documentary, you realize several themes constant in the history of Black Baseball ... Chicago. Comiskey Park, and Buck O'Neil."

For more information regarding the 2010 Baseball Film Festival or the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, please contact Craig Muder, communications director, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum at cmuder@baseballhalloffame.org or (607)547-0227.

ABOUT THE CHICAGO BASEBALL MUSEUM AND JEROME HOLTZMAN MUSEUM LIBRARY & RESEARCH CENTER

The Chicago Baseball Museum and Jerome Holtzman Museum Library & Research Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that will collect, preserve, document, and interpret artifacts and events that are associated with the legacy, evolution and contemporary life of Chicago baseball. The Jerome Holtzman Library & Research Center will serve as the focus for Chicago baseball history in the Museum. The CBM will strive to become the central network for baseball in Chicago to celebrate and promote baseball. The CBM is poised to become the home base of Chicago baseball for kids and adults.

The Museum is soliciting endowment funding for the building of the Chicago Baseball Museum and the Jerome Holtzman Museum Library & Research Center. Please visit the Museum's website for more information or to offer your support.

For more information, visit www.chicagobaseballmuseum.org or call (708)907-5301.

###