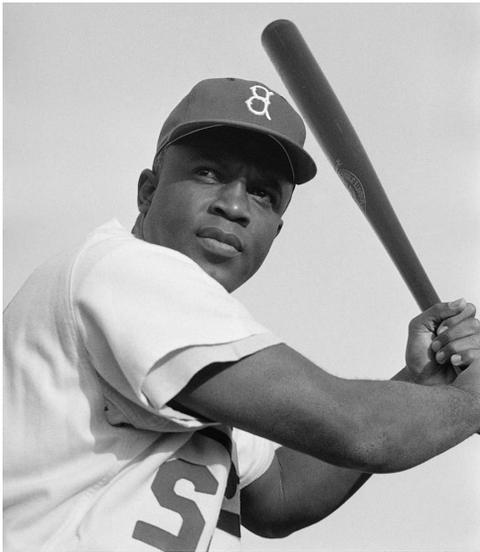


## Jackie Robinson:



Jackie Robinson attended Pasadena Junior College for two years after graduating high school, and following the death of his older brother, Robinson honored his memory by enrolling at UCLA in 1939. While attending, he became the first Bruin to earn varsity letters in four sports and he won the NCAA long jump championship in 1940.

In early 1945, Robinson was signed by the National Negro League to play for the Kansas City Monarchs, where he starred for one season, hitting .387. He was assigned to the Royals for the 1946 season, where he became liked by Montreal fans and batted an impressive .349. His performance both on and off the field earned him a spot on the Brooklyn Dodgers the following season.

On April 15th, 1947, Robinson took first base on the Dodgers. His debut led to much hate, and although he quickly proved he belonged as a player, the color of his skin was an issue for opposing teams and fans. In 1947, in his first year with the Dodgers, he earned the inaugural "Rookie of the Year" award where Robinson would go on to hit .311 over a 10-year career. He became the first black player to win the National League Most Valuable Player Award in 1949, when he led the league in hitting with a .342 average, most stolen bases (37) and achieving career-high 124 RBI. From 1949-1954, Jackie was an All Star in the MLB, and he led Brooklyn to a World Series championship, beating their biggest rivals, the New York Yankees in 1956.

Jackie Robinson proved that the color of your skin doesn't define your athletic ability. He broke boundaries and opened people's mind up, by being one of few players brave enough to integrate baseball and even be better than many white players. His legacy forever lives on and will always be recognized by many today.