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Black history and baseball: Who were the New York Gorhams?

By Morgan E. Maier

On the banks of the Hudson River, Newburgh is less synonymous with America’s pastime than home of the baseball bat, Easton, Pa. But both cities were represented by the East Coast’s most successful all-Black exhibition baseball club, well before the nation organized the Negro Leagues. The New York Gorhams operated from 1886-1892, representing cities across the tri-state area.

The Hudson Valley Renegades recognized the Gorhams in a game last week at Heritage Financial Park.

So how did the Gorhams come to shape baseball in the Hudson Valley?

While the Gorhams were named for a Black Manhattan bar owner, others employed the monikers of professional teams, like the Gorhams’ rival Cuban Giants. Originally the New York Giants, the Cuban Giants drew up a more stylized nickname after playing some winter matchups in Cuba.

In the prominently white enterprise that was 19th-century baseball, the Gorhams and Cuban Giants represented cities in the Middle States League, hosting visiting teams who needed a financial boost. Rather than threaten to fold, teams could meet payroll require-

ments in these matchups and know the Gorhams and Cuban Giants could draw a crowd, win or lose.

The traveling Gorhams once represented cities including Newburgh, Philadelphia, Easton, and Ardonia (CT). Over the seasons, the lineup featured eventual hall of famers like Frank Grant. Big-hitting George Stovey and brothers Andrew and Oscar Jackson further rounded out the team. Others were only known by first name like Emory, a catcher.

For a few seasons, the team played in the Middle States League that was made primarily of white clubs. Many matchups with such teams, primarily made of college students, featured parades, brass grandiose, and a fair amount of marketing. Ambrose Davis, the original player-manager and first Black club owner of salaried players,



The traveling Gorhams once represented cities including Newburgh, Philadelphia, Easton (PA) and Ardonia (CT). Over the seasons, the lineup featured eventual Hall of Famers like Frank Grant. Big-hitting George Stovey and brothers Andrew and Oscar Jackson further rounded out the team. Others were only known by first name like Emory, a catcher. *Courtesy photo.* Right: Garrett Martin of the Renegades sports a New York Gorhams uniform during a game last week. *Photo by Dave Janosz.*

learned how to draw the interest of other teams – and spectators — in these contests.

Think Globetrotters, or Savannah Bananas, before social media trends rose such daring play to fame. The Gorhams were known for their ability to keep one-sided games entertaining, with acrobatic catches and in-game entertainment that could keep an audience engaged. Even a 25-4 score, as was the first-ever game between the

Gorhams and Cuban Giants.

As the Gorhams’ home in 1887, Benkard Heights in Newburgh hosted a long-awaited midsummer victory. With a 4-3 win in exhibition game, the New York became the first victor over the Cuban Giants that didn’t feature a white man on the roster. The gutsy play of Oscar Jackson sealed the win, scoring on an infield single. The

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League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
	Greensboro	PIT				34	14	.708	-	6-4	L1
	Hudson Valley	NYY				31	16	.660	2.5	7-3	W1
	Jersey Shore	PHI				27	20	.574	6.5	6-4	W1
	Aberdeen	BAL				22	25	.468	11.5	5-5	L1
	Brooklyn	NYM *				20	28	.417	14.0	5-5	W2
	Wilmington	WSH				20	28	.417	14.0	4-6	L1
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
	Greenville	BOS				25	23	.521	-	5-5	W1
	Bowling Green	TB *				24	24	.500	1.0	3-7	L5
	Hub City	TEX				24	24	.500	1.0	3-7	L2
	Rome	ATL				20	27	.426	4.5	7-3	W5
	Asheville	HOU				19	28	.404	5.5	5-5	W2
	Winston-Salem	CWS				19	28	.404	5.5	4-6	L2



Home Schedule

September			
09/02/25	vs. Greensboro	06:05 PM	First Day Of School Baseball Bingo Presented By PeopleUSA
09/03/25	vs. Greensboro	06:05 PM	Football Night Wine Wednesday Presented By Benmarl Winery
09/04/25	vs. Greensboro	06:05 PM	Hudson Valley Big Apples Presented By Apples From New York Big Apples Replica Jersey Giveaway Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union
09/05/25	vs. Greensboro	07:05 PM	Copa De La Diversión: Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff Presented By Cafe Con Leche Fireworks Friday Presented By D. Rohde Home Services
09/06/25	vs. Greensboro	05:05 PM	Rascal & Rosie's Anniversary Party Rascal & Rosie Bobblehead Giveaway Presented By WRWD
09/07/25	vs. Greensboro	02:05 PM	Fan Appreciation Day Sunday Family Funday



Renegades roll in final series vs. IronBirds

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades (31-16) concluded the extended homestand with one last series against the Aberdeen IronBirds (22-25) ... for good. The Baltimore Orioles affiliate is being phased out of the South Atlantic League to join the MLB Draft League. Despite being no-hit for the first time since 2006, the Renegades won the final series, taking four of six from Aberdeen in the team's final matchup.

None, then one - Hardly 24 hours after being held to the goose egg end of a no-hitter, the Renegades bounced back on August 17 with a 1-0 victory. It was a one-hit wonder, as IronBird Maikol

Hernández's third-inning single proved to be Aberdeen's final offensive stand. Matt Keating (3-1, 2.79 ERA) earned the win, pitching two hitless innings in relief of Cade Smith (5.0 IP, 5 K, 1 H). Bryce Warrecker closed with his fourth save of the year. The lone Renegades run came in the sixth inning, as a Josh Moylan sacrifice fly scored Dillon Lewis. Lewis finished with two of the Renegades' four hits on the day. The Renegades picked up a game on the Greensboro Grasshoppers (34-14) with the finale win, pulling to two games behind Greensboro with just three weeks to go in the season.

Viva La Rivas - Xavier Rivas set a Renegades record on August 15, fanning 12 IronBirds on the way to his first High-

A win. Aberdeen hit Rivas for one run in the first, but he quickly settled in. A four-run first frame boosted the lefty down the stretch, as Kaeden Kent went yard to erase Aberdeen's lead with a two-run blast. High-A opponents are hitting just .098 against 2024 draft pick Rivas, who went seven strong to preserve a few bullpen arms. Tony Rossi's team-leading seventh save shut the door on Aberdeen in the ninth, securing the third series win for Hudson Valley.

First five - Hudson Valley scored in each of the first five innings on August 14. Back-to-back RBI by Core Jackson and Tyler Wilson got it started. Lewis followed with his 11th High-A home run in

the second. Lewis was responsible for half of the 10 runs, with a spectacular performance (3-5, 5 RBI) that included an RBI double to clear every duck from the pond. Kyle Carr held the lead for six innings, striking out five while allowing one run on three hits. Seven 'Gades runs came with two outs, including all five Lewis RBI.

Three weeks remain in the regular season, and the Renegades trail Greensboro by two and a half games. Up next, Hudson Valley will hit the beach for a sandy bout with the Jersey BlueClaws (27-20), who hold the third position in the SAL.

RENEGADES FEATURE

Yankees' draft picks join Renegades roster

By Morgan E. Maier

The New York Yankees saw 38 picks taken in the 2025 draft before they could make their first move. Shortstop Dax Kilby marked the first of the team's 19 picks. With baseball season approaching its final month, Hudson Valley Renegades fans finally got a peek at the latest prospects to bring speed, southpaw power and experience to the High-A roster. Debuting in their first full Renegades series, we have the three-man infield of Kaeden Kent, Connor McGinnis, and Core Jackson, plus outfielders Camden Troyer and Robbie Burnett.

Kaeden Kent, Texas A&M (3rd Round, No. 103)

A .290 career hitter as an Aggie, Kent earned the full-time starting shortstop role in 2025, his junior campaign. As a sophomore, he was the offensive foundation of the first A&M team to reach the College World Series final. His 10-for-24 (.450, 7 RBI) performance in Omaha earned All-Tournament Honors. Kent was a highly touted prospect for his power hitting, one of eight Aggies selected in this draft. He's a lefty bat that throws with his right, and Kent's power-hitting prowess and ability to draw walks bode well for the infielder's development.

Core Jackson, Utah (5th Round, No. 164)

With the arrival of Core Jackson, the Renegades have another southpaw in the batter's box. Given the Yankees' propensity for lefty hitters, this added pickup is no surprise. As a 'Gade, Jackson has taken reps at second base and shortstop, and batted fourth in the cleanup. Such displays of versatility can be highly valuable at the High-A level.

Robbie Burnett, Georgia

Undrafted free agent signee Robbie Burnett joins the Renegades after four years as a Bulldog. He ended his college career at Georgia after three seasons at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. The outfielder holds a notable knack for speed, including a Georgia program-tying four stolen bases in a single game. He hit .307/.477/.693 and launched a career-high 20 home runs as a senior. Burnett was named a First-Team All-American by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) and appeared at four fielding positions for Georgia. He was a semi-finalist for the Golden Spikes and Dick Howser awards, honors based on character, athletic ability, and sportsmanship. Still early in his Hudson Valley career, Burnett checks many boxes of a solid acquisition.

Connor McGinnis, Houston (10th Round, No. 314)

Texas native Connor McGinnis started 30 games for the University of Houston in his junior season. Though his collegiate career ended with an injury, McGinnis was an extra-base machine, leading the team in doubles. The second baseman hit .343 in 31 appearances as a Cougar with 25 RBIs and eight multi-hit games. He garnered national attention at the Division-I junior college level as a Blinn College Buccaneer, hitting .538 to propel his team to the championship title. That season, McGinnis hit .399 with seven 3+ RBI performances on his way to third-team All-American honors. As the Yankees organization prioritizes strong infield development, McGinnis' smooth swing should be a good addition to the middle positions.



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Camden Troyer, Liberty University (12th Round, No. 374)

The Yankees took Camden Troyer on the draft's second day, after the outfielder's career season at Liberty University. He scored 54 runs in 56 starts, posting 44 RBI and a .300 average. He led the team

in on-base and slugging percentages, compiling a .926 OPS with 10 home runs. Troyer played three seasons at Liberty, amassing a .265 career batting average and known for his difficulty to punch out. Troyer notched three hits in his first four Renegade appearances.