

783. Swaine, Rick. **The Black Stars Who Made Baseball Whole: The Jackie Robinson Generations in the Major Leagues, 1947-1959.** Jefferson, N.C., McFarland, 2006. 296p. illus. index. \$35.00pa. ISBN 0-7864-2316-1.

A member of the prestigious Society for American Baseball Research and author of a previous book on major league baseball players who overcame disabilities, Rick Swaine is a semi-retired accountant who coaches youth baseball and still plays the game himself. Even knowledgeable baseball fans will be impressed by the utility of Swaine's research on the 122 black ballplayers who made it to the big leagues, from the arrival of Jackie Robinson in 1947 to the end of the 1959 season when all major league teams finally had employed at least one black ballplayer. With his well-designed, informative book he sensitively "tells the story of the generation of black players who followed in Robinson's footsteps" (p. 1). These individuals began their careers in the Negro leagues or in the minor leagues and succeeded under difficult circumstances at the highest level of professional baseball. Chapter 1 effectively explains the "Prelude to Integration" of baseball. Chapters 2 through 14 each discuss a single year with profiles of 1 to 4 outstanding black players for each year. Chapter 15 documents the rise to predominance of the National League. Chapter 16 portrays "Other Black Pioneers," while chapter 17 introduces some men of tremendous talent who did not enjoy full careers in the major leagues. Four appendixes yield a roster of black major leaguers 1947-1959, statistics on the year-by-year population of black major league players, a list of black player firsts, and honors and awards for black players. As Swaine notes, there are several well-written accounts of Negro league baseball, but his superb book fills a gap in the baseball literature and will be a valuable addition to any library collection.—**Julienne L. Wood**