

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Radcliffe, Ted, 1902-2005
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe,
<b>Dates:</b>	June 16, 2001
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2001
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:27:06).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Baseball player Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe (1902 - 2005 ) was the oldest living Negro League player in the United States as the time of his death on August 11, 2005. He was nicknamed "Double Duty" by Damon Runyon, who saw Radcliffe play in a 1932 Negro League World Series double header. Radcliffe caught for legendary pitcher Leroy "Satchel" Paige in a victorious first game and then pitched a shutout in the second. Radcliffe was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 16, 2001, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2001_062
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe, one of Negro League Baseball's most popular players, was born on July 7, 1902, in Mobile, Alabama. He hails from the same community as fellow Negro League players Leroy "Satchel" Paige and Bobby "The Human Vacuum Cleaner" Robinson, all of whom grew up playing ball together. Because of the limited educational and economic opportunities available to African Americans at the time, baseball became a means for Radcliffe and his brother, Alex, a top Negro League third baseman, to leave Mobile and the segregated South.

Radcliffe excelled at both pitching and catching. He pitched in five and caught in nine all-star games. He was nicknamed "Double Duty" by Damon Runyon, who saw Radcliffe play in a 1932 Negro League World Series double header. Radcliffe caught for legendary pitcher Leroy "Satchel" Paige in a victorious first game and then pitched a shutout in the second.

The Negro League Baseball player began playing professional baseball in 1928 with the Detroit Stars. Over the course of his career, Radcliffe played with over fifteen Negro League teams, including three of Negro League Baseball's greatest teams: the 1930 St. Louis Stars, 1931 Homestead Grays, and 1932 Pittsburgh Crawfords.

In addition to pitching and catching, Radcliffe began managing teams in the late 1930s. He managed the Memphis Red Sox in 1937 and 1938 and took charge of the Chicago American Giants in 1943.

Radcliffe was the oldest living Negro League player in the United States at the time of his death on August 11, 2005, in Chicago.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on June 16, 2001, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. Baseball player Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe (1902 - 2005 ) was the oldest living Negro League player in the United States as the time of his death on August 11, 2005. He was nicknamed "Double Duty" by Damon Runyon, who saw Radcliffe play in a 1932 Negro League World Series double header. Radcliffe caught for legendary pitcher Leroy "Satchel" Paige in a victorious first game and then pitched a shutout in the second.

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# Restrictions

## Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

## Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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# Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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# Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

## Persons:

Radcliffe, Ted, 1902-2005

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Radcliffe, Ted, 1902-2005--Interviews

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African American baseball players--Interviews

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Negro leagues

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Migration, Internal--United States

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Cobb, Ty, 1886-1961

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Ruth, Babe, 1895-1948

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Paige, Satchel, 1906-1982

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Baseball--History

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Baseball player-managers--United States--Interviews

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Robinson, Jackie, 1919-1972

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Banks, Ernie, 1931-

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Aaron, Hank, 1934-

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Pitchers (Baseball)--Interviews

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African Americans--Race identity

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Catchers (Baseball)--Interviews

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**Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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Negro American League

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**Occupations:**

Baseball Player

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**HistoryMakers® Category:**

SportsMakers

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**Administrative Information**

**Custodial History**

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

## Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe, June 16, 2001. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

## Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe, Section A2001\_062\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:57 ?

Ted Radcliffe recalls his parents and his siblings and then discusses the origin of his nickname, 'Double Duty.' Then, he recalls his earliest memory as a child and his first job in baseball. Next, he introduces his long relationship with fellow ballplayer Satchel Paige. Radcliffe details his move from Mobile, Alabama to Chicago and talks about various jobs he held. He then speaks about his early baseball career with the Illinois Giants and tells about other teams he played for. Ted Radcliffe speaks briefly about his wife and then recalls players who shared the field with him during his early days in the league.

African American baseball players--Interviews.

Negro leagues.

Migration, Internal--United States.

Cobb, Ty, 1886-1961.

Ruth, Babe, 1895-1948.

Paige, Satchel, 1906-1982.

Baseball--History.

Baseball player-managers--United States--Interviews.

Robinson, Jackie, 1919-1972.

Banks, Ernie, 1931-.

Aaron, Hank, 1934-.

Pitchers (Baseball)--Interviews.

African Americans--Race identity.

Catchers (Baseball)--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe, Section A2001\_062\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:41 ?

Ted 'Double Duty' Radcliffe remembers some of his favorite games that he played in. He talks about being a teammate to Satchel Paige and opposing Ty Cobb. He mentions his unique skill of being a pitcher and a catcher. Radcliffe briefly talks about playing against Babe Ruth and then gives specifics on teams he played for in the 1920s and 1930s. He then talks briefly about being a player/manager. Next, Radcliffe discusses his baseball career in the 1940s and about African Americans making strides in professional baseball. He then talks in depth about his relationship with Jackie Robinson on and off the field. Ted Radcliffe recalls the demise of the Negro Baseball Leagues.

Video Oral History Interview with Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe, Section A2001\_062\_001\_003, TRT: 0:26:28 ?

Ted 'Double Duty' Radcliffe remembers fellow baseball players Hank Aaron and Ernie Banks. He then talks about the differences between modern athletes and ones from his time. Radcliffe discusses some of the philosophies and strategies he used while playing and mentions his ever-present love of the game. Radcliffe tells a story about a career highlight and then lists the U.S. Presidents who he's met. He talks about what he'd like his legacy to be. Next, he speaks about a time when his parents saw him play baseball in Chicago and about the importance of parents as role models. Ted Radcliffe discusses his pride in being black. He then is shown gripping a baseball and talks about some of the pitches he could throw. Following is a selection of photographs from Ted Radcliffe's career.