



## Quick Rickwood Field Facts

- 8** The Birmingham Black Barons won the 1943, 1944, and 1948 Negro American League pennants, as Rickwood hosted the Negro League World Series. In 1948, one of manager Piper Davis' key players was a teenager, Willie Mays.
- 9** Jackie Robinson made his debut at Rickwood in 1945 with the Kansas City Monarchs. He also led several post-season barnstorming teams into Rickwood. His 1949 barnstorming squad played a game at Rickwood before a crowd of 15,781.
- 10** The first integrated professional baseball game at Rickwood occurred on April 1, 1954, as the St. Louis Cardinals defeated the Chicago White Sox, 7-4.
- 11** On April 21, 1967, Reggie Jackson hit a dramatic two-out grand slam home run in the bottom of the ninth as the Birmingham A's overtook Knoxville, 7-6. Reggie later hit for the cycle on July 8. Birmingham won the Southern League and the Dixie Series.
- 12** Last regular season game on August 30, 1987. The Barons win 18-7 over Columbus Astros.
- 13** On September 9, 1987, the Barons played their final game, losing to Charlotte in the Southern League playoffs, 5-4, before moving to a new stadium in suburban Hoover. However, the Barons won the series and the Southern League Championship.
- 14** The first Rickwood Classic was played in 1996. The Birmingham Barons defeated the Memphis Chicks, 3-2. Since then, Rickwood has hosted the event 23 times and counting.



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## Contributors Are Welcome.





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- 1** Rickwood Field opened in 1910 as the first concrete and steel baseball park in the south. The first game was played on August 18, 1910 with the Birmingham Barons edging the Montgomery Climbers, 3-2 before a capacity crowd.
- 2** Rickwood played host to spring training camps for the Philadelphia Phillies in 1911 and 1920 and Pittsburgh in 1919. Cincinnati held its final week of spring training in 1913.
- 3** Legendary Satchel Paige made his first appearance on May 31, 1926, pitching 11-innings in a loss to the Black Barons. Paige would appear many times over the years at Rickwood, including when he was a Black Baron from 1927-30.
- 4** The most famous game played at Rickwood was Game One of the 1931 Dixie Series. Ray Caldwell, the 43-year-old Barons pitcher outdueled a teenage Dizzy Dean of the Houston Buffaloes, 1-0, in front of a record crowd of 20,074.
- 5** On May 21, 1936, 13,749 fans witnessed the first night professional baseball game at Rickwood as the Barons came from behind to win 6-5 over the Chattanooga Lookouts.
- 6** Through the years, well over 130 members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame played at Rickwood Field.
- 7** 14,565 fans witnessed Walt Dropo's mammoth home run, which hit the original outer outfield wall on May 21, 1948, in a close-fought 3-1 Barons victory over Mobile. The spot where the ball hit the wall is marked with an "X" today



[rickwood.com](http://rickwood.com)

Site of next year's MLB Game,  
"A Tribute to Willie Mays and The Negro Leagues"  
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