

From Little League to Major Leagues: Changing the Trajectory of Black Baseball



*Introduction to the
National Association of Black Ballplayers*

The Problem

Black Participation in Major League Baseball has Fallen to Historic Lows

- < 6% of MLB rosters are African American (lowest since 1955)
- Pay-to-play youth systems continue to grow and create access barriers
- Limited scouting access
- Lack of developmental infrastructure

“Baseball’s pipeline for Black athletes is broken.”

Why This Matters

Baseball is More Than a Game

- Educational opportunity
- Economic mobility
- Community identity
- Cultural representation
- Leadership development



Our Mission

Mission Statement

The mission of the National Association of Black Ballplayers is to *change the trajectory* and increase the percentage of African Americans playing in the Major Leagues.



The NABBs Solution

Building “The Network”

- Little League
- High School
- College
- Professional International
- Professional Domestic



Little League Level

Reintroducing Baseball at the Earliest Stages

- Negro Little Leagues
- Reintegration of Little Leagues
- 20 City MLB Youth Academies
- Free training access



High School Level

Building Elite Development and Exposure Pathways

- Expansion of Urban Youth Academies
- NABBs National Scouting Bureau
- National exposure opportunities
- Professional coaching standards



College Level

Elevating Black College Baseball Players

- Negro Summer Draft League
- Top Elite Black College Baseball / HBCU Players
- National Baseball Congress participation
- Scouting Bureau certification



Professional International

Restoring Global Representation

- The African / African American World Baseball Classic Team
- Negro Winter League
- Caribbean League integration
- International cultural representation



Professional Level

Forming a partnership with MLB, MLBPA & Players Alliance

- Strategic alignment
- Former / current player involvement
- Mentorship ecosystem
- Representation pipeline



The Black Diamond Showcase

Pulling it Altogether: *Elevating Black Excellence, Leadership and Opportunity in Baseball*

- National, multi-day event for elite NABBs athletes at all levels
- Elite athlete baseball exposure
- Courageous leadership training
- Educational sessions about cultural history, post-playing career pathways in baseball, and NIL and fiscal responsibility

THE BLACK DIAMOND
BASEBALL SHOWCASE

**MORE THAN A SHOWCASE.
A PLATFORM. A PURPOSE.
A PATHWAY.**

The Black Diamond Baseball Showcase is a multi-day experience that develops elite athletes on and off the field—preparing them for opportunity, leadership, and life beyond baseball.

ELITE EXPOSURE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT LEGACY & IMPACT

DEVELOPING CHAMPIONS. BUILDING LEADERS. CREATING LEGACIES.

 ELITE ATHLETE BASEBALL EXPOSURE Top-tier competition, pro-style evaluations, and exposure to college coaches, pro scouts, and industry leaders.	 COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP TRAINING Building confidence, character, and courage to lead on and off the field.	 CULTURAL HISTORY EDUCATION Honoring our past. Understanding our impact. Inspiring our future.	 POST-PLAYER CAREER PATHWAYS Real conversations with professionals across baseball and beyond exploring career opportunities.	 NIL & FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY Education on NIL opportunities, money management, branding, and building generational wealth.
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COMPETE. LEARN. LEAD. EMPOWER.
THIS IS THE BLACK DIAMOND DIFFERENCE.

MULTI-DAY EXPERIENCE
TOP FACILITIES
ELITE ATHLETES. LIMITLESS POTENTIAL.

APPLY. COMPETE. CHANGE YOUR FUTURE. | #BLACKDIAMONDSHOWCASE

Why NABBs Wins

What Makes Us Different

Traditional Programs

- Isolated initiatives
- Local reach
- Limited mentorship
- Fragmented development

NABBs

- Fully integrated ecosystem
- National pipeline
- Former MLB player leadership
- End-to-end pathway

10-Year Vision

Operating in All 30 MLB Cities

- 30 Negro Little League systems
- 20 new Urban Youth Academies
- National scouting infrastructure
- Global Black baseball representation



Community + Cultural Impact

Beyond Baseball

- Education
- Scholarships
- Workforce development
- Leadership
- Community revitalization
- Media visibility

(AI-generated image)



Vision for the Future

Rebuilding the Legacy



We are not rebuilding the past. We are building the future of Black baseball.

Leadership Team

Built by Former Professional Players.



- Rodney Mangham – President
 - Former professional player & youth development leader
- Eric Mangham – Vice President
 - Former professional player and executive
- Nona Lee – Senior Advisor
 - Former MLB Club executive and Chief Legal Officer, and certified diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant
- Network of MLB players, scouts and executives