

*[For immediate release]*

## **NAPEX 2010 Plans Negro Leagues Stamps First Day of Sale Ceremony**

NAPEX 2010, the Washington, D.C.-area stamp show, and the McLean, Va., post office will host a first day of sale ceremony for the Negro Leagues stamps that are being issued June 4, 2010. The NAPEX ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. in Martinique's at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner in McLean. Admission to the ceremony is free and open to the public, and the stamps will be available for sale at the show.

NAPEX 2010 runs Friday through Saturday, June 4-6. At Saturday afternoon's cachetmakers bourse, it's likely there will be first day covers of the Negro Leagues stamps for sale.

The official national dedication of the stamp will be held at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Mo., where the Negro National League was formed by Rube Foster in 1920. In fact, Foster, who was also a player, manager and executive in the Negro Leagues, is featured on one of the two se-tenant stamps.

"It seems right that we also celebrate here in the Washington area," said NAPEX director Jill Piazza, who is organizing the Northern Virginia event. "Black baseball has a longer history here than almost anywhere else in the country."

Washington was home to three Negro League pro teams – the Elite Giants (1936-37), the Black Senators (1938), and the Homestead Grays (1937-48).

The Grays were the longest-lived and by far the best of the three. They played in Washington's Griffith Stadium as the home team – the same ballpark used by the Washington Senators of the (all-white) American League. In fact, the Grays, who were Negro Leagues champions nine of the 12 years they played in Washington, often drew larger crowds to their games than the notoriously bad Senators.

Five members of the Grays have been inducted into the Negro Leagues Hall of Fame. Catcher Josh Gibson was honored on a U.S. Legends of Baseball stamp in 2000 (Sc. 3408r).

NAPEX 2010 is a World Series of Philately show, one of about 30 "national" shows, and features not only a competitive exhibition of multi-frame stamp and cover exhibits, but also single-frame and literature competitions. In addition, NAPEX 2010 will host the annual meetings of three national stamp societies – American Air Mail Society, the Colombia/Panama Philatelic Study Group, and Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceania.

The three-day NAPEX 2010 will also include more than 70 dealers, the U.S. and United Nations postal administrations and Nordica, which represents several Scandinavian countries. There is a special hotel rate at the Hilton of \$130 a night for NAPEX visitors.

For more information on NAPEX, visit [www.napex.org](http://www.napex.org) or contact show chairman Darrell Ertzberger at [mteton@aol.com](mailto:mteton@aol.com).