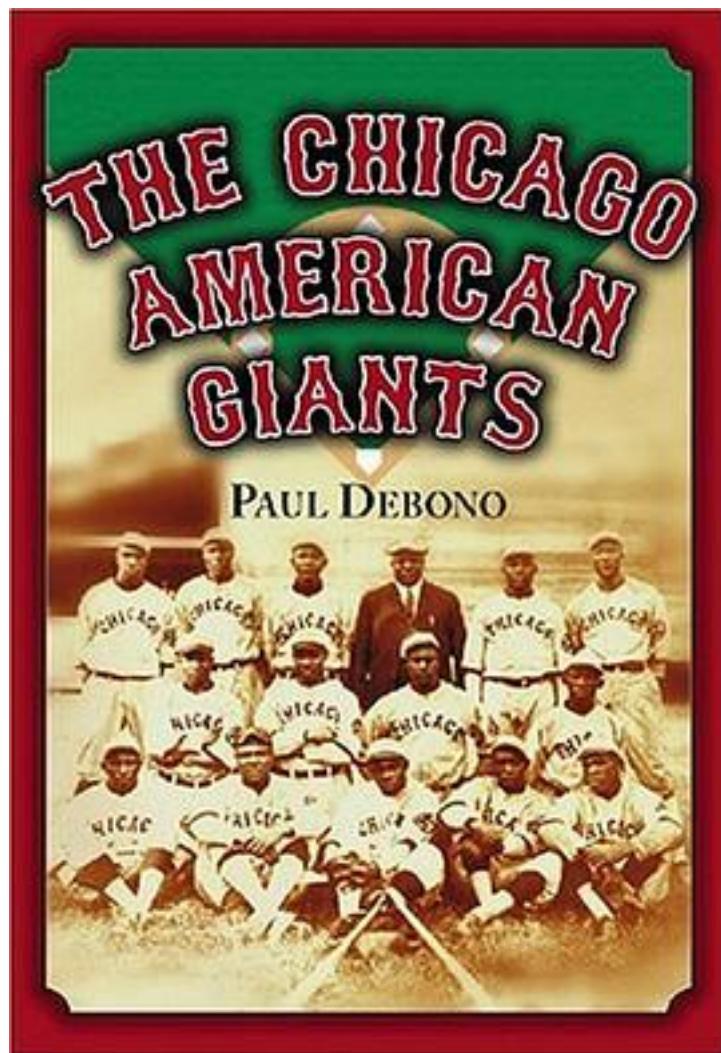


# The Chicago American Giants



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出版者:McFarland & Co Inc Pub

出版时间:2006-12

装帧:HRD

isbn:9780786425907

In 1886, a semi-pro team known as the Union Baseball Club was founded in Chicago. Made up of black players under the leadership of Frank Leland, this team worked its way to the top of Chicago's semi-pro city league. In 1902, Leland recruited a talented young pitcher, Rube Foster, who would establish himself as one of the game's outstanding players, seize the leadership of the Union Baseball Club and found the Chicago American Giants. Covering the years 1870?1953, this heavily researched history includes a detailed account of one of the Negro Leagues' most legendary teams. From its roots in the late 19th century through its decline and dissolution in the years immediately following integration of the white major leagues, the team, its players?especially Foster?and its games are covered in depth. Sources include contemporary newspaper articles?many from the Chicago Defender?and interviews with veteran players. A comprehensive biographical dictionary and detailed game log are included.

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