

# 25,623 Fans See Jackie Robinson Make Debut In Major Leagues; Negro Star Scores Winning

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## 25,623 Fans See Jackie Robinson Make Debut In Major Leagues; Negro Star Scores Winning Run For Brooklyn

EBBETS FIELD, Brooklyn—It's really official now. When Jackie Robinson, brilliant Negro infielder walked out from the Dodger dugout at Ebbetts Field Tuesday to take his position at first for the Bums, his long, uphill struggle to surmount the barrier against Negro players entering the Major League climaxed with a reverberation that was heard around the nation.

In millions of Negro homes, Junior went down into the cellar or dug into his "treasure chest" for that battered fielders mitt, and from now on he will pound it with a new determination when the gang lines up to choose sides on the sandlots.

Jackie's major league debut, while sensational, was certainly auspicious enough. Although he failed to get a hit in three official times at bat, he won the cheers of 25,000 fans here in this ball park by sprinting home with the winning run on Pete Reiser's smash in the seventh inning, and handled every chance to come his way with flawless perfection.

With the Dodgers trailing 3-2 as the seventh inning opened, Eddie Stankey, Dodger second baseman,

led off with a walk, bringing up Robinson, whose speed afoot had elevated him to the second spot in the batting order. Previously the Negro star had hit into a double play, rolled out to short, and lofted a fly ball to left field, but this time his speed paid off. Laying down a perfect bunt halfway between the batter's box and the pitcher's mound, the speedy Negro flash tore out for first. Earl Torgeson, Brave's first baseman dash-

ed in to grab the ball and made a quick throw towards first that hit the speeding Robinson on the leg and bounded out into right field. Robinson dashed to second while Stankey pulled up at third.

Both men scored when Reiser came through with a screaming double off the right field screen. The run Reiser scored later on Gene Harmansky's fly to deep center, was superfluous.

### No Reverberations

Jackie's entry into the big time caused no shattering reverberations. His teammates accepted him as though he had been a member of the squad for years. The fans, a goodly portion of them Negro rooters who came in jammed subway trains from across the Hudson, cheered his every movement on the field.

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# Jackie Robinson

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ing brought into the major leagues, Bill Corum, sports columnist of the New York Journal American, said:

"This is the most important step the National Pastime has made in years, and it would have had to blush to call itself the National Pastime if this hadn't been done when the opportunity arose.

"The thought behind it cannot fail whatever Robinson's future with the Brooklyn team may be. It is a fair and decent thing. A sturdy blow against bigotry. Another step forward in what the

great majority must believe is the true American way of life."  
"No War Between States"

Dan Parker, sports columnist of the Daily Mirror, saw "no resumption of the war between the states as the major league color line was finally torn down." In his column last Saturday, he said:

"No building collapsed, either from the reverberations caused by the epochal event or from the power of Jackie's hitting.

"In fact, an exceptionally well-mannered crowd took the event in stride, giving Jackie a nice reception the first time he came up and refraining from booing Dixie Walker who seemed to have been picked out as the official target for a demonstration by Robinson fans the day before. The boos probably smartened up overnight to the fact that they were performing the biggest disservice possible for Jackie by such tactics and that Robinson himself probably disapproved of them more than Dixie did.

"Robinson's new teammates treated him just as if he had been with the club for a long time. Rex Barney, the Dodger pitcher, shook hands with Jackie on the bench and said: 'I'm glad to see you and said: 'I'm glad to see you made it.' Gene Hermanski was also seen to offer Robinson congratulations. But, although almost everyone else was pulverizing the brand of pitching offered by the Yankee hurlers, there was no occasion for anyone to compliment the Negro star on his stickwork, in this, his first fling as a big leaguer, although it was agreed he had a keen eye in looking them over and handled himself like an old campaigner around first base.

"By the fifth inning when the Dodgers fell on Marius Russo and Johnny Murphy for 11 runs, Robinson's presence in the ball game had almost been forgotten and Jackie in two trips to the plate

in that fantastic frame did nothing to remind them of it again.