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JACKIE PLAYS WITH DODGERS

Rickey Makes Announcement As A Surprise

No Report Yet If Jackie
Will Play Opening Game
Or If He Gets 1st Base

By DAN BURLEY

Jackie Robinson became the first Negro to crash major league baseball when he was signed by the Branch Rickey of the Brooklyn Dodgers at 3:30 P. M. Thursday afternoon when Robinson's contract was purchased by the Brooklyn Dodgers from the Montreal Royals.

While no details accompanied the announcement, the purchase of the contract means that Jackie will appear in a Dodger uniform when they open the season at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn. It is still a dark mystery whether Robinson will play the opening game, and if he will get the nod for the first base post.

But, in whatever capacity, Jackie Robinson now becomes the first Negro to crack the hoary-headed fly-

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Rickey Makes Announcement As A Surprise

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white tradition of lily-whitism in major league baseball.

In Midst of Strife

Rickey's announcement came in the midst of "Happy" Chandler's bombshell which bounced President-Manager Leo Durocher from the Brooklyn club for the 1947 season for conduct detrimental to the best interest of baseball.

Jackie played second base for the International League Champion Montreal Royals and led the league with a batting average of .342. He and Roy Campanella, another Dodger prospect, flew into New York from Havana early this week and checked into a midtown hotel.

After getting off to a great start in Panama, Robinson became ill with dysentery when the Dodgers and Montreal reached Cuba. However, Branch Rickey, at that time told reporters, "We are not going to consider what he did while he was sick."