



LOUISIANA BASEBALL STORIES

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In the early 20th century baseball was king across Louisiana's rural towns and communities.

The Evangeline League of the 1930s – 50s, included teams such as the Thibodaux Indians, New Iberia Pelicans, Alexandria Aces, Baton Rouge Red Sticks and Crowley Millers. Over sixty players from the Evangeline League went on to play in the majors. The league was also known for its “rough and tumble” side and suffered a gambling scandal in 1946.

Casino Park in Monroe was once home to a professional Negro baseball team called the Monroe Monarchs. In 1932, the Monarchs advanced to the Negro League World Series, but fell short to the Pittsburgh Crawfords. Thanks to some local baseball fans, the story of the Monarchs lives on even though the ballpark on the corner of 29th and Hope Street no longer exists.

Once upon a time, a 17-year-old boy from Gretna hopped a train to New York City to play baseball. This young man would later become a Hall of Fame right fielder with the New York Giants. He was both the youngest player to hit 100 home runs and the first National Leaguer to hit 500 home runs. Using a batting style that was then considered unorthodox, he would finish a 23-year career as the National League home run champion.

Long before Ron Guidry won two World Series championships and a Cy Young Award with the New York Yankees, this Lafayette native had to sneak out his family's house to play on his first Little League team. But thanks to Ron's over protective mother, they also spent countless hours watching her beloved Yankees together in their living room.



No home run in Louisiana is better remembered than LSU's Warren Morris two-out shot in the 1996 College World Series. His liner over the right field wall at Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha was heard around the sporting world, and still resonates today in Louisiana. The game winning hit sealed LSU's third national title and also earned the 1997 Showstopper of the Year ESPY Award.

Join Emmy award winning producer Charlie Whinham on Wednesday, March 16 as he explores the rich history of Louisiana Baseball and the stories that have become a part of America's pastime.

