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before large crowds.

The Stars were formed in 1932. They, too, operated as an independent team until joining the newly reformed Negro National League the following year.

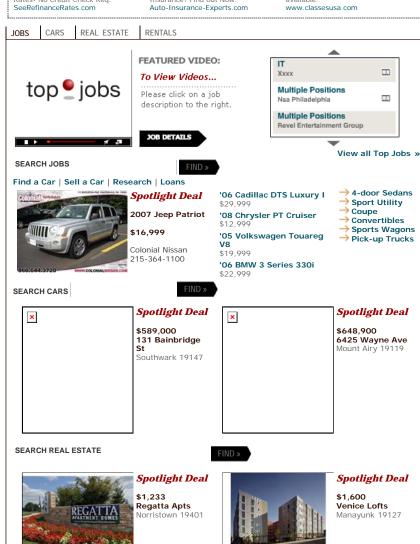
With local sports entrepreneur Eddie Gottlieb serving as the principal owner and Bolden running the team, the Stars captured the NNL title in their first year. They never won another crown, but they performed respectably throughout the 1930s and early 1940s.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African American in the 20th century to play major-league baseball. Soon afterward, other blacks signed contracts with major-league teams, taking many fans with them. Like all black teams, the Stars sold players to big-league teams, including one (Ted Washington) to the Phillies in 1952. (Drafted during the Korean War, Washington never played in the Phillies' system. Chuck Randall, originally from Glassboro, holds that honor after being signed in 1955.)

The 1952 season was the last one for the Stars. When they disbanded, they took with them a long history of black baseball in Philadelphia.

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