

Jackie this point in
jackie's life, his father



Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, and became the first African-American baseball player in Major League Baseball. Jackie was born into a family of sharecroppers and lived in Cairo, Georgia. At less than a year old, Jackie and his family moved to Pasadena, California. At this point in Jackie's life, his father had left his family and the two never got to know each other. Jackie is the youngest of five children and was raised in relative poverty by his mother. Growing up relatively poor in a wealthy community, Robinson and his friends were excluded from many recreational opportunities such as sports and arts programs. Jackie and his family faced intense discrimination as they were living in a neighborhood where they were the only African American family.

Jackie had his first encounter with racism at the age of eight. He began to excel in sports and athletics at an early age as Jackie's two older brothers Mack and Frank inspired him to pursue an interest. In high school, Jackie went against — and beat — his older brother's records. He led his basketball team in scoring and rebounding and was the quarterback on his football team. In baseball, he was the best in base stealing and power hitting. At UCLA, he led in track, baseball, basketball and football, and was entered into the UCLA Sports Hall of Fame in 1984. Jackie spent the fall of 1941 playing football with the Honolulu Bears.

His gift of athleticism led him to be known as one of the most successful athletes to attend the University of California Los Angeles. During his years in university, Jackie met Rachem Isum, a nurse-in-training, and his future wife. Unfortunately, he had to leave UCLA for financial reasons in 1941.

At this time, his year was cut short when Japan bombed Pearl Harbour. This lead Jackie into joining the Army on April 3, 1942. During his two years in the military, Jackie was promoted to the second lieutenant. However, while riding a civilian bus to Belton, Texas on the way back from camp, he refused to move to the back of the bus.

He was then court-martialed and stood trial for seventeen days before he was acquitted. He accepted an honorable discharge and returned home to California. This was eleven years before Rosa Parks made the exact same protest. Soon after leaving the Army, Jackie resumed his baseball career as he left UCLA and returned to baseball as he began playing professional baseball for the first time. However, he did not enjoy the experience because of the busy travel schedule as he continued his relationship with his wife Rachem and because of the work environment as he was used to playing in a structured environment at UCLA. Robinson's most known practice was playing baseball which allowed him to become one of the most influential figures in the civil rights movement. This practice continued to provide a great challenge to his life, as he had to resist the temptation of fighting back to the racism he faced. The internal qualities of baseball include specific teamwork where the first baseman has to coordinate both throwing and catching with the pitcher and other teammates including making base-runs and home-runs while maintaining the rules of the sport.

His practice on the national stage provided him the opportunity to make an impact by fighting against racism and setting a true example for many to follow. The practice of baseball gave Robinson the opportunity to make a true difference in the world due to the immense popularity of the sport

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throughout the nation but most importantly, baseball gave Robinson the opportunity to break the colour barrier not only in baseball but for many professional sports and also set an example for many future African-American athletes to follow. Robinson's main challenge with racism arose when he broke the colour barrier in Major League Baseball in 1947. Branch Rickey, the club president and general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, took notice of Robinson as he had been scouting the Negro Leagues. In 1945, Rickey offered Robinson a contract to play for the Dodgers as he wanted to sign an African-American player to help the Dodgers win the pennant.

Branch told Jackie he would sign him on the premise that he would not let racial problems he would face get to him. At first, he was hesitant and responded by famously saying, "Are you looking for a negro who is afraid to fight back?" Rickey responded by saying he wanted an African American player who could refrain from fighting back. Robinson agreed to this contract and to withstand the racism that may arise as well as rising above the challenges he may now face. This agreement with Rickey was not an easy one to keep. Robinson faced constant temptation to respond and fight back to the acts of racism he faced. There were even times where he was not allowed to stay in the same hotel as the team, which only made his temptation to fight back even stronger. He was constantly taunted by fans and had things thrown at him in which he continued to be tempted.

However, the toughest temptation Robinson had to face was responding to the teammates which discriminated against him. He fought through this challenge throughout his entire career, which allowed him to set a standard of excellence for many players to follow. In 1947, Robinson was called up to

the major leagues to join the Brooklyn Dodgers and famously broke the colour barrier in modern day professional baseball on April 15th. Robinson made his debut at first base. Jackie faced all sorts of racial abuse from fans and players. However, he showed the courage to not fight back and lived up to his promise to Branch Rickey.

That year the Dodgers won the pennant and Jackie was named Rookie of the Year. Over the course of his career in Major League Baseball, occurring from 1947 to 1956, Robinson achieved the following statistics: . 311 batting average, 137 home runs, 4877 times at bat, 1518 hits, 734 runs batted in and 197 stolen bases. In October 1949, Robinson won his only NL MVP Award. He was selected to five more All-Star games and was in the top fifteen for MVP voting four additional times. On October 4, 1955, Robinson and the Dodgers won Brooklyn's only ever World Series title. In January 1957, Robinson retired from baseball in order to join Chock Full O'Nuts, a coffee company, as vice president. After his professional baseball career, Robinson continued to make a difference in the civil rights movement as a chair for the NAACP until 1967.

In 1949, Jackie testified about discrimination before the House Un-American Activities Committee. In 1952, he publically claimed that the Yankees are a racist organization for not having broken the colour barrier five years after he began playing with the Dodgers. Later in life, Robinson continued to lobby for greater integration in sports. He was also involved in business and politics in his post-athletic career. On June 4, 1972, Robinson was enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Robinson's number 42 was retired in a ceremony at Dodger Stadium.

The number is retired in perpetuity across all teams in the league in tribute to Robinson. On October 23, 1972, Robinson died of heart related concerns in Stamford, Connecticut. His funeral was widely attended by family, friends and many baseball fans. Jesse Jackson delivered the eulogy and says, “When Jackie took the field, something within us reminded us of our birthright to be free.” After Jackie Robinson's death in 1972, his wife established the Jackie Robinson Foundation dedicated to honoring Jackie's tremendous work and life. Jackie Robinson will always be remembered as he broke the colour barrier in professional sports and paved a pathway for other African-American athletes. He also created a pathway to attain racial integration into other aspects of American life and most American baseball fans realized their wrongdoing. Every year, April 15th is celebrated across the baseball community as Jackie Robinson Day.

On this day, all players and managers throughout the league wear the number 42 on the back of their jerseys to honor Jackie. In the words of Jackie Robinson, “But as I write these words now I cannot stand and sing the national anthem. I have learned that I remain a black man in a white world.” Whenever we see ballplayers of a different race, or kids of different colours choosing sides for a game, we owe it to Jackie Robinson, the man who opened the colour barrier and showed positive character throughout his career. Jackie Robinson is known as one of the most important players in Major League Baseball history not only for his gift of athleticism but also his leadership skills and qualities. Firstly, Jackie Robinson was a very determined player. Almost every night the team was on the road, playing against a different team and a different town.

In some states at this time, laws existed that kept African Americans and whites apart. This made it even harder for Jackie as he would be by himself in a hotel. The team's life was hard, but Jackie stuck with it even though he had to sleep in another hotel or the bus, and often had a hard time finding a restaurant where the pitchers of multiple teams were throwing balls at his head and players were spiking him, he was determined to keep playing.

Jackie was determined to make the world a better place for African Americans by speaking out and writing books. He believed that the discrimination people of color were facing and continuously spoke up about the inequality. To continue, Jackie was a very hard-working man not only in baseball but after he retired as well. In baseball, Jackie had to work extremely hard as an African American to have the opportunities he achieved. As a child, he was dismissed from any recreational opportunities and had to work twice as hard as anyone in the major leagues at the time since he did not have the same opportunities. He was hardworking as he won all of the awards previously stated.

After baseball, he worked in a business as vice president at the coffee company Chock Full O'Nuts. He wrote a newspaper column and helped start a bank. He did not stop working after he retired as he kept working for multiple companies. More importantly, he had to work twice as hard as other athletes because of his skin color. Next, Jackie was a very respectful player. Despite the discrimination Jackie faced, which consisted of things being thrown at him and even death threats, Jackie treated others with respect in hopes that he would achieve the same. When Branch Rickey scouted Jackie, he said he was looking for someone who could refrain from fighting back.

I believe Rickey thought that Jackie was a talented, respectful athlete who was respectful enough to not open his mouth and fight back. Subsequently, Jackie Robinson's most important quality could be argued to be his immense amount of courage. As previously stated, Jackie faced virulent racism. Many of his own team members refused to play with him, opposing pitchers tried to beam his head and base runners tried to spike him.

He received countless amounts of hate mail and death threats. Fans shouted racist remarks at him in every ballpark he attended and hotels/restaurants refused to serve him. Rickey had been looking for a player who could stand up to the taunts and have the ability to not fight back. People treated Jackie like he was nothing. They would intentionally peg him with the baseball and he would have gashes under his eyes from it, but he responded like a warrior. He kept playing and didn't bother to fight back. When he entered the MLB and broke the color barrier for the first time, it influenced other African American people to do the same and follow their dreams. Even today, people think and recognize Jackie of a role model and example of a talented baseball player.

His legacy will always be remembered as a great act of moral courage. Lastly, the most important leadership quality Jackie Robinson presented was perseverance. Jackie persevered through racism, hatred from his own teammates and other players, and had to deal with the problems and negative effects he created once he began playing in the major leagues. When he asked Branch Rickey if the only reason he wanted him was to fight back, he replied saying he didn't want a player who had the guts to fight back but a player who had the guts not to fight back. Jackie had to deal with

many terrible things that almost every other major league player did not have to deal with. As previously stated, Jackie could not stay in the same hotel as other teammates, was continuously discriminated against by fans of every team including his own and was targeted with the baseball once on the field not because of skill but because of his skin colour. However, if this was to happen to most people, they would quit.

It would be too much to handle and they would stop doing what they were doing. Jackie persevered through the discrimination, through being pegged with baseballs every game and did not quit despite hate and discrimination he faced as well as not letting anything get in his way or stop him. These are just five leadership qualities out of many that Jackie Robinson portrayed. Jackie also demonstrated qualities like teamwork, integrity, commitment and persistence. In regards to Jackie's leadership style, it is without a question that he is a democratic leader. As a leadership class, we came up with the definition of leadership to mean having an intentional positive influence on the lives and behaviours of others which involves working with others to meet an objective. I would say Jackie Robinson is a democratic leader.

Robinson worked alongside a group and held a mutual respect where they could push him around and discriminate against him but he still maintained respect. Robinson could not be Autocratic because autocratic leaders are demanding and force their way of things, where Jackie could not take control in fear of what would happen to him. He could not be Laissez-faire because these leaders are lazy, unconcerned and lack confidence. Jackie was a very confident man but had quiet confidence as he did not push his skills and ability on other players.

He also is not lazy and unconcerned because he worked hard for his success and had to work hard in order to maintain a spot on the teams' roster/ he had a huge target on his back already and had to work a lot harder than others to keep the placement. As previously stated, Jackie was a civil rights leader. His courage and discipline in standing up for what he believes in/ against racism were just a preview of actions taken by many members of the Civil Rights Movement. In my opinion, Jackie Robinson was a successful leader who changed society for the better. His success and leadership opened the door for all African-Americans.

Branch Rickey scouted Robinson as he noticed his talents and his morals and incredible character. He showed leadership qualities that lead him to his great success. Rickey saw that Jackie had the potential not only to excel on the team, but also saw his ability to become a leader in order to make a change that needed to happen. Jackie was a successful leader because he leads by example as he set an example for all athletes to follow his courage and ability to maintain confidence while being discriminated against. He took responsibility for all of his actions and works with instead of against. One of his hardest battles of discrimination was from his own teammates, however he continued to work with those who constantly tormented him rather than against them, which led them to a World Series win.

One game in Cincinnati, the crowd was especially insulting, yelling unimaginable taunts at Jackie. His teammate Pee Wee Reese recognized that the crowd was getting to Jackie, so he walked across the field with his arm around him. The two smiled at each other and the compassion of the crowd

grew silent. This is inspiring to me and many people around the world. Jackie Robinsons leadership and courage will forever be remembered.

Therefore, Jackie Robinson will always be remembered as he broke the colour barrier in professional sports and paved a pathway for other African-American athletes