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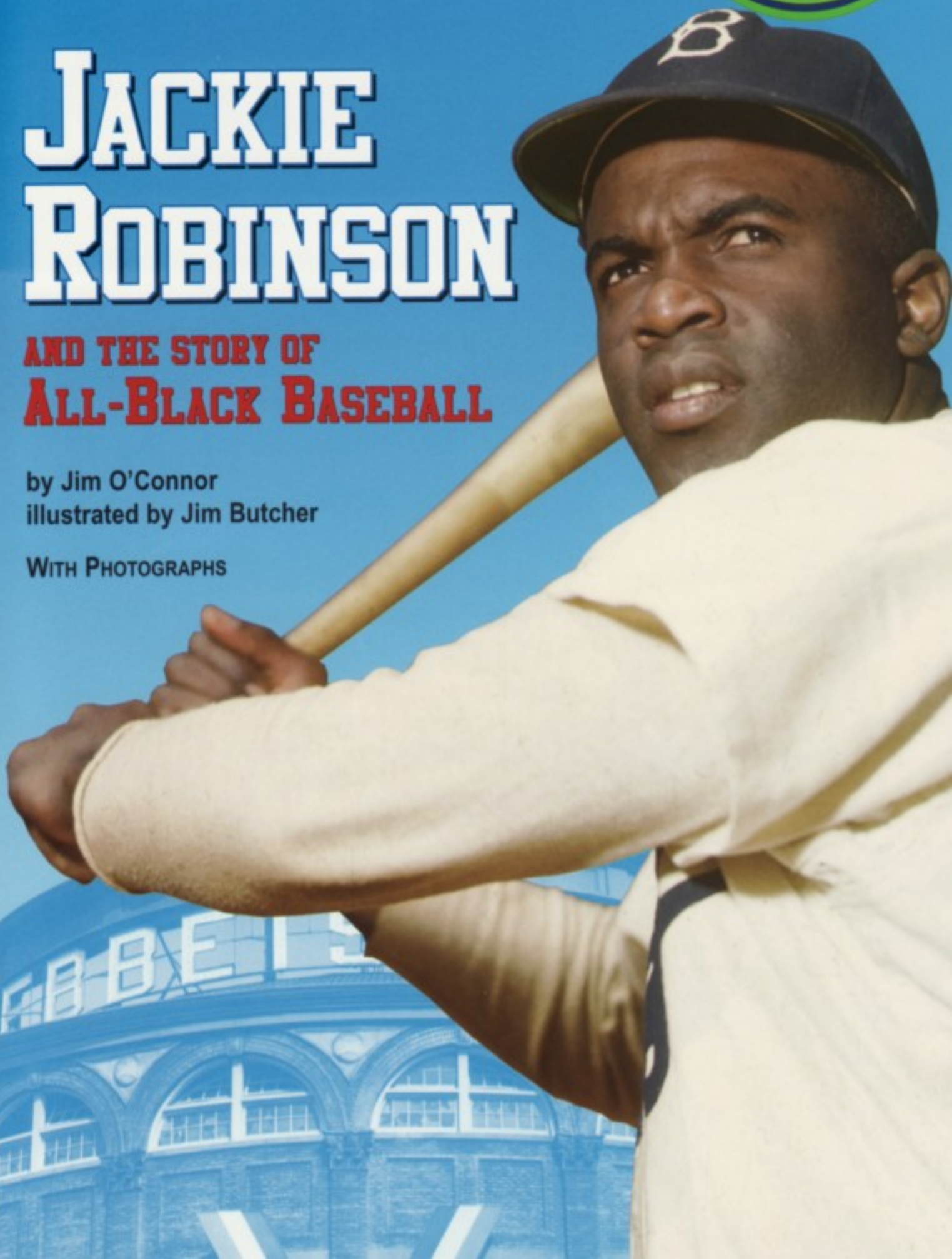
# JACKIE ROBINSON

**AND THE STORY OF  
ALL-BLACK BASEBALL**

by Jim O'Connor

illustrated by Jim Butcher

WITH PHOTOGRAPHS





# 1

## Jackie Makes History

*April 15, 1947*

It is opening day at Ebbets Field, the home of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Today they are playing the Boston Braves. The crowd is excited. The crowd is always excited on opening day. But this day is special for another reason.

All along the third-base line fans peer across the bright green diamond. They try to see the new player that the whole country has been talking about.

He is over in the Dodgers' dugout. He sits by himself. He looks nervous, and his teammates leave him alone.



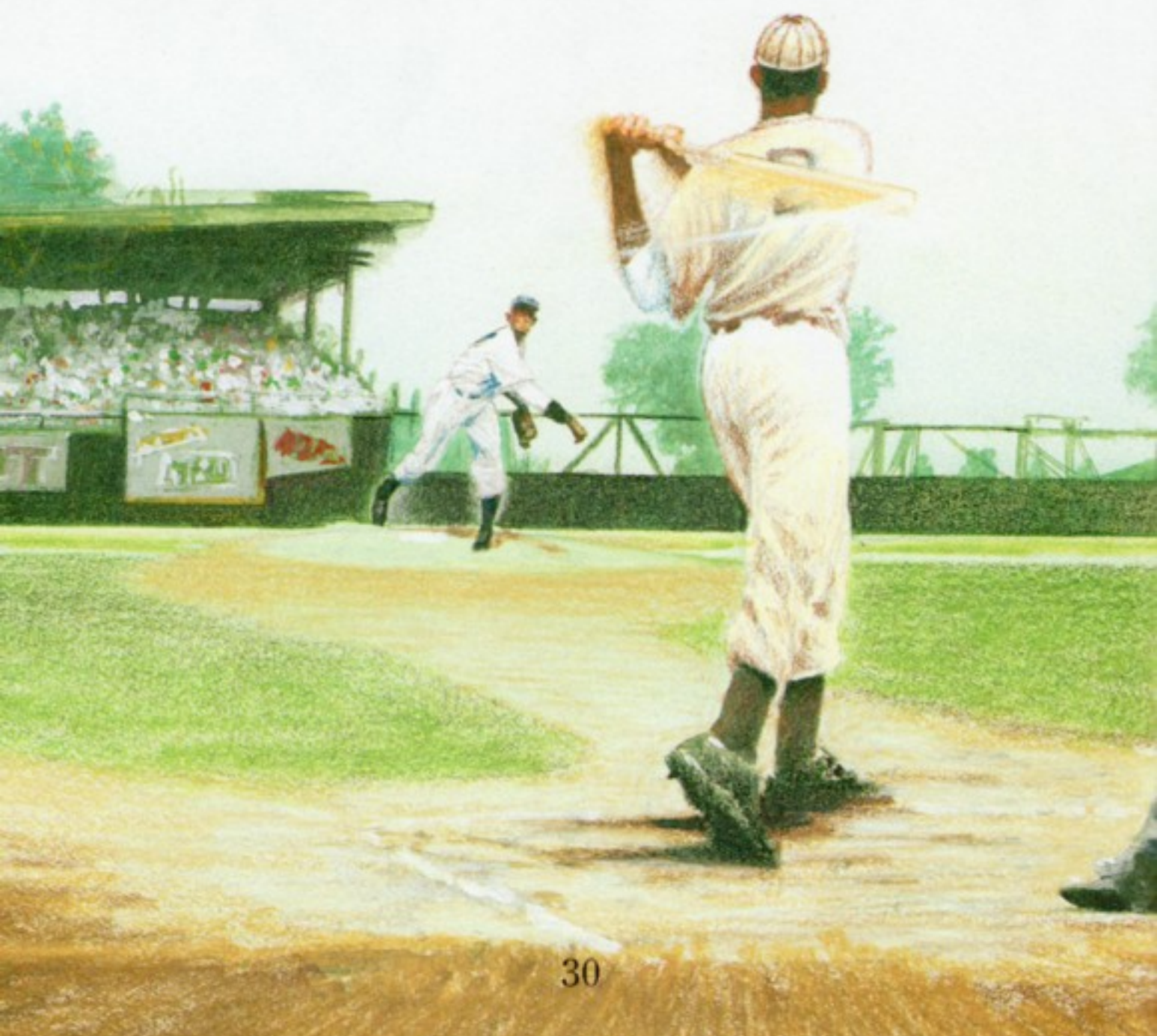


Right away the Cuban Giants were a hit with black fans. At last they had a team they could root for. Soon more black teams sprang up. Because the Cuban Giants were so popular, other teams used Giants in their name too. There were the Leland Giants. The Columbia Giants. There was even a team called the Cuban X Giants!

Nearly all the black teams were from big cities. Places like New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh. Sometimes the black teams played games against each other. But



Not only did Gus Greenlee put together a great team, he brought back the Negro National League. That was the league Rube Foster had started. In 1937 a second league was formed. The Negro American League. There were lots of good teams around, but the Crawfords were tops. And wherever they played, the star attraction was always Satchel.





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**STEP INTO READING®**

Are you ready to take the plunge into chapters?

Do you still like books with colorful pictures?

This book is just right for you!

## Jackie Robinson

and the Story of All-Black Baseball

April 15, 1947

A baseball player named Jackie Robinson steps out of the Brooklyn Dodgers dugout and into the history books. Although he is the first black man to play major-league ball in the 20th century, there were many talented black players who came before him. They played baseball in the legendary but little-known Negro leagues. This is their story.



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