The Lafayette Big Chiefs featured some of the best talent in the area. On the first row, from left, are Alex Taylor; John Boy; Larry Goodwin; Louis; Richard Taylor; Lex Mounson; Jim Boy; Leon Washington, deceased; Peps Azore; deceased; Ernest "Dollar Bill" Fox and Emmalcarl Charles. On the back row, from left, are Wallace "Wo-Wa" Mounson, team manager; Peter Robinson, deceased; Wilson Joe, deceased; Stanley Mounson; "Truck" Francis; Dennis Mounson; Anthony "Fire" Robinson, deceased; Oscar "Big Train" Azore, deceased; and Forrest Langlais, team owner, deceased. Several of the team members were related to one another, including brothers Stanley and Dennis Mounson; brothers Alex and Richard Taylor; and Oscar "Big Train" Azore and his nephew, Peps Azore.

Tales from the glory days

During the years the Lafayette Big Chiefs featured the best talent in the area. The team became known for its strong lineup and was one of the most successful teams in the area.

A mob scene

When the great Satchel Page came to Lafayette to play a solo billy game with the Big Chiefs, he told manager Wallace "Wo-Wa" Mounson he wanted to go out and have a bowl of mock turtle soup.

Mounson and team owner Forest Langlais managed to make arrangements with the owners of Popeye's Restaurant to open one of its two dining rooms to the team, clearing away the table from the white diners. When the white patrons in the other dining room turned Satchel Page was on the other side of the room door, panthermen broke loose. They opened the doors and invaded the temporary "crowned dining room," seeking autographs in just a glimpse of the personnel that day.

"Some of them went home and got the kids who were sleeping so they could see Satchel Page," Mounson stated. "They brought them to their little parlors.

Mounson said Page regarded his impromptu audience for hours with one story after another, while he dined on a table of white soup. "He said the best mock turtle soup he had ever had," Mounson recalled.

A photo finish

Among the star athletes who came to Lafayette to stage exhibitions of Big Chiefs games were legendary Olympic track rebel Jesse Owens. He had four players on each bench and let them start ahead of him to "beat" Satchel Page, who by the time he got around, was allowed back in.

Wo-Wa Mounson also recalled Owens racing around the bases against a race horse. "Horse won," Mounson said.

A hot commodity

When the Big Chiefs played, they always drew a crowd and the newspaper stories about the ball park sometimes took on the proportions of a spectator event.

There were three satisfactory shooting matches. Most tickets were sold in advance.

The Big Chiefs even had a suitcase in which the players could carry their baseball equipment. They would travel in the same car as the team owner, team secretary and the team physician.

It was a time of innocent fun and games, a time when_lt;image800x600-1.png_gt;