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8th Annual Buck O'Neil Baseball Classic honors baseball legend
Annual tournament brings 24 teams together in Kansas City June 20-21

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (June 10, 2008) – Organized by the Kansas City Sports Commission, the Buck O'Neil Baseball Classic hits its eighth year on June 20-21 in Kansas City. The regional baseball tournament for boys 18 and under was created to educate players, coaches and fans on the history of the Negro leagues and to provide a baseball experience in the inner city.

This year's tournament features 24 teams, some from as far away as Atlanta, Houston, Indianapolis and Memphis. The Kansas City Sports Commission partnered with the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum to help raise awareness of the history Buck O'Neil and other players contributed to the game. Buck O'Neil played for the Kansas City Monarchs, Kansas City's Negro American League team. He also served as the first African American coach in Major League Baseball history. O'Neil passed away in 2006 at age 94.

"It's important to the sport and to our city to keep Buck O'Neil's spirit alive," said Kevin Gray, president of the Kansas City Sports Commission. "We're proud to continue the tournament in Buck's name to honor him and the inspiration he provides so many players and coaches throughout the country."

Games will be played at Satchel Paige Stadium, Cleveland Park, Rockhurst University and Clark-Ketterman Athletic Complex. The tournament is free to the public with games played throughout both days from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Semifinals are scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Saturday at Satchel Paige Stadium and Rockhurst Stadium. The Championship game will be played at 7 p.m. on Saturday at Satchel Paige Stadium. For more schedule information, visit www.sportkc.org.

Kansas City Sports Commission is a privately-funded non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and economic success of Kansas Citians by promoting sports. For more information, visit www.sportkc.org.

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