

Eloyd Robinson, Yards Park Security Officer

Eloyd Robinson of Watkins Security is our midnight security officer in the Yards Park. Before joining Watkins Security company, Mr. Robinson had a career as a professional player in baseball's Negro League and Major League Baseball. Mr. Robinson played for the St. Louis Cardinals in 1954, and was the third African-American player to ever play for the team. Mr. Robinson played for numerous teams during his baseball career, including the Homestead Grays and the Saskatoon Commodores.

He started playing ball at the age of 14 for his hometown team the Danville Aces, later called the Danville All-Stars before working his way up in the league. While playing for the Aces and other teams, white players refused to play against black teams. While in Saskatoon, Canada, he made numerous game-changing plays that lead his team to victory. Some of his fondest memories was his friendship with Satchel Paige. After playing against him one time and hitting a line-drive for a base hit, Mr. Robinson said he used to tease Mr. Paige by saying that he was the "only man to ever bat a thousand off of Satchel Paige."

Mr. Robinson faced discrimination when playing in the south. He said, "we used to have to enter through the back door when playing down south, sometimes we would have to eat in the bus or sit inside the kitchen." But when faced with hecklers, he said that he, "always hit the ball so hard that the people would come down from the stands and tell him not to pay any attention to it." Having played baseball during a time of change in the history of the game, Mr. Robinson said that he and other African-American players didn't play for the money, but for the love of the game.

Mr. Robinson has been with Watkin's security for six years, since retiring from his career as a property manager for Charles Smith. He said that, "the Yards Park is nice at night and he doesn't have too many problems." The Capitol Riverfront is proud to have such a wonderful partner in the park, who worked to bring down racial barriers in our country's history.

