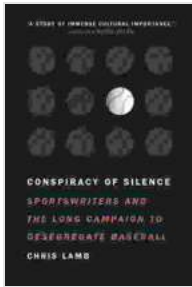


# Sportswriters and the Long Campaign to Desegregate Baseball



On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball when he played for the Brooklyn Dodgers. This was a watershed moment in the history of American sports, and it would not have been possible without the help of sportswriters.

Sportswriters had been writing about the issue of race in baseball for decades. In the early 20th century, many sportswriters supported the segregation of baseball. They argued that black players were not good enough to play in the major leagues, and that their presence would hurt the game.



## Conspiracy of Silence: Sportswriters and the Long Campaign to Desegregate Baseball by Chris Lamb

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1909 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 416 pages
Lending	: Enabled



However, a small group of sportswriters began to challenge this view. They argued that black players were just as good as white players, and that they deserved a chance to play in the major leagues. These writers included Wendell Smith, Sam Lacy, and Jackie Robinson's friend and confidant, Dan Daniel.

In 1945, Smith wrote an article for the Pittsburgh Courier in which he called for the desegregation of baseball. He argued that "the time has come for baseball to take its place alongside other American institutions in the fight against racial discrimination."

Lacy, who was a sportswriter for the Baltimore Afro-American, also wrote extensively about the issue of race in baseball. In 1947, he wrote an article in which he said that "the color line in baseball is a disgrace to the game."

Daniel, who was a sportswriter for the New York Post, was a close friend of Jackie Robinson's. He helped Robinson to prepare for his debut in the

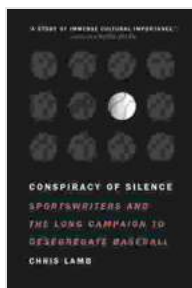
major leagues, and he continued to support him throughout his career.

The writings of these sportswriters helped to create a climate of opinion that made it possible for Jackie Robinson to break the color barrier. They argued that black players were just as good as white players, and that they deserved a chance to play in the major leagues. Their writings helped to create a groundswell of support for desegregation, and they played a vital role in the success of the civil rights movement.

## The Legacy of Sportswriters in the Fight for Desegregation

The sportswriters who fought for the desegregation of baseball left a lasting legacy. They helped to create a more inclusive society, and they inspired generations of athletes and activists to fight for social justice.

Today, the fight for desegregation is still not over. There are still many barriers to equality in sports, and in society as a whole. But the sportswriters who fought for the desegregation of baseball showed us that change is possible. Their legacy is a reminder that we must never give up the fight for a more just and equitable world.



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