

# The Season That Changed Baseball and America Forever

## The 1947 Season

The 1947 season was a watershed moment in the history of baseball and America. It was the year that Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier, paving the way for other black players to enter the major leagues. It was also the year that the American League expanded to eight teams, creating a more competitive and exciting league.



## Summer of '68: The Season That Changed Baseball -- and America -- Forever by Tim Wendel

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Robinson's signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1946 was a major turning point in the history of civil rights in America. For decades, black players had been barred from playing in the major leagues due to the unwritten "gentleman's agreement." But Robinson's talent and determination forced Major League Baseball to confront the issue of racial segregation.

Robinson's debut with the Dodgers on April 15, 1947, was met with both cheers and jeers. But he quickly proved that he belonged in the major leagues, batting .297 with 12 home runs and 29 stolen bases. His performance on the field helped to break down racial barriers and inspire other black players to pursue their dreams of playing in the major leagues.

The 1947 season was also a turning point for the American League. The league had expanded to eight teams in 1946, and the addition of the Cleveland Indians and St. Louis Browns created a more competitive and exciting league. The Indians won the pennant in 1947, and the Browns finished in second place.

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## **Jackie Robinson**

Jackie Robinson was born in Cairo, Georgia, in 1919. He was the son of sharecroppers, and he grew up in poverty. But he was also a gifted athlete, and he excelled in baseball, football, basketball, and track. After graduating from high school, Robinson attended UCLA, where he was a star athlete in four sports.

In 1942, Robinson was drafted into the Army. He served in the Army for two years, and he was awarded the Bronze Star for his bravery in combat. After the war, Robinson returned to UCLA and finished his college career. In

1946, he signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers, and he made his major league debut in 1947.

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## **The American League**

The American League was founded in 1901, and it quickly became one of the most popular sports leagues in the United States. The league originally had eight teams, but it expanded to 10 teams in 1961 and to 14 teams in 1977. The league currently has 15 teams, and it is the second-largest professional sports league in the United States, after the National Football League.

The American League has a long and storied history, and it has been home to some of the greatest players in the history of baseball. Some of the most famous players to play in the American League include Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, and Ted Williams.

The American League is also known for its competitive play. The league has a number of strong teams, and the pennant race is often decided in the final days of the season. The American League also has a number of exciting rivalries, including the Yankees-Red Sox rivalry and the Dodgers-Giants rivalry.

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The 1947 season is a reminder that baseball is more than just a game. It is a reflection of our society, and it has the power to bring people together. The 1947 season is a story of progress and change, and it is a story that is still relevant today.



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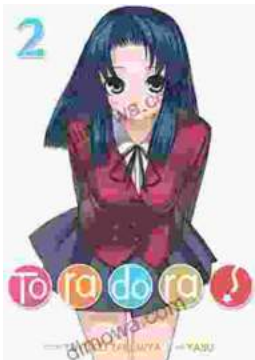
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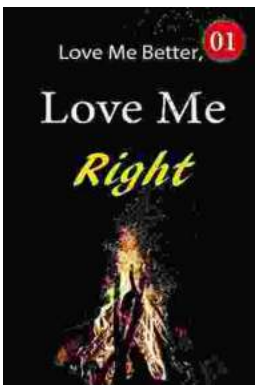
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