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## American Commemorative Panels: Major League Baseball All-Stars: Larry Doby

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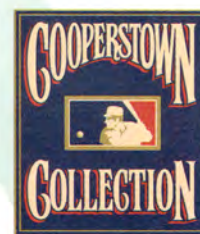
# Major League Baseball™ All-Stars: Larry Doby



Doby's white teammates gave him a chilly reception and he spent most of his first season on the bench. But in 1948 he hit .301 and helped Cleveland win the pennant. During Game Four of the *World Series™* championship against the *Boston Braves™*, he became the first black player to hit a home run in the *Fall Classic™*, which Cleveland won.

The next year Doby was elected to the *American League™* All-Star team, which he made for each of the next six years. In 1950, *Sporting News* named him the best center fielder in baseball, ahead of Joe DiMaggio. In 1955, Doby set an *American League™* record for an outfielder of 164 consecutive errorless games. Doby was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1998.

Illustrator Kadir Nelson based the stamp art on historic photographs of Doby at bat. Phil Jordan served as art director.



WHEN HE JOINED the *Cleveland Indians™* on July 5, 1947, Larry Doby (1923–2003) became the first African American to play in the *American League™*. Eleven weeks earlier, Jackie Robinson had broken the color barrier in the *National League™*. A man of quiet dignity and courage, Doby helped pave the way for racial progress in America's National Pastime.

Doby was born and raised in Camden, South Carolina. He later moved to Paterson, New Jersey, and began his professional baseball career with the Newark Eagles of the Negro National League. After serving in the Navy during World War II, Doby returned to the Eagles in 1946 and helped them defeat Satchel Paige and the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro World Series championship. The following year he was batting well over .400 at mid-season when Bill Veeck of the *Cleveland Indians™* brought him to the majors.



Larry Doby art by Kadir Nelson © U. S. Postal Service; background: Fotosearch Stock Photography; intaglio: Shutterstock  
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