

# On This Date

# January 15, 2000

A talented left-handed pitcher who almost quit baseball as a homesick 21-year-old rookie in 1942, [James Hardin LaMarque](#) passes away on January 15, 2000, in Kansas City. He is 79 years old.

Born on July 29, 1920, in Potosi, Missouri, where he grew up playing with both black and white players - something unheard of at the time. He signs with the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro American League in time for the 1942 season and except for 1943, remains a fixture on the team's pitching staff until 1950.



LaMarque misses the entire 1943 season after breaking his pitching arm in a workplace accident at the Pioneer Silica Products factory in Pacific, Missouri. In eight seasons with the Monarchs, LaMarque is 51-31. Twice he represents the Monarchs in the East-West All-Star Game and on three occasions (1947-49) he leads the league in wins, complete games and innings pitched. For several years LaMarque plays winter ball in Cuba, Puerto Rico or Mexico. In 1951, he leads the Mexican League in wins with 19. Twice he wins 10 or more games in the Cuban winter league.



Nicknamed "Lefty," he is known for his fastball and a sharp-breaking curve. But unlike his more famous Monarch teammates such as Satchel Paige, Jackie Robinson and Josh Gibson, LaMarque plays most of career without national acclaim.