JACKIE ROBINSON

Though he was born in Cairo, Georgia, in 1919, Jackie Robinson _____ **(grow up)** in Los Angeles, California. Although African-American athletes were not accepted in all sports leagues at this time, Jackie's life would prove that athletes should be judged by their abilities and not by the color of their skin.

Jackie would prove to be a star athlete. He _____ **(be)** a star in not just one sport, but four: he ran track and played basketball, football, and baseball. Jackie _____ **(begin)** playing professional baseball in the Negro American Baseball League. But after two years, he _____ **(join)** the Brooklyn Dodgers. No other African-American had ever been allowed to play in the major leagues.

Not everyone _____ **(think)** that an African-American person should play in the major leagues. The fans and some of the other players _____ **(treat)** Jackie very poorly. They _____ **(try-continuous)** to get him to leave the league. The opposite happened: Jackie only _____ **(work)** harder and played harder.

He _____ **(manage)** to win the Rookie of the Year award and helped the Dodgers win the pennant. In 1949, he _____ **(have)** the best batting average in the league and _____ **(win)** the Most Valuable Player award. Jackie _____ **(continue)** to work hard and improve. He _____ **(be)** also an excellent fielder and base runner.

In the 10 years that Jackie _____ (play) for the Dodgers, they _____ **(win)** the pennant six times and the World Series championship once. In 1962, Jackie Robinson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

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