



ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON
MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Courtney DeNicola
Office of Communications
732/235-9872
denicoca@umdnj.edu

Baseball's 'Black Aces' Join Effort to Raise Awareness of Prostate Cancer
Upcoming Jon Runyan Golf Tournament Gains Support
From Some of History's Finest Major League Baseball Players

New Brunswick, New Jersey, August 7, 2006 – The Black Aces, the dozen African-American pitchers who posted 20-win seasons in Major League Baseball history will join other professional sports figures and members of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) for a day of golf in support of prostate cancer education, awareness and research efforts.

The second annual *Score for the Cure* golf tournament, lead by Philadelphia Eagles' offensive tackle, Jon Runyan will take place on October 3, 2006 at Ramblewood Country Club in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey. Monies raised will help support prostate cancer research, education and awareness programs at CINJ's Dean and Betty Gallo Prostate Cancer Center. In addition to a day of golf, guests will have the opportunity to bid on sports memorabilia including signed footballs, athletic gear and other unique items.

Appropriately named for their successes on the field, The Black Aces were founded by James Timothy "Mudcat" Grant, a right-hander who pitched for seven teams across a 14-year career, beginning in 1958 with the Cleveland Indians. In 1965, Grant became the first African-American in the American League to earn a win in a World Series game as a member of the Minnesota Twins.

"We are all part of the community and none of us got where we are today without the help of many others, some we don't even know," stated Grant. "So the best way to say 'thanks' for the good things in our life is to give back a little."

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in American men, excluding skin cancers, and is the leading cause of cancer death among men. It is estimated that during 2006, approximately 234,460 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed nationwide, with more than 27,000 men dying from the disease. And although death rates have been on the decline since the early 1990's, rates in African-American men remain more than twice as high as rates in white men. And African-American men have the world's highest rate of prostate cancer

-more-

“The incidence and mortality rates from prostate cancer among African-American men are far too high,” added Grant. “Through partnerships with organizations such as The Cancer Institute of New Jersey we can increase the knowledge about prostate cancer and work to breakdown barriers to screenings and early detection.”

“We are thrilled The Black Aces have joined us in our effort,” said Ronald A. Morton, Jr., M.D., Chief of Urologic Oncology at CINJ and Professor of Surgery, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. “Their enthusiasm toward increasing awareness of prostate cancer is a testament to their dedication to the community.”

Sponsorship opportunities ranging from \$500 to \$12,000 are available. Individuals or groups interested in participating in the tournament can register by calling The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Foundation at 732/235-8614. Tournament brochures can also be downloaded from CINJ’s Web site at www.cinj.org.

Selected Members of The Black Aces

Vida Blue

Blue made his Major League debut in 1969 and later won the Cy Young Award and the Most Valuable Player Award for his efforts. Blue finished his career 209-161 (1969-1986) after being named to four All-Star teams and a 3.63 ERA.

Al Downing

This left-handed pitcher spent 17 seasons (1961-1977) in the Major Leagues primarily with the Yankees and Dodgers. He led the American League in strikeouts (217) in 1964, and was named Comeback Player of the Year in 1971. In 1974, he entered baseball history by surrendering Hank Aaron’s record-breaking 715th home run. Downing finished with 123 career victories and a 3.22 ERA.

Jim "Mudcat" Grant

Jim “Mudcat” Grant was a right-handed pitcher who played 14 seasons (1958-1971), primarily with the Indians and Twins. He was the first African-American to win 20 games in the minor leagues. In 1965, Grant became the first African-American in the American League to earn a win in a World Series game when the Twins played the Dodgers. Grant finished with 144 victories and a 3.63 ERA.

Ferguson Jenkins

Jenkins was a right-handed pitcher who played 17 seasons (1965-1983), primarily with the Cubs. He led the league in complete games four times, games started three times, innings pitched three times, wins twice and strikeouts once. He compiled twenty win campaigns seven times, including a string of six in row (1967-1974). In 1971, he won the Cy Young Award. He finished his career ninth on the all-time strikeout list (3,192) and his 284-226 record with an ERA of 3.34 earned him a spot in the Hall of Fame in 1991.

-more-

"Sad" Sam Jones

Jones, a right-hander, began his career in the Negro Leagues, pitching the Cleveland Buckeyes to the 1947 Negro League World Series. In 1950, he was signed by the Cleveland Indians, but did not get his chance to pitch full-time until 1955 after being traded to the Cubs. That year he got his first no-hitter against Pittsburgh and was named to his first All-Star team. Jones led the National League in strikeouts three seasons. Jones career spanned 12 years (1951-1964) compiling 102 wins and a 3.59 ERA. **(deceased)**

Mike Norris

Norris, a right-handed pitcher, pitched for ten years (1975-1983, 1990) for the Oakland Athletics. In 1980, Norris put together a 22-9 season with a 2.54 ERA, finishing second in the Cy Young Award balloting. A year later Norris helped the A's to the American League West divisional title and made the All-Star team. He finished his career with 58 wins and two Gold Gloves to his credit in 1980 and 1981.

J.R. Richard

Richard was a flame-throwing right-hander for the Astros, who pitched ten seasons (1971-1980). In 1971, he tied a Major League record when he fanned 15 hitters in his first game. In 1978, he became the first National League right-handed pitcher in the 20th century to strike out 300 batters, and repeated the feat again in 1979. He won 20 games in 1976, finishing 20-15. He retired with a 107-71 career record and a 3.15 ERA.

Dave Stewart

Stewart pitched for 16 years (1978-1995), spending them primarily with the Athletics and Blue Jays. This right-hander enjoyed his best success with the A's in the late '80s and early '90s. In 1989, he was named World Series Most Valuable Player. Stewart ended his career with 168 wins and a 3.95 ERA.

Earl Wilson

Wilson played 11 years (1959-1970) with the Red Sox, Tigers and Padres. In 1967, Wilson earned 22 wins against only 11 losses, finishing tied for the American League lead in wins. He helped the Tigers win the World Series in 1968 recorded his last season in 1970, where he finished with 121 career wins and a 3.69 ERA. **(deceased)**

To learn more about The Black Aces, please visit www.theblackaces.com.

About CINJ

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is the state's only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, and is dedicated to improving the prevention, detection, treatment and care of patients with cancer. CINJ's physician-scientists engage in translational research, transforming their laboratory discoveries into clinical practice- quite literally bringing research to life. The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is a Center of Excellence of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. To support CINJ, please call The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Foundation at 732/235-8614.

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Network is comprised of hospitals throughout the state and provides a mechanism to rapidly disseminate important discoveries into the community. Partner Hospitals: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Atlantic Health System (Morristown Memorial Hospital, Mountainside Hospital, Overlook Hospital). Affiliate Hospitals: Bayshore Community Hospital, CentraState Healthcare System, Cooper University Hospital (CINJ at Cooper),* Jersey Shore University Medical Center, JFK Medical Center, Monmouth Medical Center, Raritan Bay Medical Center, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton (CINJ-Hamilton), Saint Peter's University Hospital, Somerset Medical Center, Southern Ocean County Hospital, The University Hospital/UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School,* and University Medical Center at Princeton. **Academic Affiliate*

###