Wiggins Served Game as Player, Ambassador

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Like many Negro Leaguers of his time, Bob Wiggins never played in the major leagues, but he left his mark as a gifted outfielder and passionate ambassador just the same.

Wiggins passed away earlier this month. He was 79 years old.

Along with Eugene Sawyer, Wiggins was co-captain of his high school baseball team in Greensboro, Ala., where he was born. Sawyer went on to become Chicago mayor after the death of Harold Washington years later.

Wiggins migrated to the Chicago area, where played for the Chicago Brown Bombers and Chicago Giants semi-pro teams. In 1958, he took a leave of absence from his company to attend a White Sox tryout.

Wiggins finished his career with the Raleigh Tigers and Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro American League. Later he served as a Southshore (Ind.) Railcats coach and was a regular at ballfields in the area.