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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910808791903321 |
| Autore | Cottrell Robert C. <1950-> |
| Titolo | The best pitcher in baseball : the life of Rube Foster, Negro League giant / / Robert Charles Cottrell |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | New York, : New York University Press, c2001 |
| ISBN | 0-8147-9040-2 0-585-43474-3 |
| Edizione | [1st ed.] |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (232 pages) |
| Disciplina | 796.357/092 B |
| Soggetti | Baseball players - United States African American baseball players Baseball team owners - United States Negro leagues - History |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references (p. 191-224) and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Front matter -- CONTENTS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- INTRODUCTION -- ONE. The Best Pitcher in the Country -- TWO. At the Top of His Game -- THREE. A Return to the Midwest -- FOUR. The Leland Giants -- FIVE. The Chicago American Giants and the Making of a Black Baseball Dynasty -- SIX. Another Championship -- SEVEN. The Dynasty Is Interrupted -- EIGHT. Back on Top in Wartime -- NINE. Rube Ball -- TEN. Black Baseball and the Segregated Community -- ELEVEN. Organizing Black Baseball -- TWELVE. Czar of Black Baseball -- THIRTEEN. Rube Foster's Legacy -- FOURTEEN. The Drive to Cooperstown -- NOTES -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX -- ABOUT THE AUTHOR |
| Sommario/riassunto | When Rube Foster was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1981, his rightful place alongside baseball's greatest black heroes was at last firmly established. A world-class pitcher, a formidable manager, and a brilliant administrator, Rube Foster was arguably more influential in breaking down the color barrier in major league baseball than the venerable Jackie Robinson. Born in 1879, Rube Foster pitched for the legendary black baseball teams the Cuban X-Giants and the |

Philadelphia Giants before becoming player-manager of the Leland Giants and the Chicago American Giants. Long a central figure in black baseball, he founded baseball's first black league the Negro National League in 1920. From its inception, the Negro League served as a vehicle through which many of the finest black players could showcase their considerable talents. Challenging racial discrimination and stereotypes, it ultimately set the stage for future efforts to contest Jim Crow. Despite the long-standing success of the Negro National League as an influential black institution, Rube Foster was deeply embittered by organized baseball's unmitigated refusal to lift the color barrier. He died a broken man in 1930. *The Best Pitcher in Baseball* is the story of a man of unparalleled vision and organizational acumen whose passion for justice changed the face of baseball forever. It is a moving tribute to a man and his dream.
