

FLASH POINTS
STAND UP!



Jackie Robinson

Eleanor Cardell

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JACKIE ROBINSON

April 15, 1947

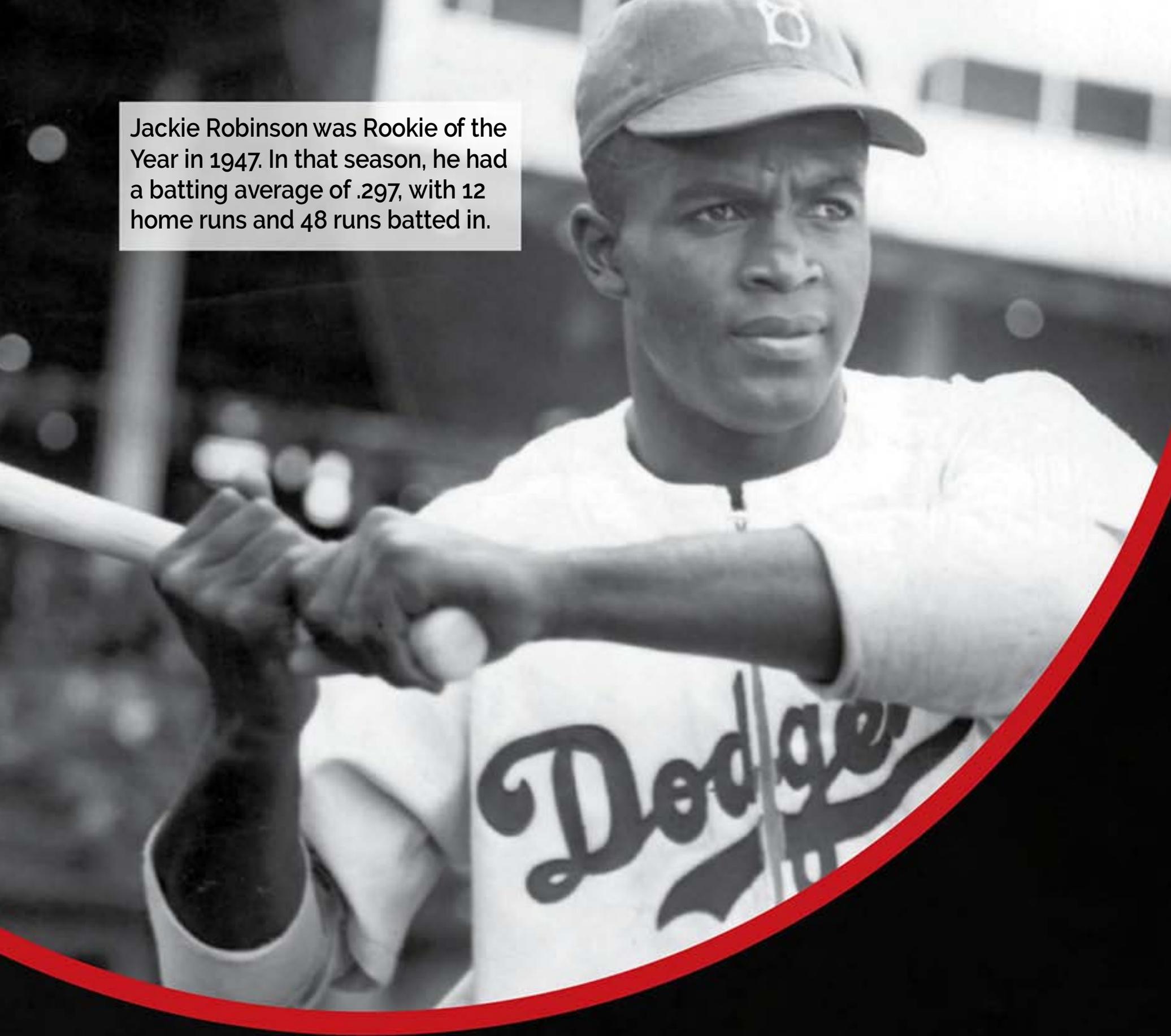
Fans crowd into Ebbets Field in Brooklyn, New York. They are here to see the Brooklyn Dodgers play the Boston Braves. People crane their necks to see the players. They are looking for Jackie Robinson. He's the first African American to ever play for a Major League Baseball (MLB) team. This is his first game.

By the sixth inning, Robinson has not scored. He is not playing his best. He is nervous. He knows that a lot of people don't want him to play. Some of his teammates don't want him on the team. Many of the Braves players don't want to play against him. They yell at him. They call him names.

Robinson knows that he can't fail. If he does, people will say that African Americans don't belong in the major leagues. In the seventh inning, Robinson scores the first run of his MLB career. He helps the Dodgers win. This win means more than just a baseball game.

It means progress toward **integrating** Major League Baseball.

integrate: to stop keeping people of different races apart



Jackie Robinson was Rookie of the Year in 1947. In that season, he had a batting average of .297, with 12 home runs and 48 runs batted in.



DID YOU KNOW?

April 15 of every year is Jackie Robinson Day in the major leagues. Everyone on the field wears his old number: 42.

How and Why

Historical events rarely have only one simple cause. Many different things—such as certain events or changing ways of thinking—work together to shape the future. Below are some of the things that led to Jackie Robinson's career in Major League Baseball.

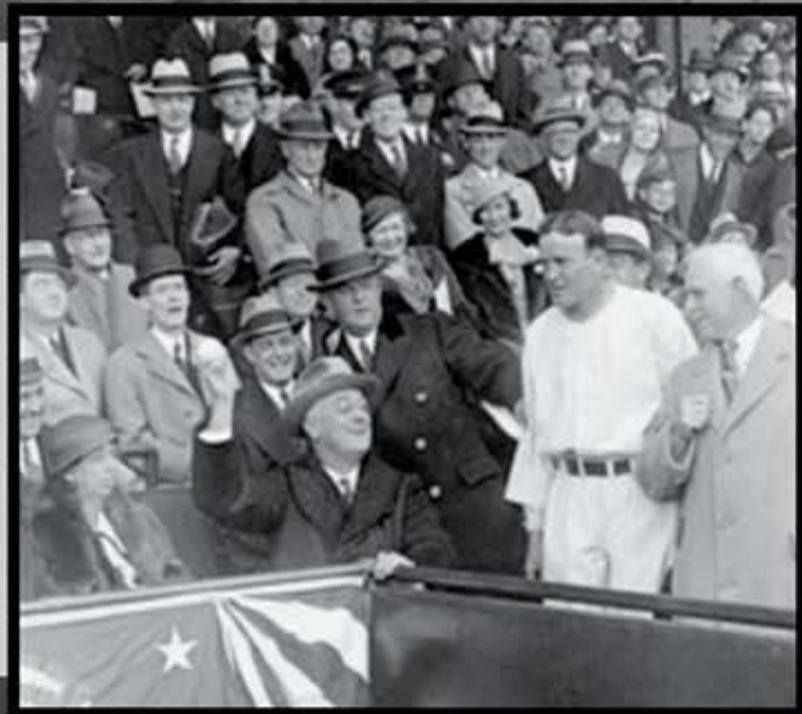
From a Young Age

Robinson played a lot of sports growing up. He was always very good at them. At UCLA, Robinson played four sports at the varsity level. He also played professional football in Hawai'i.



An Unwelcoming Sport

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said that he considered baseball to be very important. It was popular across the country. Watching baseball games helped many Americans relax and have fun. At first, major league teams didn't want to accept African American players. The organizations thought that many white fans might stop supporting the sport.





Unfair Treatment

African Americans were treated very differently from white Americans. There used to be many laws that required segregation, separating people based on their race. For example, African Americans and white Americans couldn't eat at the same restaurants, go to the same schools, or use the same restrooms.



Negro Leagues

Before 1947, baseball leagues were segregated. Robinson played in a Negro League. But there weren't any official rules that said African Americans couldn't play in the major leagues.



Integration Begins

Branch Rickey was the president of the Brooklyn Dodgers. He wanted to integrate the major leagues. Robinson seemed perfect. First he put Robinson on a minor league team, and that went well. So Rickey decided to move Robinson to the majors.

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