While Jackie was playing for the Monarchs, Branch Rickey, the president of the Brooklyn Dodgers, learned about Jackie's amazing talent for baseball. He invited Jackie to meet with him in New York. There Rickey offered him the chance to become part of the Brooklyn Dodgers. As a Dodger, Jackie would earn a higher salary. Jackie accepted the job and became the first twentieth century black American to play on a Major League team.

After signing the contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Jackie married Rachel Isum. Rachel had graduated from UCLA and was working as a hospital nurse. Rachel and Jackie had three children together.

Jackie's career with the Brooklyn Dodgers started with Jackie playing on their training team, the Montreal Royals. Unlike the Dodgers, the Montreal Royals had other black players. Players on the Montreal Royals hoped they would be good enough to earn a place with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Jackie trained with the Montreal Royals in Florida. Then he played with them in Canada. He became very popular in Canada because he was an excellent batter and a very fast runner. Jackie quickly earned a place with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

**Did You Know...**

Philip K. Wrigley, the owner of the Chicago Cubs, started the All American Girls Professional Baseball League during World War II because most male athletes were in the army. The All American Girls games were very popular and continued until 1954.