

ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY



Image courtesy of Encyclopedia of Arkansas

On May 31, 1921, Reese "Goose" Tatum was born in either El Dorado, Arkansas (Union County) or Hermitage, Arkansas (Bradley County), the youngest in his family. He played baseball, football and basketball in school but didn't graduate. When he was 16, he played professional basketball among the American Negro Leagues. He acquired the nickname "Goose" while playing for a baseball team in Forester, Arkansas (Scott County), during the 1930s. Tatum played professional basketball starting in 1942, where he played with the Harlem Globetrotters. He played for the Globetrotters (1941-1942) until he was drafted to the U.S. Military Air Corps during World War II. After the war, he continued to play ball with the Harlem Globetrotters for 10 more years.

