

BEST SHORT VIDEO CONTENT

Neurosurgeon Langston Holly, MD, takes us through his journey from childhood to a ceremonial first pitch honoring his favorite player, Jackie Robinson

UCLA Health and the Los Angeles Dodgers invited neurosurgeon Langston Holly, MD, to throw out the ceremonial first pitch on April 15 at Dodger Stadium. It was Jackie Robinson Day — and the 75th anniversary of Robinson’s groundbreaking Major League Baseball debut. Little did they know how much this invitation meant to Dr. Holly, a lifelong Dodgers fan who adored the baseball icon.

During his childhood in Los Angeles, Dr. Holly played Little League, threw the ball in the backyard with his dad, and played catch with the neighborhood kids after school. But it wasn’t just a love of baseball that made young Dr. Holly look up to Jackie Robinson as his hero. It was Robinson’s role as a civil rights pioneer.

In 1947, Robinson was recruited by the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first Black athlete to play in the Major Leagues since American baseball was segregated in 1889. Dr. Holly’s parents grew up in the 1940s and came from the segregated South. From a young age, their son understood how much Robinson’s courage meant to them and the civil rights movement. He went on to read books about Robinson and his admiration grew.

STORYTELLING AT ITS FINEST: SHOWCASING DR. HOLLY’S CEREMONIAL FIRST PITCH

Dr. Holly said that when he stepped onto the pitcher’s mound on Jackie Robinson Day, he would be representing more than UCLA Health, where he’s been for 31 years. He would also be representing his parents’ admiration for Robinson, his Los Angeles hometown, the Dodgers — and all the kids he played baseball with in his youth.

PITCH OF A LIFETIME: DR. LANGSTON HOLLY THREW OUT THE FIRST BALL ON JACKIE ROBINSON DAY



In a short video, UCLA Health documents Dr. Holly's pitch during that memorable night at Dodger Stadium. The feel-good film captures the neurosurgeon at work, with patients, holding his number 42 baseball jersey, and on the baseball field. It also highlights the bigger, important ways that the event touched him.

"TO ME, JACKIE ROBINSON MEANS THE BEST OF EVERYBODY," DR. HOLLY SAYS IN THE VIDEO. "IT MEANS SOMEBODY WHO INSPIRES US, SOMEONE OF GREAT MORAL CHARACTER AND DIGNITY, SOMEBODY WHO MAKES US FEEL LIKE WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE WANT."

METRICS

Published on April 21, 2022, the video of Dr. Holly's first pitch at the Los Angeles Dodgers game has **838 views**. It also generated nearly **100 "likes" and "loves"** on Facebook.