

Cuban Baseball Timeline.

1839- Abner Doubleday is credited with inventing baseball in Cooperstown, New York.

1845- Alexander Joy Cartwright develops the rules of baseball.

1861- The Civil War begins.

1866- First women's baseball team is started by a group from Vassar College.

June 1866- Caribbean Baseball is born when sailors from American naval ship, anchored at Matanzas Bay introduce the game to Cuban dockhands loading sugar cane onto North American vessels. Another account of the origins of Cuban baseball is that Nemesio Guillot, an upper-class youth educated in the U.S. brought the sport to Cuba upon his return in 1864.

1869- The Cincinnati Red Stockings, an all-professional team, takes the field for the first time.

April 1871- Cuban Esteban "Steve" Bellan plays in the inaugural season of the National Association, the first recognized big league circuit for the Troy Haymakers. He learned how to play the game while attending Fordham University.

December 27, 1874- After only eight years of the game's introduction in Matanzas, the first-organized game is recorded between Havana and Matanzas. Havana won 51-9.

1876- Custer defeat at Little Big Horn. The National League is established, with William Hulbert as President.

November 23, 1879- American George McCullar, catcher for Colon, hits the first Cuban League homerun.

December 25, 1879- Pitcher Carlos Macia of Almendares is credited with first attempt to bunt not for sacrifice but for base hit. This takes place a full twelve seasons before the same strategy is introduced in U.S with John McGraw and Baltimore Orioles.

February 2, 1886- Carlos Macia, Almendares pitcher, blanks Club Fe 16-0 in first recorded Cuban League shutout.

1886- Official Stats kept for the first time in Cuban League and Wenceslao Galvez is first batting champion with a .345 average.

February 13, Carlos Macia pitches 1887- first professional league no-hitter in Cuba.

1890-91- Cuban introduce baseball in Mexico and Puerto Rico, as well as in the Dominican Republic.

October 1891- The first touring big leaguers visit Cuba for winter exhibitions (October 25-November 8). John McGraw is among the group of barnstormers called the All-Americans who posted a 5-0 record. Cuban players helped fill out the American roster

1893- Ricardo Cabaleiro posts first three-homer game in Cuba while playing for Colombian amateur team versus Cuba's Oceano ball club.

1894- Almendares wins its first league championship and the rivalry in Cuban baseball is born between the Cuban teams, Almendares and Havana.

November 1908- Cuban pitcher Jose de la Caridad Mendez, immortalized by New York Giant's manager John McGraw as Cuba's "Black Diamond", pitches 25 scoreless innings against the visiting Big Leaguers.

November 18, 1909- Cuba's Eustaquio "Bombin" Pedroso pitches for Almendares against the visiting Detroit Tigers and no-hits the American League Champions. Detroit wins only four of twelve games against Havana and Almendares.

November 1910- Philadelphia's world champion Athletics (4 wins and 4 losses) and Detroit Tigers (7-wins and 4 losses) again visit Cuba and find them to be a worthy opponent. A major highlight was Ty Cobb was caught stealing three straight times.

July 4, 1911- Outfielders Armando Marsans and Rafael Almeida debut with the Cincinnati Reds, becoming the first 20th-century Cuban and Modern day Latins to play in the major leagues.

October 3, 1919- Adolfo "Dolf" Luque becomes the first Latin American to

appear in the World Series, pitching in relief for the Cincinnati Reds in Game 3 against the infamous Chicago "Black Sox" ball club.

October 1923- Cincinnati pitcher Adolfo Luque is the Major League leading pitcher for the season with a record of 27-8 and also led the league in ERA with a 1.93 mark.

October 11, 1924- Oscar Lewis of Club Havana no-hits Almendares for the first 20th-century no-hitter pitched in the Cuban Professional League.

May 23, 1925- Cuban Miguel "Mike" Gonzalez becomes the first Latin player to appear with three different major league teams.

January 2, 1929- Outfielder James "Cool Papa" Bell, U.S. Negro Leaguer becomes the first to hit three homers in one game in the Cuban Professional Baseball League.

October 10, 1930- Visiting All-star teams of the U.S. major leagues play the first game at Havana's "La Tropical" Stadium.

March 1931- Brooklyn Dodgers make brief spring training exhibition appearance in Havana playing five games at Tropical Stadium. Adolfo Luque is on the Brooklyn roster and wins all three Dodger games.

October 7, 1933- Adolfo Luque pitches 4.1 innings of stellar relief to gain championship-clinching victory in game five of the 1933 World Series. Thus Luque becomes the first Latin American to post a World Series pitching victory.

September 16, 1937- Black Cuban Hall of Famer Martin Dihigo pitches the first professional no-hitter in Mexican soil over Nogales in Veracruz. Dihigo went on to become the only player to be enshrined in halls of fame in four different countries- U.S., Mexico, Cuba, and Venezuela.

December 21, 1937- First Cuban night game is played in La Tropical Stadium as Mariano defeats Almendares 6-5. Martin Dihigo is the winning pitcher of this historic game.

September 18, 1938- Martin Dihigo becomes first Mexican League batter to register six hits in six at-bats while playing for Veracruz.

August 1939- Havana hosts second ever world amateur championships and Cuba wins their first world title. Cuba also goes on to hoist three out of the next four next events and wins three of those.

September 1940- U.S., Hawaii territory, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua and Venezuela meet in the Third World Amateur Baseball Championship. This was the first time that more than three nations participate. Host Cuba won easily.

September 6, 1944- Cuban right-hander Thomas de la Cruz tosses the first one-hitter by a Latin American pitcher in the Major Leagues.

October 26, 1946- Record 31,000 fans attend inaugural game at new "Cerro" Stadium in which Almendares defeated Mariano 9-1.

August 21, 1948- Officials from Cuba, Panama, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela meet in Havana and created the "Serie del Caribe" which will take place in February 1949. It went uninterrupted through 1960, later reinstated (1970) and survives to this day. Dominican Republic replaced Cuba and Mexico replaced Panama.

February 25, 1949- Cuba wins the inaugural Caribbean Series and Cuba's Agapito Mayor becomes the only pitcher in Series play during the 40 years that wins three games.

1949- Orestes "Minnie" Minoso becomes the first black Latin player to play in the majors (he played with the Padres)

October 1951- Orestes "Minnie" Minoso of the Chicago White Sox wins the Sporting News American League Rookie of the Year award. However, he was denied the Baseball Writers Rookie of the Year Award despite have hit 50 more hits, 13 more RBI's, and having a batting average 20 points higher than the winner Gil McDougal of the Yankees.

September 2, 1952- Cuban Mike Fornieles of the Senators throws a one-hitter in his M.L. debut becoming the first Latin pitcher and second American Leaguer (1902 previous) to toss a one-hitter in debut M.L. outing.

September 1954- Cuban Sandy Consuegra (Chicago White Sox) becomes the second Latin American pitcher to lead his league in winning percentage (16-3). The first was Cuban Adolfo Luque in 1923 (27-8).

February 11, 1955- Perhaps the most emotional game in Caribbean Series is played in Caracas, Venezuela as Cuba defeats host Venezuela for the title and a near riot breaks out in the stands.

October 4, 1955- Brooklyn defeats New York 2-0 in game seven to capture their first and only World Series championship. Cuban Sandy Amoros is the hero making a miraculous catch in the sixth-inning.

October 1957- Cuban Outfielder Orestes Minoso wins his first of three Gold Glove Awards.

July 26, 1959- Fidel Castro supporters halt International League contest between the Rochester Red Wings and the Havana Sugar Kings with random gunshots from the stands. Red Wings manager Cot Deal pulls his team off the field and retreat to the hotel. The Havana Sugar Kings go on to win the Little World Series (AAA's version of the World Series) defeating Minneapolis Millers.

October 1959- Cuban outfielder Orestes Minoso wins his second Gold Glove Award. He goes on to win it again the following year.

July 13, 1960- The International League shifts the home of the Havana Sugar Kings to the Jersey City Reds, thus ending professional baseball in Cuba. The ball club plays in Miami at the time and all 11 Cuban players decide to remain with the team and its new home.

July 23, 1960- Kansas City player Whitey Herzog hits into only Cuban triple play in Major League history. (Pedro Ramos, Julio Becquer, and Jose Valivielso of the Senators).

August 13, 1962- Cuban Bert Campaneris pitches two innings of relief for Dayton Beach of the Florida State League throwing both as a right hander and lefthander and struck out for while performing this stunt.

May 20, 1964- Cuban pitcher Jose Ramon Lopez (Monterrey) records 16 strikeouts in the Mexican League tying the record set in 1959.

July 23 1964- Cuban Rookie Bert Campaneris of Kansas City Athletics becomes the second man in Major League history to hit two homers in his debut game.

October 1964- Twins Slugger Tony Oliva becomes the first black player to win both the Batting Title and Rookie of the Year Award in the same

season.

September 8, 1965- Bert Campaneris becomes the first player in Major League history to play in all nine positions in a single game.

October 1965- Cuban infielder Zoilo Versalles of the Twins becomes the first Latin American to win the MVP award. He also wins the American League's Gold Glove award for his play at the shortstop position while fellow Cuban Leo Cardenas wins the National League's Gold Glove Award also at the shortstop position.

October 1966- Cuban outfielder Tony Oliva is named the American League's Gold Glove Award winner.

July 11, 1967- Cincinnati Reds Tony Perez hits 15th inning homerun to give the National League the win in the All-Star game.

November 1969- Cuba's Mike Cuellar is first Latin American winner of the Cy Young Award.

September 12, 1976- Orestes "Minnie" Minoso becomes the oldest player to record a Major League hit. He is nine months past his 53rd birthday at the time.

August 8, 1977- Black Cuban star Martin Dihigo, considered by most the greatest all-around Negro League player is voted into Cooperstown. He is the only player to be enshrined in four different Baseball Halls of fame (Cuba, U.S. Mexico, and Venezuela).

October 4, 1980- Orestes Minoso makes a pinch-hitting appearance for the Chicago White Sox. Thus, he becomes the second player in Big League history to appear in official league play in five different decades.

October 1986- Cuban Jose Canseco is named American League's Rookie of the Year.

October 1988- Jose Canseco becomes the first player in Major League history to hit 40 homeruns and steal 40 bases in the same season. Later Alex Rodriguez and Barry Bonds join this elite group. Canseco is also honored with the Silver Slugger Award and the American League's MVP Award.

October 1990- Outfielder Jose Canseco wins the Silver Slugger Award. He repeats the feat for the third time in 1991 and then a fourth in 1998.

April 19, 1993- Jose Canseco becomes the first player since Ted Williams (1947) and the 17th in baseball history to reach 750 RBI's in 1,000 games or less.

October 1995- Jose Canseco finishes the season with 300 Homeruns, becoming only the third Latin player to reach this milestone. (Cuba's Tony Perez & Puerto Rico's Orlando Cepeda the other two).

October 1997- Cuban pitcher Livan Hernandez becomes the Florida Marlins hero in the Playoffs and the World Series winning the title for the Marlins and earning the World Series MVP Award as well.

October 1997- Cuban Shortstop Rey Ordonez wins his first of three consecutive Gold Glove Awards.

October 1997- Cuban first Baseman Rafael Palmeiro wins his first of three consecutive Gold Glove Awards.

June 1998- Livan Hernandez's half brother, Orlando "El Duke" Hernandez makes his Major League debut with the New York Yankees.

July 1998- Jose Canseco surpasses Tony Perez and Orlando Cepeda (379 each) to become the Latin American with the most career homeruns. He is also named as a Silver Slugger winner as a DH. Fellow countryman, Rafael Palmeiro also wins the silver Slugger Award as a First baseman.

March 28, 1999- Major Leaguers appear in Cuba for the first time in 40 years for the historic meeting between the Baltimore Orioles and the Cuban National Team before a 55,000-plus fans in Cuba. The Major League team wins 3-2 in 11 innings.

May 3, 1999- The Cuban National Team visits Baltimore's Camden Yards for the first ever meeting on U.S. soil between a Castro-era Cuban League team and a Major League team. The Cuban team defeated the Orioles 12-6.

October 1999- Cuban Rafael Palmeiro wins the Silver Slugger Award as a DH.

October 2004. Cuban Pitcher Livan Hernandez adds a Silver Slugger Award to his trophy case as the National League's best hitting pitcher.

October 2005- Cuban pitchers Orlando Hernandez and Jose Contreras team up in the starting rotation for the Chicago White Sox and help the team win its first World Series title in eighty-nine years.

When did the Cuban Hall of Fame Start

The 1st induction was held in 1939 and 10 players were enshrined. Among them were Cristobal Torriente and Jose De La Caridad Mendez who were later inducted into Cooperstown in 2006

From there the inductions continued but NOT in Cuba. They continued in Miami where **Federation of Professional Cuban Baseball Players in Exile** was formed. This went yearly until 1986. No inductions took place from 1987-1996. In 1997, while the Collector was a member and on the Board of Directors, there was once again an induction ceremony and a total of 36 players were inducted which included Ysora del Castillo, the female that played in the U.S. in the Girls Professional League from 1943-1954. This was the same league as depicted in the movie "A League of Her Own" Collection includes Ysora (Chico) del Castillo's Cooperstown HOF Ring. Since then the federation has been dormant.