

Man 2 = Bob Littlejohn

Man 1: [0:00] Cesar Cedeno, July 21, 1990, at Cincinnati, in connection with the Equitable Old Timers Game.

[0:14] Man 2: Cesar, your major league career started in 1970 with Houston, and you stayed there for a number of years.

[0:21] Cesar Cedeno: 12 years to be exact.

[0:24] Man 2: Pardon?

[0:25] Cesar: 12 years to be exact.

[0:26] Man 2: And then you came to Cincinnati.

[0:28] Cesar: Cincinnati for four years. Then in September 1985, I was traded to St. Louis. I was able to play in the 1985 World Series. I was very privileged to achieve that. Many guys who played for the amount of years that I had never really did get that opportunity, but I was able to. [inaudible 0:57]

[0:59] Man 2: And a very good series for you personally. Then before then when you played with Houston, you represented the Houston team in the All-Star game four times and had a batting average of .333. So you did well in all your extra games.

[1:19] Cesar: I always thought that I was good at it. Any time that you got together with a lot of guys in an All-Star game...

[1:26] [phone rings]

[1:29] Cesar: ...They were stars. That usually brings the best out in me. So I had some good success in the All-Star games.

[1:37] Man 2: The other thing in your career that was unusual is that you hit for the cycle not once but twice. Very few people do that the first time, and that's very unusual.

[1:50] Cesar: Unusual, indeed. I was just lucky, just lucky that I was able to do it not only once but twice. Like you say, it's very difficult to do, especially getting that triple. There's a lot of guys like

[2:08] probably hit three home runs a game or four home runs, and [inaudible 2:15] hitting for the cycle is really difficult. You have to be extremely lucky to be able to accomplish that.

[2:21] Man 2: Getting the triple is generally the hard one. You had a career that went over 2,000 games and a batting average of .285. Tell me about your home run total.

[2:33] Cesar: That's the only part I'm not happy with, because I only hit 199, and I really did want to get that 200. But due to injuries, I did miss a lot of games. I probably should have more. I really did have the ability. I was able to as far as the ability and power.

[2:54] That's probably undoubtedly disappointing. I really did want to have at least a couple more home runs to go with. I did have 150 stolen bases, so I was mostly happy. But my career as a player is over, it's

done with, and I'm really happy with what I have achieved.

[3:11] Man 2: Those are some good statistics. Anybody who play 2, 000 games and over 2, 000 hits and a batting average of .285. Tell me about the development of baseball in the Dominican Republic. You were one of the early players from the Dominican to play. I understand that they're going in for more development down there.

[3:28] Cesar: Well, one of the reasons why you're seeing the high number of Latin players in the Major League right now is because they have developed a program on which every province has an academy out there, which has setup a program for younger guys, from the age of 14 to 17. And they recruit these kids and they get them ready.

[3:54] They keep them there for a couple years, two or three years, until they're ready to come to the United States. By the time that they're here, they're ready to compete in A ball or AA level. I think this is one of the reasons why you're seeing the number of Latin players moving up the way it has been.

[4:11] Man 2: Just to fast forward, you got into something different in the winter time, playing ball. What do they call that league?

[4:19] Cesar: Professional Senior League.

[4:23] Man 2: And you played the first year, and you're going to play again this next year.

[4:26] Cesar: It's going start in October again. It's been fun, and I'm definitely looking forward to play. I still like to compete even though I'm probably not able to compete at the Major League level right now due to some of the injuries that I have. But it's just a lot of [inaudible 4:41]. Everybody is of average speed, and everybody is so qualified. I still like to compete and play the game, and I'm definitely, definitely looking forward to go back.

[4:53] Man 2: And besides that, you have a full time affiliation with the Houston Astros.

[4:58] Cesar: Indeed. I am a hit instructor with the...full-back exactly. I'm a coach in the Minor League system. I deal with first-year players, drafts, kids, who just signed out of high school or sign out of college. Mainly first-year players. We're just there to help them develop the skills and learn as much as they can about the game. They really need it, something that you stick with them for their career for as long as it lasts.

[5:34] Man 2: You look like a ship in good trim. You look like you could go out and play a season right now. What would you say about being a DH?

[5:46] Cesar: Don't let the look fool you. [laughter] Don't let the look fool you. My knees. I couldn't even run from here to the elevator. So, no. Definitely not. DH, definitely not interested. I know that I'm still capable of hitting Major League pitching, but I'm definitely not intending on playing as far as playing DH. As I say, I'm real happy with this new league, which is just small, and I feel very comfortable playing out there. Man 2: OK. Well, you were a good all around player, and I appreciate the time you spent with me, Cesar. Thank you very kindly.

[6:23] Cesar: Yes sir. Thank you.