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## LATIN AMERICA COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Buenos Dias !!!! First of all I want to thank all the members who have congratulated me for my designation as the Latin America Committee Chairman last March, including during SABR'93 held in San Diego. It was an unforgettable experience been able to meet such an enthusiastic and knowledgeable group.

At the same time I had the opportunity to exchange ideas with our present and past presidents David Pietrusza and W. Lloyd Johnson, Morris Eckhouse, Executive Director, Dick Clark, Larry Gerlach, Lesley Heaphy-heads of the Negro League, Umpires and Rules and Women in Baseball Committees as well as Bob Hoie of the Minor League Committee. He has been very helpful in tracking the firsts Puerto Rican players in organized baseball.

I have received letters from Bob Garner, Jean Ardell, Phillip J. Stephaniak, Rob Ruck, Jerry Cohen, Fred Ivor Campbell, Lou Hunsinger Jr., Coqui Cordova, William Ruiz, Eugene Sasso Maduro, Robert Mesa, John Schwartz, Peter Bjarkman, Jorge Figueredo, who sent a copy of his publication "Momentos Estelares de la pelota Cubana" (Great Moments of Cuban Baseball), John H. Christman, Dr. Jose de J. Jimenez, Luis R. Mayoral, Ass't Director, Public Relations, Texas Rangers and Todd Bolton, who sent photos of the Baltimore All Star Game, where some all-time legends from Puerto Rico attended. I acknowledge from them very interesting suggestions and information for our newsletter.

I am including information on books dealing with Latin American baseball who have also very useful data about negro and minor leagues players who participated in tournaments held in Latin America.

"La Historia del Beisbol Panameño" (Panamenian Baseball History), two volumes, written by Ramon Perez Medina covers the history of baseball in Panama including amateur and little leagues, very thoroughly with box-scores. At \$25.00 each volume and a total of 1,169 pages, it can be order from the author, whose address is, Apartado 6-7536, El Dorado, Panamá City, Panamá Republic

There are also another five books written by Gen. Jose Antero Nuñez and Alfredo Mendez, baseball historians dealing with the Caribbean Baseball Series and the History of Venezuelan Baseball.

"Caribbean Baseball Series" comprises three volumes: Vol. I-\$5.00, Vol. II \$4.00 and Vol. III-\$5.00, Statistics, information (narrative) photos and box scores are included of the Caribbean Series, which started in 1949 at Havana, Cuba with the champions of the Cuban, Venezuelan, Panamenian and Puerto Rican winter leagues. Cuba and Panama retired in 1970, causing the event to be discontinued until 1970 when the Dominican Republic and the Mexican Pacific leagues replaced Cuba and Panama.

In addition, Gen. Nuñez has written "Oro y Gloria" (Gold and Glory) of Venezuelan amateur baseball at the International level, specially its participation in the World Amateur Baseball Series. Its cost, \$7.00. Another very interesting books is "Los años dorados del Beisbol Venezolano" (Golden Years of Venezuelan Baseball) covering professional baseball (1927-43) in the country as well as the participation of Venezuelan teams in other countries. Among those who played in those years are Satchell Paige, Johnny Mize, Josh Gibson, Jackie Robinson, Buck Leonard, Sam Jethroe, Paul Richards, Jimmy Jordan and Paul Richards to mention a few. It cost \$10.00. The books can be order to: Gen Jose Antero Nuñez, Parque Cristal, Torre Este, Piso 12, Of 0, Ave. Francisco de Miranda, Caracas, Venezuela.

Oscar "Junior" Rodriguez, versatile Puerto Rican player has been elect to the Mexican League (AAA) Hall of Fame. The first among over 100 born in Puerto Rico who have participated in that circuit. In 1548 games, he batted .324 (5586-1,808) from 1957 to 69. Was signed by Pittsburgh in 1951.

On future newsletters, I will provide the names of the players in the Cuban, Mexican, Dominican, Puerto Rican and other Latin America Halls of Fame.

Orlando Cepeda has been elected along with another 10 outstanding sportsmen including Luis A. Mercado and Luis R. Colon, the "Nuclear player"

(over)

who participated for 20 of his 27 years in local and top international competition with a pace-maker, to the Puerto Rico Sports Hall of Fame

The ceremonies will be held on October 3rd at 10 AM at the Interamerican University Amphitheater, Metropolitan Campus, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

On the other hand, the Puerto Rico Professional Baseball Hall of Fame 3rd election ceremonies will take place on October 31st, at the Municipal Cultural Center, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico starting at 10. The names of those elected will be given on October 9th. Admission for both ceremonies are free of charges.

All contributions to this newsletter are welcomed, as well as, inquiries dealing with Latin America baseball in all of its aspects including books. . . . How about a SABR Latin America Hall of Fame. . .

Up to now (early September) the following Cubans and Puerto Ricans have played in the Major Leagues. Other countries will follow.

**CUBA**

Table listing Cuban players with columns for Name, Year, and Position. Includes names like Rafael Almeida, Amado Martín, Miguel A. González, etc.

Table listing Puerto Rican players with columns for Name, Year, and Position. Includes names like Félix Torres, Julio Navarro, José Emilio Salgado, etc.

→ Correct last name: Novoa

Table listing additional players with columns for Name and Year. Includes names like ADD: Kevin Baez, Luis Lopez, Alexis Diaz, etc.

A FIRST: When Angel Miranda and Rafael Novoa, were added to the starting rotation of Milwaukee, it marked the first time 4 Puerto Ricans and the same time, 4 latins became part of a starting rotation of any major league team, this the addition of Ted Higuera adds a 5th latin pitcher in such capacity. Jaime Navarro and Ricky Bones are the two original Puertorican pitchers of the Brewers rotation, Hasta la proxima. . .