



SABR Latin America Newsletter – Winter 2003

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Chairman's Note

The official announcement by the MLB office that the Montreal Expos will play 22 of their home games in San Juan, Puerto Rico, has created a lot of excitement among all the baseball fans, not only from Puerto Rico, but all over the Caribbean. Also, the Caribbean Baseball Series was celebrated in Carolina, Puerto Rico with the absence of Venezuela and the addition of a team from the host country Puerto Rico. The 2003 series was dedicated to José Guillermo (Pantalones) Santiago, an ex-Major Leaguer and one of the great Caribbean Series pitchers. Great baseball was played in the Caribbean with some Major League stars participating, including the American League MVP Miguel Tejada and the Anaheim sensation Francisco Rodríguez in Venezuela.

Moreover, this winter the Art Museum of Puerto Rico has opened until May, an exhibition to honor Roberto Clemente. The exhibition named "HOME" by the Museum Board, is a recognition to one of the greatest players of the game.

Dominican Republic wins the 45th Caribbean Baseball Series

Dominican Republic "Águilas Cibaeñas" won the XLV Caribbean Baseball Series played at the Roberto Clemente Stadium in Carolina, Puerto Rico from February 1 through February 8, 2003, by defeating the Puerto Rico's champion Mayagüez Indians 10-3 in an extra game. The "Águilas" needed the extra game after losing 10-0 to Mayagüez in the third game of the series and came back to shout out the Indians 6-0 to end the regular games in a tie. David Ortiz from the "Águilas" team, was named the Most Valuable Player of the series. He was also the batting champion with .480 (25-12) and the RBI leader with 11. Orlando Merced from Caguas led the Home Run category with 3, and Miguel Tejada, the "Águilas" shortstop, in runs scored with 9.

For the second time in the history of these series Venezuela did not participate, as their tournament was canceled due to the political unrest prevailing in that country. Caguas, who finished second in the Puerto Rico league, took the Venezuela's place in the series. The series final standing was as follows:

Team	Won	Lost	%
Águilas Cibaeñas (DR)	6	1	.857
Mayagüez (PR)	5	2	.714
Caguas (PR)	2	4	.333
Los Mochis (MEX)	0	6	.000

It was Dominican Republic 14th championship tying with Puerto Rico in the first place. The Dominicans as well as México did not participate in the first part of the series (1949-1960), as those countries were not members of the Caribbean Baseball Federation during that time. During those twelve years Cuba won 7 and Panamá 1. So far, in the second part, Venezuela and México have won 5 and 4 series respectively.

Montreal/Puerto Rico Expos 2003

The Montreal Expos will play 22 of their 81 local games in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Expos main objective with this move, is to obtain additional income in 2003. They expect to gain \$10 million with these games. According to MLB officials, there is an extraordinary enthusiasm among the baseball community in Puerto Rico and other Caribbean countries since the announcement last year. As of February 24, the tickets sale for the first series was close to 90% sold out. The first two days of the season-tickets sale was very successful. According to Delorme, a Montreal Expos official, more than 4,000 season tickets were sold. The games which are scheduled to begin on April 11 with a three games series against the New York Mets, will be played at the Hiram Bithorn Stadium. The park, with a capacity of 20,000 seats, will suffer some changes

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before the opening day including the additions of left and right field bleachers, as well as the Club House and more space for the press.

The following is the 2003 Expos schedule in Puerto Rico:

April 11-14	New York Mets	April 15-17	Atlanta Braves
April 18-20	Cincinnati Reds	June 3-5	Anaheim Angels
June 6-8	Texas Rangers	September 5-7	Florida Marlins
September 9-11	Chicago Cubs		

Most of the players, owners and promoters interviewed agreed on the positive side effects of these games for Major League Baseball, Puerto Rico, the Expos and for baseball in general.

The Expos, as well as MLB officials made clear this is not part of the franchise move plan for 2004. Although, there is group of investors interested in buying the franchise for Puerto Rico, the 22 games in Puerto Rico has nothing to do with the other project. There is a good possibility the Expos move their franchise for the 2004 season and among the cities considered are Washington, D.C., Portland, Oregon, and a city in New Jersey. Conversations with these groups began last January. The commitment to build a new stadium is among the main pre-requisites for the cities to be considered.

HOME – Clemente reached the Art Museum



HOME: A CELEBRATION OF ROBERTO CLEMENTE PASSION AND SPIRIT

After 30 years Roberto Clemente returns home in an extraordinary exhibit entitled *HOME*. The exhibit encompasses the largest collection of memorabilia on Clemente ever assembled to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the athlete's disappearance. The exhibition opened last December 14, 2002 and will run through May 4, 2003.

HOME allows visitors to better appreciate the humanitarian spirit and commitment to the sport that characterized Clemente's brief but memorable life. It highlights Clemente's local and stateside career, and is divided in nine stations, or "innings", that focus on Clemente's achievements in sports, his experience as a migrant athlete, his fight to overcome racial discrimination and his desire to help the least fortunate.

The exhibit presents a selection of objects that have been facilitated by the Clemente family, private collectors and institutions. A huge video projection referred to as a "mural in motion" displays some of the highlights in Clemente's life and career. An interactive portal allows visitors to access plethora of information. The museum has put together a comprehensive education program that runs parallel to the exhibition and includes guided tours by curators, and exchanges with Clemente's contemporaries as discussions of his impact on the sport and society.

Those who visit Puerto Rico during that period should not miss this exhibition. A 126 pages catalog was designed on *HOME* and it may be ordered to: Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, Att. Eduardo Maldonado, P.O. Box 41209, San Juan, P.R. 00940-1209. Telephone (787) 977-6277 Extension 2991. E-mail: www.MAPR.org. (Cost is \$34.95)