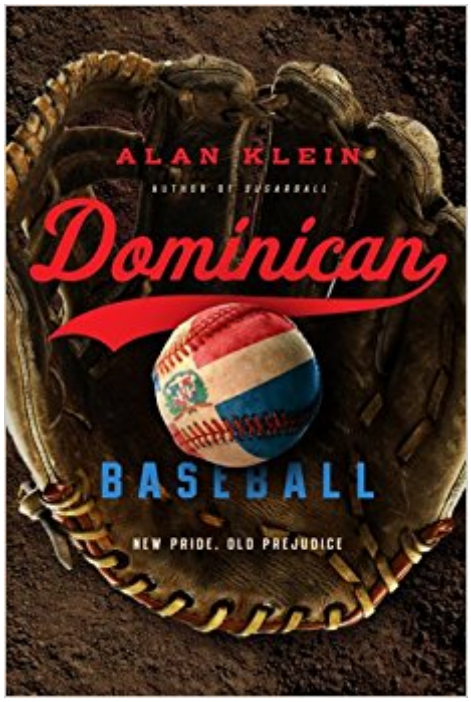
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Dominican Baseball: New Pride, Old Prejudice



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Synopsis

Pedro MartÃƒÂ-nez. Sammy Sosa. Manny RamÃƒÂ-rez.Ã Â By 2000, Dominican baseball players were in every Major League clubhouse, and regularly winning every baseball award. In 2002, Omar Minaya became the first Dominican general manager of a Major League team. But how did this codependent relationship between MLB and Dominican talent arise and thrive?Ã Â Ã Â In his incisive and engaging book, Dominican Baseball, Alan Klein examines the history of MLB's presence and influence in the Dominican Republic, the development of the booming industry and academies, and the dependence on Dominican player developers, known as buscones. He also addresses issues of identity fraud and the use of performance-enhancing drugs as hopefuls seek to play professionally. Ã Â Dominican Baseball charts the trajectory of the economic flows of this transnational exchange, and the pride Dominicans feel in their growing influence in the sport. Klein also uncovers the prejudice that prompts MLB to diminish Dominican claims on legitimacy. This sharp, smartly argued book deftly chronicles the uneasy and often contested relations of the contemporary Dominican game and industry.Ã Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Once again, Klein contributes to our understanding of baseball's expanded territorial appeal, this time through an exploration of Dominican ballplayers, leagues, and agents... Klein's discussion of youth amateurs, buscones (trainers), and baseball academies is smartly and fairly delivered. So, too, are the nuanced biographical treatments of figures ranging from Enrique Soto, the buscon credited with discovering Miguel Tejada, to former MLB pitcher Ramon Martinez, who has

established his own well-regarded baseball academy, and Astin Jacobo Jr., a public representative for independent player developers... VERDICT A significant study that provides both a micro- and macroexplication of baseball's impact on the Dominican Republic and the island nation's impact on the sport." - Library Journal --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

From the author of Sugarball, a look at the important and contested relationship between Major League Baseball and Dominican player development Ã Â

I should preface this review by telling you that I know Alan Klein and greatly respect him and his work. That being said, I am not an uncritical reviewer and would not write in support of his new book if I didn't think it was path-breaking. It's a sort of sequel to his Sugarball, but has been updated to reflect the many changes that have taken place in baseball academies in the DR, most of which, happily, have been very positive. Alan tells us about those changes and about the people who made them possible. Indeed, not every problem has been solved, byt MLB has made major strides forward. And Alan's profiles of people like Rafael Perez who heads MLB's office in Santo Domingo and Juan Henerson who runs the wonderful Mets academy in Boca Chica personalize the book in a way that helps us understand how much has been done by a handful of creative people who saw problems and went out to correct them. Add all this to a book that is accessible to experts and novices alike and you have one great read!

Great in depth work on the inner workings of Dominican Baseball. It gave me a whole new perspective of baseball and the machine that is MLB.

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