Coming to America

*Immigrants, Baseball and the Contributions of Foreign-Born Players to America’s Pastime*

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR AMERICAN POLICY

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Executive Summary

While politicians continue to debate immigration policies, there is little question among baseball fans that immigrants have positively transformed America’s pastime. In the first comprehensive study of baseball and immigration, the National Foundation for American Policy examined both historical records and 2006 rosters. The report finds the impact of foreign-born players on major league baseball is at an all-time high. The study concludes Americans have benefited from our nation’s openness toward skilled immigrant baseball players, just as the country has gained from the entry of other skilled foreign-born professionals.

- In the American League in 2006, 7 of the top 9 batting averages belonged to foreign-born players, while the leading home run hitter (David Ortiz) and the two leaders in runs batted in (Ortiz and Justin Morneau) were foreign-born. In the National League, two of the top three hitters for average (Albert Pujols and Miguel Cabrera) and home runs (Pujols and Alfonso Soriano) were foreign-born. Dominican-born pitcher Johan Santana led the major leagues in strikeouts, earned run average and wins (tied at 19 with Chien-Ming Wang).

- Foreign-born players accounted for 31 percent of the players selected for the 2006 All Star Game, higher than their proportion of 23 percent on major league active rosters. Seven of the 16 starting position players at the 2006 All Star Game – 44 percent – were foreign-born: David Ortiz, Vladimir Guerrero and Ichiro Suzuki started for the American League and Jason Bay, Edgar Renteria, Albert Pujols and Alfonso Soriano started for the National League.

- Foreign-born players have been key components of the Detroit Tigers, St. Louis Cardinals, New York Mets, New York Yankees and other 2006 playoff teams.

- More than 23 percent of major league baseball players on active rosters in 2006 were foreign-born, the highest in baseball history. The percentage of foreign-born players in the major leagues has more than doubled from 10 percent since 1990. As of August 31, 2006, 175 of the 750 players on major league 25-man rosters were foreign born. This total does not include 40 foreign-born players on the disabled list on August 31, 2006. Players born in Puerto Rico, U.S. territories, or to U.S. parents abroad are not included since such individuals are U.S. citizens by birth.

- The Dominican Republic with 81 players tops the list of country of origin among active major leaguers, followed by Venezuela (45), Mexico (10), Canada (10), Japan (8), Panama (6), Cuba (4), South Korea (3), Colombia (2), and Taiwan (2).

- Even though only a fixed number of jobs exist on active major league rosters – unlike the ebb and flow of jobs in the rest of the U.S. economy – one never hears complaints about “immigrants taking away jobs” from Americans in the major leagues.
The Angels, Twins, Orioles and Diamondbacks each had 9 foreign-born players on their rosters as of August 31, 2006, the most among major league teams. The Mariners, Yankees, Dodgers, Cubs and Royals each had 8 foreign-born players on their active roster as of that date. The Indians, Rangers, Tigers, Mets and Rockies each had 7 foreign-born players. The Blue Jays and Padres had only 2 foreign-born players on their active rosters. The Reds and Phillies had only one foreign-born player each on their active rosters as of August 31, 2006.

Increased competition from foreign-born players has not resulted in lower salaries for native ballplayers. Since 1990 average major league player salaries more than quadrupled (in nominal dollars) from $578,930 to $2.87 million, while the proportion of foreign-born players in the league more than doubled (from 10 percent in 1990 to 23 percent today).

A sustained or increased quality of play, to which foreign-born players have contributed, may have helped increase revenues, as major league ballpark attendance rose from 54.8 million to 74.9 million between 1990 and 2005.

Foreign-born players enter the major leagues on P-1 temporary visas, which are good for up to 10 years. To obtain green cards (permanent residence) many baseball players must endure long waits that affect other employment-based immigrants.

In recent years, the lack of H-2B temporary visas has prevented “hundreds” of foreign-born players from starting jobs as minor league players in the United States, according to the Major League Players Association.

Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in 1947 paved the way for the entry of many foreign-born players.

The percentage of foreign-born players in the major leagues fluctuated between 2.5 and 4.6 percent from 1900 to 1920, and dropped below 2 percent in the 1920s and 1930s. It started to rise after World War II and stayed at approximately 7 to 9 percent between 1960 and 1985, before increasing dramatically in the 1990s with the influx of players in particular, from the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

Communist-led Cuba denies its star baseball players the freedom to become major league players, resulting in only 4 Cuban-born players on major league active rosters in 2006, all of whom defected.
Foreign-Born Players Today in the Major Leagues

The number and percentage of foreign-born baseball players in the major leagues is at an all-time high, according to an analysis by the National Foundation for American Policy. As of August 31, 2006, 23 percent or 175 of the 750 players on active major league team rosters were born outside the United States. This is higher than at any time in the history of the game and compares with a level of 10.3 percent as recently as 1990. (This total does not include 40 foreign-born players on the disabled list on August 31, 2006.)

To perform the research, we examined the 25-man active roster and player biographies for all 30 major league teams as of August 31, 2006 as listed on www.mlb.com, the official website of Major League Baseball. As noted, we excluded from the count and percentage notable foreign-born players on the disabled list as of August 31, 2006, such as Yankees outfielder Hideki Matsui and Oakland A’s pitcher Rich Harden, although such players are listed in the team by team summaries. We also excluded individuals who are U.S. citizens by birth, including players born to U.S. citizens abroad, such as at U.S. military bases in Japan or Germany, and players born in Puerto Rico or other locations that would render such individuals U.S. citizens by birth. We followed up on individual players through team press offices when conflicting information arose. We use the term “foreign-born” rather than “immigrants,” since many players may work on temporary visas and have not received a green card (permanent residence). A listing released by Major League Baseball in April 2006 includes players from Puerto Rico, which resulted in a less than accurate calculation of the number and proportion of foreign-born players on major league rosters.

For the historical analysis we used the Baseball Oracle database, an electronic encyclopedia of historical baseball statistics, and ran lists in five-year increments from 1900 up through the present. We sought to resolve any discrepancies in player listings through follow-up research.

America’s pastime is profoundly influenced by its openness to immigration. To put the 23 percent of foreign-born baseball players in perspective, less than 9 percent of the U.S. population today consists of legal immigrants or temporary visa holders. Nearly all playoff teams in recent years had one or more foreign-born players as key components of the franchise: Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz in Boston; Mariano Rivera, Robison Cano, and Hideki Matsui for the Yankees; Vladimir Guerrero for the Angels; Albert Pujols for the Cardinals; Pedro Martinez for the Mets, and others.

In the American League in 2006, 7 of the top 9 batting averages belonged to foreign-born players, while the leading home run hitter (David Ortiz) and top two in runs batted in (Ortiz and Justin Morneau) were foreign-born. In the National League, two of the top three hitters for average (Albert Pujols and Miguel Cabrera) and home runs (Pujols and Alfonso Soriano) were foreign-born. Dominican-born pitcher Johan Santana led the major leagues in wins (tied at 19 with Chien-Ming Wang), strikeouts and earned run average.
Players from Latin America make up the vast majority of the foreign-born in the major leagues. The Dominican Republic with 81 players tops the list of country of origin among active major leaguers, followed by Venezuela (45), Mexico (10), Canada (10), Japan (8), Panama (6), Cuba (4), South Korea (3), Colombia (2), and Taiwan (2).
All Stars

Foreign-born players accounted for 31 percent of the players selected for the 2006 All Star Game, higher than their proportion of 23 percent on major league active rosters. Seven of the 16 starting position players at the 2006 All Star Game – 44 percent – were foreign-born: David Ortiz, Vladimir Guerrero and Ichiro Suzuki started for the American League and Jason Bay, Edgar Renteria, Albert Pujols and Alfonso Soriano started for the National League.

Other 2006 All Stars for the American League included Jose Contreras (Cuba), Robinson Cano (Dominican Republic), Miguel Tejada (Dominican Republic), Manny Ramirez (Dominican Republic), Francisco Liriano (Dominican Republic), Mariano Rivera (Dominican Republic), Jose Lopez (Venezuela), Magglio Ordonez (Venezuela) and Johan Santana (Venezuela). For the National League, the remaining 2006 All Stars were Jose Reyes (Dominican Republic), Andruw Jones (Netherlands Antilles), Pedro Martinez (Dominican Republic), Jose Cabrera (Venezuela) and Carlos Zambrano (Venezuela).

History

Small numbers and discrimination fill the early history of immigration in major league baseball. According to our analysis only about 2.7 percent of major league players were foreign-born in 1900. The proportion rose to 4.6 percent in 1905 and then stayed around 3 percent from 1910 to 1920. Restrictive immigration laws (passed in 1921 and 1924), the Great Depression and tighter State Department visa restrictions in the 1930s lowered further the entry of foreign-born ball players between 1920 and 1940. We found records for only handful of foreign-born major leaguers in 1930.

Between 1900 and 1910 there were some Irish players, who may have immigrated with their families, but more Canadians. From 1915 to 1955, the vast majority of immigrant baseball players came from Canada and Cuba. One exception was Jimmy Austin, born in Wales, who enjoyed a long career in the major leagues.

Before 1947, only light-skinned foreign-born players were allowed to play in the major leagues. “Until Jackie Robinson broke down the door of racism at the game’s highest level, Cubans faced the same discrimination as potential players in the United States. Those of color, regardless of ability, were left on the outside, looking in.” Adolfo Luque, a light-skinned Cuban, pitched for 20 years in the big leagues and finished with a 193-179 record, including helping the New York Giants win the World Series in 1933. Luque was subjected to taunts because of his heritage. He received acclaim in Cuba for reportedly once leaving the mound and charging the opposing team’s dugout, punching the outfielder Casey Stengel in the jaw.
Tim Wendel, author of *The New Face of Baseball*, which examines the history of Latinos in U.S. baseball, calls Cuban-born Martin Dihigo “the best player who never reached, or more accurately was never allowed to play in the major leagues.” Elected into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown in 1977, Dihigo compiled a 256-136 pitching record in the old Negro League and a batting average of .316. He also won three home run titles.6

When Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson changed baseball by “breaking the color barrier” in 1947, it also opened up new opportunities for dark-skinned players not born in the United States. In 1949, Cuban-born Minnie Minoso started playing for the Cleveland Indians but did not receive a real opportunity to play until two years later, in 1951, when he was traded to the Chicago White Sox. “I was the first black-skinned ballplayer to play in the city of Chicago,” said Minoso. “They used to call me terrible things, but I let it go in one ear and out the other . . . You cannot let anyone run your life because they call you names or tell you you can’t play.”7 Minoso made the All-Star team 7 times and led the American League in hits in 1960. Cardinals star Orlando Cepeda once said, “Minnie Minoso is to Latin ballplayers what Jackie Robinson is to black ballplayers.”8
Eventually political revolution became more important than race for would-be major leaguers from Cuba. When Fidel Castro took control of Cuba in 1959, it affected the lives of millions of people. Tim Wendell writes, “The Minnesota Twins, for example, had released Tony Oliva when the Bay of Pigs invasion took place in 1961. All flights back to Cuba were canceled. So the ball club decided to keep him. Three years later, Oliva became the first rookie in major league history to win a batting championship.”

The 1960s and 1970s saw several outstanding Cuban-born players make their mark on the game, including Tony Perez, a Hall of Fame first baseman for the World Champion Cincinnati Reds, and shortstop Bert Campaneris, a key ingredient on the Oakland A’s championship teams. One of the most entertaining pitchers to watch in the past half century was Cuban-born Luis Tiant, famous, in part, for his unorthodox pitching motion. He averaged 20 wins a year for the Boston Red Sox between 1973 and 1976.

Another foreign-born pitcher with an unorthodox delivery burst onto the baseball scene in 1980, Dodgers pitcher Fernando Valenzuela. The Mexican-born Valenzuela, a short and portly left-hander with a broad smile and a screwball, created a phenomenon dubbed “Fernandomania.” He made the All Star team every year from 1981 to 1986 and became the first rookie (in 1981) ever to win the Cy Young Award as the National League’s top pitcher. He led the Dodgers to a world championship in his rookie season.

Overcoming adversity is a common theme in the history of both Cuban and Dominican players who have made it to the major leagues. Communist Cuba still forbids its star baseball players from having the freedom enjoyed in other countries – the freedom to earn a living how and where one chooses. Even suspicion of trying to leave the country could result in the end of one’s career and retaliation against family members.

At the age of 20, Livan Hernandez was considered one of the best pitchers in Cuba and traveled as a member of the Cuban national team. During trips out of the country he made a decision – he wanted to defect. But he didn’t know how. Author Tim Wendell tells the story:

In late September 1995 [in Mexico] . . . the Cuban national team was practicing for a tournament that was to begin the next day. As [Cuban-American sports agent] Joe Cubas watched from the stands through binoculars, one of his assistants, an attractive blonde, approached Hernandez with a pen and autograph book. Hernandez opened the book and saw a photo of Cubas, the one sports agent every Cuban ballplayer recognizes. As Hernandez stared at the photo, the blonde slipped a piece of paper with Cubas’s phone number at a local hotel into the pitcher’s hand . . . Later Hernandez called Cubas, telling him he was ready to defect that night. At one in the morning, Cubas was waiting in his car across the street from the hotel when he saw Hernandez. Carrying only a small duffel bag, the young pitcher stole past the Cuban officials in the lobby, who had fallen asleep.

When Hernandez reached the street, Cubas flashed his lights. In tears, Hernandez stepped off the curb and began to hurry across the street without looking. A passing car barely avoided hitting him.

“The car screeches and swerves, missing Livan by inches, and then speeds off,” Cubas writing in a book proposal about his life. "We run into each other’s arms like long-lost brothers and I throw him in the backseat of my rented car.”
After one season in the minors, in 1997 Livan Hernandez helped pitch the Florida Marlins to the World Championship, being named the series’ MVP.

Not long after Livan’s defection – a public embarrassment for Cuban authorities – trouble began for his half-brother Orlando “El Duque” Hernandez. El Duque was 10 years older and a more accomplished pitcher than Livan. After a Cuban-American sports agent was arrested in Cuba with money reportedly from Livan Hernandez for his family members, the Cuban government banned El Duque from playing baseball.

Deprived of his livelihood and subjected to interrogations Hernandez grew desperate. In December 1997, Hernandez and seven other Cubans embarked on a dangerous journey by boat. After two weeks on the water, they landed in the Bahamas and were placed in a detention facility. Cuban-American sports agent Joe Cubas helped arrange for Hernandez and the others in his party to receive political asylum in Costa Rica.

It was a remarkable reversal of fortune. Within one year, Orlando “El Duque” Hernandez went from being banned from baseball in his home country to signing a lucrative major league contract and helping lead the New York Yankees to a 4-0 sweep of the Padres in the 1998 World Series.12

The paucity of Cuban baseball players in the major leagues – four on active major league rosters as of August 31, 2006 – is a reflection of life in communist Cuba. If the Cuban government did not prevent its star athletes from working in the United States, then the number of Cuban ball players likely would be far greater.

While Cuban ball players have needed to overcome political repression, players from the Dominican Republic have faced economic adversity.13 Many Dominican players talk of childhoods filled with good memories but much poverty. "This country, you go anyplace, any small place you can find, and baseball is No. 1," said Carlos Bernhardt, the director of Latin American scouting for the Orioles, in a 2001 interview. "Everybody wants to become the new Sammy Sosa. Everybody wants to become the new Pedro Martinez. Everybody wants to become the new Manny Ramirez. Everybody has the dream."

According to Michael Knisley of the Sporting News: “The dream is money. The dream is also the joy of the game, but the effect that money has had on the game in the Dominican Republic can’t be overstated. The major leagues always have been a way out of poverty here, but now, professional baseball is the road to the Seven Cities of Gold.”14

The trailblazers that inspired today’s players from the Dominican Republic include Hall of Fame pitcher Juan Marichel, Felipe Alou and his brothers, and Manny Mota. Although the odds are long on any particular player hitting it rich, the lure is ever present, particularly since players who have made it big both return to the island and donate to local charities. The United Nations recently honored major league players, including Dominican-born Pedro Martinez, Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz, for their contributions to help the Dominican Republic after the 2004 flood that destroyed the town of Jimaní. David Ortiz said, “A lot of people lost their lives and a lot of people lost their homes . . . When you see that going on
anywhere, especially in a place you’ve been or you know, it just makes you more sensitive about the problem.”

Players from the Dominican Republic and Venezuela have led the dramatic increase in foreign-born players in recent years. However, the globalization of baseball can be seen in the increase in players from other nations as well. Foreign-born players are often followed intently in their home countries, which is good financially for major league baseball. Controversy ensued in Japan when a television network decided to stop showing Yankee games after the team placed Hideki Matsui on the disabled list. A throng of Taiwanese reporters greet Yankee pitcher Chien-Ming Wang after every start.

**Hall of Fame**

To date six foreign-born major league players have been elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown: Luis Aparacio (Venezuela), Rod Carew (Panama), Fergie Jenkins (Canada), Juan Marichal (Dominican Republic), and Tony Perez (Cuba). Martin Dihigo (Cuba) was elected to the Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in the Negro Leagues. Three individuals born in England also have been elected: Henry Chadwick as a pioneer/executive, Tom Connolly as an umpire, and Harry Wright as a pioneer/executive.

**Foreign-Born Members of the Baseball Hall of Fame**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>Elected as</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luis Aparicio</td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>Player (Shortstop)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rod Carew</td>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>Player (Second Basemen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Chadwick</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>Pioneer/Executive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Connolly</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>Umpire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Dihigo</td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Negro Leaguer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fergie Jenkins</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Player (Pitcher)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juan Marichal</td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>Player (Pitcher)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Perez</td>
<td>Cuba</td>
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<td>Harry Wright</td>
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*Source: National Baseball Hall of Fame*
Many may wonder: Just how do foreign-born baseball players get to the United States? What visa do they use? If a foreign-born baseball player immigrates to America as a child with a parent, then he would possess either U.S. citizenship or be a green card holder (lawful permanent residence). Manny Ramirez, for example, came to America as a 13-year-old. In 2004 he became a U.S. citizen and at the start of his next game ran out of the Boston dugout waving a small American flag.\(^{17}\)

Most active foreign-born players were first hired in the minor leagues on an H-2B temporary visa. After they are called up to a major league roster the team places them on a P temporary visa. As part of the process of approving a P visa the U.S. government consults with a participating union to see if objections are raised. In the case of major league baseball the union is the Major League Players Union. The players union assumes that anyone who has received an offer of a major league contract meets the criteria and the union, as a matter of course, raises no objections to the application, according to Doyle Pryor, Assistant General Counsel, Major League Baseball Players Association.\(^{18}\)

The P visa entitles an individual to stay here temporarily but it does not allow someone to remain permanently. To become a legal immigrant (as opposed to a temporary visa holder) an individual must gain permanent residence, commonly referred to as obtaining a “green card.”

Players receiving a green card must apply through one of the employment-based immigrant visa categories, which are limited to 140,000 a year. Top players can often apply under the “extraordinary ability” category, which would allow them to avoid the lengthy delays in other employment-based categories. Using that category also would allow a player to sponsor himself. Otherwise, the player’s team must sponsor him, either under the extraordinary ability category or under a different employment preference category, one that currently may cause the player to wait years for permanent residence.\(^{19}\)

Still, the largest immigration-related obstacle for foreign-born players actually comes at the minor league level. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services does not allow minor league players to use P visa. Both major league teams and the players union have made the case to the immigration service – so far to no avail – that minor league players, particularly in the upper levels, fit the definition of “international recognition” and should be eligible for P visas. A high level of skill in baseball is not limited only to the 750 players on major league rosters, league and union reps argue.
The issue is far from academic. The P visa carries no numerical limitations, while the visa used for minor league players, the H-2B visa, carries a low annual numerical limit that has been reached in recent years. H-2B is normally used for seasonal temporary work, such as at resorts. As a result of the H-2B visa quota being exhausted, “hundreds” of foreign-born players have not been able to come into the United States to work at a given time, according to Doyle Pryor of the players union. The broad immigration bill passed by the U.S. Senate earlier this year contains a section that would largely solve this problem. However, the fate of that bill remains uncertain, meaning the situation may not change.

No Complaints of Taking Jobs

In the U.S. economy there is no such thing as a “fixed” number of jobs. The number of jobs in a market economy fluctuates locally, nationally and across sectors. In fact, in recent decades millions of new jobs have been created in the United States and the unemployment rate remains low, particularly compared to nations in Western Europe. Still, one often reads complaints about immigrants “taking jobs” from Americans.

It is ironic that in major league baseball, which actually does have a fixed number of jobs, one never hears native-born players complain about immigrants “taking” their jobs. Only 750 jobs exist on major league active rosters – a maximum of 25 players are allowed on the active rosters of each of the 30 teams. (Major league rosters expand on September 1 each year.) The last expansion of jobs for major league players came in 1998, when the league added the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

The increase in foreign-born baseball players does not appear to have harmed the salaries of native-born players. In fact, since 1990 average major league player salaries more than quadrupled (in nominal dollars) at the same time the proportion of foreign-born players in the league more than doubled (from 10 percent to 23 percent today). Average major league player salaries have increased from $578,930 in 1990 to $2.87 million in 2006.20

Donald Boudreaux, chair of the Department of Economics at George Mason University, said this increase in salary as the number of “competing” foreign-born players has risen should not surprise people. “Unsophisticated economic theory sees a larger pool of workers as a drag on wages,” said Boudreaux. “Correct theory, in contrast – dating back to Adam Smith – understands that productivity, wages, and prosperity are enhanced by a deeper division of labor made possible by a larger supply of the ultimate resource: human effort and creativity. The data demonstrate this principle at work in major league baseball.” A sustained or increased quality of play, to which foreign-born players have contributed, may have helped increase revenues, as major league ballpark attendance rose from 54.8 million to 74.9 million between 1990 and 2005.21
Foreign-Born Players and Rising Major League Salaries 1980 – 2006

Foreign-Born Players: Team By Team

The Angels, Twins, Orioles and Diamondbacks have 9 foreign-born players on their rosters as of August 31, 2006, the most among major league teams. The Mariners, Yankees, Dodgers, Cubs and Royals each have 8 foreign-born players on their active roster as of that date. The Indians, Rangers, Tigers, Mets and Rockies each had 7 foreign-born players. (The Tigers added Canadian-born Matt Stairs after August 31, 2006.) The Blue Jays and Padres had only 2 foreign-born players on their active rosters. The Reds and Phillies had only one foreign-born player each on their active rosters as of August 31, 2006. Major league teams average about 4 foreign-born players per team.

Below is a team by team list of all foreign-born players on major league rosters as of August 31, 2006. Players on the disabled list as of that date are noted, though they were not used in the calculation that determined 23 percent of major league players on active rosters are foreign-born. Players born in Puerto Rico, U.S. territories, or to U.S. parents abroad are not included since such individuals are U.S. citizens by birth.

American League

Angels

Erick Aybar, Shortstop, Dominican Republic
Orlando Cabrera, Shortstop, Colombia
Hector Carrasco, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Kelvim Escobar, Pitcher, Venezuela
Vladimir Guerrero, Right Field, Dominican Republic
Maicer Izturis, Shortstop, Venezuela
Juan Rivera, Left Field, Venezuela
Francisco Rodriguez, Pitcher, Venezuela
Ervin Santana, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
*Bartolo Colon, Pitcher, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

The Angels suffered a blow when an injury forced Bartolo Colon, the 2005 Cy Young Award winner, onto the disabled list. Young Dominican-born starter Ervin Santana picked up some of the slack left by Colon’s absence. Outfielder Vladimir Guerrero (Dominican Republic) was the team’s biggest hitting threat and most valuable player. Outfielder Juan Rivera (Venezuela) and shortstop Orlando Cabrera also were key offensive contributors for the Angels. Outstanding young closer Francisco Rodriguez, born in Venezuela, anchored the team’s bullpen, leading the major leagues in saves.
Athletics

Esteban Loaiza, Pitcher, Mexico
Antonio Perez, Second Base, Dominican Republic
Marco Scutaro, Second Base, Venezuela
*Rich Harden, Pitcher, Canada (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

The A’s best pitcher, Canadian-born Rich Harden, did not pitch much in 2006, sitting out most of the regular season with an arm problem. Second baseman Marco Scutaro (Venezuela) played shortstop much of the season in place of Bobby Crosby. After a difficult beginning and a stint on the disabled list, Mexican-born Esteban Loaiza, signed as a free agent in the off-season, was named American League pitcher of the month in August 2006, helping to lead the A’s to the league’s best record in August.

Blue Jays

Gustavo Chacin, Pitcher, Venezuela
Davis Romero, Pitcher, Panama

Although based outside the U.S., the Blue Jays had only two foreign-born players on their active roster as of August 31, 2006, pitcher Davis Romero (Panama) and Gustavo Chacin (Venezuela).

Devil Rays

Jorge Cantu, Second Base, Mexico
Ruddy Lugo, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Dioner Navarro, Catcher, Venezuela
Tomas Perez, Second Base, Venezuela
*Shinji Mori, Pitcher, Japan (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Jae Seo, Pitcher, South Korea (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

Second basemen Jorge Cantu (Mexico) and relief pitcher Ruddy Lugo (Dominican Republic), brother of Dodger shortstop Julio Lugo, are the most prominent foreign-born players on the Devil Rays.

Indians

Rafael Betancourt, Pitcher, Venezuela
Shin-Soo Choo, Right Field, South Korea
Hector Luna, Second Base, Dominican Republic
Andy Marte, Third Base, Dominican Republic
Victor Martinez, Catcher, Venezuela
Edward Mujica, Pitcher, Venezuela
Johnny Peralta, Shortstop, Dominican Republic

Shortstop Johnny Peralta (Dominican Republic), catcher Victor Martinez (Venezuela) and relief pitcher Rafael Betancourt (Venezuela) made important contributions for the Indians in 2006. Andy Marte (Dominican Republic) is a promising third baseman. Pitcher Tom Mastny was born in Indonesia but he is not included on this list, since he was born to two U.S. citizen parents, making him an American by birth.
Mariners

Cha Seung Baek, Pitcher, South Korea
Adrian Beltre, Third Base, Dominican Republic
Yuniesky Betancourt, Shortstop, Cuba
Felix Hernandez, Pitcher, Venezuela
Kenji Johjima, Catcher, Japan
Jose Lopez, Second Base, Venezuela
Rafael Soriano, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Ichiro Suzuki, Right Field, Japan
*Julio Mateo, Pitcher, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

In 2004, Japanese-born Ichiro Suzuki set the major league record for most hits in a single season. He has remained one of the American league’s most consistent hitters. Kenji Johjima, also from Japan, played well at catcher for the Mariners. Starting pitcher Felix Hernandez (Venezuela) someday could be considered one of the game’s best pitchers. Shortstop Yuniesky Betancourt took a perilous journey to freedom on a raft from Cuba in November 2003.

Orioles

Erick Bedard, Pitcher, Canada
Daniel Cabrera, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Bruce Chen, Pitcher, Panama
Ramon Hernandez, Catcher, Venezuela
Adam Loewen, Pitcher, Canada
Rodrigo Lopez, Pitcher, Mexico
Melvin Mora, Third Base, Venezuela
Fernando Tatis, Third Base, Dominican Republic
Miguel Tejada, Shortstop, Dominican Republic

The Baltimore Orioles disappointed fans this year but bright spots included the promise shown by young pitchers Erick Bedard (Canada) and Daniel Cabrera (Dominican Republic). Miguel Tejada, a former American League Most Valuable Player, was again among the best offensive shortstops in the major leagues, while Melvin Mora hit well at third base.

Rangers

Joaquin Benoit, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Nelson Cruz, Right Field, Dominican Republic
Carlos Lee, Left Field, Panama
Akinori Otsuka, Pitcher, Japan
Vicente Padilla, Pitcher, Nicaragua
Robinson Tejada, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Edinson Volquez, Pitcher, Dominican Republic

The Rangers acquired Carlos Lee (Panama) in July to strengthen an already formidable lineup. Lee has put up a number of outstanding offensive seasons and promises to be among the most highly prized free agents in the off-season. A host of foreign-born pitchers populate the Rangers bullpen, including Joaquin Benoit from the Dominican Republic and Akinori Otsuka from Japan.
Red Sox

David Ortiz, Designated Hitter, Dominican Republic
Willy Mo Pena, Right Field, Dominican Republic
Manny Ramirez, Left Field, Dominican Republic
Julian Tavarez, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
*Adam Stem, Center Field, Canada (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Alex Gonzalez, Short Stop, Venezuela (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

The Boston Red Sox lineup looked ordinary in late August and early September without its foreign-born power tandem of Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz, both natives of the Dominican Republic. Despite missing several games, Ortiz led the American league in home runs and runs batted in. Without Ortiz, Ramirez, and former Red Sox Pedro Martinez, the Dominican-born pitcher now playing for the New York Mets, it’s unlikely Boston would have won the 2004 World Series. Other foreign-born players include shortstop Luis Gonzalez and pitcher Julian Tavarez.

Royals

Angel Berroa, Shortstop, Dominican Republic
Andres Blanco, Shortstop, Venezuela
Ambiorix Burgos, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Jorge De La Rosa, Pitcher, Mexico
Esteban German, Second Base, Dominican Republic
Runelvys Hernandez, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Joel Peralta, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Odalis Perez, Pitcher, Dominican Republic

While the Royals’ season has been disappointing, they possess some young talent that may help the team in the future, including Dominican-born pitchers Ambiorix Burgos, Joel Peralta and Runelvys Hernandez. Second baseman Esteban German (Dominican Republic) played well in a part-time capacity, as did starting shortstop Angel Berroa (Venezuela).

Tigers

Carlos Guillen, Shortstop, Venezuela
Alexis Gomez, Left Field, Dominican Republic
Omar Infante, Shortstop, Venezuela
Willfredo Ledezma, Pitcher, Venezuela
Magglio Ordonez, Right Field, Venezuela
Neifi Perez, Shortstop, Dominican Republic
Fernando Rodney, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Matt Stairs, Right Field, Canada (acquired after 8/31/06)
*Roman Colon, Pitcher, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Placido Polanco, Second Base, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

In making the playoffs in 2006, the Detroit Tigers received key contributions from three players born in Venezuela: shortstop Carlos Guillen, right fielder Magglio Ordonez and relief pitcher Willfredo Ledezma, and overcame an injury to Dominican-born second baseman Placido Polanco.
Twins

Tony Batista, Third Base, Dominican Republic
Luis Castillo, Second Base, Dominican Republic
Jesse Crain, Pitcher, Canada
Justin Morneau, First Base, Canada
Dennys Reyes, Pitcher, Mexico
Juan Rincon, Pitcher, Venezuela
Luis Rodriguez, Shortstop, Venezuela
Johan Santana, Pitcher, Venezuela
Carlos Silva, Pitcher, Venezuela
*Francisco Liriano, Pitcher, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

The Twins had 9 foreign-born players on their active roster as of the end of August 2006. The league’s top young pitching combination for much of 2006 has been Johan Santana (Venezuela) and Francisco Liriano (Dominican Republic). Liriano’s late season stint on the disabled list hurt the Twins. Santana led the American League in strikeouts in 2005 and led the major leagues in wins (tied with Wang), earned runs average and strikeouts. First baseman Justin Morneau (Canada) was one of the league’s leading hitters and second baseman Luis Castillo (Dominican Republic) and relief pitchers Juan Rincon (Venezuela) and Dennys Reyes (Mexico) made key contributions for the Twins.

White Sox

Jose Contreras, Pitcher, Cuba
Freddy Garcia, Pitcher, Venezuela
Tadahito Iguchi, Second Base, Japan
Pablo Ozuna, Third Base, Dominican Republic
Juan Uribe, Shortstop, Dominican Republic

Last year, Venezuelan-born Freddy Garcia and Cuban-born Jose Contreras solidified the starting rotation for the 2005 World Champion Chicago White Sox. The two men continue to play key roles for the White Sox in 2006. Dominican-born shortstop Juan Uribe and Japanese-born second baseman Tadahito Iguchi were part of one of the best hitting infields in baseball in 2006.
Foreign-born players have been crucial to the Yankees in recent years. To take charge of first place in the American League East, the Yankees needed to overcome an early season injury to left fielder Hideki Matsui (Japan). Bobby Abreu, acquired in July from the Phillies, filled much of the slack left by Matsui’s absence, as did left fielder Melky Cabrera, a rookie from the Dominican Republic. Robinson Cano (Dominican Republic) had the third highest average in the American League this year. Starting pitcher Chien-Ming Wang, one of the few major league players born in Taiwan, tied with Johan Santana for most wins. Finally, the Yankees World Championship seasons in 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2000 owed much to the work of relief pitcher Mariano Rivera, born in Panama. Rivera has been a fixture in the Yankees bullpen for a decade and continues to play a key role.
National League

Astros

Humberto Quintero, Catcher, Venezuela
Wandy Rodriguez, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Willy Taveras, Center Field, Dominican Republic
*Fernando Nieve, Pitcher, Venezuela (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

Dominican-born centerfielder Willy Taveras had one of the longest hitting streaks in the majors in 2006. Fellow Dominican Wandy Rodriguez was a starting pitcher for the Astros, while catcher Humberto Rodriguez, born in Venezuela, stayed most of the 2006 season in the minors. Fellow Venezuelan Fernando Nieve pitched well as a reliever but spent time on the disabled list.

Braves

Andruw Jones, Center Field, Netherlands Antilles
Pete Orr, Second Base, Canada
Tony Pena, Shortstop, Dominican Republic
Martin Prado, Second Base, Venezuela
Edgar Renteria, Shortstop, Colombia
Oscar Villarreal, Pitcher, Mexico
*Willy Aybar, Third Base, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Danys Baez, Pitcher, Cuba (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Phillip Stockman, Pitcher, United Kingdom (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

Center fielder Andruw Jones is the only major league player born in the Netherlands Antilles, located in the Caribbean with a population of 180,000. Colombian-born shortstop Edgar Renteria was among the team’s leading hitters. Infielders Tony Pena (Dominican Republic), Pete Orr (Canada) and Martin Prado (Venezuela) were part-time players. Oscar Villarreal was among the team leaders in innings pitched for relievers.

Brewers

Jose Capellan, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Francisco Cordero, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Geremi Gonzalez, Pitcher, Venezuela
Tomo Ohka, Pitcher, Japan
*Vince Perkins, Pitcher, Canada (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Cordel Koskie, Third Base, Canada (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

The Brewers had four foreign-born relief pitchers, most prominent being Tomo Ohka, born in Japan. Francisco Cordero (Dominican Republic) was acquired mid-season from the Texas Rangers.
Cardinals

Juan Encarnacion, Right Field, Dominican Republic
Albert Pujols, First Base, Dominican Republic
Jorge Sosa, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
So Taguchi, Left Field, Japan
Jose Vizcaino, Shortstop, Dominican Republic
*Ricardo Rincon, Pitcher, Mexico (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

Dominican-born Albert Pujols is the Cardinals most valuable player, coming in second in the National League in home runs and runs batted in. Fellow Dominican Juan Encarnacion was the everyday right fielder enjoying a good offensive year. So Taguchi (Japan) exhibited a good average but little power in the outfield. Other foreign-born players include Dominican-born Jose Vizcaino at shortstop and pitcher Jorge Sosa.

Cubs

Henry Blanco, Catcher, Venezuela
Ronny Cedeno, Shortstop, Venezuela
Ryan Dempster, Pitcher, Canada
Angel Guzman, Pitcher, Venezuela
Juan Mateo, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Roberto Novoa, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Aramis Ramirez, Third Base, Dominican Republic
Carlos Zambrano, Pitcher, Venezuela
*Cesar Izturis, Shortstop, Venezuela (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Cesar Marmol, Pitcher, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

In a disappointing season for Cubs fans, starting pitcher Carlos Zambrano (Venezuela) and power-hitting third baseman Aramis Ramirez were two bright spots. The Cubs have a number of foreign-born pitchers, including Juan Mateo and Roberto Novoa from the Dominican Republic, Ryan Dempster (Canada) and Angel Guzman (Venezuela). Catcher Henry Blanco and shortstop Ronny Cedeno also are from Venezuela.
Diamondbacks

Miguel Batista, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Juan Cruz, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Livan Hernandez, Pitcher, Cuba
Enrique Gonzalez, Pitcher, Venezuela
Jorge Julio, Pitcher, Venezuela
Tony Pena, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Jose Valverde, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Claudio Vergas, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Luis Vizcaino, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
*Gregori Aquino, Pitcher, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

With a few exceptions, almost the entire pitching staff of the Diamondbacks consists of foreign-born players, including late-season acquisition Livan Hernandez (Cuba), two pitchers from Venezuela (Enrique Gonzalez and Jorge Julio) and five pitchers from the Dominican Republic, most notably starter Miguel Batista and relievers Jorge Julio and Luis Vizcaino.

Dodgers

Wilson Betemit, Third Base, Dominican Republic
Elmer Dessens, Pitcher, Mexico
Rafael Furcal, Shortstop, Dominican Republic
Hong-Chih Kuo, Pitcher, Taiwan
Julio Lugo, Shortstop, Dominican Republic
Russell Martin, Catcher, Canada
Olmedo Saenz, First Base, Panama
Takashi Saito, Pitcher, Japan
*Eric Gagne, Pitcher, Canada (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Yhency Brazoban, Pitcher, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

During the 2006 season, the Dodgers acquired third baseman Wilson Betemit and shortstop Julio Lugo, both born in the Dominican Republic. Rafael Furcal (Dominican Republic) played shortstop for most of the season. Other foreign-born Dodger players included catcher Russell Martin (Canada), first baseman Olmedo Saenz (Panama) and pitchers Elmer Dessens (Mexico), Hong-Chih Kuo (Taiwan) and Takashi Saito (Japan), an important part of the Dodgers bullpen. To make the playoffs in 2006 the team needed to overcome the loss of injured ace closer Eric Gagne, born in Canada.
Giants

Eliezer Alfonzo, Catcher, Venezuela
Armando Benitez, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Pedro Feliz, First Base, Dominican Republic
Omar Vizquel, Shortstop, Venezuela
*Tomas De La Rosa, Shortstop, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

Giants closer Armando Benetiz and first baseman Pedro Feliz were both born in the Dominican Republic. Shortstop Omar Vizquel and catcher Eliezer Alfonzo, both born in Venezuela, enjoyed good seasons.

Marlins

Alfredo Amezaga, Shortstop, Mexico
Miguel Cabrera, Third Base, Venezuela
Miguel Olivo, Catcher, Dominican Republic
Renyel Pinto, Pitcher, Venezuela
Hanley Ramirez, Shortstop, Dominican Republic
Anibal Sanchez, Pitcher, Venezuela
*Carlos Martinez, Pitcher, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

The Florida Marlins displayed fine young talent in 2006. Two of the most notable young players were Dominican-born shortstop Hanley Ramirez, acquired from the Red Sox in the off-season and third baseman Miguel Cabrera, born in Venezuela, who earlier in the season some considered to be a candidate for the National League Most Valuable Player. In September, rookie pitcher Anibal Sanchez, born in Venezuela, pitched a no-hitter against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Mets

Endy Chavez, Center Field, Venezuela
Julio Franco, First Base, Dominican Republic
Anderson Hernandez, Second Base, Dominican Republic
Orlando Hernandez, Pitcher, Cuba
Guillermo Mota, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Oliver Perez, Pitcher, Mexico
Jose Reyes, Shortstop, Dominican Republic
*Pedro Martinez, Pitcher, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Duaner Sanchez, Pitcher, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Victor Zambrano, Pitcher, Venezuela (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

The most notable foreign-born player on the Mets is starting pitcher Pedro Martinez, who spent time on the disabled list in 2006. Martinez, signed by the Mets as a free agent, helped lead the Red Sox to their first World Series Championship in many decades back in 2004. Fellow Dominicans on the Mets include starting shortstop Jose Reyes and the major league’s oldest player, first baseman Julio Franco. Cuban-born pitcher Orlando “El Duque” Hernandez pitched well for the Mets as a starter.
Nationals

Tony Armas, Pitcher, Venezuela
Pedro Astacio, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Bernie Castro, Second Base, Dominican Republic
Henry Mateo, Second Base, Dominican Republic
Ramon Ortiz, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Alfonso Soriano, Left Field, Dominican Republic
*Felix Rodriguez, Pitcher, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Christian Guzman, Shortstop, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Jose Guillen, Right Field, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Luis Ayala, Pitcher, Mexico (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Alex Escobar, Center Field, Venezuela (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

Alfonso Soriano, born in the Dominican Republic, captured most of the headlines for the Nationals during the team’s disappointing second season in Washington, D.C. He came in third in the National League in home runs and was the subject of intense trade rumors in July. A number of Nationals players from the Dominican Republic spent time on the disabled list this year, including shortstop Christian Guzman and outfielder Jose Guillen. Tony Armas (Venezuela), Pedro Astacio (Dominican Republic), and Ramon Ortiz (Dominican Republic) were among the foreign-born pitchers on the Nationals roster.

Padres

Manny Alexander, Shortstop, Dominican Republic
Josh Barfield, Second Base, Venezuela
*Chan Ho Park, Pitcher, South Korea (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

Josh Barfield (Venezuela) enjoyed a solid year at second base and Chan Ho Park (South Korea) proved to be a fairly reliable starter before landing on the disabled list. Dave Roberts was born in Japan but his father was a U.S. citizen, serving in the military, so Roberts is an American by birth.

Phillies

Abraham Nunez, Third Base, Dominican Republic
*Fabio Castro, Pitcher, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Julio Santana, Pitcher, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)
*Carlos Ruiz, Catcher, Dominican Republic (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

The only foreign-born player on the active roster of the Phillies at the end of August was third baseman Abraham Nunez.
Pirates

Jose Bautista, Third Base, Dominican Republic
Jason Bay, Left Field, Canada
Jose Castillo, Second Base, Venezuela
Humberto Cota, Catcher, Mexico
Damaso Marte, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Ronny Paulino, Catcher, Dominican Republic
Victor Santos, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Salomon Torres, Pitcher, Dominican Republic

The hitting of Canadian-born outfielder Jason Bay was among the few bright spots in the 2006 season for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Venezuelan-born second baseman Jose Castillo also enjoyed a good season, as did catcher Ronny Paulino (Dominican Republic) and relief pitcher Salomon Torres (Dominican Republic).

Reds

Edwin Encarnacion, Third Base, Dominican Republic
*Grant Balfour, Pitcher, Australia (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

The Reds had only one foreign-born player on their active roster as of August 31, 2006, third baseman Edwin Encarnacion.

Rockies

Manny Corpas, Pitcher, Panama
Jeff Francis, Pitcher, Canada
Byung-Hyun Kim, Pitcher, South Korea
Kazuo Matsui, Second Base, Japan
Jose Mesa, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Ramon Ramirez, Pitcher, Dominican Republic
Vorvit Torrealba, Catcher, Venezuela
*Chin-Hui Tsao, Pitcher, Taiwan (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

The Rockies had five foreign-born pitchers on their roster, led by Dominican-born relief pitchers Ramon Ramirez and Jose Mesa and starter Byung-Hyun Kim (South Korea).
### Appendix: Foreign-Born Major League Baseball Players by Place of Birth

Below is a listing of all foreign-born players in the major leagues by place of birth as of 8/31/06. Note that an * by a name indicates the player was on the disabled list as of 8/31/06, meaning they were on their team’s 40-man roster by not the official 25-man active roster eligible to play in games on that date. Major league rosters expanded on September 1, 2006 and some of the players listed on the disabled list moved to their team’s active roster.

**Australia**
- Reds - *Grant Balfour

**Canada**
- Athletics - *Rich Harden
- Braves - Pete Orr
- Brewers - *Vince Perkins
- Brewers - *Cordel Koskie
- Cubs – Ryan Dempster
- Dodgers – Russell Martin
- Dodgers - *Eric Gagne
- Orioles – Adam Loewen
- Orioles – Erick Bedard
- Pirates – Jason Bay
- Red Sox - *Adam Stem
- Rockies – Jeff Francis
- Tigers – Matt Stairs
- Twins – Jesse Crain
- Twins – Justin Morneau
- Yankees – Aaron Guiel

**Dominican Republic**
- Angels – Hector Carrasco
- Angels – Ervin Santana
- Angels – Vladimir Guerrero
- Angels – Erick Aybar
- Angels – *Bartolo Colon
- Astros - Wandy Rodríguez
- Astros - Willy Taveras
- Athletics – Antonio Perez
- Braves- Tony Pena
- Braves - *Willy Aybar
- Brewers - Jose Capellan
- Brewers - Francisco Cordero
- Cardinals – Juan Encarnacion
- Cardinals – Albert Pujols
- Cardinals – Jorge Sosa
- Cardinals – Jose Vizcaino
- Cubs – Robert Novoa
- Cubs – Aramis Ramirez
- Cubs – Juan Mateo
- Cubs - *Carlos Marmol
- Devils Rays – Ruddy Lugo
- Diamondbacks - Miguel Batista
- Diamondbacks – Jose Valverde
- Diamondbacks – Claudio Vergas
- Diamondbacks – Luis Vizcaino
- Diamondbacks - Juan Cruz
- Diamondbacks – Tony Pena
- Diamondbacks - *Gregori Aquino
- Dodgers – Rafael Furcal
- Dodgers – Wilson Betemit
- Dodgers – Julio Lugo
- Dodgers - *Yhency Brazoban
- Giants – Armando Benitez
- Giants – Pedro Feliz
- Giants - *Tomas De La Rosa
- Indians – Johnny Peralta
- Indians – Hector Luna
- Indians – Andy Marte
- Mariners – Rafael Soriano
- Mariners – Adrian Beltre

**Colombia**
- Angels – Orlando Cabrera
- Braves - Edgar Renteria

**Cuba**
- Braves - *Danys Baez
- Diamondbacks – Livan Hernandez
- Mariners – Yuniesky Betancourt
- Mets – Orlando Hernandez
- White Sox – Jose Contreras
Comming to America

Mariners – *Julio Mateo
Marlins – Miguel Olivo
Marlins – Hanley Ramirez
Marlins - *Carlos Martinez
Mets – Julio Franco
Mets – Jose Reyes
Mets - *Pedro Martinez
Mets - *Duaner Sanchez
Mets – Guillermo Mota
Mets – Anderson Hernandez
Nationals – Ramon Ortiz
Nationals – Alfonso Soriano
Nationals – Pedro Astacio
Nationals – Henry Mateo
Nationals – *Felix Rodriguez
Nationals - *Christian Guzman
Nationals - *Jose Guillen
Orioles – Daniel Cabrera
Orioles – Miguel Tejada
Orioles – Fernando Tatis
Padres – Manny Alexander
Phillies – Abraham Nunez
Phillies – *Fabio Castro
Phillies – *Julio Santana
Phillies – *Carlos Ruiz
Pirates – Damaso Marte
Pirates – Victor Santos
Pirates – Salomon Torres
Pirates – Ronny Paulino
Pirates – Jose Bautista
Rangers – Joaquin Benoit
Rangers – Robinson Tejada
Rangers – Edison Volquez
Rangers – Nelson Cruz
Reds – Edwin Encarnacion
Red Sox – Julian Tavarez
Red Sox – Manny Ramirez
Red Sox – David Ortiz
Red Sox – Willy Mo Pena
Rockies – Jose Mesa
Rockies – Ramon Ramirez
Royals – Ambiorix Burgos
Royals – Joel Peralta
Royals – Esteban German
Royals – Runelvys Hernandez
Royals – Odalis Perez
Royals – Angel Berroa
Tigers – Fernando Rodney
Tigers – Alexis Gomez
Tigers – Neifi Perez
Tigers – *Roman Colon
Tigers – *Placido Polanco
Twins – Tony Batista
Twins – Luis Castillo
Twins – *Francisco Liriano
White Sox – Pablo Ozuna
White Sox – Juan Uribe
Yankees – Octavio Dotel
Yankees – Jose Veras
Yankees – Robinson Cano
Yankees – Melky Cabrera

Japan
Brewers - Tomo Ohka
Cardinals – So Taguchi
Devil Rays – *Shinji Mori
Dodgers – Takashi Saito
Mariners – Kenji Johjima
Mariners – Ichiro Suzuki
Rangers – Akinori Otsuka
Rockies – Kazuo Matsui
White Sox – Tadahito Iguchi
Yankees – *Hideki Matsui

Mexico
Athletics – Esteban Loaiza
Braves - Oscar Villarreal
Cardinals - *Ricardo Rincon
Devil Rays – Jorge Cantu
Dodgers – Elmer Dessens
Marlins – Alfredo Amezaga
Mets – Oliver Perez
Nationals - *Luis Ayala
Orioles – Rodrigo Lopez
Pirates – Humberto Cota
Royals – Jorge De La Rosa
Twins – Dennys Reyes

Netherlands Antilles
Braves - Andruw Jones

Nicaragua
Rangers – Vicente Padilla

Panama
Blue Jays – Davis Romero
Dodgers – Olmedo Saenz
Orioles – Bruce Chen
Rangers – Carlos Saenz
Rockies – Manny Corpas
Yankees – Mariano Rivera

South Korea
Devil Rays – *Jae Seo
Indians – Shin-Sooh Choo
Mariners – Cha Seung Baek
 Padres - *Chan Ho Park
Rockies – Byung-Hyun Kim
Taiwan
Dodgers – Hong-Chih Kuo
Rockies – *Chin-Hui Tsao
Yankees – Chien-Ming Wang

United Kingdom
Braves - *Phillip Stockman

Venezuela
Angels – Kelvim Escobar
Angels – Francisco Rodriguez
Angels – Maicer Izturis
Angels – Juan Rivera
Astros - Humberto Quintero
Astros - *Fernando Nieve
Athletics – Marco Scutaro
Blue Jays – Gustavo Chacin
Braves - Martin Prado
Brewers - Geremi Gonzalez
Cubs – Angel Guzman
Cubs – Carlos Zambrano
Cubs – Henry Blanco
Cubs – Ronny Cedeno
Cubs - "Cesar Izturis"
Devil Rays – Tomas Perez
Devil Rays – Dioner Navarro
Diamondbacks – Enrique Gonzalez
Diamondbacks – Jorge Julio
Giants – Eliezer Alfonzo
Giants – Omar Vizquel

Indians – Rafael Betancourt
Indians – Victor Martinez
Indians – Edward Mujica
Mariners – Felix Hernandez
Mariners – Jose Lopez
Marlins – Miguel Cabrera
Marlins – Renyel Pinto
Marlins – Anibal Sanchez
Mets – Endy Chavez
Mets - *Victor Zambrano
Nationals – Tony Armas
Nationals - *Alex Escobar
Orioles – Ramon Hernandez
Orioles – Melvin Mora
Padres – Josh Barfield
Pirates – Jose Castillo
Rockies – *Alex Gonzalez
Rockies – Vorvit Torrealba
Royals – Andres Blanco
Tigers – Carlos Guillen
Tigers – Omar Infante
Tigers – Magglio Ordonez
Tigers – Willfredo Ledezma
Twins – Juan Rincon
Twins – Johan Santana
Twins – Carlos Silva
Twins – Luis Rodriguez
White Sox – Freddy Garcia
Yankees – Bobby Abreu
Yankees – *Miguel Cairo

*Indicates player was on a team’s disabled list as of August 31, 2006.

2 The Baseball Oracle (Lucid Software) database included every player who played one game or more during a particular season, as well as their place of birth and other information, and we derived the percentages on foreign-born and native-born in five-year increments using that available methodology up through 2005.

3 U.S. Census Bureau, Pew Hispanic Center, Department of Homeland Security. The percentage of legal immigrants (both lawful permanent residents and naturalized U.S. citizens) in the U.S. population (the latest figures available are 2005) are derived for 2005 by taking U.S. Census figures on the total U.S. population and number of foreign-born and subtracting the estimated number of undocumented immigrants and then determining the percentage of legal immigrants and temporary visa holders.


5 Ibid., p. 8.

6 Ibid., pp. 8-9.

7 Ibid., pp. 12-13.

8 Ibid., p. 11.

9 Ibid., p. 19.

10 Ibid., p. 67.

11 Ibid., pp. 142-43.

12 Ibid., pp. 154-58.

13 While both Cuba and the Dominican Republic are poor countries, elite Cuban athletes are relatively better off than the average Cuban.


18 Interview with Doyle Pryor.

19 Kyle Sherman, Paul, Hastings, Atlanta, Georgia; John Quinn, Fragomen, Del Rey, New York.


21 Comments provided by Donald Boudreaux; Attendance figures from MLB and www.super70s.com.
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About the National Foundation for American Policy

Established in the Fall 2003, the National Foundation for American Policy (NFAP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-partisan public policy research organization based in Arlington, Virginia focusing on trade, immigration, and related issues. The Advisory Board members include Columbia University economist Jagdish Bhagwati, Ohio University economist Richard Vedder and other prominent individuals. Over the past 24 months, NFAP’s research has been written about in the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Washington Post, and other major media outlets. The organization’s reports can be found at www.nfap.com.