

# **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**

**OCTOBER 2006**

## 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](http://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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup> We sought to resolve any discrepancies in player listings through follow-up research.

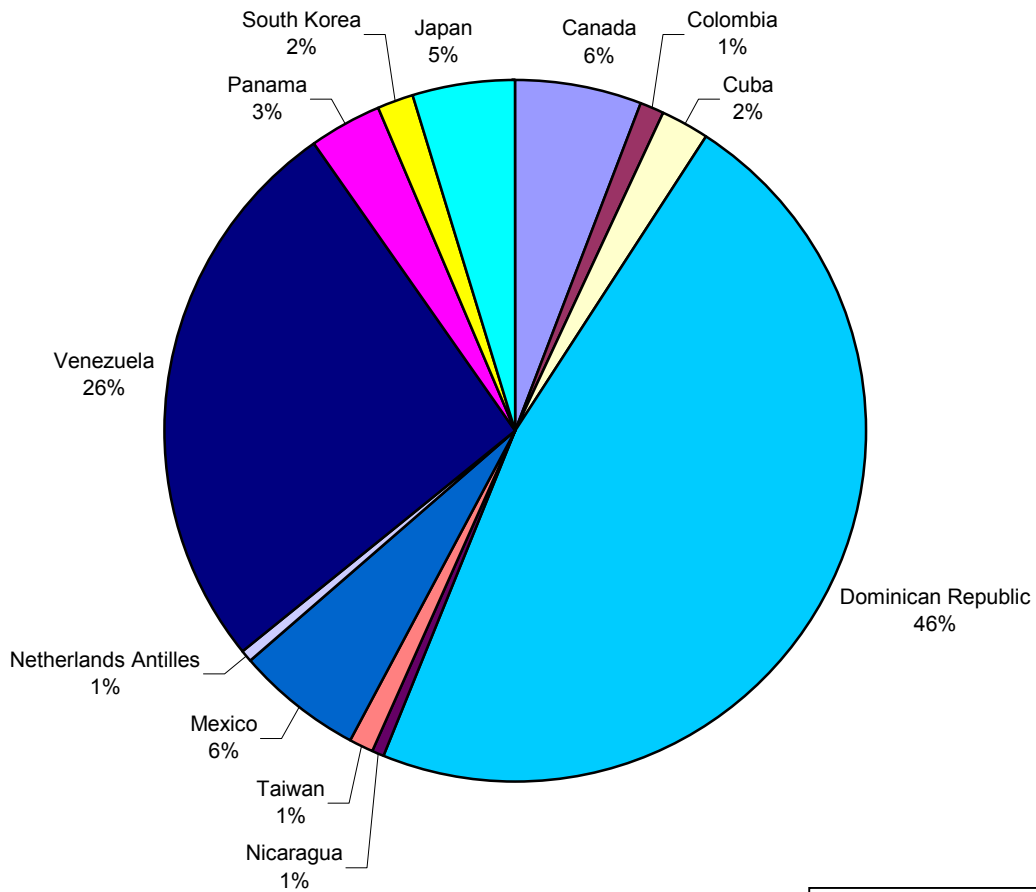
America's pastime is profoundly influenced by its openness to immigration. To put the 23 percent of foreign-born baseball players in perspective, less than 9 percent of the U.S. population today consists of legal immigrants or temporary visa holders.<sup>3</sup> Nearly all playoff teams in recent years 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.

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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).

**Source Countries for Major League Foreign-Born Players – 2006**



Source: National Foundation for American Policy; Major League Baseball.

## 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).

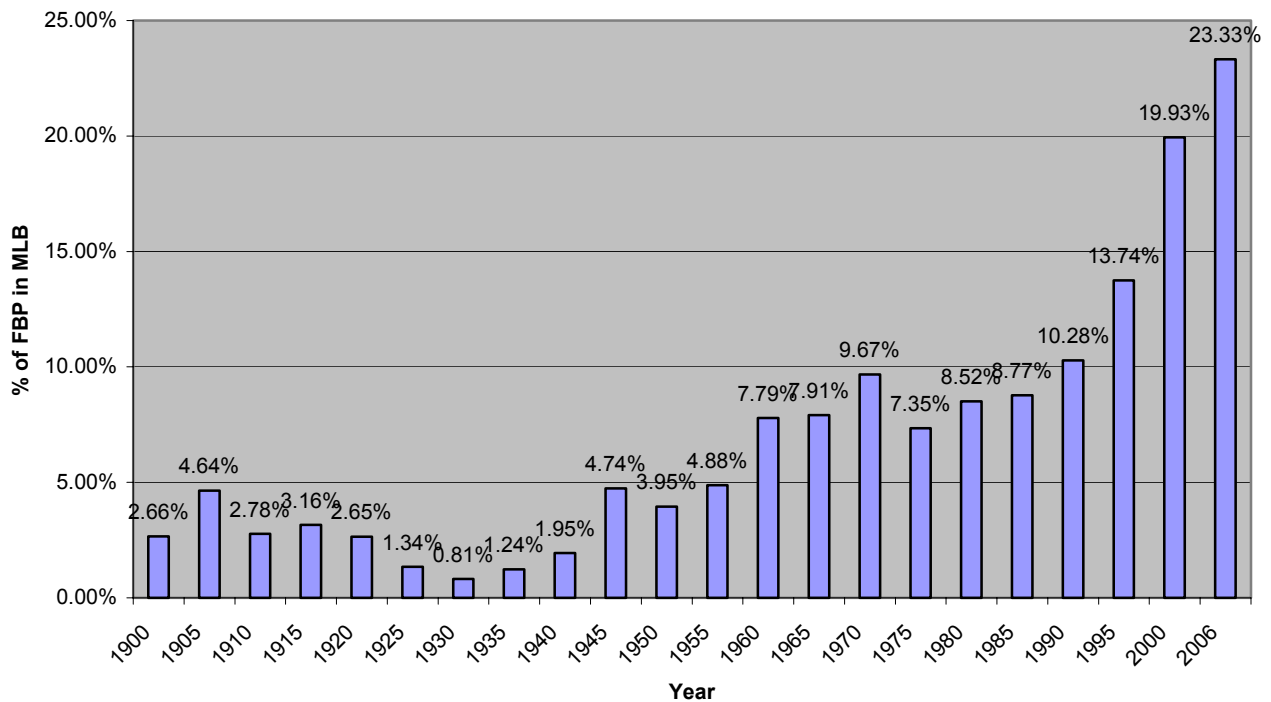
## History

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.”<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

## Percent of Foreign-Born Players in Major Leagues 1900-2006



Source: National Foundation for American Policy; Baseball Oracle; MLB.

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.<sup>6</sup>

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.”<sup>7</sup> 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.”<sup>8</sup>

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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.”<sup>9</sup>

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.<sup>10</sup> 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.”<sup>11</sup>



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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.<sup>12</sup>

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.<sup>13</sup> 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."<sup>14</sup>

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

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anywhere, especially in a place you've been or you know, it just makes you more sensitive about the problem."<sup>15</sup>

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.<sup>16</sup> 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

Name	Country of Origin	Elected as
Luis Aparicio	Venezuela	Player (Shortstop)
Rod Carew	Panama	Player (Second Basemen)
Henry Chadwick	England	Pioneer/Executive
Tom Connolly	England	Umpire
Martin Dihigo	Cuba	Negro Leaguer
Fergie Jenkins	Canada	Player (Pitcher)
Juan Marichal	Dominican Republic	Player (Pitcher)
Tony Perez	Cuba	Player (First Baseman)
Harry Wright	England	Pioneer/Executive

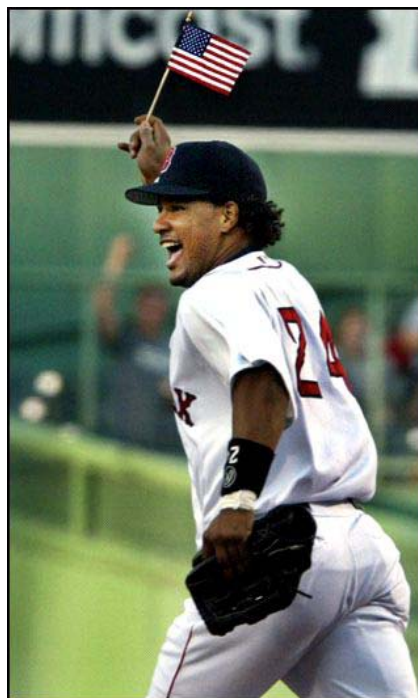
Source: National Baseball Hall of Fame

## Policy Issues

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 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.<sup>17</sup>

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.<sup>18</sup>

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.”



*Boston Red Sox leftfielder Manny Ramirez waves an American flag as he takes the field at Fenway Park against the Cleveland Indians in Boston, Tuesday, May 11, 2004, for his first game as an American citizen. Associated Press*

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.<sup>19</sup>

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

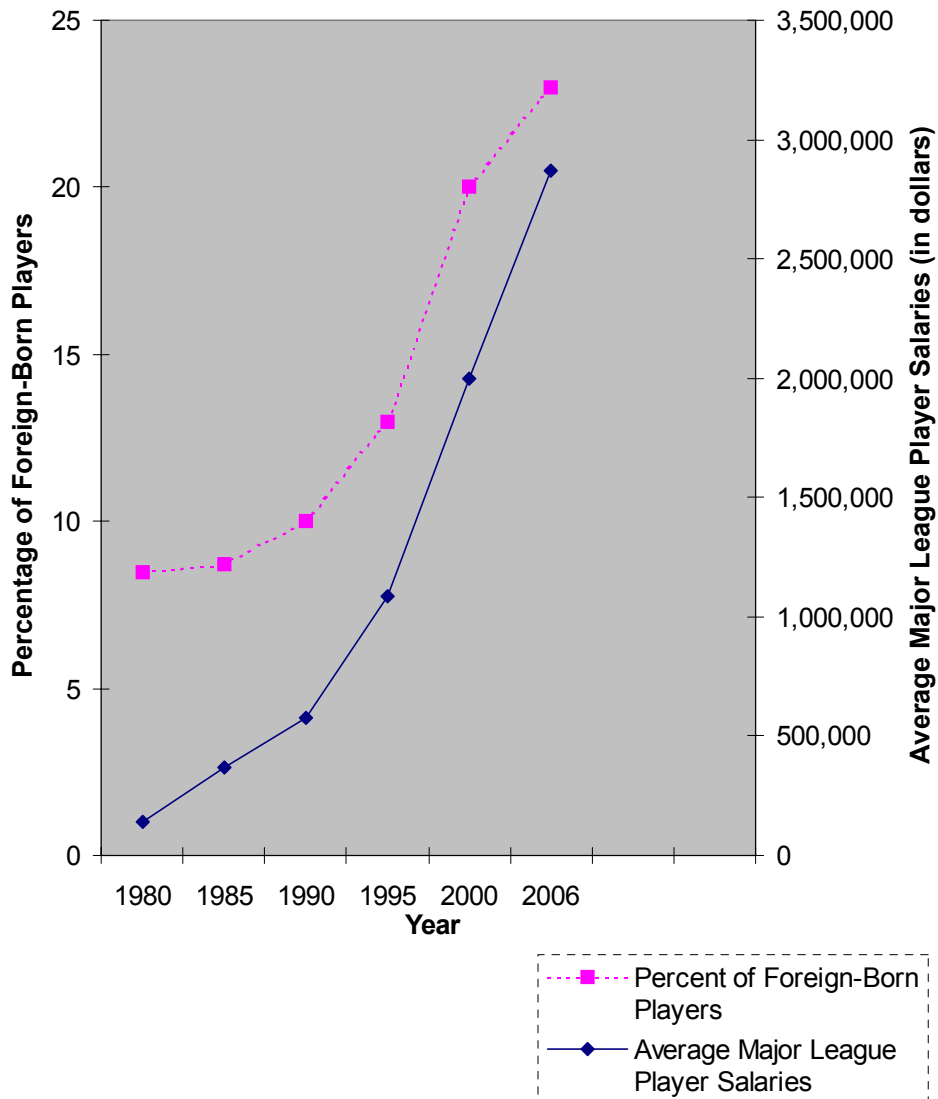
In the U.S. economy there is no such thing as a “fixed” number of jobs. The number of jobs in a market economy fluctuates locally, nationally and across sectors. In fact, in recent decades millions of new jobs have been created in the United States and the unemployment rate remains low, particularly 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.<sup>20</sup>

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.<sup>21</sup>

# Foreign-Born Players and Rising Major League Salaries 1980 – 2006



Source: National Foundation for American Policy; Baseball Oracle; Associated Press and Baseball Archive. Salaries in nominal dollars.

## 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  
Odalys 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.

## **Yankees**

Bobby Abreu, Right Field, Venezuela

Melky Cabrera, Left Field, Dominican Republic

Robinson Cano, Second Base, Dominican Republic

Octavio Dotel, Pitcher, Dominican Republic

Aaron Guiel, Right Field, Canada

Mariano Rivera, Pitcher, Panama

Jose Veras, Pitcher, Dominican Republic

Chien-Ming Wang, Pitcher, Taiwan

\*Miguel Cairo, Second Base, Venezuela (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

\*Hideki Matsui, Left Field, Japan (on disabled list as of 8/31/06)

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)  
\*Carlos 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 but 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 Stern  
 Rockies – Jeff Francis  
 Tigers – Matt Stairs  
 Twins – Jesse Crain  
 Twins – Justin Morneau  
 Yankees – Aaron Guiel

### Colombia

Angels – Orlando Cabrera  
 Braves - Edgar Renteria

### Cuba

Braves - \*Danys Baez  
 Diamondbacks – Livan Hernandez  
 Mariners – Yuniesky Betancourt  
 Mets – Orlando Hernandez  
 White Sox – Jose Contreras

### Dominican Republic

Angels – Hector Carrasco  
 Angels – Ervin Santana  
 Angels – Vladimir Guerrero  
 Angels – Erick Aybar  
 Angels – \*Bartolo Colon  
 Astros - Wandy Rodriguez  
 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  
 Devil 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

*Coming 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 – Edinson 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 Lee  
 Rockies – Manny Corpas  
 Yankees – Mariano Rivera

**South Korea**

Devil Rays – \*Jae Seo  
 Indians – Shin-Soo Choo  
 Mariners – Cha Seung Baek  
 Padres - \*Chan Ho Park  
 Rockies – Byung-Hyun Kim

*Coming to America***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  
 Red Sox - \*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.*

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Mlb.com, press release, April 5, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Tim Wendell, *The New Face of Baseball*, Philip Lief Group New York, 2003, p.8.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 8-9.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 12-13.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 11.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 19.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 67.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 142-43.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 154-58.

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

<sup>14</sup> Michael Knisley, "Everybody has the dream..." *Sporting News*, February 19, 2001.

<sup>15</sup> *Dominican Today*, June 29, 2006.

<sup>16</sup> David Picker, "Japan Goes Channel Surfing," *The New York Times*, July 20, 2006.

<sup>17</sup> Associated Press, "Ramirez Becomes A U.S. Citizen," May 12, 2004.

<sup>18</sup> Interview with Doyle Pryor.

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

<sup>20</sup> "Baseball Salaries Increase Almost 9 Percent," Associated Press, April 5, 2006; Associated Press and research by Sean Lahman at the Baseball Archive [www.baseball1.com](http://www.baseball1.com).

<sup>21</sup> Comments provided by Donald Boudreaux; Attendance figures from MLB and [www.super70s.com](http://www.super70s.com).

## About the Authors

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## About the National Foundation for American Policy

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