



# PASSION.

Portraits of people from around the world  
who love baseball.



The strength of any sport can be measured by the passion of its athletes and fans. In this, no sport surpasses baseball.

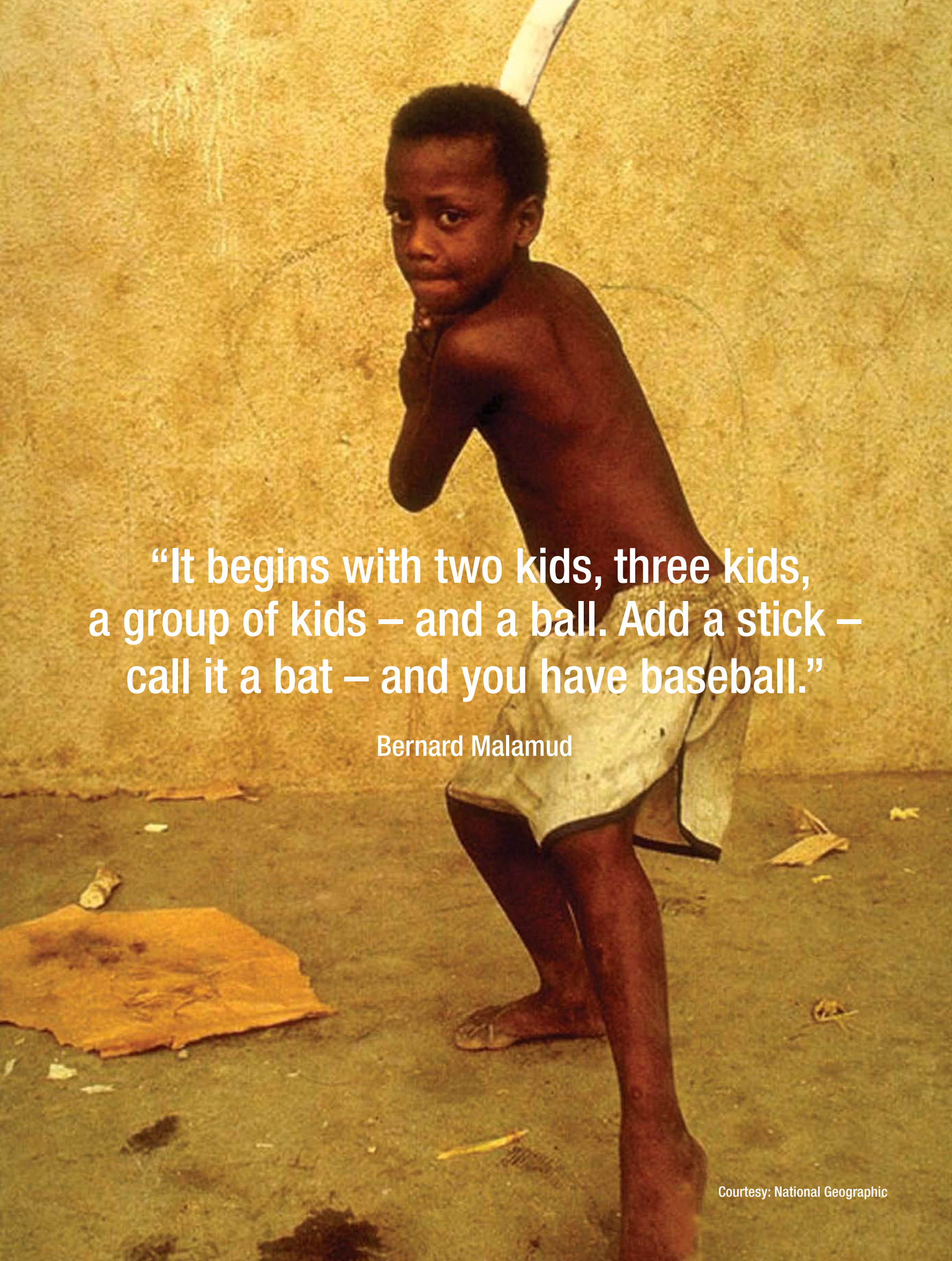
The intensity of the game is mirrored in those who follow it, as is the explosive joy of a home run and the drama of a key strikeout.

Just as the Olympic Games are not just a sporting event but an experience, so is baseball.

Around the world, the reactions are the same and the emotions strongly felt. Young and old, rich and poor, male and female – in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, Australia and the Pacific Rim, people who love baseball wear their hearts on their sleeves. They have an emotional connection to the game whether it's played in a stadium or on a sandy lot, by professionals or children or players with disabilities.

It's the passion and pride every athlete and fan feels when they say, "I am baseball."<sup>TM</sup>

And it's the passion and pride baseball will always bring to the Olympic Games.

A young boy with dark skin and short hair is captured in a batting stance. He is shirtless and wearing light-colored shorts. He holds a wooden bat over his right shoulder, looking intently towards the camera. The background is a plain, textured wall, and the floor is dirt with some scattered debris.

**“It begins with two kids, three kids,  
a group of kids – and a ball. Add a stick –  
call it a bat – and you have baseball.”**

**Bernard Malamud**



## MEXICO

An explosive pitcher, Jesus threw a perfect game in the 2008 Little League World Series.

# Jesus Saucedu

13-year-old Jesus Saucedu is a pitching ace and multi-position fielder for the Matamoros A.C. in Matamoros, Tamaulipas. He made international headlines in August of 2008 when he pitched the first perfect game in the Little League World Series since 1979. Jesus struck out all 12 batters he faced in a 12-0 win over Emilia, Italy. The game was shortened due to the Little League “mercy rule” that ends a game if one team builds a ten-run lead. The young fastballer also performed heroics at the plate, going 3-for-3 with a grand slam home run and six runs batted in (RBI). Jesus attends eighth grade at Colegio Don Bosco in Matamoros, and although he also plays basketball competitively, he enjoys baseball more and wants to be a professional baseball player as an adult. Like millions of young players around the world, Jesus is a fan of New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter.



## UNITED STATES

Alex began playing baseball at the age of two.

# Alex Morton

When Alex was two, he began to model his swing after Chipper Jones of the MLB Atlanta Braves, his favorite player and team. His favorite position is catcher because, as he says, “I get all the action that way.” Alex plays for the Braves in the Macon, Georgia (USA) Miracle League and his teammates sometimes call him “A-Rod.” Alex has played on four Miracle League turf fields and has played in Macon and Conyers, Georgia, as well as at Moody Miracle League field in Alabama and in Kenosha, Wisconsin.



 NETHERLANDS

## Sidney DeJong

Sidney was chosen 'best young player' in the Netherlands in 1996. He was the Most Valuable Player of the Dutch Major League in 2002, and he was the batting champion in 2005. He won the European Championship with the Dutch National Team in 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007. DeJong was the starting catcher for the Dutch National Team when they finished fourth during the IBAF Baseball World Cup in 2005 and 2007, and when they finished second during the Intercontinental Cup in 2006. He was chosen as catcher in the All-Star team of the IBAF Baseball World Cup in 2007.

"I started playing Tee-Ball after attending a game one of my friends was playing in. I was seven years old at that time. Once I learned the skills and rules of the game, it became more fun and more interesting for me. My love for baseball grew and grew. Baseball is a great team sport where anybody can pick up someone else, but for certain tasks you, yourself, have to be the one stepping up. There is no better feeling than hitting a ball on the sweet spot or making a great play."

"I hope baseball will grow to become a top-tier sport in every country. And I hope that all the young kids coming up in baseball will have the opportunity to develop to their capacity through great guidance."

**Sidney has been a star of the Dutch National Team since 2001 and was an IBAF Baseball World Cup All-Star in 2007.**



Photo by Koji Yamazaki

 UNITED STATES

## Marti Sementelli

15-year-old Marti Sementelli is the only woman to play on Burbank High School's baseball team. She threw a no-hitter against Burroughs High School and won the team's MVP award. She also played in the CIF All-Star game, received an academic achievement award and was named MVP for the school's basketball team. Marti has been featured on American television programmes *The Jimmy Kimmel Show*, *The Wayne Brady Show*, *The Early Morning Show* and on the *NESN Sports Network* in Boston, Massachusetts.

More recently, she was named Pitcher of the Tournament at the 2008 IBAF Women's Baseball World Cup (WBWC) in Matsuyama, Japan. In two appearances at the 2008 WBWC, she surrendered only two runs for a 1.50 earned run average (ERA) and had five strikeouts. Marti was the winning pitcher in the Bronze medal game versus Australia.

**Marti pitched in the 2008 IBAF WBWC, allowing only two runs, and is the only woman on her high school baseball team.**



## GHANA

Robert attends the Creator School, which develops young players while giving them an excellent education.

# Robert Sapari

Robert Sapari was born on 22 August 1995, in Tema, Ghana. While he has always enjoyed being active, Robert's interest in baseball has grown over the past three years, and he has been attending the Creator School in Ghana, a school that supports the sport within the academic setting, so that he might develop his talent for the game.

Ghana has a relatively long history with baseball, beginning in the 1960s when the children of U.S. Embassy workers began to play in Ghana. The sport has been developing since then, and Ghana has been able to develop a national Little League team, which competed for a place at the 2008 Little League World Championships, a Senior Men's team, the Rising Stars, and has been able to push baseball to be included within the National Sports Council, creating the Ghana Baseball and Softball Association (a member of the IBAF's Member Federations). The Creator School was introduced by another organisation fundamental to baseball's development in Ghana, the PEAUDA Foundation, which seeks to empower and enlighten Ghanaian children through baseball, softball and education.



## JAPAN

Ryu was a star player on the 2008 Regional Championship team from South Osaka.

# Ryu Hanaski

Ryu is captain and shortstop of the Izumisano Team, a branch of the 21,000+ player Japan Boys' League. Ryu is in sixth grade and has been playing with the team for three years. A gifted athlete, Ryu was selected as a member of the South Osaka Representative Team which won the Regional Championship this year. He always sets high goals for himself and consistently reaches them. He is a fan of Hayato Sakamoto, infielder, of the Tokyo Yomiuri Giants, and he wishes to become a professional ball player when he grows up.



 ITALY

## Alessandro Maestri

Born on 6 January 1985, in Cesena, Alessandro is a right-handed pitcher under contract with the MLB Chicago Cubs. He is rated by Baseball America as number 23 (with the best overall slider) among the prospects of the organisation. Alessandro was one of six pitchers who entered the Italian Academy in 2003, and he made his Serie A1 debut in 2005 for San Marino. In his rookie season, he pitched in the seven-game Italian Baseball Series. In the 2007 season, he played for the Peoria Chiefs (A level, USA), and in 2008 he was promoted to the AA level Tennessee Smokies. Internationally, he participated in the 2002 World Junior Championship, the AAA European Championships (2003), and made his debut for Team Italy in 2005 in a friendly match against the Torrington Twisters (USA). He played in the 2006 World Baseball Classic, the 2007 European Championship in Barcelona and the 2007 IBAF Baseball World Cup in Chinese Taipei, where he closed the game against Team USA striking out second baseman Jayson Nix on a 94 mph fastball. Alessandro has appeared in 13 games for the Italian National Team.

**Alessandro is the first U.S. Minor League AA level player who was born and raised in Italy.**





## SAUDI ARABIA

Cameron plans on becoming a professional athlete like his grandfather and cousin.

# Cameron Durley

Already 6'1" tall at the age of 12, Cameron Durley has earned the nickname "Big C" from his friends and teammates. This slugging first baseman from Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, is an Arabian American Little League All-Star and played on the Middle East/Africa team at the 2008 Little League World Series. "Big C" is proudest of once hitting three home runs in a single game, a batting feat worthy of his favorite professional player, slugger Albert Pujols of the MLB St. Louis Cardinals. Cameron wants to meet Pujols someday, and he hopes to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather and cousin and become a professional athlete. He considers his parents and 15-year-old brother, Aaron, to be his role models.



## THAILAND

A member of Thailand's National Team, Teerasak wants to help spread the game throughout his country.

# Teerasak Kongsabai

For Teerasak, the sport of baseball is more than just a game. Baseball "is a challenge sport and teaches me that success does not come from one, but everyone." Teerasak believes the game teaches its players the meaning of mutual understanding, respect, caring, and unity – the components of being successful within the sport and outside it.

Teerasak's philosophy about the game is reflected in his feelings about doping in the sport. "We should not [have an advantage over] other players by doping. If we do that, we are dishonest to ourselves. [There] should be punishment."

He has played in the 2006 SEA Games in the Philippines, the 2007 SEA Games in Bangkok, the 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima, Japan, the 13th Asian Games in Bangkok, the 5th Asian Games in Qatar, and the 2007 IBAF Baseball World Cup in Chinese Taipei.



Photo by Jed Jacobson/Getty Images

 CUBA

## Pedro Lazo

35-year-old Pedro Lazo is a legendary pitcher in Cuban baseball, where he has pitched for 17 seasons. He is used predominantly as a reliever in international competition, although he is a starter in the Cuban National Series, where he plays for Pinar del Río. His commanding presence has earned him the nicknames “El Rascacielos Pinareño” (the Pinar del Río Skyscraper) and “King Kong.” At an age when many players face fading skills, Lazo was 10-4 with a 2.75 earned run average (ERA) in the 2007-2008 Serie Nacional. He walked only 25 players in 147.1 innings, led the league in innings pitched (IP) and complete games (7), was third in strikeouts (92) and was 7th in ERA.

Pedro has played in numerous international competitions beginning at the Junior level. During the 2005 IBAF Baseball World Cup, Pedro had two wins and two saves, with a 0.54 ERA. From 1988-2005, he led all players with seven wins in the IBAF Baseball World Cup. He also led all BWC participants with five saves and 72 strikeouts during this period. In the 2006 World Baseball Classic, he recorded an impressive 4.2 inning save against the Dominican Republic in the semifinals matchup.

Pedro was part of the Gold medal-winning Cuban teams at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games and 2004 Athens Games, and won Silver at the 2000 Games in Sydney. He became one of only two four-time baseball Olympians when he appeared in opening action at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Pedro fanned 14 and allowed nine hits in 14.1 IP in Beijing, going 1-0 with two saves in five outings.

**A towering figure in Cuban baseball, Pedro has played in four Olympic Games and helped Cuba win two Golds and one Silver medal.**



## GERMANY

Marc and Timo prefer baseball over football, taking after their parents.

# The Harder Brothers

While football is the predominant sport in Germany, Marc and Timo started with baseball because their Mom was a good softball player and their Dad was a former German National Team baseball coach. Every weekend, the boys' parents would play with them, which grew into the development of a new baseball team two years ago.

Marc's heroes are former pitcher Dennis Eckersley (he saw him on his Dad's old videos) and Derek Jeter. Timo's baseball idols are Alex Rodriguez and Manny Ramirez, after he saw the slugger in the 2007 MLB World Series. The Series also made him a fan of the Boston Red Sox.



## AUSTRALIA

Brett had a .333 batting average at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and the game-winning home run in the semifinal game against Japan in Athens in 2004.

# Brett Roneberg

A former Australian Under-16 player who attracted Major League interest at the 1995 World Youth Championships in Brazil, Brett Roneberg signed with the MLB Florida Marlins in 1996. He made his Australian Baseball League debut the same year for the Brisbane Bandits, hitting .357 as a 17-year-old. Brett took giant steps in 1998 by playing all 53 games and was the only Bandit to do so. After a great start in the 1998 season with the Marlins organisation, Brett suffered a back injury.

Brett came back from the injury and was starting first baseman for Australia's Sydney 2000 team, where his .333 average was second only to David Nilsson. Brett played AA ball with Florida's Portland Sea Dogs during the 2001 season, and AAA level with the Marlins, before moving on to the Montreal Expos and then the Pittsburgh Pirates. He played all of the 2003 season with Pittsburgh's AA Altoona Curve. Brett has also been an integral member of the Queensland team for several Claxton Shield Series and hit the game-winning home run against Japan in the semifinal game of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.



Photo by Rob Letteri/MLB Photos via Getty Images

 UNITED STATES

## Curtis Granderson

Curtis is the 27-year-old centerfielder of the MLB Detroit Tigers. In 2007, he became just the third MLB player in history to compile 20 homers, 20 triples, 20 doubles and 20 stolen bases in the same season. The last player to accomplish the feat was the great Willie Mays, 50 years before. In 2008, Curtis was the first active MLB player to tour China. He has also served as an MLB Ambassador twice over the past two years, making trips to England, the Netherlands and Italy in 2006 and South Africa in 2007. Curtis graduated from the University of Illinois-Chicago in 2002 with degrees in Business Marketing and Business Management. He has established the Grand Kids Foundation to promote education and the game of baseball to young people in America's inner cities. The foundation purchases school supplies for needy children, books and supplies for schools, and provides baseball equipment and facilities in the state of Michigan.

**Curtis is a multi-talented centerfielder who also acts as an international ambassador for the game of baseball.**



 CANADA

## Stubby Clapp

Formerly a shortstop and second baseman for the Edmonton Cracker-Cats, Stubby also had a brief career in Major League Baseball for the St. Louis Cardinals. Stubby became a popular figure in the city of Memphis, Tennessee, during his four-year stint (1999-2002) with the U.S. Minor League Baseball AAA level Memphis Redbirds and was often referred to as the “Mayor of Memphis.”

In 2006, Stubby played for Canada in the inaugural World Baseball Classic. He was one of two second basemen on the roster and drove in a run. He is currently a hitting coach for the Lexington Legends and came out of retirement to represent Canada at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

**A former MLB player, Stubby came out of retirement to play for Canada in Beijing.**



Photo by Ron Vesely/MLB Photos via Getty Images

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

An MLB superstar, Albert is deeply committed to helping families affected by Down syndrome.

# Albert Pujols

In addition to being a star for the MLB St. Louis Cardinals, Albert is the 2008 recipient of the Roberto Clemente Award, given annually to the player who stars both on the field and in the community. The Pujols Family Foundation's mission is to reflect Albert and Deidre Pujols' love and compassion for children with Down syndrome – something especially near and dear to their hearts; they have a 10-year-old daughter, Isabella, who has Down syndrome. The Pujols Family Foundation has served more than 500 families affected by Down syndrome in the greater St. Louis area, with programmes and events that celebrate the lives of these special children and young adults.



Photo courtesy The Hochi Shimbun

## JAPAN

Masateru played his first year in the Japan Boys' League in 2008.

# Masateru Ohno

Masateru switched from playing rubber ball baseball to hardball baseball last August, joining the Ohtsu Boys' Team in the Shiga Branch of the Japan Boys' League. He plays second base and is recognised as a very spirited competitor. His dream is to play in the National High School Championship, where over 170,000 players throughout Japan compete at the Hanshin Koshien Stadium.



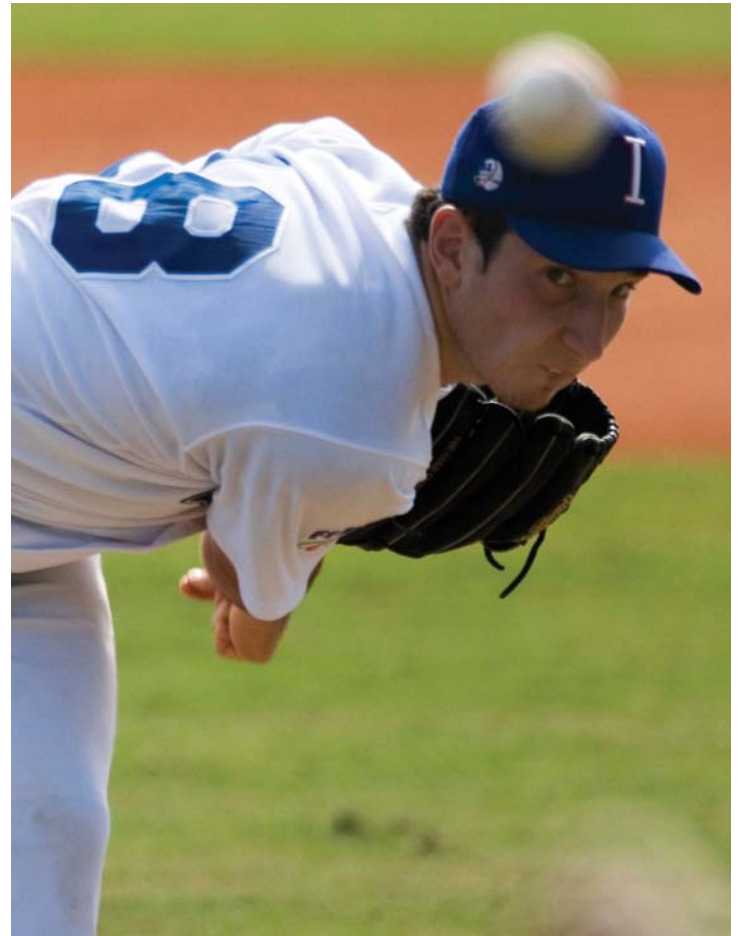
## AUSTRALIA

Paul is a professional player who dreams of representing Australia for the Olympic Games.

# Paul Mildren

Paul has been playing baseball for 15 years. He played nationals throughout his Junior career, representing South Australia all over the country. After gaining attention from a scout, Paul signed a professional contract and is now in his seventh U.S. professional season. In 2003, he was on the Olympic shadow squad preparing for Athens, but was not able to participate in the Olympic Games baseball competition. According to Paul, it was one of the hardest things he's had to deal with in his life.

“The passion and unity that the Olympics bring to the baseball team is immeasurable. The majority of the team have played or are currently playing professionally, and you can see how segregated the game can get when money is involved. The Olympics can bring that ‘other’ level out in a player – when combining passion and love toward their country and sport creates another performance level. I felt this in World Cup tournaments and in Olympic qualifiers and have seen it in the results.”



## ITALY

After several international competitions, Matteo is now playing for the Winthrop Eagles in the U.S.

# Matteo D'Angelo

Born on 17 March 1988, in Latina, pitcher Matteo was on the roster of the Italian Academy since the inaugural Academic Year and attended the whole three-year programme. He made his debut in the Italian Baseball League in 2006, weeks after his 18th birthday, for Italeri Bologna. He made his Team Italy debut during the second Italian Baseball Week. At the international level, he pitched for Italy at the 2006 AAA World Championships in Cuba and was the winning pitcher versus Mexico. He also pitched for Italy in the 2007 European Championship in Barcelona and in the 2007 IBAF Baseball World Cup in Chinese Taipei, earning an historic win against Team USA. For the 2008 season, Matteo has been granted a scholarship by Winthrop University (South Carolina). He will play for the university in the NCAA Division I and will major in International Business.



 CZECH REPUBLIC

## Jakub Sladek

In 2008, 17-year-old Prague native Jakub Sladek signed a professional contract with the MLB Philadelphia Phillies organisation. After attending spring training camp, he returned to Europe and played for the German Bundesliga team Buchbinder Legionaere Regensburg. He will finish school in 2009 and then move to the United States. Jakub is the former first baseman of Kotlarka Praha and was also a member of the Czech National Junior team.

A fine athlete, Jakub has played competitive floorball, ice hockey and basketball, but baseball is something special for him. “[It is] a really interesting and amazing game, full of surprising moments...you really have to think about what is coming...I always liked team sports, but [in] this sport [there are] so many great people, so that’s why I stayed with it. Baseball is not just about talent, it’s really about hard work, and whoever works harder has got a chance to be the best. That is something that makes this game special.”

“In my first game, I hit a triple and we won,” said Jakub. “Since that moment, I have loved this game. Sometimes it all depends on you.”

**Jakub is one of the hottest European players, having played in multiple international tournaments and, currently, for the MLB Phillies organisation.**





 UNITED STATES

## Torii Hunter

Torii is the athletic centerfielder for the MLB Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. He made his Major League debut in 1997 with the Minnesota Twins. In 2002, he was selected to his first MLB All-Star Game and came in sixth in voting for the MLB Most Valuable Player Award. He made his first postseason appearance that same year, reaching the American League Championship Series. He signed with the Angels following the 2007 season. Torii is famous for “climbing the fence” and catching many batted balls which would normally have been home runs. ESPN television commentators have featured him in highlight reels featuring the day’s top defensive players. He has won seven consecutive Gold Glove Awards for his defensive abilities and at the age of 33 remains one of the most highly-regarded outfielders in the MLB.

The All-Star has established the Torii Hunter Project to provide American youth in urban and poor rural communities with opportunities to learn and participate in the game of baseball, regardless of race, ethnicity or skill level.

**MLB All-Star Torii is best known for his amazing defensive abilities, but is also a key force in reestablishing the sport of baseball in urban and poor rural areas of the United States.**



## UNITED STATES

Helen and Casey are the only mother and son to both play professional baseball.

# Casey Candaele & Helen Callaghan

Helen and Casey are the only mother/son duo to have played professional baseball. Helen was a centerfielder who appeared in five seasons in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL), the subject of the movie, "A League of Their Own." As a rookie with the Minneapolis Millerettes, she hit .287, second in the league. She tied for third in homers, was third in total bases, third in hits, third with 81 runs and seventh with 112 steals, in 111 games. Helen had her best season in 1945, batting .299 to lead the AAGPBL. She was often called the "Ted Williams of women's baseball," a comparison to one of the MLB's all-time greatest hitters. During her career, Helen stole 354 bases in just 388 games.

Helen's son Casey Candaele played in the U.S. Major Leagues from 1986 to 1997. He was known as a versatile utility player who could play many infield and outfield positions, and played for the Montreal Expos, Houston Astros, and Cleveland Indians. Houston Astros Hall of Fame announcer Milo Hamilton called Candaele the "Mighty Mite" for his aggressive play despite being physically small for a major leaguer at five feet, nine inches tall and 165 pounds.



## AUSTRALIA

Anti-doping advocate Josh has had a long career playing for Australian teams and the MLB Minnesota Twins in the United States.

# Josh Hill

In the beginning of his career, Josh played baseball for the Illawara Flame and NSW Country. In February 2001, he signed with the Minnesota Twins Baseball Organisation and during the 2007 season played for the New Britain Rock Cats, the AA organisation for the Twins. In November of 2007, Josh was rule-fived to the Pittsburg Pirates AAA Team, the Indianapolis Indians. He has played for the Australia National Team, participated in the Claxton Shield for the NSW Patriots, the World Baseball Classic, the Intercontinental Cup, the last IBAF Baseball World Cup in Chinese Taipei and in Japan for the Asian-Pacific friendly series.

Josh is also strongly opposed to doping within baseball, and feels that doping in sports is a way to ruin a career and cause major injuries to one's body. He says that he has been tested frequently and would never consider taking performance-enhancing drugs.



## CURAÇAO

Juremi hit a grand slam and a three-run home run in the 2008 Little League World Series.

## Juremi Profar

Juremi “Remi” Profar is a 5'7" pitcher and infielder in Curaçao's Pabao Little League. Curaçao has won the Caribbean Regional Little League tournament for eight straight years, and Remi has been a standout player during the past two years of that run. He has played in two consecutive Little League World Series, helping power his team into the 2008 semifinals by hitting a grand slam and a three-run home run in a single game. Not surprisingly, Remi's favorite professional player is also a slugger: Manny Ramirez, who split the 2008 MLB season between the Boston Red Sox and Los Angeles Dodgers. The young Little League star plans on becoming a professional himself and is showing every sign that he will achieve his goal.



## JAPAN

Iyo and Hikari have played for the Osaka Senboku team of the Japan Boys' League for the past six years.

## Iyo Matsumoto and Hikari Nakao

The name 'Boys' League' does not deter many girls, in particular those under 12, from playing in the league. Iyo Matsumoto and Hikari Nakao have been indispensable members of the Osaka Senboku Team for the last six years. Iyo is a fast runner, plays right field and likes sports and music. Hikari plays right field and occasionally pitches because she has a powerful arm. Both girls want to continue playing baseball in Junior High School after finishing elementary school this year.



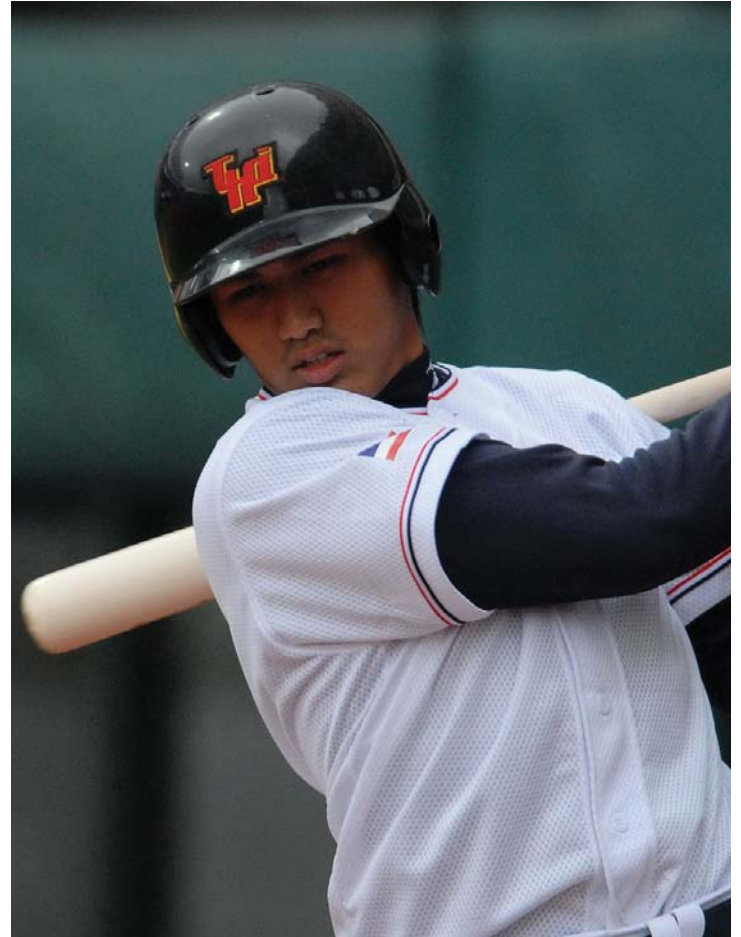
## GUATEMALA

Just three years old, Daniel has a tremendous love for baseball.

### Daniel Molina

Daniel can't wait to grow up and is counting the days to his birthday. At age four he can officially join a team and start playing Tee-Ball. Until then, he is happy playing with his family and friends in his backyard.

Since 1918, many children like Daniel have been playing baseball in Guatemala – in the streets, in the backyard or at a real diamond. They all share the same passion and love for the game and have one common dream: to play baseball representing their country.



## THAILAND

In his country, baseball is a developing sport, but Varaphop has already played in several international tournaments.

### Varaphop Sumpahungsit

Varaphop plays baseball because “baseball is a challenge sport.” The sport is developing in Thailand, and Varaphop is dedicated to promoting it within his country and around the world. He feels that baseball has been able to give him unique experiences that he wants to share. For that, he says, “Thank you to baseball,” and adds, “I am baseball.”

Varaphop has participated professionally in the 2004 Asian Championships, the 2005 and 2007 SEA Games, the 2006 Asian Games in Qatar, and the 2007 IBAF Baseball World Cup.



 Malta

Cory is learning baseball skills through Tee-Ball, part of Malta's national baseball programme.

## Cory Debono

Six-year-old Cory plays on the Marsa Tee-Ball team in the Republic of Malta. For over six decades, the Maltese people have been enjoying the game of baseball and have developed their own national programme. This programme includes a National League, Little League teams for children, and school teams. Thousands also enjoy the game as spectators, watching professional games from other countries on TV.



 Italy

Debora has umpired many games in Italy and internationally, and is an instructor for candidate umpires and managers.

## Debora Giacomazzi

Debora began umpiring in 1999 and gained her Italian Federation Badge in 2000. In 2008, she became certified as an Italian National League First Level umpire, the highest certification in the country. Debora has umpired a number of Italian club and national tournaments, along with international games. She was an umpire at the 2008 IBAF Women's Baseball World Cup, including the exciting final between Gold medal winner Japan and the USA. Since 2004, Debora has been an instructor in the official rules of baseball at the school for candidate managers in Milan. In 2006, she was also appointed Regional Instructor for candidate umpires for the Milan area. She has been part of a baseball exchange programme with Malta, umpiring games on the island.



 UNITED STATES

## George W. Bush

U.S. President George W. Bush brought a gift of baseball equipment for the new Little League being established in Ghana. He has a well-known love for the game, which led him to purchase a share of the Texas Rangers MLB franchise in 1989. President Bush served as Managing General Partner of the Rangers for five years. Like presidents dating back to 1910, he has thrown out the ceremonial “first pitch” that marks the start of the Major League Baseball season in the U.S. In 2001, weeks after 9/11, he made a dramatic appearance at Yankee Stadium in New York City to throw the first pitch of that year’s MLB World Series.

**United States President George W. Bush is an ardent baseball fan. He donated equipment to Ghana to support the development of their programme.**



 Vietnam

Duc played in the first Tee-Ball game in South Vietnam's history.

## Nguyen Van Duc

A Tee-Ball programme in Dong Ha, Vietnam was organised in November of last year, and five-year-old Duc desperately wanted to be a part of it. He's played in every game, including the first organised Tee-Ball game ever played in Vietnam.



 India

Rick Dell (standing, center) travels the world to train baseball players and coaches.

## MLB Coaching Certification Course

Rick Dell of Major League Baseball International travels the world to start clinics, academies, and training courses for children and adults. In India, nearly 50 men and women attended the MLB Level O Coach Certification Course to learn the fundamentals of coaching. They will use these techniques when they coach teams in the New Delhi Little League programme, which has over 300 boys and girls enrolled.

There is a tremendous amount of raw talent in India. During the Coaching Course, at least one attendee who practised pitching could throw over 85 mph.



 P.R. of CHINA

## Da Cheng School

The Cal Ripken, Jr. Tour, a programme developed by Major League Baseball International, was put in place to help grow the sport of baseball for children around the world. Cal Ripken, Jr. travels worldwide, teaching kids the basics of baseball and helps to instill in them a passion for the sport. In many instances, the sport becomes more than just a game to the kids; it becomes the centre of their lives.

The students of the Da Cheng School in Beijing, shown above, are underprivileged and/or are orphans, many of them coming from Mongolia. Mr. Li Wei of the Da Cheng School finds the boys, brings them in, houses them, feeds them, teaches them, and coaches the kids in baseball. Under his direction, and with some help from the Cal Ripken, Jr. Tour, the boys of the Da Cheng School have become some of the best young players in China.

**The Cal Ripken, Jr. Tour has helped the Da Cheng School become one of the best youth teams in China.**





 CAMBODIA

## Cambodia National Team

The Cambodia National Team has been playing for over three years and is just one example of the development of the game within the country. Coached by Canadian Mike Griffin, and shown here in a pitching clinic with Rick Dell, the Cambodia National Team has competed in several major international tournaments, including the 2007 Southeast Asia Games in Thailand.

**The Cambodia National Team is a newly-developing baseball programme, but they have already competed on an international scale.**

# Examples of Non-U.S.-Born MLB Players



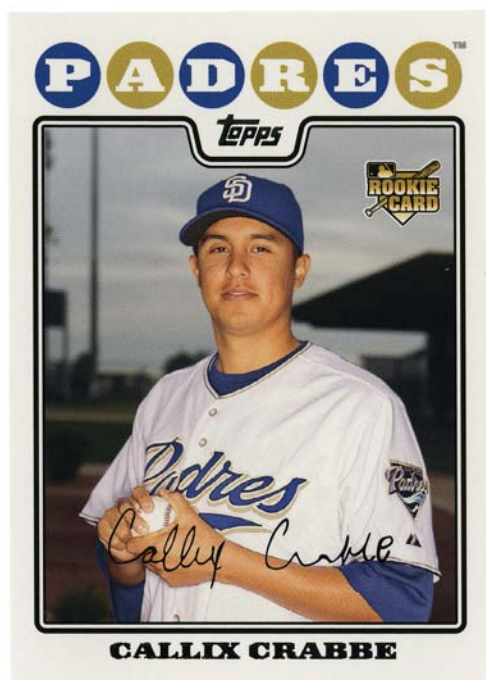
 PUERTO RICO



 CURAÇAO



 NICARAGUA



 VIRGIN ISLANDS



 COLOMBIA



 CHINESE TAIPEI

# Examples of Non-U.S.-Born MLB Players



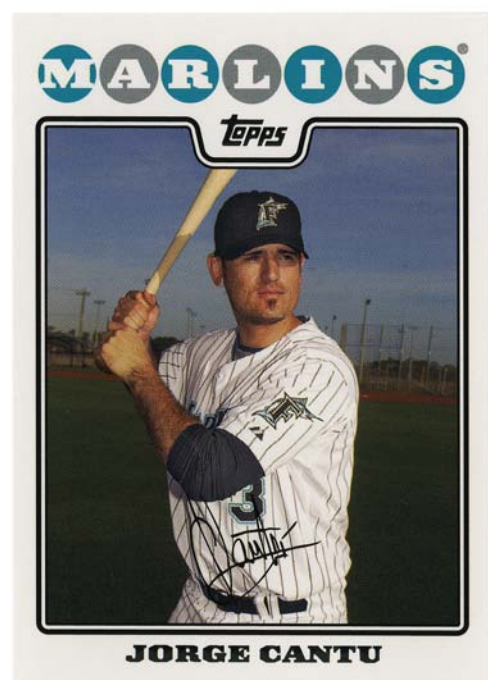
 VENEZUELA



 CANADA



 JAPAN



 MEXICO



 CUBA



 PUERTO RICO

# Examples of Non-U.S.-Born MLB Players



 NETHERLANDS



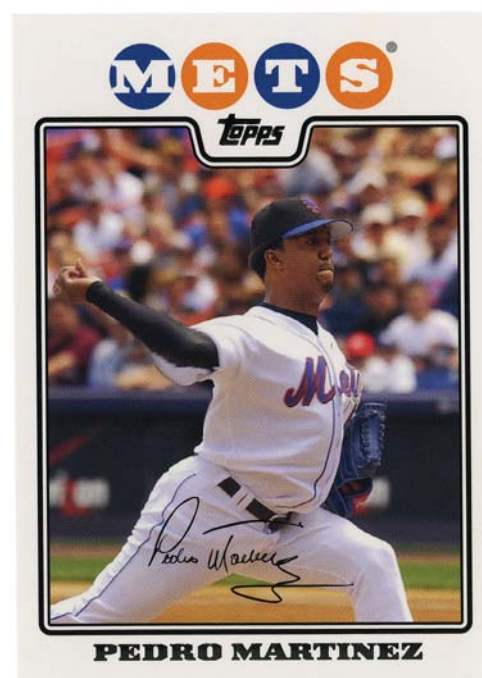
 CUBA



 PANAMA



 GERMANY



 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



 AUSTRALIA



Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Baseball Competition  
Beijing, P.R. of China – 13-23 August 2008





2008 IBAF Women's Baseball World Cup  
Matsuyama, Japan – 24-29 August 2008



## “We Play Clean”



“You can look at other people and speculate all you want. But you guys know from looking at me that I didn’t touch a thing.”

– Ken Griffey, Jr.  
San Francisco Chronicle  
15 March 2006



“It was never any kind of temptation or anything like that. I was pretty much taught about it from a young age.”

– Derek Jeter  
Newsday  
9 April 2008



“I dominated [the steroids] era and I did it clean. I can stand by my numbers and I can be proud of them. I would rather go home [than] taint the game.”

– Pedro Martinez  
Associated Press  
15 February 2008