

****PELOTERO PLAYERS' UPDATE****

JEAN CARLOS BATISTA

Jean Carlos Batista was born in Los Mulos, Dominican Republic. He left home to train with Astin Jacobo at the age of 13. For the following three years, Astin Jacobo helped train him into a switch hitting infielder.



When the 2009 signing day came, the offer on the table was \$450,000 from the Houston Astros. Batista turned the offer down against the advisement of Jacobo. He asked for \$600,000 but the Astros didn't have the money so they signed a different Dominican player for \$370,000.

Major League Baseball investigated Batista and determined he had lied about his age. Unbeknownst to Jacobo, Batista was actually 17 years old. Having lied about his age, Major League Baseball served him with a one year suspension. After the suspension, Batista signed with the Astros for \$200,000. He was initially hoping for an offer of \$1.5 million.

After lying about his age, the rift between Jacobo and Batista grew. Jacobo felt he was betrayed and lied to and he even won a lawsuit against Batista for damages to his baseball academy due to Batista's age fraud.

Batista last played in the Minor Leagues for the GCL (Gulf Coast League) Astros.

MIGUEL ÁNGEL SANÓ

Miguel Sanó was born in San Pedro de Macorís, Dominican Republic to a poor Haitian and Cocolo family. He was discovered at a young age, and worked with baseball scouts to develop his talent. In early 2009, Major League Baseball conducted an age investigation, a prerequisite for every player signed in Latin America. The investigation confirmed Sanó's identity but could not verify his exact age. Sanó claimed to be 16 years old, but there had been rumors in the Dominican Republic that he was older. Twins then-general manager Bill Smith stated that "Sanó's age and identity have probably been scrutinized more than any player in the history of the Dominican Republic."



The Pittsburgh Pirates were the first team to offer Sanó a deal, but negotiations between the two sides were at a standstill after agent Rob Plummer rejected a \$2.6 million offer from the team. Sanó elected to sign with the Minnesota Twins over many other teams. Besides the Pirates, the Cleveland Indians also expressed interest in Sanó, and even had him come to their academy in the Dominican Republic so they could watch him play. The Baltimore Orioles, the New York Yankees, and the Boston Red Sox were also interested in Sanó.

On September 29, 2009, Sanó stated that he would sign a Major League Baseball contract with the Minnesota Twins, which included a \$3.15 million signing bonus. That bonus was the largest for a Latin American player from outside of Cuba in 2009, and the second highest bonus ever for a Dominican amateur, second only to the \$4.25 million the Oakland Athletics paid to pitcher Michael Ynoa in 2008. It was also the highest international signing bonus in the Twins history.

In 2011, Sanó was rated the 12th best prospect in the game, as well as the top third base prospect by MLB.com.

On June 9, 2013, Sanó had compiled 35 home runs, 103 RBIs, and a .280 batting average overall. At the end of the 2013 season, MLB.com ranked him as the third best prospect in the league, and second in the Minnesota Twins organization. The Twins invited Sanó to spring training in 2014. During spring training, Sanó tore a ligament in his elbow and required surgery. He missed the 2014 season to recover from his injury, but he is expected to return to the game.