

****POPULAR DOMINICAN BASEBALL PLAYERS****

SAMMY SOSA

Sammy Sosa is a retired right fielder from San Pedro de Macorís, Dominican Republic. Sosa began his baseball career in the Minor Leagues where he played for three years before beginning to play in the MLB in 1989. Throughout his baseball career, Sosa played for the Chicago Cubs, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Texas Rangers. In 1998 while playing for the Chicago Cubs, Sosa hit 66 home runs. That same year he was selected as the MVP for the National League. During his career, Sosa was selected as a member of the National League All-Star Team. He also scored 609 home runs throughout his career and his career batting average was .273. In 2009, it was revealed that he had tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs in 2003, and his career has been tainted by this scandal.



ALBERTO PUJOLS

Alberto Pujols was born in Santo Domingo and moved to the United States in 1996 where he played one season of college baseball. He was then drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in 1999. He was named the National League Rookie of the Year in 2001. Pujols played for 11 seasons with the St. Louis Cardinals before being traded to the Los Angeles Angels before the 2012 season. He has won two World Series and earned three National League MVP Awards. Alberto Pujols founded the Pujols Family Foundation which helps people who have Down Syndrome and also helps the impoverished in the Dominican Republic. The Pujols Family Foundation founded the Alberto Pujols Wellness Center for adults with Down Syndrome.

<http://www.pujolsfamilyfoundation.org/>



ALEX RODRIGUEZ

Alex Rodriguez was born in the United States to a Dominican family. He lived in the Dominican Republic as well as in Miami, Florida and New York during his childhood. He was drafted out of high school by the Seattle Mariners and by

1996, he became their starting shortstop. A-Rod left the Mariners in 2000 to play for the Texas Rangers. Rodriguez got a \$252 million contract, the highest in baseball history. Prior to the 2004 season, Rodriguez was traded to the Yankees, where he won numerous awards such as the American League MVP and he became the youngest player ever to hit 600 home runs.

Rodriguez made headlines when he received a suspension from the MLB for using performance-enhancing drugs. He was suspended the entire 2014 season. He returned during the 2015 season playing for the New York Yankees.



DAVID ORTIZ



Dominican born David Ortiz began playing professional baseball in 1998 for the Minnesota Twins until he signed as a free agent with the Boston Red Sox in January of 2003. His kind nature, imposing physique and success as a homerun slugger earned him the nickname, "Big Papi." Ortiz has been chosen as the MLB All-Star nine times and he has helped his team win the World Series three times. David Ortiz was the Home Run Derby winner in 2010, but he is most admired for his work helping children. Ortiz's annual



charity golf tournament has raised more than \$1.8 million to help children in the United States and in the Dominican Republic.

<http://www.davidortiz.com/docf/>

PEDRO MARTINEZ

Pedro Martinez became the first Latin American pitcher to strike out 300 batters in a season in 1997. He has played for the Dodgers, the Montreal Expos, the Boston Red Sox, the New York Mets, and the Philadelphia Phillies. During his long successful career, he won the American League Cy Young Award and he led the league in victories and in strikeouts. In 2013, the Red Sox hired him as a special assistant to the general manager and he was selected for induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2015. During his years as a professional player, he spent the off-season in the Dominican Republic, where he was actively involved in community and charity work.

