

A Class Above the Rest

Latino Baseball Hall of Fame honors inaugural inductees

By Manuel García

On May 29, the new Latino Baseball Hall of Fame in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, made it official, inducting an inaugural class of 25 ballplayers, executives and broadcasters.

The brainchild of Cubans Roberto A. Weill, an internationally recognized entrepreneur, and Rafael Ávila, a long-time baseball executive, the hall was created to honor those Latino players and executives who have contributed to organized baseball. The hall's headquarters is located in Casa de Campo in the Dominican province of La Romana, and a museum will open this summer.

The hall's inaugural class is a who's who of the great stars that came out of Latin America in the 20th century — Minnie Miñoso, Roberto Alomar and Felipe Rojas Alou among them — and includes 13 members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. American baseball executive Peter O'Malley was selected as the winner of the Tom Lasorda Award for outstanding non-Latino personality. Inductees were voted on by the various leagues, players associations and sportswriters organizations throughout Latin America.

The induction ceremony, held at Altos de Chavón amphitheater in Casa de Campo, was the culmination of a weeklong series of activities that included sightseeing tours, golf outings, exhibition baseball games and dinners.

At the induction ceremony, the Yankees were recognized as the 2009 World Series champions alongside the Escogido Lions, the Caribbean Series champions. The Yankees donated signed items — a Mariano Rivera jersey, Jorge Posada bat, Tony Peña cap, Alfredo Aceves ball, Francisco Cervelli batting helmet and Robinson Cano jersey — for display in the museum. ✕

AND THE INDUCTEES ARE ...

Twenty-five of baseball's most influential figures were bestowed the honor of being the first-ever inductees into the Dominican Republic's new Latino Baseball Hall of Fame, including 13 members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. They are:

ARGENTINA

Eloy "Buck" Canel*

CUBA

Martín Dihigo*

José de la Caridad Méndez*

Orestes "Minnie" Miñoso

Camilo Pascual

Atanasio "Tany" Pérez*

Alejandro "Alex" Pompez*

Rafael "Felo" Ramírez*

Cristóbal Torriente*

Roberto "Bobby" Maduro

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Felipe Rojas Alou

Juan Marichal*

Juan Esteban "Tetelo" Vargas

ECUADOR

Jaime Jarrin*

MÉXICO

Roberto "Beto" Avila

Héctor Espino

PANAMÁ

Rodney "Rod" Carew*

PUERTO RICO

Roberto Alomar

Orlando "Peruchín" Cepeda*

Roberto Clemente*

Francisco "Pancho" Coimbre

VENEZUELA

Luis Aparicio*

Alfonso "Chico" Carrasquel

David Concepción

UNITED STATES

Peter O'Malley - Tom Lasorda Award

*Member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PRESIDENT LEONEL FERNÁNDEZ [CENTER] WITH INDUCTION CEREMONY ATTENDEES