

Title:

Major League Baseball Players in Japan - Strangers in Paradise

Word Count:

1528

Summary:

This article is about Baseball in Japan. The final match-up of the World Baseball Classic feat

Keywords:

Sports, Recreation, Baseball, Japan

Article Body:

The final match-up of the World Baseball Classic featured two teams from countries where baseb

American teachers first introduced the game to the island country in the 1870's, and it firmly

The exchange of players between the Japanese leagues and Major League baseball is not a one-wa

When major leaguers from America first started to compete in the Japanese League, they were of

In the past decade something has changed concerning the emigration of professional players fro

Some players find a home away from home in Japan, while others go and get some daily experienc

Alex Cabrera is an example of the first type of player, while Lou Merloni seemed as though he

First baseman Alex Cabrera, who spent nine seasons in the minors with the Chicago Cubs, Tampa

Cabrera immediately became a star in Japan. In his first season he hit .282 with 124 RBI and 4

In 2004, Cabrera hit two homeruns in game three, including a grand slam, and a massive dinger

Cabrera totes a .308 BA with 413 RBI and 147 HR in his first four years with the Lions. Life i

Cabrera noted, "All my teammates wanted me to break the record. A lot of the players on other

"They didn't want me to get the record," he acknowledged. "All records are for the Japanese. T

There are aspects of the game with which MLB players have difficulty. Cabrera said it very cle

In the same article, former Japanese player and present Yankee Hideki Matsui observed, "In the

Although Cabrera has found a home with the Lions, he's certainly willing to come back and play

Lou Merloni and Gabe Kapler both did their time in Japan for the same reasons and with similar

In 2000, Merloni went to the Yokohama Bay Stars with the understanding that he would be the te

The game is pretty much the same, except there's a rule prohibiting tie games from going more

The media never tired of asking the third baseman if he'd like to marry a Japanese woman. When

Along with the possibility of being an everyday player, there's the bump in salary a player wh

Gabe Kapler was offered a similar opportunity in 2005, and like Merloni, he took it. With a co

Missing were the overly expressive fans, the rich heritage, and the knock `em down rivalries.

In a strange twist of fate, the outfielder, who was on first base when Tony Graffanino hit a h
In 2006, he was no longer on a major league roster and neither was Merloni, who had played a u

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