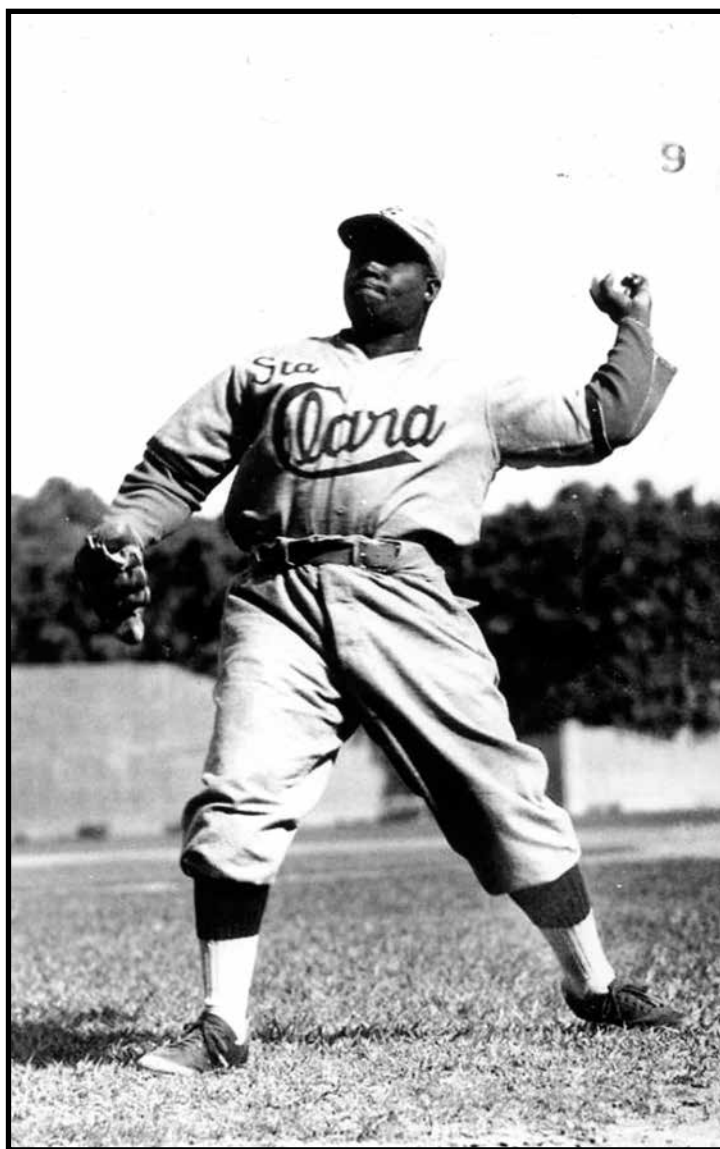


Forgotten Heroes:

Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia



by

Center for Negro League Baseball Research

Dr. Layton Revel

and

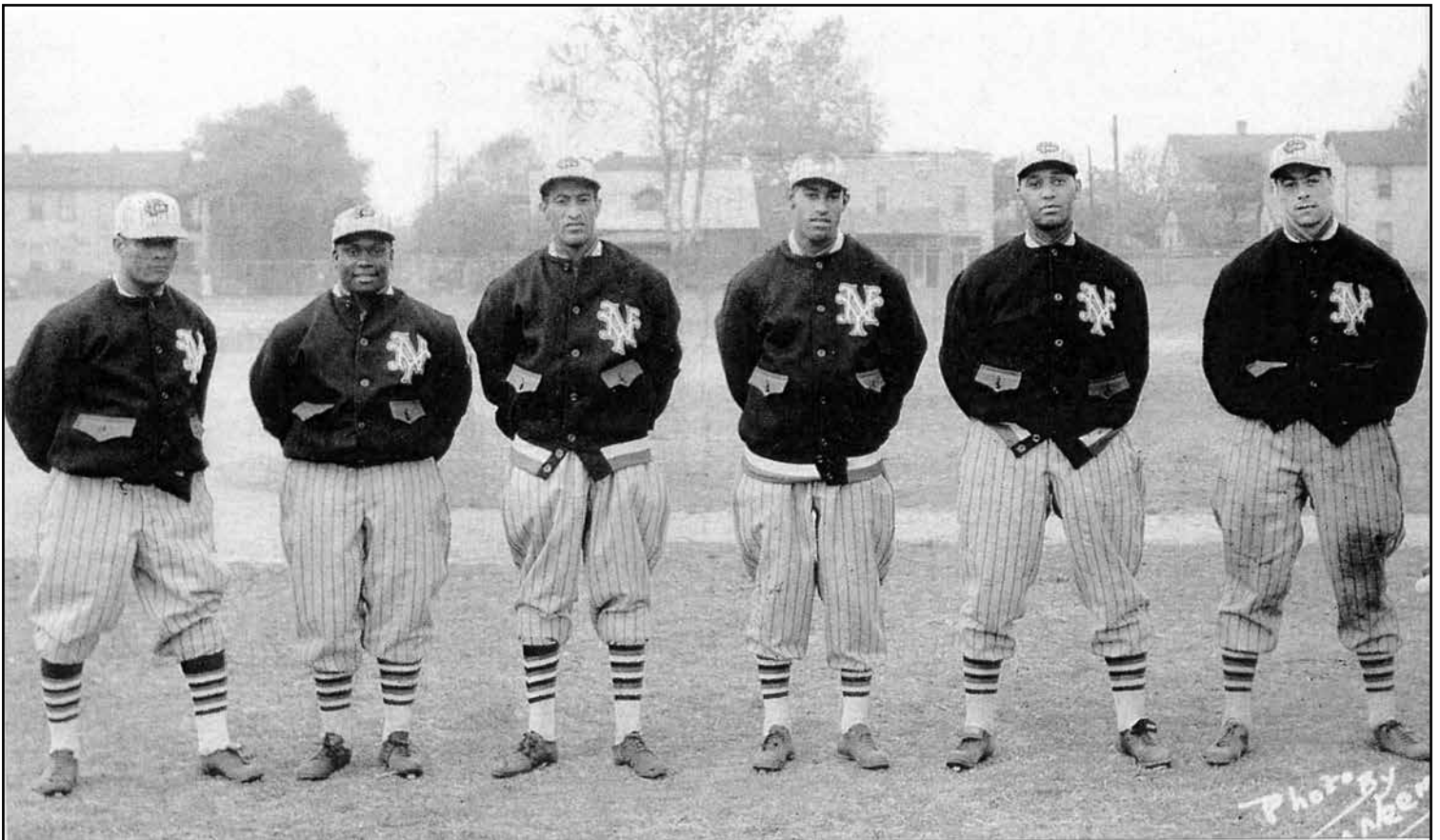
2014

Luis Munoz

New York Cubans (1935)

Prior to the start of the 1935 baseball season, Alex Pompez who had owned the Cuban Stars formed the New York Cubans. After conducting spring training in Jacksonville (FL), the New York Cubans played in the Negro National League during the 1935 baseball season. While barnstorming back to New York City in late April and early May for the start of the Negro National League regular season, the Cubans won fourteen straight games and then upon arrival in New York City won three of their next four games.

Unfortunately, their success during the preseason did not carry over to the start of the Negro National League season. The New York Cubans started the Negro National League season very slowly, but rebounded to win the second half. One of the team's keys to success was their pitching staff that included Frank Blake, Heliodoro Diaz, Martin Dihigo, Rodolfo Fernandez, Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia, John "Neck" Stanley and Johnny Taylor and Luis Tiant (Sr.).



New York Cubans (1935)
Negro National League

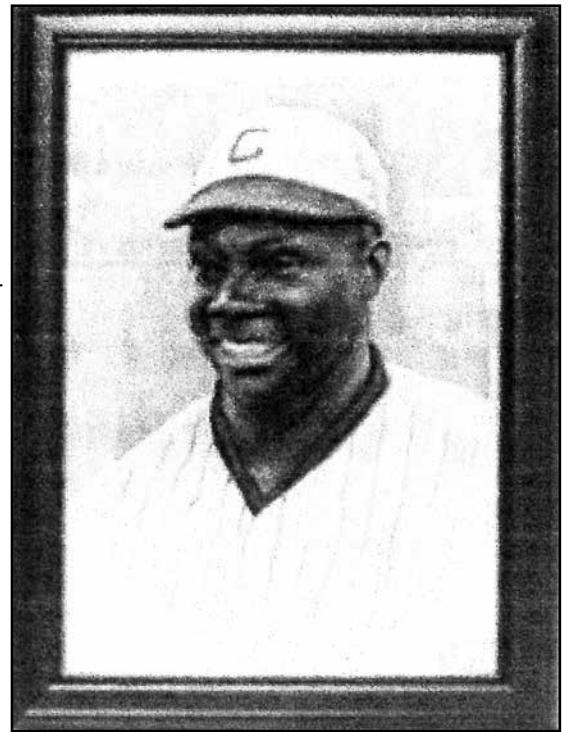
(Left to right – Heliodoro Diaz, **Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia**, Luis Tiant (Sr.), Rodolfo "Rudy" Fernandez, John "Neck" Stanley and Frank Blake)

Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia was born on December 28, 1905 in Manacas (Las Villas Province), Cuba. Garcia stood five feet eight inches tall and weighed approximately 185 pounds during his playing career. He was small in stature but had a very strong, burly build.

He was a left handed pitcher who was also an excellent hitter. Cocaina had a good fastball, sharp breaking wicked curve ball and spectacular drop ball. He was also known for his great control. When players batted against him it was said they seemed drugged by his pitches and unable to concentrate or focus on the baseball, hence the nickname “Cocaina.” According to Negro League great Buck O’Neil who faced Garcia when they were both playing in Cuba, “he had a wicked curve ball which made all us hitters go numb.”

When he wasn’t on the mound he played in the outfield. Cocaina batted from the left hand side of the plate and was an excellent hitter. An example of his value as a hitter was seen in 1936 when he played mainly in the outfield for the New York Cubans of the Negro National League and responded with an impressive .305 batting average and a .458 slugging percentage for the season.

Manuel Garcia was also known as being an undeniable gentleman who personified class both on and off the field. He had a great sense of humor and was never without his magnificent smile that always lit up everyone around him.



Manuel Garcia
Caribe
Venezuela

Even though he only had a mediocre career in the Negro Leagues, Cocaina Garcia was a superstar and very special player in Latin America. He has been inducted into the baseball hall of fames in both Cuba and Venezuela.

Early Baseball Career

Manuel Garcia grew up in Manacas which is located in the central Cuban province of Las Villas. After honing his skills on the local sandlots and playing for local teams, Manuel graduated to a roster spot with Central Washington. From the very beginning of his career he was recognized for his hitting ability. As he got older his skills as a pitcher drew rave reviews.

After starring for Central Washington, Manuel was recognized by Miguelito “The Jabao,” a well-respected sports agent in Cuba who got him a tryout with Santiago de Cuba. When he made the Santiago de Cuba starting line-up there was no question his career had no limitations and a new life in baseball had opened up to him.

Negro League Career

Manuel Garcia first came to the United States to play in the Negro Leagues in 1926 when he was signed by the Cuban Stars (West) for the upcoming Negro National League season. Teams that played in the 1926 Negro National League were Kansas City Monarchs, Chicago American Giants, St. Louis Stars, Detroit Stars, Indianapolis ABCs, Cuban Stars, Dayton Marcos and Cleveland Elites.

The 1926 Cuban Stars were led by the hitting of Angel Alfonso (3B), Luis Arango (1B/3B), Choo Choo Herrera (SS), Cando Lopez (OF), Eustaquio “Bombin” Pedrosa (1B/C), Felipe Sierra (2B) and Valentine Dreke (OF). Edolfo “YoYo” Diaz, David Gomez, Juan Padrone and Basilio Rosell anchored the pitching staff for the Cubans during the season. As a rookie, Manuel played most of the season in the outfield but also pitched on occasion.

The Cuban Stars struggled during the season and finished the season in sixth place in the Negro National League with a record of 19-47 (.288). The Kansas City Monarchs (57-21) edged out the Chicago American Giants (57-23) for the Negro National League championship.

Team owners of the Cuban Stars were so impressed with Garcia's performance during the 1926 season that they offered him a contract for the 1927 season. Manuel was the leading hitter for the Cuban Stars in 1927 with a .352 batting average and a .533 slugging percentage. Garcia was the only hitter on the team to bat over .300 for the season. Negro League researcher John Holway credits Manuel Garcia with a .395 batting average for the season. The other top hitters for the Cuban Stars in 1927 were Valentin Dreke (.280), Cando Lopez (.268), Cuco Correa (.265) and Benito Calderon (.235). Garcia split his time between pitching and playing in the outfield during the 1927 season.

According to research by John Holway the pitching staff for the 1927 Cuban Stars included David Gomez (6-7), Yoyo Diaz (4-11), Basilio Rosell (4-11), Manuel Garcia (3-7) and Rogelio Alonso (1-4).

With no hitting other than Garcia and weak pitching, the Cuban Stars struggled all season. Only the lowly Memphis Red Sox (27-73) had a worse record for the 1927 Negro National League season than the Cuban Stars (18-43). They both finished light years behind the Negro National League champion Chicago American Giants (63-30).

As bad as the 1927 season was for the Cuban Stars, they were even worse in 1928. Not even the great Cuban manager Augustin "Tinti" Molina could help. Instead of finishing in next to last place like they did in 1927, they finished the season in last place with a dismal won-loss record of 12-37 (.245). Negro League researcher John Holway credits the Cuban Stars with a record of 14-44 (.241) for the 1928 season when several of their "non-league" games are added into their won-loss total.

Cando Lopez (.296), Cuco Correa (.285), Bienvendio Jimenez (.281) and Felipe Sierra (.256) were the Cuban Stars top hitters during the 1928 season. Manuel went into a slump at the plate in early August and finished the season with a .195 batting average.

Basilio Rosell (5-9), Yoyo Diaz (3-14), Rogelio Alonso (1-5) and Manuel Garcia (1-7) made up the starting rotation for the Cuban Stars in 1928. As bad as Manuel's hitting was, his performance on the mound was even worse as he suffered through one of the worse losing season records of his entire career. On a positive note Garcia did have six complete games in the nine games that he started.

Manuel Travels to the Dominican Republic

In February of 1929 Manuel Garcia joined the Estrellas Cubanos. The Cuban all-star team was formed to play an exhibition tour in the Dominican Republic. The team was managed by Pelayo Chacon who also played shortstop for the Estrellas Cubanos. The position players for the team were Guillermo Angulo (1B), Miguel Solis (2B), Pelayo Chacon (SS), Pedro Arango (3B), Luis Castro (C), Alejandro Oms (OF) and Manolo Funes (OF). The pitching staff for the Estrellas included Ramon Bragana, Cocaina Garcia and Bombin Pedroso. Bragana and Garcia also played in the outfield when they weren't pitching.

After the conclusion of the Estrellas Cubanos exhibition tour, Cocaina stayed in the Dominican Republic to play for the Licey Tigres for their 1929 season. Garcia along with Alejandro Oms, Ramon Bragana, Pelayo Chacon and Pedro Arango were recruited by Licey team President Dr. Jose E. Aybar to play for the Tigres. Aybar had raised \$12,000 from the wealthy supporters of the



Lacey Tigres (1929)
Dominican Republic

team to pay the Cubans to play for Lacey. The Escogido Leones who were the main competitor for Lacey countered with signing Martin Dihigo and several other Latin imports. The Lacey Tigres were managed by Charles Dore. When he wasn't pitching for the Tigres, he was playing in the outfield. From the limited box scores that have been found, Cocaina went 4-1 during the 1929 season for Lacey. Behind the hitting of Oms and the pitching of Bragana and Garcia, the Lacey Tigres won the championship of the Dominican Republic at the end of the 1929 season.

It is unclear as to if or where Manuel Garcia played during the 1930 regular season.

Garcia Returns to the Negro Leagues

Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia returned to the United States for the 1931 regular baseball season. Garcia signed to play for the Cuban Stars (East). The Cuban Stars were owned by Alex Pompez and played an independent schedule because there was no formal league in the East during the 1931 season.

The Cuban Stars fielded a solid team that featured the hitting of Luis Arango (3B), Pelayo Chacon (2B), Jose Maria Fernandez (C), Cando Lopez (OF), Alejandro Oms (OF), Javier "Blue" Perez (1B) and Juan "Tetelo" Vargas (SS). The pitching staff for the Cuban Stars included Raul Alvarez, Isidro Fabre, Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia and Luis Tiant, Sr.

During the 1931 season the Cuban Stars (East) also played as the Cuban House of David. Like the Cuban Stars (East), the Cuban House of David also played an independent-barnstorming schedule.

Garcia Dominates the Competition in Venezuela

Instead of returning to the United States to play ball like he had done the previous season, Cocaina Garcia traveled with Pelayo Chacon to Venezuela and signed with Caribe of the La Asociacion de Venezolana de Baseball (AVB). This was the inaugural season of the National Series in San Augustin Stadium.

Some of the other Negro League and Latin stars that played in Venezuela during the 1932 season were:

Venezuelan Team	Player (s)
Caribe	Pelayo Chacon, Manuel Garcia, Lazaro Salazar and Nestico Sanchez
Cincinnati	Pedro Alejandro San, Alex Carrasquel
Concordia	Martin Dihigo, Juan "Tetelo" Vargas, M.A. Malpica and Silvino Ruiz
Deportivo Universitario	Emilio Navarro
Royal Criollos	Marcelino Blondet
Santa Marta	Pancho Coimbre, Radames Lopez, Julio Rojo
Valencia	Cefo Conde, Perucho Cepeda

Score Oficial						
Caribe	Ab	C	H	O	A	E
Salazar, rf	7	2	2	0	0	0
Pelayo Chacón, 2b	3	5	2	0	3	0
Luis Jiménez, ss	6	2	2	2	1	1
"Cocaína" García, p	6	5	4	1	0	1
Nestico Sánchez, cf	6	1	3	0	0	0
Jorge Medina, 3b	1	1	1	0	1	0
Oscar Olivares, 1b	1	0	0	2	1	0
"Pollo" Torrealba, c	5	1	1	16	2	0
Juan Jiménez, lf	3	2	0	1	0	0
G. Requena, 1b	2	1	1	5	0	0
Sumas	40	21	16	27	8	2
Aguilas	Ab	C	H	O	A	E
Luis Piña, lf	2	0	0	2	0	0
José Luis Pérez, 1b	4	0	0	8	0	0
José Joaquín Arocha, ss	4	0	0	4	4	2
Carlos Luis Guzmán, c	3	0	0	3	1	0
Ramos, 2b	2	0	0	1	2	2
Pedro Elías Delgado, cf	3	0	0	2	0	0
Francisco Istúriz, 3b	3	0	0	3	1	0
Malpica, rf	2	0	0	1	0	1
Francisco Hernández, p	2	0	0	1	3	0
Perera, 2b	2	0	0	1	0	0
García, lf	1	0	0	1	0	0
Sumas	28	0	0	27	11	5
Anotación por entradas						
Caribe	300	204	20(10)	21	16	2
Aguilas	000	000	000	0	0	5
Sumario						
Home Run: "Cocaína" García.						
Three base hit: Salazar, "Cocaína" García.						
Two-base hits: Chacón, L. Jiménez (2), "Cocaína" García, Nestico (2).						
Hits al pitcher: A Hernández 16 en 9 innings.						
Struck outs: "Cocaína" 18, Hernández 3.						
Bases por bolas: "Cocaína" 3, Hernández 13.						
Dead Ball: Hernández a Medina.						
Passed Ball: Torrealba 3, Guzmán 3.						
Quedados en base: Caribe 12, Aguilas 4.						
Bases Robadas: Medina, Torrealba.						
Carreras limpias: Salazar 2, Chacón 4, L. Jiménez, "Cocaína" 2, Torrealba, A. Jiménez 2, Requena.						
Umpires: señores Pierce, Rabens y Lugo.						
Anotador oficial: "Lord"						
Tiempo de juego: 2 horas						

The reason for Cocaína and other players like Martin Dihigo, Lazaro Salazar and Tetelo Vargas going to Venezuela was very simple - it was money. Owners of Venezuelan teams wanted to win and bringing in star Latin players from other countries seemed to be the answer.

During his first season in Venezuela, Manuel "Cocaína" García had the best season of his entire career. Cocaína made his mark on Venezuelan baseball from the very beginning of the season by striking out 32 batters in the first two games he pitched. Both outings were against Valencia. During the 1932 season, he led the "league" in both hitting and pitching. His .371 won him the "league" batting title. Cocaína also led the "league" in the following pitching categories: wins (7-2), innings pitched (85), strikeouts (100), ERA (0.27) and shutouts (5). García was originally credited with 128 strikeouts for the season but the number was reduced to 100 because of "supposedly" canceled meetings. In the twelve "official" games in which he pitched during the 1932 season in Venezuela, he struck out more than ten batters seven times. He had games of 18, 11, 16, 11, 14, 20 and 14 strike outs. In addition he had incredible control of all his pitches on the mound. In 85 innings of "league" play, Cocaína only walked 14 batters.

In addition to his "league" play, box scores have been found for four exhibition games he played against "non-league" teams. Cocaína went 4-0 in these outings. In these four games he registered strikeouts of 25, 17, 15 and 18 for a total 75 strikeouts in only four games. At least two of these games resulted in shutout wins.

Caribe vs Aguilas (1932)

Garcia Strikes Out 20 and Hits for the Cycle

Four games that highlighted Cocaína García's 1932 season with Caribe in Venezuela are as follows:

1. On April 17th in a game against the Aguilas de Concordia he threw a no-hitter while picking up a 21-0 win. Cocaína struck out 18 Aguilas batters in the game. At the plate he went 4 for 6 while hitting for the cycle with a single, double, triple and homerun. He also scored five times. This game is generally recognized as the first no-hitter ever pitched in professional Venezuelan baseball.

Score Oficial						
Universidad	Ab	C	H	O	A	E
Ceferno García, c	4	1	0	6	1	0
Luis Núñez, ss	4	0	0	5	1	0
Milito Navarro, 2b	5	0	0	5	7	0
Eddie Palerm, p	4	0	0	0	1	1
Eduardo Llanos, cf	5	0	0	4	0	0
R. Acosta, 1b	5	0	0	16	0	0
Pedro Egui, 3b	4	0	0	0	3	0
Fermin, rf	4	0	0	0	0	0
Coronil, lf	4	0	0	1	0	0
Sumas	39	1	0	37	13	1
Caribe	Ab	C	H	O	A	E
Salazar, rf	5	1	1	0	0	0
Nestico Sánchez, cf	6	0	2	3	0	0
Luis Jiménez, ss	5	0	0	3	2	0
"Cocaina" García, p	5	0	0	4	0	0
Pelayo Chacón, 2b	3	0	0	1	3	0
Jorge Medina, 3b	5	0	1	0	4	1
G. Requena, 1b	5	0	0	13	0	1
Amador Hernández, c	5	1	1	20	1	0
Juan Jiménez, lf	4	0	0	0	0	0
Sumas	42	2	6	39	12	2
Anotación por entradas						
Universidad	100	000	000	000	0	1
Caribe	100	000	000	000	1	2
Sumario						
Sacrifices hits: L. Núñez.						
Hits al pitcher: A. Palerm 6 en 13 innings. A "Cocaina" 0 en 13 innings.						
Struck outs: Palerm 4, "Cocaina" 20.						
Bases por bolas: Palerm 4, "Cocaina" 3.						
Quedados en base: Universidad 2, Caribe 8.						
Bases Robadas: C. García, 2; Sánchez, Pelayo.						
Carreras limpias: C. García, Salazar.						
Double plays: "Milito" a R. Acosta.						
Umpires: señores Rivera, Pastor y Martínez.						
Anotador oficial: "Lord"						
Tiempo de juego: 2 horas y 20 minutos.						

Caribe vs Universidad (1932) Garcia No-Hits Universidad

- On August 14th Garcia threw a no-hitter against Universidad with Emilio "Milito" Navarro. Cocaina threw at least six no-hitters during his career but this one went 13 innings. He also struck out 20 Universidad batters in the game.
- On August 29th Cocaina pitched what should have been his third no-hitter of the season but for some unknown reason the "league" officials invalidated the game. His opponent in this historic game was Santa Marta. Garcia also led the Caribe hitting attack with three consecutive doubles in the game.
- In a game "non-league" against Gran Mariscal (lower level opponent), he struck out 25 batters in a nine inning game. Cocaina won the game by a score of 6-0.

Behind the hitting and pitching of Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia Caribe won the Serie Nacional de Baseball Campeonato (AVB) de 1932. Their won-loss record for "league" play was 7-2 (.778).

Manuel Garcia also played for a Venezuelan all-star team that played under the name "Selecion" In the four line scores that have been found for Garcia playing for Selecion, he compiled a won-loss record of 2-2.

Garcia Returns to the United States

Before the start of the 1933 season, the owner of the Cuban Stars convinced Cocaina to return to the United States. The Cuban Stars played an independent schedule for the 1933 season. Pedro Arango (3B), Jose Maria Fernandez (C), Cando Lopez (OF), Alejandro Oms (OF) and Lazaro Salazar (1B/P) anchored the hitting attack for the Cuban Stars. The pitching staff for the Cuban Stars included Isidro Fabre, Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia and Lazaro Salazar. Three box scores have been found for Cocaina pitching for the Cuban Stars. Two of these games were against Negro League level competition. Garcia pitched complete games in both outings, won both games and also had a shutout in one of the games. The third game was against the Bay Parkways with New York Yankees pitcher Vernon "Lefty" Gomez. Cocaina struck out eight Bay Parkway batters in route to a 7-0 shutout victory.

Before the end of the 1933 season, Cocaina Garcia traveled to the Dominican Republic to play for the Licey Tigres.

Cocaina Garcia started the 1934 season playing for the Licey Tigres in the Dominican Republic. While playing for Licey he participated in the La Copa Presidente Trujillo (Trujillo Cup) which was the most prestigious tournament held in the Dominican Republic during the season. The tournament included Concordia, Escogido and Licey. Concordia won the tournament with a 6-3 record. Escogido was second with a 4-5 record and Licey was third with a 3-5 record. Garcia handed Concordia two of its three losses in the tournament by beating them by the scores of 5-2 and 4-3.

After the Trujillo Cup, Cocaina went to Venezuela. Garcia played for three teams (Selecion, Santa Marta and Concordia) in Venezuela during the 1934 season. While playing for Selecion, he played in an exhibition series against Concordia who were coming off a victory in the La Copa Presidente Trujillo. Besides Garcia, the Selecion squad also included Negro Leaguers Perucho Cepeda, Pancho Coimbre, Emilio Navarro and James Williams.

Cocaina Garcia in Venezuela



Concordia (1934)
(Garcia – standing second from left)



Concordia (1934)
Tour of Puerto Rico

(Standing left to right – Gonzalo Gomez, Marcelino Blondet, **Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia**, Ninin Rodriguez, Francisco Quevedo, unknown, **Martin Dihigo**, Alejandro Carrasquel, **Juan “Tetelo” Vargas**, Pedro Arango, unknown and unknown. Kneeling left to right, Alejandro San, Silvino Ruiz, **Luis Aparicio (Sr.)**, unknown, unknown, unknown, **Alejandro Oms** and unknown.)



Cuban Stars (1933)

(Back row left to right – YoYo Diaz, **Jose Maria Fernandez**, **Lazaro Salazar**, Isidro Fabre, Cuco Correa and Rodolfo “Rudy” Fernandez. Kneeling left to right – **Alejandro Oms**, Miguel Solis, Cando Lopez, Pedro Arango, Pepin Perez and **Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia**)

When the Serie Nacional started, Manuel Garcia signed with Santa Marta. The 1934 Serie Nacional included the following five teams: Concordia (12-0), Santa Marta (7-5), Deportivo Universidad (5-8), Senadores (4-7) and Royal Criollos (1-11). Besides Manuel Garcia some of the other Negro League and Latin stars that played in Venezuela in 1934 were Luis Aparico (Concordia), Pedro “Grillo A” Baez (Senadores), Marcelino Blondet (Concordia), Alex Carrasquel (Concordia), Martin Dihigo (Concordia), Emilio Navarro (Royal Criollos), Alejandro Oms (Santa Marta) and Juan “Tetelo” Vargas (Concordia).

Manuel Garcia pitched and played in the outfield for Santa Marta during the 1934 season. At the plate he hit .378 for the season. In the 12 games he pitched for Santa Marta he went 7-5 with an impressive 1.24 earned run average. In 109 innings he struck out 81 batters while only giving up 11 bases on balls.

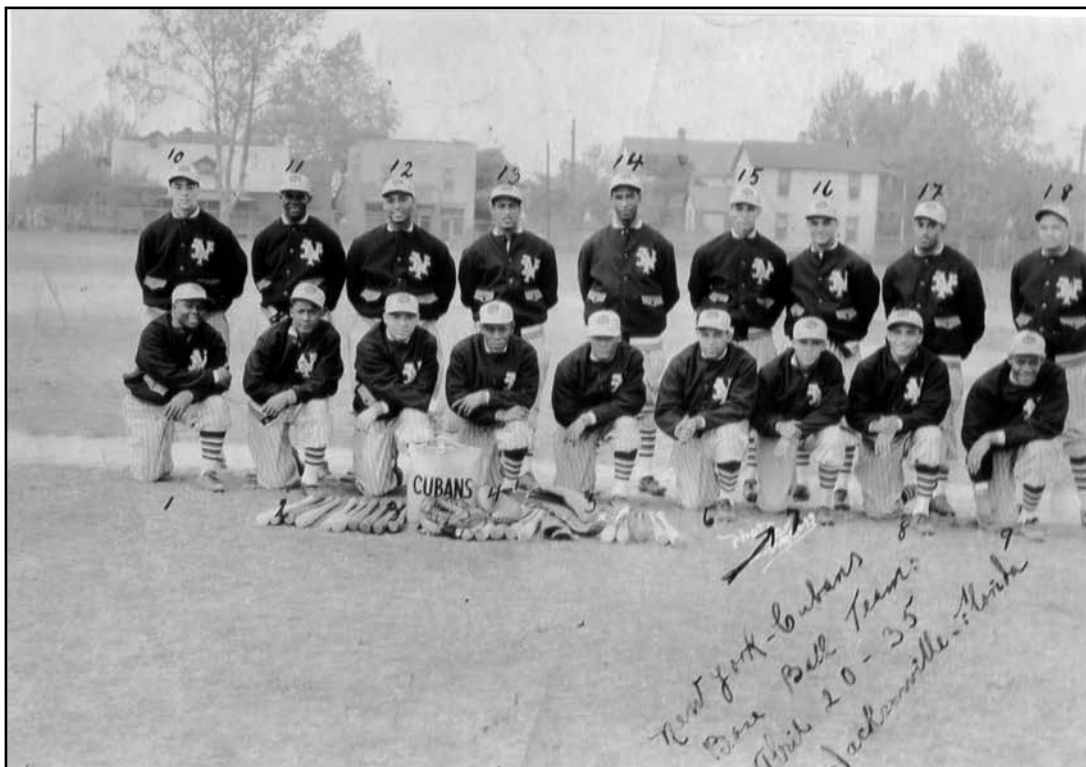
After the Serie Nacional ended Garcia signed with Concordia to play for them in their tournament series in Puerto Rico. Concordia already had a power packed line-up that included Luis Aparicio (SS), Pedro Arango (3B), Pedro Baez (2B), Alex Carrasquel (P), Marcelino Blondet (P/OF), Martin Dihigo (OF/P), Balbino Inojosa (OF), Manuel “Pollo” Malpica (C) Alejandro Oms (OF) and Juan “Tetelo” Vargas (OF). The Puerto Rican tournament series included Concordia (11-3), Ponce (12-9), Licey (5-8), Norfolk (6-11), Guayama (0-4) and Lucky Strike (0-2). One box score has been found for Cocaina pitching for Concordia in the series. In this game he pitched five innings without allowing a run to beat Norfolk.

New York Cubans Enter the Negro National League

When Alex Pompez, owner of the New York Cubans, started making plans to enter his team in the Negro National League for the 1935 season his goal was to recruit the best Latin and American players available to fill his roster. Martin Dihigo was selected by Pompez as the player-manager of the team. The New York Cubans played their home games at the 4,600 seat Dyckman Oval Stadium located at 204th Street and Nagel Ave. in Harlem.

Pompez recruited the following players to lead his hitting attack for the 1935 season: Alejandro Oms (.361), Javier "Blue" Perez (.352), Dave "Showboat" Thomas (.333), Dick Lundy (.324), Lazaro Salazar (.314), Dick Dixon (.284) and Martin Dihigo (.256). When Pompez started putting together his pitching staff, Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia was one of the pitchers he wanted for his starting rotation. The final starting rotation for the Cubans and their records in "league" games during the 1935 season included: Johnny Taylor (5-3), John "Neck" Stanley (4-5), Frank Blake (4-1), Martin Dihigo (3-3), Luis Tiant, Sr. (3-4) and Manuel Garcia (2-5).

The New York Cubans conducted their 1935 spring training in Jacksonville (FL). When they broke spring training they played their way back to New York City. During their trip back to New York City they won 14 games in a row in late April and early May. They then went 3-1 in their next four games. The Chicago American Giants were the only team that could defeat them. Some of the opponents that they defeated in these exhibition games were the Dayton Ducks, Jackson (MS), Louisiana Stars, Memphis Red Sox, Meridian Giants, Nashville Cubs and New Orleans Black Pelicans.

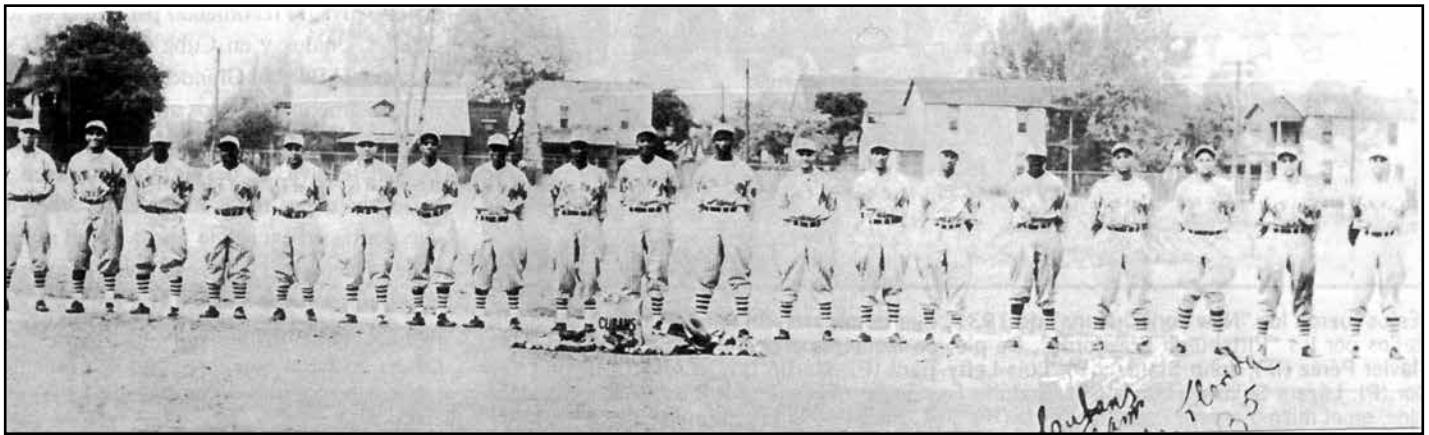


New York Cubans (1935)
Spring Training – Jacksonville (FL)
(Garcia – kneeling first on left)

Their success from their preseason exhibition games did not carry over to the start of the Negro National League season. The New York Cubans started the Negro National League season very slowly but rebounded to win the second half. On September 2nd the Afro American reported that the New York Cubans ended the second half of the season with an unbelievable record of 20-7

(.741). Combined with their first half record, the Cubans finished the regular season with a record of 29-24 (.547). New York faced the Pittsburgh Crawfords who had won the first half in a Play-Off Series. Pittsburgh prevailed in the series winning four games to three for New York. A summary of the 1935 Negro National League Play-Off Series between New York and Pittsburgh is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Paterson (NJ)	Sept 13 th	New York	9-3	Frank Blake	Harry Kincannon
2	New York City	Sept 13 th	New York	4-0	Neck Stanley	Sam Streeter
3	New York City	Sept 15 th	Pittsburgh	3-0	Leroy Matlock	Johnny Taylor
4	Pittsburgh	Sept 18 th	New York	6-1	Martin Dihigo	Leroy Matlock
5	Pittsburgh	Sept 19 th	Pittsburgh	3-2	Roosevelt Davis	Frank Blake
6	Philadelphia	Sept 22 nd	Pittsburgh	7-6	Jimmie Crutchfield	Martin Dihigo
7	Philadelphia	Sept 23 rd	Pittsburgh	8-7	Roosevelt Davis	Luis Tiant, Sr.



New York Cubans (1935)
Negro National League

(left to right – **Horacio Martinez**, Enrique Lantigua, YoYo Diaz, **Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia**, A. Santaella, Cando Lopez, Strike Valdez, **Alejandro Oms**, Cuco Correa, Pedro Arango, **Martin Dihigo**, **Lazaro Salazar**, Luis Tiant (Sr.), Rodolfo Fernandez, Javier “Blue” Perez, John “Neck” Stanley, Frank Duncan, Frank Blake and Johnny Taylor)

Even though they lost in the championship series, the New York Cubans still made an excellent showing for themselves in their first year in the Negro National League.

During 1935 Manuel Garcia also played for Concordia from Venezuela. The Concordia team was one of the strongest in Latin baseball history. The Concordia line-up included Luis Aparicio (SS), Pedro “Grillo A” Baez (3B), Alex Carrasquel (P), Martin Dihigo (P/OF), Balbino Inojosa (OF), M.A. “Pollo” Malpica (C/OF), Emilio “Milito” Navarro (2B), Alejandro Oms (OF) and Juan “Tetelo” Vargas (OF). Garcia joined Concordia for their series against the San Juan Giants in San Juan, Puerto Rico and their exhibition series in the Dominican Republic against Escogido and Licey.

Concordia’s series in Puerto Rico pitted them against the San Juan Giants who were led by Pancho Coimbre, Bertrum Hunter, Enrique Lantigua, Horacio Martinez and Ted Norbert. Complete statistics for the series are not available but it is known that Garcia hit two doubles during the series.

As good as they were Concordia met their match in the Dominican Republic when they played the Escogido Leones and Licey Tigres. Concordia went 5-6 (.455) in their 11 game exhibition series. Cocaina went 11 for 34 for a .324 batting average with 10 runs scored in the Dominican Republic exhibition series.

Expectations and optimism were extremely high for the New York Cubans as they entered the 1936 Negro National League season. Manuel Garcia returned to the Cubans for the 1936 season.

During the 1936 season New York was led by the hitting of Juan Santaella (.403), Chaney White (.400), Clyde Spearman (.343), Cuco Correa (.333), Martin Dihigo (.330), Lazaro Salazar (.329), Manuel Garcia (.305) and Dave "Showboat" Thomas (.282). While the team hit very well, there was a problem of stability in the starting line-up. New York brought in at least nine new position players during the season. Some of the better known names who played briefly with the Cubans during the 1936 season were Alec Radcliffe, Clint Thomas, Harry Williams, Jud Wilson and Bill Yancey. Cocaina Garcia played most of the 1936 season in the outfield. He responded with a .333 batting average and a .500 slugging percentage.



Dyckman Oval
Home of the New York Cubans

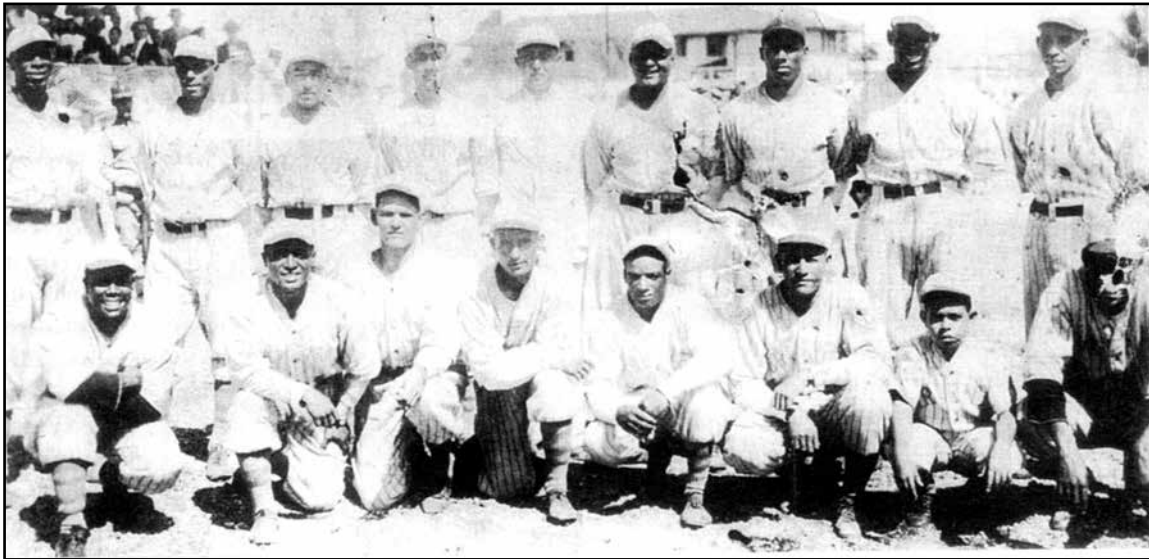
(4,600 seats)

204th Street and Nagle Ave.
New York City, NY

The starting pitching staff for the New York Cubans included Martin Dihigo (7-4), John "Neck" Stanley (7-2), Johnny Taylor (5-2), Chet Brewer (5-7), Luis Tiant, Sr. (1-4). It appears Cocaina Garcia only pitched sparingly during the season.

The New York Cubans never dialed into the magic that they had found during the second half of the 1935 season. New York finished the 1936 season with a losing record of 22-23 (.489). They ended up in third place in the final "league" standings. The Pittsburgh Crawfords repeated as Negro National League champions.

During the 1936 season, Manuel Garcia also traveled to the Dominican Republic to play for the Estrellas Orientales team. The Estrellas team represented the city of San Pedro de Macoris and was managed by Enrique Mejia. Also playing for the Orientales team were Negro Leaguers Pedro Arango, Ramon Bragana, Pelayo Chacon and Juan "Tetelo" Vargas. Behind the pitching of Bragana and Garcia, the Estrellas Orientales team won the Dominican League championship for the 1936 season.



Estrellas Orientales (1936)
Dominican League Champions

(Standing left to right – Pedro Julio Fortunato, **Juan “Tetelo” Vargas**, Bebecito del Villar, Papo de la Rocha, Enrique Mejia, Mateo de la Rosa, **Ramon Bragana**, **Javier “Blue” Perez**, and Aladino Paez. Kneeling left to right – **Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia**, Pinao Acosta, Julio Anglada, Luis Troche, Jose Beltran, Tone Medina, Papote Nina and **Pedro Arango**.)

Senadores	Ab	C	H	O	A	E
M. A. Malpica, c	4	0	1	7	0	0
Nieves Rendón, 1b	5	0	1	14	0	0
Ramón Bragaña, cf	5	1	1	1	0	0
M. "Cocaina" García, p	3	0	2	0	5	0
Rufino Mijares, lf	3	0	0	1	0	0
Francisco Istúriz, ss	4	0	0	1	2	0
Daniel Canónico, 2b	4	1	1	1	3	0
Cirilo Simoza, rf	3	0	1	0	1	1
Miguel Ibarra, lf	4	0	1	2	0	0
Sumas	35	2	8	27	11	1

Cardenales	Ab	C	H	O	A	E
Guzmán, ss	4	0	0	1	4	1
J. Pérez, 1b	4	0	0	17	0	1
Balbino Inojosa, rf	4	0	2	0	0	0
Francisco Quevedo, c	4	0	0	3	1	0
Barney Brown, lf	4	0	1	2	1	0
Luis Jiménez, 3b	3	0	1	1	3	0
Silvino Ruiz, p	3	0	0	0	6	0
Balbino Fuenmayor, cf	3	0	1	1	0	0
Pelayo Chacón, 2b	3	0	0	2	7	0
Sumas	32	0	5	27	22	2

Anotaciones por entradas			C	H	E	
Senadores	000	001	001	2	8	1
Cardenales	000	000	000	0	5	2

Sumario
Two base hits: "Cocaina", Bragaña, Brown.
Hits al pitcher: a "Cocaina" 5 en 9 innings; a Ruiz 8 en 9 innings.
Sacrifice hits: Simoza.
Struckouts: "Cocaina" 5, Ruiz 3.
Bases por bolas: Ruiz 3.
Bases robadas: Bragaña, "Cocaina".
Quedados en base: Senadores 10, Cardenales 4.
Carreras limpias: Bragaña, Canónico.
Umpires: D. Narváez h., J. Arriens y C. Rivero.
Tiempo de juego: 1 hora y 50 minutos.
Anotador oficial: "Estadístico". 9 de noviembre de 1936.

In September of 1936 Manuel Garcia traveled to Venezuela to play for the Senadores in the Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division which was the highest level of professional baseball in Venezuela. The Venezuelan “league” included the Senadores (12-4), Gavilanes (8-7-1), Caracas (7-8-1), Santa Marta (6-9-1) and Cardenales (5-10-1).

Cocaina led the “league” in pitching in 1936 with a record of 9-2 (.818) and in strikeouts with 78. When Garcia wasn’t pitching for the Senadores he played in the outfield. Cocaina hit .431 (25 for 58) for the season which was right behind Alejandro Oms (.433) for the “league” batting title. One of the highlights for the season for Manuel was beating Venezuelan ace Vidal Lopez by a score of 5-4 in a game that went 17 innings. Cocaina had 13 strikeouts in the game. Garcia also had 16 strikeouts in a nine inning game versus the Cardenales.

Behind the hitting and pitching of Negro Leaguers Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia and Ramon Bragana, the Senadores easily won the Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division championship with a record of 12-4 (.750).

Senadores vs Cardenales (1936)

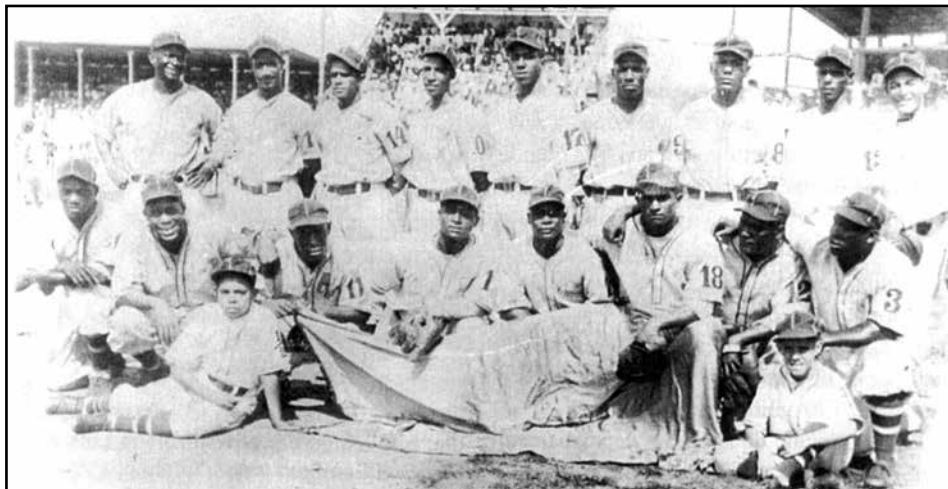
**Garcia Shuts Out the Cardenales
and Goes 2 for 3 at the Plate**

Cocaina Goes to the Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, Rafael Leonidas Trujillo who was the country's dictator was also a strong baseball supporter. He even owned his own team named the Ciudad Trujillo Dragones that he had formed by merging the two rival teams (Licey and Escogido) from Santiago Domingo. Trujillo's goal was very simple: win the Dominican League championship for the 1937 season, no matter what it cost. As a baseball fan this would bring him tremendous satisfaction but in his mind would also help preserve his political power in the country. Unfortunately for Trujillo, his two main political opponents backed the other two teams in the Dominican League. These teams represented the cities of Santiago (Aguilas Cibaenas) and San Pedro de Macoris (Estrellas Orientales).

Initially Trujillo's plan was to hire the best talent in Latin America. The two players he initially targeted for his team were Lazaro Salazar as his player manager and fellow Cuban Silvio Garcia. Trujillo signed Salazar, Garcia and several other Latin players to start the season. When the Dragones got off to a slow start at the beginning of the season, Trujillo sensed that his current roster might not be strong enough to guarantee a championship so he sent an emissary to the United States with a briefcase full of money and orders to return with the best "black" ballplayers money could buy. Trujillo's agent immediately went to New Orleans where the Pittsburgh Crawfords were conducting spring training. The player at the top of their signing list was Negro League star pitcher Satchel Paige. Money talked with Satchel and he signed with Ciudad Trujillo. With all of Trujillo's money and Paige's influence the following Negro League players were also signed to play for Ciudad Trujillo: Sam Bankhead, James "Cool Pappa" Bell, Josh Gibson, Robert Griffith, Leroy Matlock and Bill Perkins. Gus Greenlee, the owner of the Crawfords, was beside himself over losing Paige and his other stars. Greenlee even went to the United States State Department in Washington, D.C. to try and block the players from going to the Dominican Republic. Greenlee's appeals fell on deaf ears in Washington.

Estrellas Orientales and Aguilas Cibaenas quickly picked up on Trujillo's plan to sign Negro League players and were not going to be out done by Trujillo. They started signing their own big name Negro League and Latin players. Martin Dihigo headed up the Aguilas team, while Juan "Tetelo" Vargas was the leader of the Estrellas Orientales squad. The final rosters for the three Dominican teams looked more like Negro League all-star squads than the usual Latin winter league rosters. By the end of all the bidding wars and signings, the following players with Negro League experience had committed to play in the 1937 Dominican League.



Estrellas Orientales (1937)
Dominican Republic

Roster of Negro League Players in the Dominican Republic in 1937

Cuidad Trujillo

Herman Andrews
 Sam Bankhead
 James "Cool Pappa" Bell
 Perucho Cepeda
 Francisco "Cho Cho" Correa
 Rodolfo Fernandez
 Silvio Garcia
 Josh Gibson
 Robert Griffith
 Enrique Lantigua
 Leroy Matlock
 Satchel Paige
 Cy Perkins
 Lazaro Salazar
 Miguel Solis
 Harry Williams

Aguilas Cibaenas

Santos Amaro
 Chet Brewer
 Martin Dihigo
 Bert Hunter
 Cando Lopez
 Horacio Martinez
 Clarence Palm
 Roy Parnell
 Pat Patterson
 Clyde Spearman
 David Thomas
 Luis Tiant, Sr.

Estrellas Orientales

Pedro Arango
 Carlos Blanco
 Ramon Bragana
 Ernest Carter
 Edolfo "YoYo" Diaz
 Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia
 Alejandro Oms
 Javier "Blue" Perez
 Julio Rojo
 Pedro Alejandro San
 George "Tubby" Scales
 Juan "Tetelo" Vargas



Manuel Garcia and Ramon Bragana
 Dominican Republic

The Estrellas Orientales were led by the hitting of Ramon Bragana (.311), George Scales (.295), Juan "Tetelo" Vargas (.283), Radames Lopez (.260), Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia (.254), Pedro Arango (.250) and Alejandro Oms (.232).

Cocaina Garcia was the ace of Estrellas Orientales' pitching staff and finished the season with a record of 5-3. Ramon Bragana (4-7), Ernest Carter (1-0), Rogelio Teheran (1-2) and Yoyo Diaz (0-2) rounded out the pitching staff for the Estrellas Orientales team.

The 1937 Dominican League was closely contested the entire season. Cuidad Trujillo prevailed at the end of the season and won the league title with a record of 18-13 (.581). Aguilas Cibanaes (13-15) finished in second and Estrellas Orientales (11-14) was in third. The 1937 Dominican season was a huge success for the fans because they got to see some of the best baseball that was ever played in Latin America, but it was also a financial disaster. The tremendous amounts of money that was spent by the owners of the three teams to bring in foreign players bankrupted Dominican professional baseball for the next fourteen years.

After his season in the Dominican Republic, Cocaina Garcia signed with Caracas of the Serie Nacional in Venezuela. The "league" included the following teams: Vargas (13-3), Centauros (9-7), Venezuela (8-8), Santa Marta (7-9) and Caracas (3-13). Led by the pitching of Bertrum Hunter (12-2 w/ 1.26 ERA), Vargas dominated Venezuelan "league" opponents all season.

Garcia hit well during the 1937 season in Venezuela. He batted .363 and ended the season in third place behind Alejandro Oms (.368) and Rufino Mijares (.389) for the "league" batting title. Cocaina was also very effective on the mound with a 2.14 earned run average. Unfortunately, he played for the worst team in the "league" and didn't get any run support. His pitching won-loss record was 1-7 (.125) for the 1937 season.

Box Score						
Venezuela	Ab	C	H	O	A	E
Francisco Isturiz, ss	4	0	1	2	0	1
Foo "Cuco" Correa, 2b	5	1	1	2	3	0
"Bello" Alvarez, cf	5	0	0	0	0	0
"Cocaina" Garcia, p	3	2	2	1	3	0
M. A. Malpica, c	4	0	0	11	0	0
Daniel Canónico, 3b	4	1	2	1	0	0
Miguel Ibarra, rf	4	1	1	1	0	0
A. González, lf	4	1	0	2	1	1
Nieves Rendón, 1b	4	0	1	7	0	0
Totales	37	6	8	27	7	2
Vencedor	Ab	C	H	O	A	E
Luis Penzo, ss	4	0	1	1	3	2
Atilano Malpica, 3b, ss	4	0	0	2	3	0
Benítez Redondo, cf	4	0	0	0	0	0
Anthony Cooper, c	4	0	1	5	0	0
Javierito Pérez, 2b	3	1	1	0	4	0
Satchel Paige, p, 1b	4	0	1	7	1	0
Carlos Velásquez, lf, rf	3	1	0	1	0	0
Oscar Malpica, rf, lf	3	0	0	3	0	0
Hermenegildo García, 1b	2	0	0	7	0	0
Natividad Sanoja, p, cf	1	1	1	0	0	0
Eusebio Díaz, 3b	0	0	0	1	1	0
Jesús A. Hernández, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
S. Muñoz, 2b	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totales	33	3	6	27	12	2
Anotación por entradas						
Venezuela	200	000	004	6	8	2
Vencedor	000	010	020	3	5	2
Sumario						
Home run: "Cocaina" Garcia.						
Three base hits: Sanoja.						
Sacrifice hits: Isturiz.						
Hits a los pitchers: a "Cocaina" 5 en 9 innings; a Paige 2 en 6 innings; A Sanoja 2 en 2 1/3; a Hernández 2 en 2/3.						
Struckouts: "Cocaina" 11. Paige 4. Sanoja 1.						
Dead ball: Sanoja a "Cocaina".						
Quedados en base: Venezuela 6. Vencedor 3.						
Passed ball: Castro.						
Empujadores: "Cocaina" 2. Ibarra; Rendón, 2; Isturiz, Paige, Sanoja, Penzo.						
Carreras limpias: Correa, "Cocaina" 2, Ibarra, Canónico, A. González, J. Pérez, Sanoja.						
Bases robadas: J. Pérez, "Cocaina".						
Umpires: señores Mall, Pacheco y Chaparro.						
Anotador: "Baby Chiqui". Caracas, 15 de mayo de 1938.						

Venezuela vs Vencedor (1938)

Garcia Beats Satchel Paige on the Mound and Goes 2 for 3 with Homerun

Cocaina did his part during the 1939 season. He led the "league" in earned run average with a 1.88 ERA and innings pitched with 177. Venezuela played 23 games during the season and Cocaina Garcia was the starting pitcher in 22 of them. He compiled a "league" leading 18 complete games during the season. Unfortunately for Cocaina he did not get any run support the entire season and ended up with an 8-12 won-loss record. Venezuela ended the season in third place behind Valdes that came in second place and "league" champion Vargas. Garcia was rewarded for his efforts during the season by being selected to the Venezuelan All Star team.

Team Venezuela had only managed a record of 8-8 for the 1937 season and team owners wanted a championship. To turn the fortunes of their team around and bring a title to their franchise, Venezuela team owners signed Cocaina Garcia. Competing in the Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division in 1938 were Venezuela (12-4), Vargas (10-6-1), Valdes (6-9), Vencedor (5-9-3) and Premier (4-9-2).

Garcia did not disappoint the team's confidence in him. He registered 8 wins against 2 losses with two shutouts during the season to lead the team to a record of 12-4 (.750) and the "league" championship. During the 1938 season Cocaina beat Vencedor (Valencia) with the Negro League great Satchel Paige pitching for them. Garcia only gave up five hits and struck out 11 in the game in posting a 6-3 win. Cocaina also went 2 for 3 with a homerun, two runs batted in, two runs scored and a stolen base in the game.

In addition to being the ace of the pitching staff for Venezuela in 1938, Manuel also led the team in hitting with a .416 batting average. Only Santos Amaro of Valdes had a higher batting average for the season. Amaro hit .419 for the 1938 "league" season.

When the 1939 Venezuelan baseball season opened, Manuel Garcia was back on the mound for Venezuela to help them defend their "league" championship. Vargas (14-8-1), Valdes (13-9-1), Venezuela (9-13-1) and Centauros (8-14-1) all competed in the Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division for the 1939 season.

Box Score						
Cardenales	Ab	C	H	O	E	E
J. Pérez, rf	4	0	0	0	0	0
Balbino Inojosa, 2b	4	0	0	1	3	0
Harry Williams, c	3	0	0	6	2	0
Vidal López, lf	2	0	0	3	0	0
Benítez Redondo, cf	2	0	0	4	0	0
José A. Casanova, ss	3	0	0	0	2	0
V. Liendo, 1b	3	0	0	10	0	1
Fco. Landaeta, 3b	3	0	0	0	1	0
Barney Morris, p	3	0	0	0	0	0
Totales	27	0	0	24	8	1
Venezuela						
J. "Huesito" Vargas, cf	3	2	2	1	0	0
Javier Pérez, 2b	4	1	2	2	5	1
Daniel Canónico, 3b	4	0	1	0	3	0
Silvio García, ss	4	0	0	0	4	0
"Cocaína" García, p	4	0	1	0	0	0
C. Guevara, lf	4	0	2	0	0	0
Juan A. Requena, 1b	3	0	0	12	0	0
León Díaz, rf	4	0	0	3	0	0
César Núñez, c	3	0	1	9	1	0
Totales	32	4	9	27	13	1
Anotación por entradas						
Cardenales	000	000	000	0	0	2
Venezuela	000	020	20x	4	9	1
Sumario						
Three base hits: Javier Pérez.						
Hits a los pitchers: a "Cocaína" 0 en 9 innings, a Morris 9 en 8 innings.						
Sacrifice hits: Requena.						
Struckouts: "Cocaína" 10. Morris 7.						
Base robadas: Díaz.						
Carreras limpias: Núñez, J. "Huesito" Vargas 2, Javier Pérez.						
Double plays: Canónico a Javier Pérez a Requena.						
Pitcher ganador "Cocaína" García.						
Pitcher perdedor: Barney Morris.						
Umpires: señores Roberto Olivo, González y Sotomayor.						
Tiempo del juego: 1 hora 53 minutos.						
Anotador oficial: Baby Chiqui.						

Venezuela vs Cardenales (1940)

Garcia Pitches a No-Hitter

After the 1939 season Manuel "Cocaína" Garcia was selected to play for the Estrellas Venezolanas who were an all-star team formed to play a nine game exhibition series against the Gold Sox All Stars. Cocaína Garcia and Alejandro Carrasquel were the two featured players on the team. Other stars that played for the Estrellas Venezolanas against the Gold Sox were Ray Dandridge, Vidal Lopez, Leroy Matlock, Alejandro Oms and Javier "Blue" Perez. Cocaína pitched in three games for the Estrellas during the exhibition series. He had a 2-1 won-loss record for the series and in game eight pitched a shutout to give the Estrellas Venezolanas a commanding leading. In the final game of the series Cocaína played in the outfield and was the team's lead-off hitter. He went three for four in the game with two doubles and two runs scored. The Estrellas Venezolanas won the series six games to three for the Gold Sox.

The Campeonato de baseball de Primera Division in Venezuela only had three teams (Vargas, Venezuela and Cardenales) for the 1940 season. Like he had done the previous two seasons, Manuel Garcia returned to play for team Venezuela. Backed by the hitting of Javier "Blue" Perez (.389), Manuel Garcia (.329), Silvio Garcia (.324) and Jose "Huesito" Vargas (.313), Venezuela improved their run production from the year before. With improved run production and the pitching of Manuel "Cocaína" Garcia (9-6 w/ 92 strikeouts and a 2.90 ERA), the team improved its won-loss record from 9-13-1 (.375) to 13-8 (.619). Unfortunately, Vargas who had won the title the year before repeated as the "league" champion with a record of 16-5 (.762). Cardenales finished in last place with a record of 6-16 (.273).

The highlight of the 1940 season for Cocaína was pitching a no-hitter on August 10th against the Cardenales team. Garcia struck out 10 batters in the game.

Puerto Rican Winter League

During the winter of 1940-41 Manuel Garcia traveled to Puerto Rico to play for the Ponce Leones in the Puerto Rican Winter League. Ponce had an excellent hitting line-up that included Javier "Blue" Perez (.432), Pancho Coimbre (.401), Howard Easterling (.337), Juan Guilbe (.312) and Emilio Navarro (.311). Batting statistics for Cocaína for the 1940-41 Puerto Rican season are not reported. The pitching staff for the Leones during the winter league season included Tomas Quinonez (9-4), Max Manning (4-3), Jun Guilbe (4-6), Manuel Garcia (1-4) and Raul Escalante (1-5). As a team the Ponce Leones struggled during both halves of the season. Ponce ended the winter league season in Puerto Rico in next to last place in the final "league" standings with a record of 19-23 (.452). The Caguas Crillos (27-15) won the Puerto Rican Winter League championship.

After the 1940-41 Puerto Rican Winter League season, Manuel Garcia was selected to play for a Puerto Rican All Star team. The highlight of the exhibition series for Garcia was beating the Cincinnati Reds of the National League by a score of 4-3.

Cocaina Garcia Goes to Mexico

Prior to the start of the 1941 season, Manuel Garcia signed with Aguila de Vera Cruz of the Mexican League. The team was managed by Sergio Correa. Vera Cruz Aguila was led during the season by the hitting of Negro Leaguers Lou Dials (.385), Ed Stone (.336) and Jacinto Roque (.325). In 1941 Cocaina played 25 games in the outfield and pitched in 11 games during the season. He batted .316 (37 for 117) with a .444 slugging percentage and went 4-3 with a 3.41 ERA as a pitcher. His complete hitting statistics for the season are as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1941	Aguila	36	117	8	37	3	0	4	18	4	.316	.444

The down fall for Aguila during the 1941 season was their starting pitching rotation. The starting pitchers for Aguila in 1941 included: Armando "Indian" Torres (12-12 w/ 5.31 ERA), Bertrum Hunter (9-11 w/ 5.18 ERA), Juan Guerrero (9-13 w/ 4.48 ERA), Bud Barbee (5-5 w/ 8.48 ERA) and Luis Tiant, Sr. (2-5 w/ 5.05 ERA). Garcia was by far the team's most effective pitcher during the 1941 season with a 3.41 ERA.

Lazaro Salazar managed the Vera Cruz Azules to the Mexican League championship in 1941 with a record of 67-35 (.657). The Azules were led by Negro Leaguers Josh Gibson (.376), Ray Dandridge (.367), Willie Wells (.347), Lazaro Salazar (.336 and 7-3 on the mound), Barney Brown (16-5) and Ramon Bragana (13-8). Aguila finished 22 ½ games behind the Vera Cruz Azules with a record of 44-57 (.436).

When Vera Cruz Aguila did not field a team for the 1942 season, Cocaina Garcia signed with the Puebla Pericos. The team was managed by Jose Luis Gomez before he lost his job to Guillermo Ornelas. With the exception of Betrum Hunter, Puebla fielded an all Latin roster for the 1942 season. Pedro Pages (.365), Jose Rodriquez (.326), Napoleon Perez (.323) and Carlos Galina (.321) led the team in hitting. Manuel hit .275 with a .420 slugging percentage for the season. During the season Manuel only struck out 9 times in 193 at bats for Puebla.

Cocaina Garcia was the ace of the pitching staff for Puebla. He went 19-14 with a 3.83 ERA. Agapito Mayor (8-7) and Bert Hunter (8-13) were the team's other two primary starting pitchers.

Puebla finished the season with a record of 42-45 (.483). They were 5 ½ games behind the Torreon team (48-40) that was led by player-manager Martin Dihigo (.319 w/ 22-7 record on the mound). Puebla ended the season in fourth place in the final Mexican League standings.

Manuel Garcia was selected to play in the Mexican League All Star game in 1942 which was played on September 16th in Mexico, D.F. Cocaina played for the Estrellas del Sur team who won the game by a score of 15-6.

Garcia returned to Puebla for the 1943 Mexican League season. Puebla was still an all Latin team with the exception of Bert Hunter and was managed by Eugenio Morin. The team had a strong hitting line-up that included Juan Luna (.357), Pedro Pages (.353), Hank Guerra (.313), Alberto Hernandez (.309) and Jacinto Roque (.309). Manuel Garcia had a good season at the plate batting .288. The starting pitchers for Puebla were Agapito Mayor (16-15), Cocaina Garcia (16-12), Sandy Ulrich (14-14) and Manuel Echeverria (13-18).

Puebla finished the season in third place with a 44-43 (.506) record. Lazaro Salazar led the Monterrey Sultanes to the "league" title with a record of 53-37 (.589).

After the regular 1943 season in Mexico, Cocaina traveled to Venezuela to play for Magallanes of the Venezuelan Professional League. The 1943-44 winter league season in Venezuela included teams representing Magallanes (12-5-1), Cerverceria Caracas (9-8-1), Victoria (9-9) and Venezuela (4-12-2).

During the winter of 1943-44 Cocaina also pitched for a team by the name of the "Cuban Stars." One box score has been found for Garcia pitching for the Cuban Stars. Manuel won the game pitching a three hit shutout. He collected 8 strikeouts in the game.

During the 1944 Venezuelan season, Cocaina was brilliant on the mound, started five games and won all five of his starts for a perfect 5-0 record. Three of these five starts went for complete games. Garcia's brilliant pitching combined with the hitting of Vidal Lopez (.373), Cuco Correa (.368) and Alejandro Oms (.306) resulted in a "league" championship for Magallanes.

Manuel Garcia was back in Mexico with Puebla for the 1944 baseball season. The top hitters for the team in 1944 were Alberto Hernandez (.395), Pedro Pages (.347) and Roberto Avila (.334). Splitting his time between pitching and the outfield, Garcia batted .281.

Puebla fielded a good hitting team for the season but struggled in the pitching department. Only Adrian Zabala (10-2 w/ 2.74 ERA) posted an ERA under 4.00 for the season. Cocaina went 13-10 with a 4.24 ERA for the year.

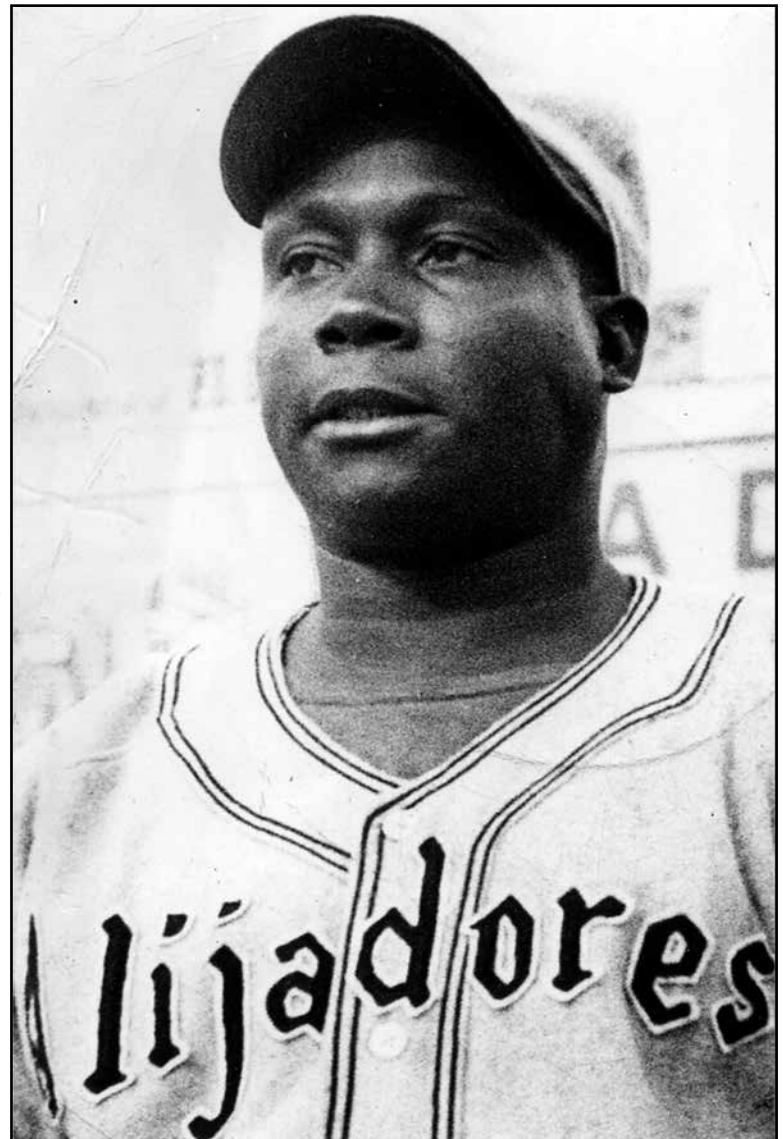
Under the management of Eugenio Moran, the team improved on their record from the year before. Puebla finished the season in third place in the Mexican League just 2 ½ games behind Vera Cruz (52-37). Puebla had a won-loss record of 49-39 (.557) in 1944.

In August of 1944 Cocaina Garcia was selected to play in the Mexican League All Star game. Garcia played for the Estrellas del Sur squad.

Before the start of the 1945 Mexican League season, Manuel Garcia moved to the Tampico Alijadores. Former Major Leaguer and Cuban great Armando Marsans managed the team.

Santos Amaro (.330), Hector Rodriguez (.326), Barney Serrell (.313) and Angel Castro (.289) were the leading hitters for the 1945 season for the Alijadores. Manuel hit .270 for the year. Garcia played 43 games in the outfield and appeared in 35 games as a pitcher. The starting pitchers for Tampico were Jesus Valenzuela (19-11), Cocaina Garcia (18-11) and Henry McHenry (12-12).

Tampico played great team baseball during the season and at the end of the year they were crowned the Mexican League champions. Tampico went 52-38 (.578) for the year. Monterrey and Nuevo Laredo tied for second place with a 48-42 record.



Tampico Alijadores (1945)

Manuel Garcia was back with Tampico in 1946 to help them defend their "league" championship. Armando Marsans returned as manager and brought in several new players for the season. Hector Rodriquez (.320), Lonnie Summers (.306), Murray Franklin (.300), Angel Castro (.298) and Andy Anderson (.290) were the team's leading hitters. Cocaina Garcia had an off year at the plate and his .227 batting average was one of the lowest of his entire career.

On the mound Garcia had a very good year in 1946. He went 14-10 with a 2.76 ERA. Other top pitchers on the team were Lazaro Medina (15-10 w/ 2.49 ERA), Raymond Brown (13-9) and Jesus Valenzuela (12-10 w/ 2.91 ERA).

Led by an excellent pitching staff and timely hitting, the Alijadores repeated as Mexican League champions. They finished the year with a 56-41 (.577) record and ended the season just one game ahead of Mexico (55-42).

During the winter of 1946-47 Garcia traveled to Venezuela to play for Magallanes in the Venezuelan Professional League. The following four teams played in the "league" during the season: Caracas (23-13), Magallanes (20-16), Vargas (16-19) and Venezuela (12-23). Cocaina who was now 41 years old and approaching the end of his career had a good season with Magallanes. On the mound he pitched in seven games, five of which he started. He had a 3-2 won-loss record with three complete games. At the plate he still had his swing and hit .367 (11 for 30) for Magallanes.

It is unclear if or where Manuel played baseball during the regular 1947 season.

Box Score del 5o. Juego sin Hit ni Carrera CELEBRADO EL 10 DE ABRIL DE 1948 EN EL PARQUE LA ISLETA DE TAMPICO, TAMPS.



Cocaina Garcia Unico Zurdo

VERACRUZ	V.	C.	H.	O.	A.	E.	TAMPICO	V.	C.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Castaño, 2b.	4	0	0	2	2	1	Ibáñez, ss	4	0	1	0	6	0
C. Blanco, 3b.	3	0	0	0	1	0	H. Rodríguez, 3b.	4	0	2	3	1	0
A. Castro, 1b.	3	0	0	12	1	0	Sommers, c.	3	0	1	1	1	0
Dandridge, ss.	3	0	0	4	1	0	Amaro, rf.	2	0	0	1	0	0
J. M. Castro, rf.	2	0	0	2	0	0	Al Jiménez, lf.	3	0	0	3	0	0
Davenport, cf.	3	0	0	1	0	0	C. Galina, 1b.	4	0	0	15	0	0
Barba, lf.	2	0	0	2	0	0	J. Gutiérrez, 2b.	3	1	1	1	6	0
Chiquini, c.	1	0	0	1	0	0	E. Cruz, cf.	2	0	0	3	0	0
J. L. Sánchez, c.	0	0	0	0	0	0	Cocaina, p.	3	1	2	0	1	0
a-Cárdenas	1	0	0	0	0	0	Totales:	28	2	7	27	15	0
De la Cruz, p.	2	0	0	0	4	0	Veracruz	000	000	000	—	0	
b-Polin	1	0	0	0	0	0	Tampico	002	000	00x	—	2	
Totales:	25	0	0	24	9	1							

a, bateó por Sánchez en la 9a.— b, bateó por De la Cruz en la 9a.— S: Sánchez; Cruz, Jiménez, Amaro.— H3: Cocaina.— DP: Castaño a Dandridge a A. Castro; Ibáñez a Gutiérrez a Galina.— CP: Cocaina, Ibáñez.— CL: a De la Cruz 2.— SO: Cocaina 1; De la Cruz 1.— BB: Cocaina 2; De la Cruz 1.— Gp: Amaro por De la Cruz.— Pb: Sánchez.— DB: Veracruz 1; Tampico 7.— U: Contreras y González.— T: 1.22 hs.— Anotó: Dionisio B. Hernández.

After a year's absence in Mexico, Manuel Garcia returned to Mexico to play for Tampico in 1948. Garcia started the season with Tampico before being traded to Puebla as they made a run at the "league" title. Splitting his time between the two teams he played 14 games in the outfield and pitched in 21 games. He had a very good season batting .316 and going 4-3 with a 3.86 ERA on the mound. The highlight of the season in 1948 for the 43 year old Cocaina occurred on April 10th when he pitched a 2-0 no-hitter for Tampico against Vera Cruz.

The Monterrey Sultanes (50-35) with Lazaro Salazar at the helm won the Mexican League title. Puebla (47-38) finished in second place and Tampico (34-33) ended up in third place.

Garcia started the 1949 season with Aguila before being traded to the Nuevo Laredo Telecotes. Unfortunately for Cocaina both teams finished the season with losing records and well out of contention for the "league" title. Manuel led Nuevo Laredo in both hitting (.296) and pitching (8-5) during the season. He played 35 games in the outfield and pitched in 26 games during the 1949 season. Cocaina was also the only pitcher on the Nuevo Laredo squad with a winning record for the 1949 season. This was Garcia's last season in Mexico.

Manuel Garcia Pitches No-Hitter (1948)

Garcia Returns to the Dominican Republic

Cocaina returned to the Dominican Republic in 1952 as a player-coach for the Estrellas Orientales.



Estrellas Orientales (1952)
Dominican League

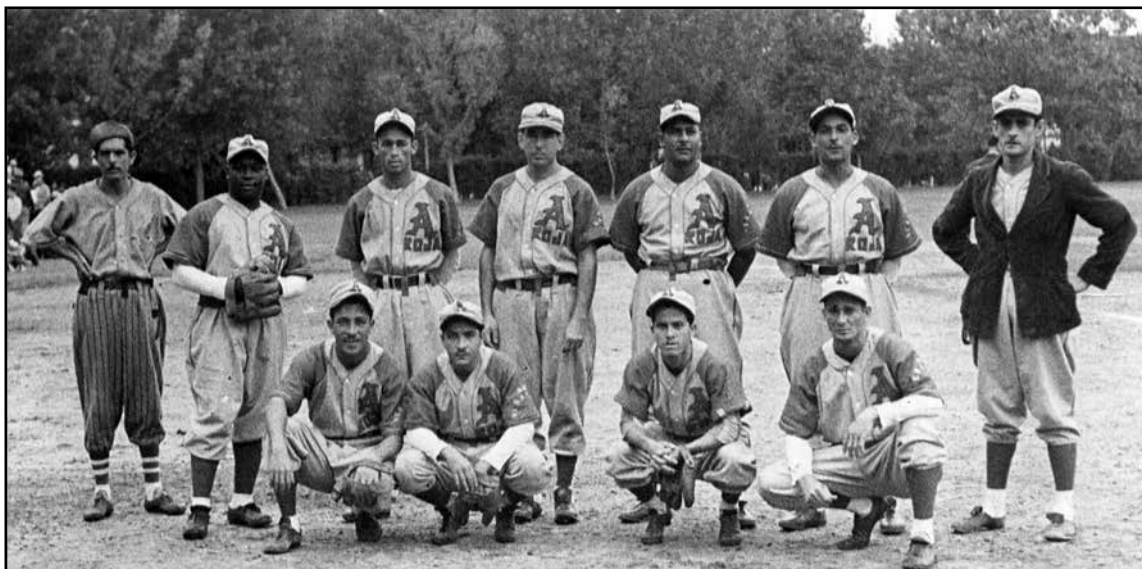
Cuban Winter League Career

Manuel Garcia started his professional baseball career in Cuba in 1926 when he signed to play for the Almendares Alacranes of the Cuban Winter League. During the 1926 winter league season, Garcia pitched and played in the outfield for Almendares. League play started on October 9, 1926 and the season concluded play on January 3, 1927. Almendares was managed by Alfredo Cabrera when the season started and then replaced later in the season by Armado Marsans. The Alacranes played their games at Almendares Park.

The Alacranes were led during the season by the hitting of Justo Lopez (.393), Armando Marsans (.301) and Valentin Dreke (.284). Mario Pedemonte (3-1), Jose Hernandez (2-2), Rogelio Alonso (2-2), Manuel Garcia (2-2) and Lucas Boada (1-4) all started games for Almendares during the season. Cocaina pitched in eight games and had three complete games for Almendares.

The Cuban Winter League struggled all season. First a hurricane hit the island on November 8th and severely damaged Almendares Park. Secondly, a rival "league" that had started play on October 28th raided the Cuban Winter League all season for players.

When the season ended the final order of finish in the "official" league standings was as follows: Habana (19-11), Cuba (9-13), Almendares (11-15) and Cienfuegos (6-6). Cienfuegos had dropped out of the league on November 13th.



Almendares Alacranes (1926-27)
Cuban Winter League
(Garcia – standing second from left)

Before the start of the 1927-28 Cuban Winter League season, Cocaina signed with team Cuba. The team was managed by Armando Marsans who had managed Garcia with Almendares the season before. In the five games he pitched for Cuba he had two complete games and had a 2-1 won-loss record.

Cocaina also played for the Habana Leones during the 1927-28 season. The Leones were the best team in the league and easily won the Cuban Winter League title by 8 games with a final record of 24-13 (.649).

Playing for a championship team like Habana was a great experience for Manuel, but there was also a downside because of all of the top level players on the Leones roster. Jud Wilson (.424), Martin Dihigo (.415), Chino Smith (.342), Alejandro Oms (.324), Ramon Herrera (.315) and Manuel Cueto (.307) led the hitting attack for Habana. With all the fire power in their lineup, Habana had a team batting average of .310 and scored 208 runs in just 33 games for an average of over 6 runs a game. The pitching staff for Habana was anchored by Oscar Levis (7-2), Cliff Bell (6-2) and Martin Dihigo (4-2). During the 1927-29 season Manuel Garcia appeared in only two games as a pitcher and had a 0-1 record. He also played several games in the outfield.

When Armando Marsans took over as manager of the Almendares Alacranes before the start of the 1928-29 season, one of the first things he did was recruit Cocaina to come back to Almendares. The 1928-29 season started on October 20, 1928 and ended on January 6, 1929.

During the season George Scales (.321), Jose Maria Fernandez (.318), Jose Rodriguez (.313) and Clint Thomas (.290) were the team's best hitters. The starting pitcher for the Alacranes during the season were Cesar Alvarez (6-5), Andy Cooper (6-6), Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia (2-5) and Silvino Ruiz (2-1). Cocaina pitched and also played in the outfield for the Alacranes during the season.

The Habana Leones started the season strong winning fourteen of their first sixteen games and no one could catch them during the season. Before the end of the regular season both team Cuba and Cienfuegos dropped out of the "league." This left only Almendares and Habana to finish out the season. The Almendares Alacranes finished the season in second place with a record of 31-21 (.596). Habana won the title with a record of 43-12 (.782).

Manuel Garcia returned to Almendares for the 1929-30 season. The season started on October 26th and ended on January 23rd. Jose Rodriguez was the manager of the team.



Almendares Alacranes (1929-30)
Cuban Winter League

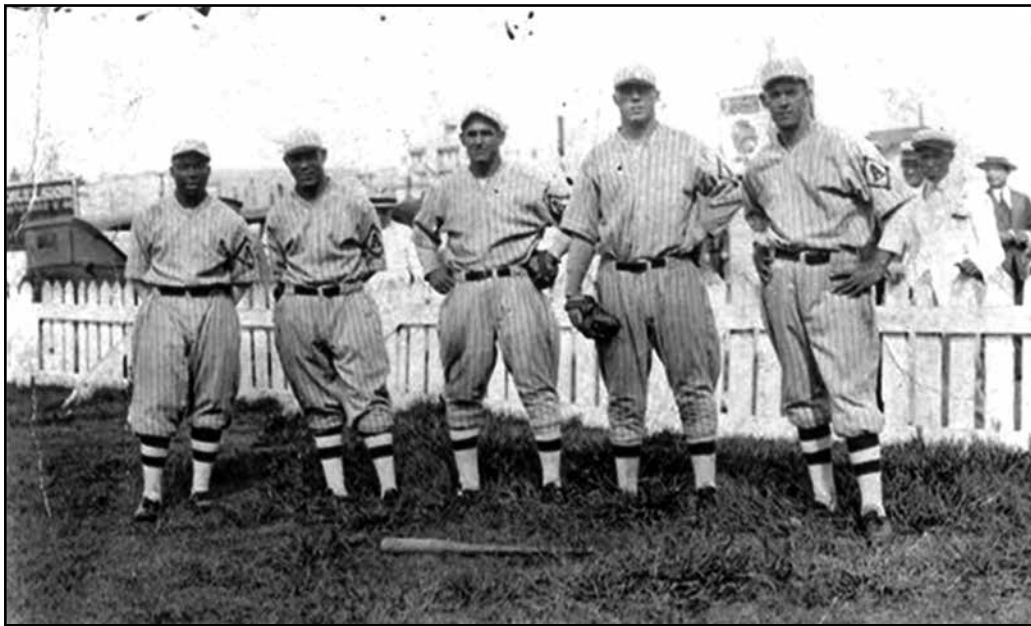
(Standing left to right- **Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia**, Cando Lopez, unknown, Jose Maria Fernandez, **Dick Lundy**, **Herbert “Rap” Dixon**, Emilio Sarda, unknown, and Johnny Allen. Kneeling left to right – **Isidro Fabre**, Silvino Ruiz, **Larry Brown**, Oscar Rodriguez, Joseito Rodriguez and **Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle**)

Most of the Almendares hitters struggled during the season. Only Dick Lundy (.333) hit over .300 for the season. Martin Dihigo (.283) and Larry Brown (.280) were the team’s next two best hitters. Johnny Allen (7-4), Manuel Garcia (4-4), Silvino Ruiz (4-7), Isidro Fabre (3-2) and Cesar Alvarez (2-4) were the team’s starting pitchers during the 1929-30 season. Cocaina pitched in twelve games and had six complete games for the Alacranes during the 1929-30 season.

Almendares finished the season in third place with a record of 23-26 (.469). Cienfuegos led the “league” with a 32-19 (.627) record and Santa Clara (21-21) finished in second place.

The 1930 Cuban Winter League season lasted only five games from October 25th to October 30th. The “league” ended abruptly because of a dispute between the management of La Tropical Stadium and the team owners.

Before the start of the 1930 season Adolfo Luque took over as manager of Almendares. Luque returned most of Almendares pitching staff from the season before including Cocaina Garcia. In his only start for the season Garcia pitched a shutout and won the game. In the game Cocaina went three for four with two doubles. Almendares won three of the four games they played in the shortened 1930 season and were recognized as the “league” champion.



Almendares Alacranes (1930)
Cuban Winter League

(Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia, unknown, unknown, Johnny Allen and unknown)

The collapse of the 1930 regular Cuban Winter League season prompted team owners to put together another season. This “new” season was called “UNICO – Special Season.” The season lasted only 25 games. It started on November 2nd and concluded play on November 24th.

Cocaina Garcia was recruited by Mike Gonzalez, manager of the Habana Leones, to join his team. Habana was led during the UNICO season by the hitting of Charlie Dressen (.347), Juan Vargas (.318), Chino Smith (.273) and Julio Rojo (.250). Most of the Habana hitters struggled at the plate all season and their lack of run production made it difficult on their pitching staff. The pitching staff for Habana included Johnny Allen (2-2), Cliff Bell (1-3), Chet Brewer (1-2), Silvino Ruiz (1-0) and Manuel Garcia (0-2).

There were four teams that played in the “UNICO” season. Their records and final order of standing was as follows: Almendarista (9-4), Marianao (9-5), Habana (5-9) and Cienfuegos (2-7).

When Manuel Garcia returned to Cuba for the 1931-32 winter season, he was back with his old team the Almendares Alacranes. There were only three teams (Almendares, Habana and Regla) that played in the “league” during the 1931-32 season. Almendares was managed by Joseito Rodriquez and fielded an all Latin line-up.

Almendares got excellent hitting from Ramon Couto (.400), Carlos Etchegoyan (.368), Manuel Garcia (.364), Jose Ramos (.333), Oscar Rodriquez (.333) and Manuel Cueto (.308). In addition their pitching staff was outstanding. Rodolfo Fernandez (8-3), Juan Eckelson (5-1), Manuel Garcia (4-0), Isidro Fabre (2-3) and Juan Montero (2-1) were the leading pitchers for the team.

Almendares started the season strong and never let up the entire season. Almendares walked away with the 1931-32 Cuban Winter League title with a record of 21-9 (.700).

It would be three seasons before Cocaina Garcia returned to Cuba to play winter baseball. Before the start of the 1935-36 season, Emilio de Armas formed a “new” team, the Santa Clara Leopards, to play in the upcoming Cuban Winter League season. The 1935-36 Cuban Winter League season included the Almendares Alacranes, Habana Leones, Marianao Tigres and Santa Clara Leopards. The season started on October 26th and ended on January 28th.

The first thing Emilio de Armas did when he was putting his team together was to hire Martin Dihigo as the team's player/manager. When Emilio and Martin were putting their roster together, one of the first players they went after was Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia. Having Garcia on their roster gave them an outstanding starting pitcher who could also hit and play in the outfield.

Santa Clara was led by the hitting of Martin Dihigo (.358), Willie Wells (.356), Bill Perkins (.323) and Alejandro Oms (.311). Garcia hit .273 for the season and drove in 10 runs.

Besides managing the team, Martin Dihigo was also the ace of the pitching staff with a record of 11-2 (.846). Heliodoro Diaz (8-4), Marino Rodriguez (7-2), Leandro Forbes (4-0) and Manuel Garcia (4-5) all had good seasons on the mound. In the eight games Garcia started he had seven complete games.

With solid hitting and exceptional pitching, the Santa Clara Leopards easily dominated "league" competition. The Leopards finished the season with a record of 34-14 (.708). They were six games ahead of the second place Almendares Alacranes (28-20).

Manuel Garcia did not return to Cuba to play ball for the 1936-37 Cuban Winter League.

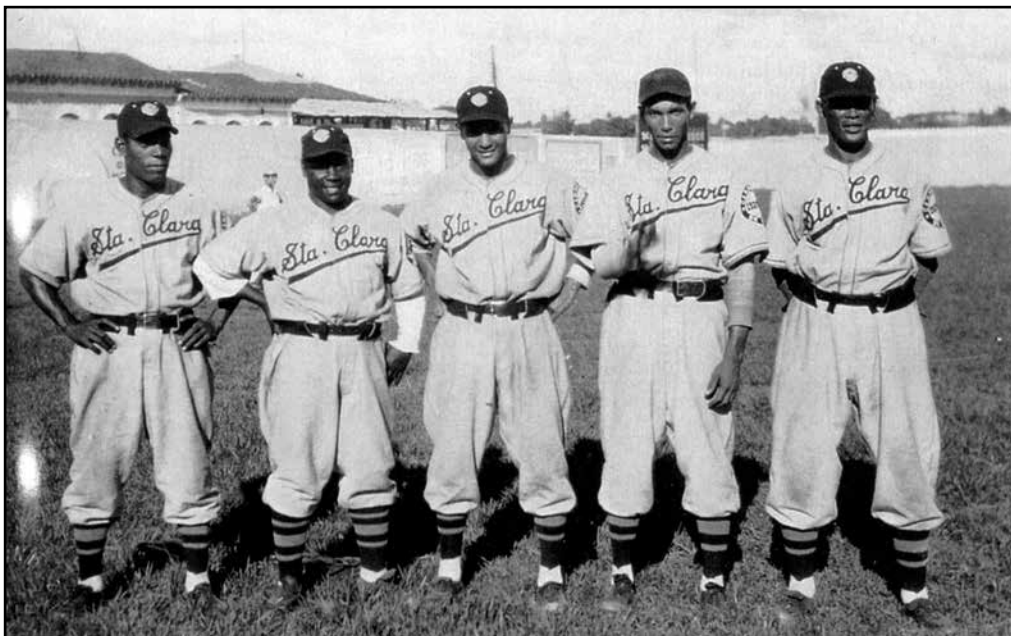
He did return to Cuba in 1937 to help the Santa Clara Leopards try to reclaim their Cuban Winter League championship. After finishing the 1936-37 season in second place, Emilio Armas was determined to make whatever changes it took to put Santa Clara back on top in the "league." One of the first things Armas did was replace Julio Rojo who had managed the 1936-37 team with Lazaro Salazar as the player/manager of the Leopards.



Santa Clara Leopards (1937-38)

(**Josh Gibson** – back row fourth from right, **Manuel Garcia** – kneeling second on left and **Sam Bankhead** – kneeling first on left)

Santa Clara Leopards – Cuban Winter League Champions (1938-39)



Santa Clara's Starting Pitching Staff (1938-39)

(Armando "Indian" Torrez, Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia, Lazaro Salazar, Johnny Taylor and Raymond Brown)



Santa Clara Leopards (1938-39)

(Jose Vargas, Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia, Lazaro Salazar and Santos Amaro)

Santa Clara fielded an excellent hitting team during the 1937-38 season. They got base hits and scored runs. Over the season Sam Bankhead (.366), Santos Amaro (.326), Lazaro Salazar (.318), Alejandro Oms (.315), Manuel Garcia (.304) and Bill Perkins (.281) led the team in hitting. Cocaina Garcia also had 32 runs batted in for the season. Only Sam Bankhead had more runs batted in with 34 RBIs.

The pitching staff for the Leopards was incredibly good. Ray Brown (12-5) and Robert Griffith (12-6) were the team's top two pitchers. Jorge Comellas (4-3), Lazaro Salazar (3-0) and Manuel Garcia (3-4) also pitched for Santa Clara.

Armas' plan for rebuilding Santa Clara worked to perfection. The Leopards ran away with the "league" title. The final Cuban Winter League standings for the 1937-38 season were as follows:

Cuban Winter League (1937-38)

Team	Record	Pct.	Games Behind
Santa Clara Leopards	44-18	.710	-
Almendares Alacranes	40-23	.635	4 ½
Marianao Tigres	35-28	.556	9 ½
Habana Leones	8-58	.125	38

Manuel Garcia and Lazaro Salazar returned to Cuba during the winter of 1938 to help Santa Clara defend their Cuban Winter League championship.



Santa Clara Leopards (1938-39)

(Standing left to right – Tony Castano, Santos Amaro, Emilio de Armas, **Josh Gibson**, **Lazaro Salazar** and **Ray Brown**. Kneeling left to right – Armando Torres, **Manuel Garcia**, Rafael Ruiz, **Sam Bankhead**, Sungo Pedroso and Pollo Rodriguez.)

The 1938-39 Santa Clara team was an excellent hitting team that included Tony Castano (.371), Josh Gibson (.356 w/ 11 HR and 39 RBIs), Santos Amaro (.366 w/ 49 RBIs), Jose Vargas (.333) and Lazaro Salazar (.293). Garcia hit .240 for the season with 21 runs batted in.

Cocaina Garcia became the ace of the pitching staff during the season. Garcia started 19 games and had 10 complete games to go along with an 11-4 (.733) won-loss record. Ray Brown (11-7) and Lazaro Salazar (6-2) provided additional support the Leopards' pitching staff. Cocaina led the Cuban Winter League in shutouts with three during the 1938-39 season.

With Lazaro Salazar at the helm, the Santa Clara Leopards played excellent team baseball all season and when the season had concluded on January 29th they had repeated as Cuban Winter League champions. Santa Clara finished the 1938-39 season with a record of 34-20 (.630). They were five games ahead of the Habana Leones (29-25).

Garcia played briefly for the Cienfuegos Elefantés during the 1939-40 season and was also in Cuba when the American Series was held in March of 1940. Cocaina was selected by manager Adolfo Luque to play for the Cuban All Star team that played the Cincinnati Reds in an exhibition series that was held at La Tropical Stadium. The American Series was played from March 21st to March 31st. Cocaina lost the game he pitched by a score of 6-1. The Cubans broke even against their Major League opponents with a won-loss record of 1-1-1.



Cienfuegos Elefantés (1939-40)
(Martin Dihigo – back row fourth from right and Manuel Garcia – back row first on right)

The 1940-41 season was the last time that Santa Clara would field a team in the Cuban Winter League. Manuel Garcia returned to pitch and play in the outfield for the Leopards.

Santa Clara faced difficulties all season. First they changed managers during the season. Pelayo Chacon started the season as the team's manager before he was replaced by Julio Rojo. Secondly, the team struggled at the plate all season. Silvio Garcia who hit .314 was the only player to hit over .300 for the season. Antonio Rodriguez (.290) and Santos Amaro (.278) were the team's next two best hitters. As a team the Leopards only had three homeruns for the entire season. Lastly, the pitching staff was only mediocre at best. The Santa Clara pitching staff for the 1940-41 season included Armando "Indian" Torres (8-7), Rene Monteagudo (6-4), Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia (4-5), Bud Barbee (3-6) and Silvino Ruiz (2-1).

Santa Clara ended the 1940-41 season tied with the Cienfuegos Elefantes for second place in the final “league” standings. Both teams had identical records of 25-26 (.490). Habana under the direction of Mike Gonzalez won the title with a record of 31-18 (.633).

When Santa Clara did not field a team for the 1941-42 season, Manuel Garcia signed with the Habana Leones. Only three teams (Almendares, Cienfuegos and Habana) played in the “league” during the 1940-41 season. Habana was managed by Mike Gonzalez.

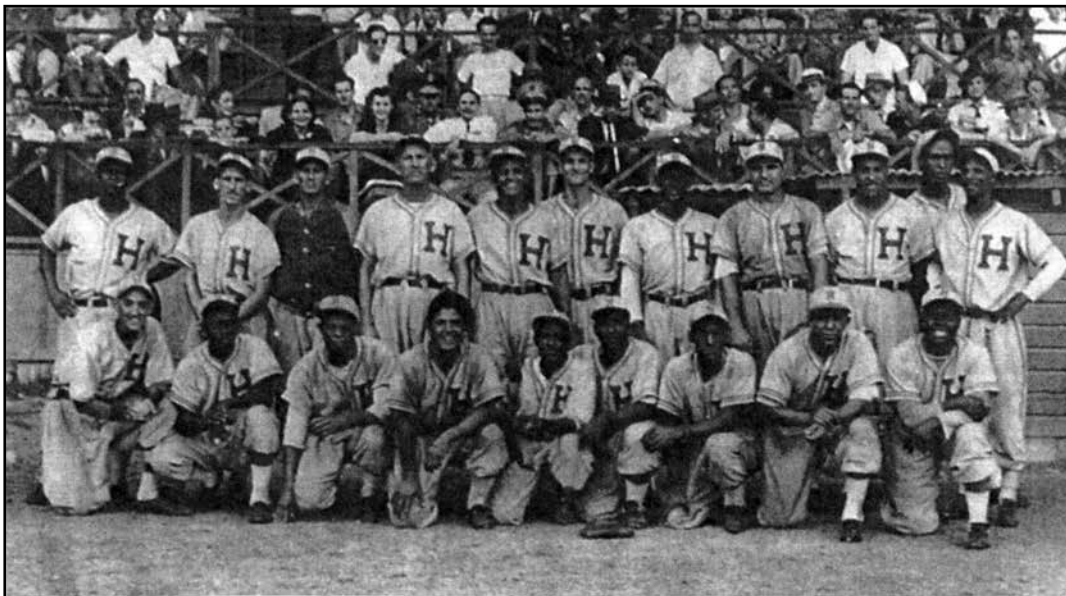
The Leones were a dreadful hitting team during the season. Alberto Hernandez (.252) and Roberto Estalella (.250) were the team’s top hitters. Seven players on the team hit under .200 for the season. In addition Habana only hit three homeruns during the season and Roberto Estalella hit two of them to go along with his team leading 27 runs batted in.

Habana’s pitching staff kept them in games and enabled the Leones to finish the season with a decent record. Martin Dihigo (8-3), Gilberto Torres (6-7), Rodolfo Fernandez (5-4) and Manuel Garcia (3-5) anchored the team’s pitching staff. Cocaina had seven complete games during the season.

The Almendares Alacranes won the 1941-42 Cuban Winter League title with a record of 25-19 (.568). Habana (23-21) finished in second place and Cienfuegos (18-26) ended up in third place.

World War II was still going when the 1942-43 Cuban Winter League season was played. For this reason no players from the United States came to Cuba. Manuel Garcia returned to Habana to play for Mike Gonzalez.

The 1942-43 was a hall mark season for Cocaina. He was the ace of the pitching staff with a 10-3 record and led the team in hitting with a .340 batting average. Cocaina led the “league” in wins and was selected to the Cuban Winter League All Star team at the end of the season.



Habana Leones (1942-43)

(Back row left to right – Julio Rojo, Antonio Ordenana, Juan Montero, **Mike Gonzalez**, Carlos Blanco, Gilberto Torres, Clemente Carreras, Salvador Hernandez, **Rodolfo Fernandez**, **Martin Dihigo** and **Juan “Tetelo” Vargas**.
Kneeling left to right – C. Gonzalez, Rafael Villa-Cabrera, Cuco Corraera, Herberto Blanco, Clubhouse Attendant Alfárito, Saguitta Hernandez, Rogelio Bolanos, **Horacio Martinez** and **Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia**.)

Habana had a good hitting team that included Carlos Blanco (.327 w/ 25 RBIs), Gilberto Torres (.301), Herberto Blanco (.294 w/25 RBIs) and Alberto Hernandez (.278 w/24 RBIs).

Manuel Garcia was the team's best pitcher with 8 complete games in 18 starts and a 10-3 record. Gilberto Torres (5-9), Martin Dihigo (4-8) and Rodolfo Fernandez (3-3) rounded out the starting rotation.

There were only three teams that played in the 1942-43 Cuban Winter League. The final order of finish at the end of the season was as follows: Almendares (28-20), Habana (24-24) and Cienfuegos (20-28).

The 1942-43 season established Cocaina Garcia as one of the best pitchers in Cuba and he was back in Cuba playing for Habana for the 1943-44 season to build on what he had accomplished the season before. As good as he was during the 1942-43 season, he performed even better during the 1943-44 season. Not only was he the ace of Habana's pitching staff but along with teammate Martin Dihigo (8-1 w/ 2.23 ERA), they were the two best pitchers in the Cuban Winter League.



Habana Leones (1943-44)

(Standing left to right- Luis Navarro, Julio Rojo, Antonio Ordenana, Rogelio Linares, Jorge Comellas, **Martin Dihigo**, **Mike Gonzalez**, Gilberto Torres, Rodolfo Fernandez, Antonio Ruiz, Salvador Hernandez and Alfredo Suarez. Kneeling left to right – C. Gonzalez, **Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia**, Raul Navarro, Rene Monteagudo, **Lloyd “Ducky” Davenport**, Juan Leon, Roberto Estalella, Carlos Blanco and Herberto Blanco)

During the 1943-44 season Cocaina Garcia won twelve (12) consecutive games on his way to a Cuban Winter League leading 12-4 record. Garcia also led the “league” in shutouts with three. Garcia also pitched eight complete games during the season. At the end of the season, he was selected to the Cuban Winter League all-star team. In addition Manuel hit .431 for the season. Unfortunately he did not have enough at bats to qualify for the “league” batting title.

The highlight of the 1943-44 season for Cocaina occurred on December 11, 1943 when he pitched the first ever no-hitter at La Tropical Stadium in Havana and only the fifth no-hitter in the history of Cuban professional baseball. Garcia beat the Marianao Tigres in this historic game.

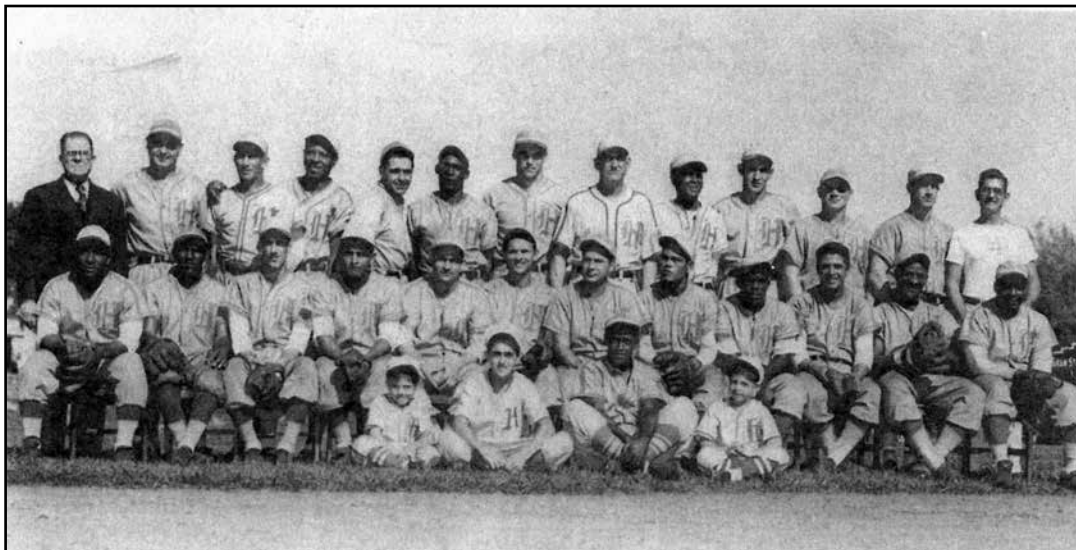
The Habana Leones fielded a truly outstanding team during the 1943-44 season. Seven of their players made the Cuban Winter League All Star team at the end of the season. Besides Manuel Garcia (.431), the top hitters for the Leones included Roberto Estalella (.336), Gilberto Torrez (.333), Carlos Blanco (.307) and Ducky Davenport (.305). Garcia (12-4) and Dihigo (8-1) were supported on the mound by Gilberto Torrez (6-6), Jorge Comellas (5-3) and Rodolfo “Rudy” Fernandez (1-1).

With both outstanding hitters and pitchers Habana dominated “league” opponents all season. Under the direction of Mike Gonzalez, the Habana Leones won the 1943-44 Cuban Winter League title with a record of 32-16 (.667). They finished the season with a six game lead over second place Almendares (26-22).

Manuel Garcia returned to Cuba to play for the Habana Leones for the 1944-45 Cuban Winter League season. The season opener was delayed because a hurricane had struck the island on October 18th and caused significant damage to La Tropical Stadium. The stands and scoreboard were totally destroyed. The Cuban Winter League season opened on October 28th and concluded play on February 11th.

Habana suffered from the lack of hitting during the 1944-45 season. No player hit over .300 for the season. Herberto Blanco (.281), Salvador Hernandez (.276) and Rene Monteagudo (.262) were the team’s leading hitters. As a team Habana hit only six homeruns for the entire season. Manuel Garcia batted .259 for season.

Lack of run production affected the pitcher’s won-loss records. Manuel Garcia was the team’s best pitcher with a record of 8-5 and an earned run average of 2.80. Cocaina also led the Cuban Winter League in complete game with nine during the 1944-45 season. Jorge Comellas (6-7), Pedro Jimenez (6-8) and Martin Dihigo (3-3) also pitched for the Leones during the season.



Habana Leones (1945-46)

(Standing left to right – Alfredo Suarez, Salvador Hernandez, Juan Montero, **Terris McDuffie**, Pedro Jimenez, Raul Navarro, **Dick Sisler**, Mike Gonzalez, Julio Rojo, Fred Martin, Art Rebel, Lou Klein and Luis Navarro. Seated left to right – Saguita Hernandez, Mantecado Linares, Antonio Ordenana, Carlos Blanco, Julian Acosta, Chino Hidalgo, Rene Monteagudo, Lazaro Medina, **Cecil Kaiser**, Herberto Blanco, **Pedro Formental** and **Manuel Garcia**.)

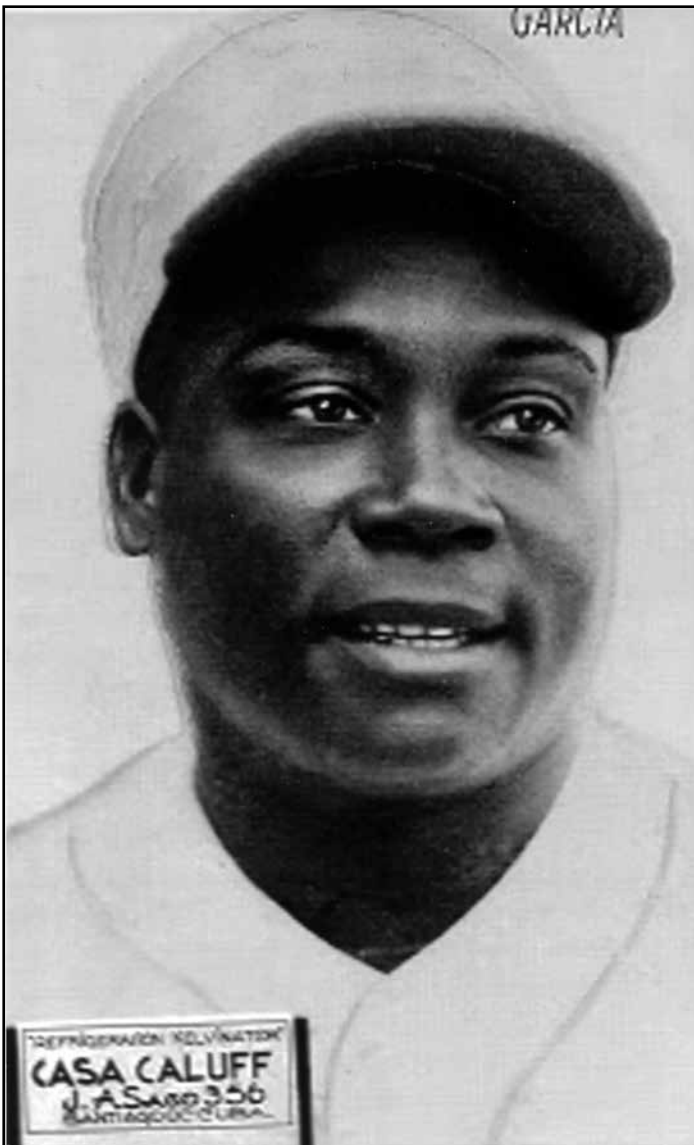
Mike Gonzalez’s Habana Leones finished the 1944-45 season with a record of 25-23 (.521) for the season. They ended up in second place seven games behind Almendares Alacranes (32-16).

The 1945-46 season was another of frustration for manager Mike Gonzalez of the Habana Leones. The season turned out to be a three team race between Almendares, Cienfuegos and Habana. Cienfuegos (37-23) pulled away at the end of the season and took the title. Habana (37-23) finished second place six games back and Almendares (29-31) was eight games back. Marianao (23-37) was in last place trailing by fourteen games.

Newcomer Dick Sisler was the star of Habana's hitting attack for the 1945-46 season. His nine homeruns led the "league." Sisler finished with a team leading .301 batting average and 27 runs batted in. Pedro Formenthal (.282), Herberto Blanco (.272) and Rene Monteaquedo (.271) also contributed to the Leones' hitting attack.

Pedro Jimenez (13-8) was the most effective pitcher on staff. Manuel Garcia had an off season with only two complete games in twelve starts on his way to a 5-5 record for the season. Julian Acosta (4-3), Jorge Comellas (3-3), Fred Martin (2-3), Cecil Kaiser (2-2) and Terris McDuffie (1-3) also pitched for the Habana Leones during the winter of 1945-46.

After the conclusion of the 1945-46 winter league season, Cocaina Garcia joined a team of Cuban all-stars to play the Washington Senators of the American League in the American Series. The five game exhibition series was played in March. The Cuban All Stars were managed by Joseito Rodriguez. Some of the top players on the Cuban team were Santos Amaro, Carlos Blanco, Alejandro Crespo, Claro Duany, Fermin Guerra, Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia, Chino Hidalgo, Julio Moreno and Tony Zardon. The Washington Senators won all five games from the Cubans. Cocaina went down by a score of 7-3 in his game against Roger Wolff and the Senators.



Casa Caluff Photo (1946-47)
Cuba

The 1946-47 season was historic in Cuban baseball because it was the inaugural season of baseball being played at the Gran Stadium in El Cerro (suburb of Habana). Roberto "Bobby" Maduro and Miguel Suarez spent \$ 2,000,000 to build the 35,000 seat capacity ball park.

The Habana Leones got off to an excellent start in the 1946-47 season. The Leones held a six game lead going into the final month of the season. Mike Gonzalez, manager of Habana, could see the title within his grasp. By February 23rd Almendares had cut Habana's lead to 1 ½ with only three games to play. The Alacranes had made a race of it by winning 13 out of 14 games behind the pitching of Max Lanier and Agapito Mayor. Ironically the last three games of the season pitted Almendares and Habana against each other. Max Lanier of Almendares beat Habana 4-2 in the first game and Agapito Mayor (Almendares) beat Fred Martin 2-1 to put the Alacranes in command. With only one days rest Max Lanier came back to beat Habana before a sold out crowd of 35,000 to give Almendares the Cuban Winter League title. Habana finished in second place with a record of 40-26 (.608).

The strength of the Leones during the 1946-47 season was their pitching staff. Despite being 41 years of age, Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia was the ace of the pitching staff. During the season Cocaina led the "league" in wins (10-3), shutouts (3) and earned run average (2.03). At the end of the 1946-47 season, he was selected to the Cuban Winter League all-star team.

Fred Martin (9-8), Jim “Lefty” La Marque (7-6), Pedro Jimenez (6-3), Lazaro Medina (5-3) and Terris McDuffie (3-3) also pitched for Habana during the 1946-47 season.

The downfall of the Leones during the 1946-47 season ended up being their hitting. Only Lou Klein (.330) and Hank Thompson (.320) had good seasons at the plate. Lennie Pearson (.260) was the team’s next productive hitter.

The 1947-48 season would be Manuel Garcia’s last in the Cuban Winter League. Cocaina signed with Mike Gonzalez and the Leones for the winter season.

Henry Kimbro (.346), Hank Thompson (.318) and Lennie Pearson (.284) led the Leones in hitting during the season. Habana had an excellent pitching staff that included Alex Patterson (12-9), Rufus Lewis (11-6), James “Lefty” LaMarque (11-7), Oliverio Ortiz (3-3), Antonio Lorenzo (1-4) and Manuel Garcia (1-3).

The Habana Leones (39-33) got their revenge over Almendares (38-34) for the 1946-47 season by edging them out by one game to win the 1947-48 Cuban Winter League title. In his last season in Cuban baseball as a player, Cocaina was rewarded with being on a championship team.

Summary of his Cuban Baseball Career

Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia played 17 seasons of professional baseball in the Cuban Leagues.

He ranks high among the all-time pitching leaders in Cuba. The following chart summarizes his achievements in Cuban baseball as a pitcher.

Category	Leader/Garcia	Number	Place
Number of Years	Adolfo Luque	22	1 st
	Manuel Garcia	17	4 th (tied)
Games	Adrian Zabala	330	1 st
	Manuel Garcia	222	10 th
Complete Games	Martin Dihigo	121	1 st
	Manuel Garcia	93	5 th
Wins	Martin Dihigo	107	1 st
	Manuel Garcia	85	5 th



Lazaro Salazar

Mike Gonzalez

Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia

(Standing left to right)

Coaching for the Habana Leones



Habana Leones (1948-49)
Cuban Winter League

(Standing left to right- Luis Navarro, Emilio Cabrera, Oliverio Ortiz, Rufus Lewis, Ray Yochim, Charles Stanceau, Lennie Pearson, Ferrell Anderson, Gilberto Torres, Alfredo Suarez and Assistant to General Manager. Center row left to right – Paul Calvert, Calampio Leon, **Hank Thompson**, Bill Schuster, **Mike Gonzalez**, Carlos Blanco, Pablo Garcia, Herberto Blanco, Pedro Formental and **Henry Kimbro**. Seated – Batboy, Tony Lorenzo, **Carlos Colas**, Chino Hidalgo, Rafael Rivas, Jose Cendan, **Manuel Garcia** and Clubhouse Attendant Alfاريو.)



Habana Leones (1951)
III Caribbean Series (Caracas, Venezuela)

(Back row left to right – Luis Navarro, Pedro Formental, Picho Diaz-Pedroso, Bert Haas, Bill Ayers, Pipo de la Noval, **Hoyt Wilhelm**, **Mike Gonzalez**, Jiqui Moreno, Moin Garcia, **Alejandro Crespo**, Chino Valdivia, **Manuel Garcia**, John Yuhás and Gilberto Torres. Seated left to right- Adrian Zabala, Bob Habenicht, Carlos Pascual, Chino Hidalgo, Tony Zardon, **Sandy Amoros**, **Lorenzo Cabrera**. Clubhouse Attendant Alfاريو, Arturo Seijas, Tony Lorenzo, Orlando Varona, Del Wilber, Ed Mierkowicz and Johnny Jorgensen.)

Coaching with Mike Gonzalez and the Habana Leones

After his playing career had concluded, Manuel Garcia was hired by Mike Gonzalez, Manager of the Habana Leones, to serve as a coach for the team. Garcia coached for five seasons with the Leones. During his tenure with Habana the Leones posted the following won-loss records.

Year	Team	League	Record	Pct.	Place
1948-49	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League	39-33	.542	2 nd
1949-50	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League	35-37	.486	3 rd
1950-51	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League	41-32	.562	1 st
1951-52	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League	41-30	.577	1 st
1952-53	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League	43-29	.597	1 st

The Habana Leones won three championships with Garcia as a coach on the team. After each of these seasons the Leones represented Cuba in the III, IV and V Caribbean World Series.

Year	Location	Habana's Record in Series	Finish	Champion
1951	Caracas, Venezuela	4-2	2 nd	Santurce (PR)
1952	Panama City, Panama	5-0	1 st	Habana
1953	Habana, Cuba	3-3	2 nd	Santurce (PR)

Life After Baseball

After his baseball career Manuel Garcia retired to the seaside city of Caraballeda, Venezuela. Even though he was retired from baseball, he was still a national baseball hero in Cuba.



Manuel Garcia Meets with the Cuban National Team

Cocaina's contributions to baseball in Cuba and Venezuela have been recognized by his induction into each country's baseball hall of fame. In 1969 he was elected to the Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame and in 1992 he was elected by the Circle of Sport Journalists into the Hall of Fame of Venezuelan Sport. When the Venezuelan Baseball Hall of Fame was founded in 2002 in the city of Valencia, Manuel was inducted as part of the fourth class of players that were elected in 2007. He was the 28th player inducted into the Venezuelan Baseball Hall of Fame.

Manuel Garcia passed away on April 19, 1995 at the age of 89 in Caraballeda, Venezuela.

New York Cubans (1935)

Negro National League Champions (Second Half of Season)

New York Cubans Win Eight in Row

GADSDEN, Ala.—The New York Cubans, with five straight victories under their belt, three of them shut-outs, won their two-game series from Nashville by 1 to 1 and 5 to 2 scores.

SCORE BY INNINGS

Y. CUBANS 1 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 1—6
ASHVILLE 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0—1

Batteries—New York Cubans, Garcia and Duncan; Nashville, Willis, Porter and Hardy.

SCORE BY INNINGS

Y. CUBANS 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 1—5
ASHVILLE 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 0 0—2

Batteries—New York Cubans, Taylor, Lant and Lantinas; Nashville, Wright, Myers and Hardy.

MERIDIAN, Miss.—The New York Cubans won their eighth straight game here Wednesday by defeating the Meridian Giants 11 to 1.

SCORE BY INNINGS

Y. CUBANS 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 2—11
MERIDIAN 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0—1

Batteries—New York Cubans, Stanley, Lant and Duncan; Meridian, Peterson, Bucke, Boone and Carlson.

Garcia Beats Nashville 4-1

Afro American
05-04-35

Cubans Hit Stride; Win Seven of Nine

NEW YORK.—Regaining their stride and displaying the brand of ball that caused the experts to pick them as the team to be watched in the National League, the N.Y. Cubans in their last nine games in six days with fast, semi-pro teams, copped seven, losing two.

Johnny Taylor, speed-ball artist, struck out sixteen opposing batsmen against the Bayridge club, but lost, 8 to 4.

Sheriff Blake's wildness caused him to be lifted in a game with the Farmers after walking three men and allowing four runs. He was replaced by Lefty Tiant, but the Cubans' bats were helpless against the offerings of Lennon.

The acquisition of Diaz, the star catcher whose potent bat and strong arm has supplied the N.Y. Cubans with the necessary spark to make them click, was hailed as a timely move.

Buck Lai's strong Hawaiians were defeated by the score, 12 to 1, Friday night at Dyckman Oval.

Cubans Go on a Winning Streak

Afro American
06-22-35

Craws and Cubans to Begin Playoff Series in Harlem

STANDING OF CLUBS—SEPT. 2

	Won	Lost	Pct.
CUBANS	20	7	.741
CRAWFORDS	13	9	.591
PHILLY	14	10	.583
COLUMBUS	10	10	.500
GRAYS	9	10	.473
BROOKLYN	13	16	.446
CHICAGO	7	13	.330
NEWARK	9	21	.300

SCORES

August 31, Crawfords 11, Grays, 2.
September 1, Cubans 5, Philadelphia 1;
Cubans 3, Philadelphia 5; Grays 10,
Crawfords 9, Brooklyn 10; Newark 8;
Brooklyn 2, Newark 4.
September 2—Grays 9, Crawfords 2;
Crawfords 7, Grays 3; Brooklyn and
Newark—RAIN; Cubans and Philadelphia
—RAIN.

NEW YORK.—The play-off series, the World's Series of the National League, between the Pittsburgh Crawfords and the New York Cubans, will start here on September 13.

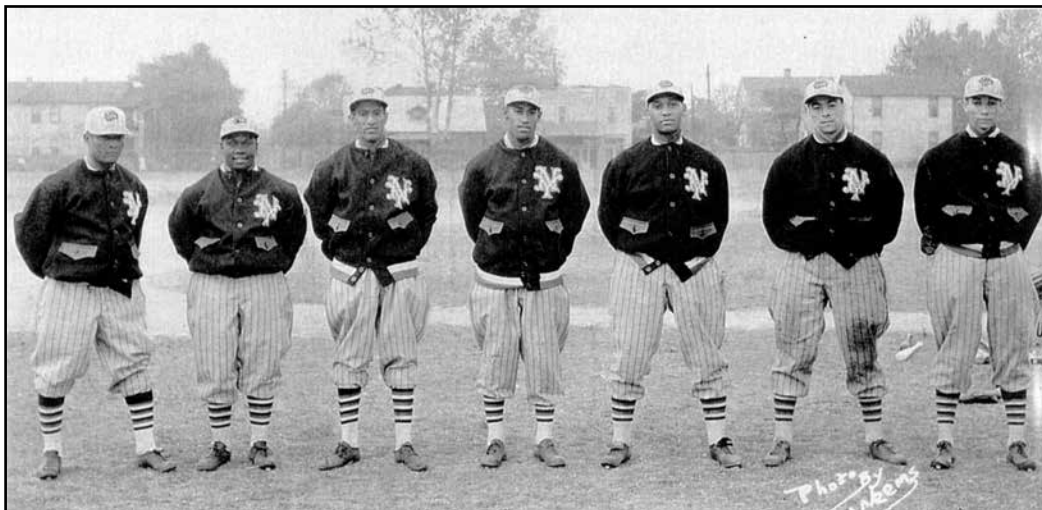
The Crawfords won the first half while the Cubans copped the second half honors.

The second game will be played in Philadelphia on the 14th, and the teams will travel back to New York on the 15th, then to Pittsburgh on the 17th and 18th.

If the winner is not decided in Pittsburgh, the remaining games will be staged in Philadelphia.

Cubans Dominate the League

Afro American
09-02-35



Heliodoro Diaz, Manuel Garcia, Luis Tiant (Sr.), Rudy Fernandez, John Stanley, Frank Blake and Johnny Taylor

Assessing Cocaina Garcia's Career

- Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia **excelled as both a pitcher and hitter during his career**. He was an outstanding pitcher who was also an exceptional outfielder who could hit for average. Having Garcia on the roster always gave the team’s manager an option other teams didn’t have. In short he was an extremely versatile ball player and **one of the great two way players in Latin baseball history**.

From the box scores that have been found up to this point, Cocaina Garcia has compiled a won-loss record of 274-198 (.581) against teams from all levels of competition.

His career batting average in games against all levels of competition was .295.

- There is a significant **problem with missing statistics** for Manuel Garcia’s career. Some of the statistics that we are missing related to his pitching career include:
 1. It is still unclear as to if and/or where Garcia played during the 1930 and 1947 seasons.
 2. He played five seasons in the United States for the Cuban Stars and New York Cubans and we are missing virtually all of his games against “non-league” opponents.
 3. The 1929, 1934 and 1936 seasons in the Dominican Republic are definitely incomplete and all we have for the 1937 season is his won-loss record.
 4. All of his hits, runs and earned runs totals are missing for his Cuban career. Most of his bases on ball, strikeouts and season ERA numbers for his Cuban career are also missing.

If these missing statistics are ever found, Manuel Garcia’s win total will undoubtedly stretch well over the 300 mark.

In relationship to his hitting statistics, all of his “non-league” games in the United States are still to be uncovered. In addition in Venezuela, most of his extra base hits, RBIs, stolen bases and slugging percentages are incomplete or missing altogether.

- **As a pitcher it seemed to take him several years to come into his own**. He started playing professional baseball in 1926 and it wasn’t until he went to Venezuela in 1932 that he became a dominant pitcher.
- From 1932 to 1944 which were the “Golden Years” of baseball in Venezuela, he was without question the **best overall baseball player in Venezuela**. The Historical Committee on Venezuelan Baseball summarized Cocaina’s career very simply: “star pitcher and clean-up hitter.” Their research indicates that as a pitcher he won 60 games, had 680 strikeouts and compiled a 1.56 ERA over his career in Venezuela while pitching for First Division teams. His games won, strikeouts and ERA were the tops for pitchers during this period of Venezuelan baseball history. The Historical Committee on Venezuelan Baseball credits Manuel with a life-time batting average of .356.

Research by the Center for Negro League Baseball Research (CNLBR) credits Garcia with a won-loss record of 67-41 during his Venezuelan career and a career batting average in Venezuela of .379. Our research includes exhibition games that Cocaina played against top level teams in Venezuela that appear not to have been included in the statistics reported by the Historical Committee on Venezuelan Baseball.

During his pitching career in Venezuela, he exhibited **unbelievable control** of all of his pitches on the mound. In 99 games during his Venezuelan career, he registered 524 strikeouts against only 93 walks. In short he had more than five times as many strike outs as walks during his career in Venezuela.

- Manuel Garcia was a **winner**. During his career he played on the following nineteen (19) championship teams.

Year	Team	League	Record	Pct.
1927-28	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League	24-13	.649
1929	Licey Tigres	Dominican Republic	-	-
1930	Almendares	Cuban Winter League	3-1	.750
1931-32	Almendares Alacranes	Cuban Winter League	21-9	.700
1932	Caribe	La Asociacion de Venezolana de Baseball (AVB)	7-2	.778
1934	Concordia	Puerto Rican Series	11-4	.733
1935	New York Cubans	NNL (Second half)	20-7	.741
1935-36	Santa Clara Leopards	Cuban Winter League	34-14	.708
1936	Estrellas Orientales	Dominican league	-	-
1936	Senadores	Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division (VZ)	12-4	.750
1937-38	Santa Clara Leopards	Cuban Winter League	44-18	.710
1938	Venezuela	Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division (VZ)	12-4	.750
1938-39	Santa Clara Leopards	Cuban Winter League	34-20	.630
1938-39	Gavilanes	Campeonato de Primera Division del Estadio Zulia (VZ)	12-7	.632
1943-44	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League	32-16	.667
1943-44	Magallanes	Venezuelan Professional League	12-5-1	.706
1945	Tampico Alijadores	Mexican League	52-38	.578
1946	Tampico Alijadores	Mexican League	56-41	.577
1947-48	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League	39-33	.542

After his career as a player had concluded, Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia was also a coach on four (4) Habana Leones championship teams.

Year	Team	League	Record	Pct.
1950-51	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League	41-32	.562
1951-52	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League	41-30	.577
1952	Habana Leones	IV Caribbean World Series	5-0	1.000
1952-53	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League	43-29	.597



- Cocaina Garcia **seemed to have two completely different careers**. One was in the United States where he was mediocre at best and the other was in Latin America where he was one of the best Latin pitchers of all times.
- The **longevity of Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia’s career is very impressive**. He started playing professional baseball in 1926 and played all the way through the 1949 season. Garcia played 24 seasons of professional baseball during his career.
- Garcia was a **fan favorite** everywhere he played during his career.
- Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia’s career in Latin America has been recognized by his induction into both the **Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame** and the **Venezuelan Baseball Hall of Fame**.

Playing Career

Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
1923	Central Washington (Cuba)	Independent
1924-25	Santiago de Cuba	Independent
1926-1928	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League
1929	Licey Tigres	Dominican Republic
1930		
1931	Cuban Stars (East)	Independent
1931	Cuban House of David	Independent
1932	Caribe	La Asociacion de Venezolana de Baseball (AVB)
1933	Cuban Stars	Independent
1933-1934	Licey Tigres	Dominican Republic
1934	Selecion	Independent (Venezuela)
1934	Selecion	Serie vs Concordia
1934	Santa Marta	Serie Nacional (Venezuela)
1935-1936	New York Cubans	Negro National League
1936-1937	Estrellas Orientales	Dominican League
1937	Caracas	Serie Nacional (VZ)
1938-1940	Venezuela	Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division (VZ)
1941	Vera Cruz Aguila	Mexican League
1942-1944	Puebla Pericos	Mexican League
1945-1946	Tampico Alijadores	Mexican League
1947		
1948	Tampico Alijadores	Mexican League
1948	Puebla Pericos	Mexican League
1949	Vera Cruz Aguila	Mexican League
1949	Nuevo Laredo Telecotes	Mexican League
1952	Estrellas Orientales	Dominican League

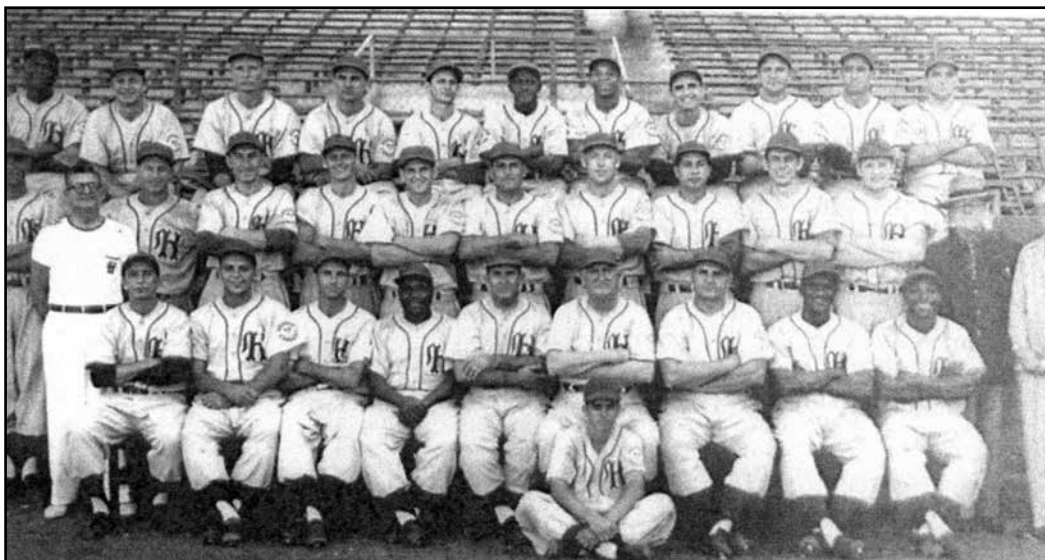


Negro All Stars (c. early 1930's)
(Garcia – kneeling third from left)



Habana Leones (1950-51)
Cuban Winter League

(Back Row left to right - John Jorgensen, Isaac Seoane, **Sandy Amoros**, Bicho Diaz-Pedroso, Chino Valdivia, Arturo Seijas, Carlos Pascual, Tony Lorenzo and Clubhouse Attendant Alfarito. Center row left to right - Luis Navarro, **Hoyt Wilhelm**, Bert Haas, Del Wilber, Gilberto Torres, Bob Habenicht, John Yuhas, Adrian Zabala, Bill Ayers, Ed Mierkowicz, Steve Bilko and Alfredo Suarez. Seated left to right - Orlando Varona, **Alejandro Crespo**, Chino Hidalgo, Pipo de la Noval, **Mike Gonzalez**, **Manuel Garcia**, Moin Garcia, Jiqui Moreno and **Pedro Formental**.)



Habana Leones (1952-53)
Cuban Winter League

(Back row left to right - **Alejandro Crespo**, Andres Fleitas, Jocko Thompson, Patricio Lorenzo, Silverio Perez, Clubhouse Attendant Alfarito, Oscar Sardinas, Carlos Pascual, Julio de la Torre, Adrian Zabala and Isaac Seoane. Center row left to right - Orlando Varona, Luis Navarro, Lou Klein, Jorge Lopez, Bob Usher, Damon Phillips, Gilberto Torrez, Bob Alexander, Limonar Martinez, Dick Rand, Bert Haas, Alfredo Suarez and Campuzano. Seated left to right - Jiqui Moreno, Mario Picone, John Jorgensen, **Manuel Garcia**, Pipo de la Noval, **Mike Gonzalez**, Salvador Hernandez, **Pedro Formental** and **Sandy Amoros**.)

Winter Leagues:

Year	Team	League
1926-27	Almendares Alacranes	Cuban Winter League
1927-28	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League
1927-28	Cuba	Cuban Winter League
1928-29	Almendares Alacranes	Cuban Winter League
1929	Estrellas Cubanos	Exhibition Tour of Dominican Republic
1929-30	Almendares Alacranes	Cuban Winter League
1930	Almendares Alacranes	Cuban Winter League
1930	Habana	Special Season – UNICO (Cuba)
1931-32	Almendares Alacranes	Cuban Winter League
1934	Licey Tigres	Serie vs Concordia
1934	Licey Tigres	La Copa Presidente Trujillo Cup
1934	Concordia	Series in Puerto Rico
1935	Concordia	Series vs San Juan Giants
1935	Concordia	Series vs Escogido & Licey (DR)
1935	New York Cubans	NNL Play-Off Series vs Pittsburgh
1935-36	Santa Clara Leopards	Cuban Winter League
1936	Senadores	Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division (VZ)
1937-38	Santa Clara Leopards	Cuban Winter League
1938-39	Santa Clara Leopards	Cuban Winter League
1938-39	Gavilanes	Campeonato de Primera Division del Estadio Zulia (VZ)
1939	Estrellas Venezuelanas	Nine Game Series vs Gold Sox All Stars
1939-40	Cienfuegos Elefantes	Cuban Winter League
1940	Cubans	American Series vs Cincinnati Reds
1940-41	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1940-41	Santa Clara Leopards	Cuban Winter League
1941	Puerto Rican All Star Team	Exhibition game vs Cincinnati Reds
1941-42	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League
1942	Estrellas del Sur	Mexican League All Star Game
1942-43	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League
1943-44	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League
1943-44	Navegantes de Magallanes	Venezuelan Professional League
1943-44	Cuban Stars	Independent
1944	Estrellas del Sur	Mexican League All Star Game
1944-45	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League
1945-46	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League
1946	Cubans	American Series vs Washington Senators
1946-47	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League
1946-47	Navegantes de Magallanes	Venezuelan Professional League
1947-48	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League

Coaching Career

Year	Team	League
1948-49	Habana Leones (Coach)	Cuban Winter League
1949-50	Habana Leones (Coach)	Cuban Winter League
1950-51	Habana Leones (Coach)	Cuban Winter League
1951	Habana Leones (Coach)	III Caribbean World Series
1951-52	Habana Leones (Coach)	Cuban Winter League
1952	Habana Leones (Coach)	IV Caribbean World Series
1952-53	Habana Leones (Coach)	Cuban Winter League
1953	Habana Leones (Coach)	V Caribbean World Series

Career Statistics – Pitching (Regular Season)

Year	Team	Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
1927	Cuban Stars	-	-	3	7	-	-	-	-	-
1928	Cuban Stars	10	60.7	1	7	95	56	24	26	-
1931	Cuban Stars	2	18	1	1	13	11	5	7	-
1933	Cuban Stars	2	16	2	0	9	5	6	5	2.81
1935	New York	8	60.3	2	5	86	54	18	20	-
	Total	22	155	9	20	203	126	53	58	-

Career Statistics – Pitching (Non-League Games)

Year	Team	Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
1933	Cuban Stars	1	9	1	0	3	0	-	8	0.00
1935	New York	2	18	2	0	-	-	3	8	-
	Total	3	27	3	0	3	0	3	16	-

Career Statistics – Pitching (Dominican Republic)

Year	Team	Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
1929	Licey	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
1934	Licey	2	18	2	0	12	5	-	-	-
1936	Estrellas	-	-	1	0	-	-	-	-	-
1937	Estrellas	-	-	5	3	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	12	4	-	-	-	-	-

Career Statistics – Pitching (Venezuela)

Year	Team	Games	Complete		Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
			Games	Innings							
1932	Caribe (AVB)	9	-	85	7	2	32	-	14	100	0.27
1932	Caribe (Non)	4	4	-	4	0	-	-	-	75	-
1932	Selecion	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
1934	Santa Marta	12	-	109	7	5	82	15	11	81	1.24
1936	Senadores	11	-	98	9	2	66	24	21	78	1.93
1937	Caracas	8	-	63	1	7	96	15	14	49	2.14
1938	Venezuela	-	-	-	8	2	-	-	-	-	-
1939	Estrellas	3	3	27	2	1	17	5	-	19	1.67
1939	Venezuela	22	18	177	8	12	159	37	-	-	1.88
1940	Venezuela	16	-	124	9	6	109	40	21	92	2.90
1940	Venezuela (Non)	1	1	9	1	0	-	-	-	10	0.00
1943-44	Magallanes	5	3	-	5	0	-	-	-	-	-
1943-44	Cuban Stars	1	1	-	1	0	3	-	-	8	0.00
1946-47	Magallanes	7	3	40.1	3	2	45	17	12	12	3.79
	Total	99	33	732.1	67	41	609	153	93	524	-

Career Statistics – Pitching (Exhibition Games)

Year	Team	Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
1941	Puerto Rico	-	-	1	0	-	-	-	-	-

Career Statistics – Pitching (Puerto Rico)

Year	Team	Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
1934	Concordia	1	5	1	0	4	0	3	2	0.00
1940-41	Ponce	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-

Career Statistics – Pitching (Mexico)

Year	Team	Games	Complete Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
1941	Aguila	11	6	71.3	4	3	87	27	36	49	3.41
1942	Puebla	40	22	279.3	19	14	302	119	120	147	3.83
1943	Puebla	37	16	228.3	16	12	272	113	83	114	4.45
1944	Puebla	34	15	206.0	13	10	243	97	65	51	4.24
1945	Tampico	35	14	228.0	18	11	277	91	83	65	3.59
1946	Tampico	29	18	199.0	14	10	208	61	60	68	2.76
1948	Tampico	21	3	81.6	4	3	91	35	30	11	3.86
	Puebla										
1949	Aguila	26	5	123.6	8	5	155	60	42	27	4.37
	Nuevo Laredo										
	Total	223	99	1417	96	68	1635	603	519	532	3.83

Career Statistics – Pitching (Cuba)

Year	Team	Games	Complete Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
1926-27	Almendares	8	3	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
1927-28	Cuba	5	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
	Habana	2	0	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	-
1928-29	Almendares	11	2	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-
1929-30	Almendares	12	6	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
1930	Almendares	1	1	-	1	0	-	-	-	-	-
1930	Habana	3	1	-	0	2	-	-	-	-	-
1931-32	Almendares	8	2	46.3	4	0	-	-	16	29	-
1935-36	Santa Clara	8	7	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-
1937-38	Santa Clara	15	5	-	3	4	-	-	-	-	-
1938-39	Santa Clara	19	10	-	11	4	-	-	-	-	-
1940-41	Santa Clara	15	7	-	4	5	-	-	-	-	-
1941-42	Habana	16	7	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-
1942-43	Habana	18	8	-	10	3	-	-	-	-	-
1943-44	Habana	17	8	-	12	4	-	-	-	-	-
1944-45	Habana	22	9	119.0	8	5	-	-	22	52	2.80
1945-46	Habana	12	2	-	5	5	-	-	-	-	-
1946-47	Habana	20	11	126.3	10	3	-	-	50	38	2.03
1947-48	Habana	10	2	41.6	1	3	-	-	16	8	5.40
	Total	222	93	-		61	-	-	-	-	-

Career Statistics – Pitching (Totals)

	Games	Complete Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
Negro League	22	-	155	9	20	203	126	53	58	-
Non-League	3	3	27	3	0	3	0	3	16	-
Exhibition	-	-	-	1	0	-	-	-	-	-
Dominican Republic	-	-	-	12	4	-	-	-	-	-
Venezuela	99	33	732.1	67	41	609	153	93	524	-
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico	223	99	1417	96	68	1635	603	519	532	3.83
Cuba	222	93	-	85	61	-	-	-	-	-
Total	599	228	-	275	198	-	-	-	-	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1927	Cuban Stars	32	105	11	37	5	1	4	6	0	.352	.533
1928	Cuban Stars	16	41	5	8	0	0	0	2	0	.195	.195
1931	Cuban Stars	4	12	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	.333	.417
1933	Cuban Stars	3	11	3	3	1	0	0	1	1	.273	.364
1935	New York	22	37	6	8	0	0	2	4	2	.216	.378
1936	New York	27	78	9	26	5	1	2	8	5	.333	.500
	Total	103	284	35	86	12	2	8	21	8	.303	.444

Career Statistics – Hitting (Cuba)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1927-28	Almendares	-	18	2	4	1	0	0	-	-	.222	.278
1928-29	Almendares	-	60	8	12	2	0	0	-	-	.200	.233
1929-30	Almendares	-	48	3	9	2	0	0	-	-	.188	.229
1930	Almendares	-	4	1	3	2	0	0	-	-	.750	1.250
1931-32	Almendares	-	33	4	12	4	0	0	6	-	.364	.485
1935-36	Santa Clara	-	66	6	18	3	1	0	10	-	.273	.348
1937-38	Santa Clara	-	168	28	51	8	2	0	32	-	.304	.375
1938-39	Santa Clara	-	96	9	23	3	0	1	21	-	.240	.302
1940-41	Santa Clara	-	64	5	15	2	1	0	7	-	.234	.297
1942-43	Habana	-	53	8	18	3	1	0	13	-	.340	.434
1943-44	Habana	-	51	11	22	4	0	0	6	-	.431	.510
1944-45	Habana	-	58	6	15	3	0	0	6	-	.259	.310
	Total	-	719	91	202	37	5	1	101	-	.281	.350

Career Statistics – Hitting (Venezuela)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1932	Caribe (AVB)	9	35	-	13	2	1	1	-	-	.371	-
	Caribe (Non)	1	6	5	4	1	1	1	-	-	.667	-
1934	Santa Marta	12	37	6	12	-	-	-	-	-	.378	-
1935	Concordia	-	34	10	11	-	-	-	-	-	.324	-
1936	Senadores	16	58	9	25	-	-	-	-	-	.431	-
1937	Caracas	9	33	2	12	-	-	-	-	-	.363	-
1938	Venezuela	16	60	11	25	-	-	1	-	-	.416	-
1939	Venezuela	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1939	Estrellas	1	4	2	3	2	0	0	1	-	.750	1.250
1940	Venezuela	20	70	7	23	-	-	-	13	-	.329	-
1946-47	Magallanes	10	30	4	11	0	0	0	1	0	.367	.367
	Total	94	367	56	139	5	2	4	15	-	.379	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Dominican Republic)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1934	Licey	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	.333	-
1935	Concordia	11	34	10	11	-	-	-	-	-	.324	-
1937	Estrellas	25	63	4	16	3	0	0	5	-	.254	.302
	Total	37	100	14	28	3	-	-	5	-	.280	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Puerto Rico)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1935	Concordia	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Mexico)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1941	Aguila	36	117	8	37	3	0	4	18	4	.316	.444
1942	Puebla	69	193	24	53	12	5	2	44	1	.275	.420
1943	Puebla	69	184	18	53	5	1	1	24	4	.288	.342
1944	Puebla	54	146	22	41	6	2	1	32	1	.281	.370
1945	Tampico	78	226	20	61	14	5	1	32	1	.270	.389
1946	Tampico	47	119	9	27	6	0	0	8	1	.227	.277
1948	Tampico	35	57	5	18	4	1	0	5	0	.316	.424
	Puebla											
1949	Aguila	61	152	18	45	7	0	0	22	1	.296	-
	Nuevo Laredo											
	Total	449	1194	124	335	57	14	9	185	13	.281	.374

Career Hitting Statistics (Totals)

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Negro League	103	284	35	86	12	2	8	21	8	.303	.444
Cuba	-	719	91	202	37	5	1	101	-	.281	.350
Venezuela	94	367	56	139	5	2	4	15	-	.379	-
Dominican Republic	37	100	14	28	3	-	-	5	-	.280	-
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico	449	1194	124	335	57	14	9	185	13	.281	.374
Total	-	2664	320	790	116	23	22	327	21	.297	-



Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia
Habana Leones

Pitching and League Leader Pitching Titles

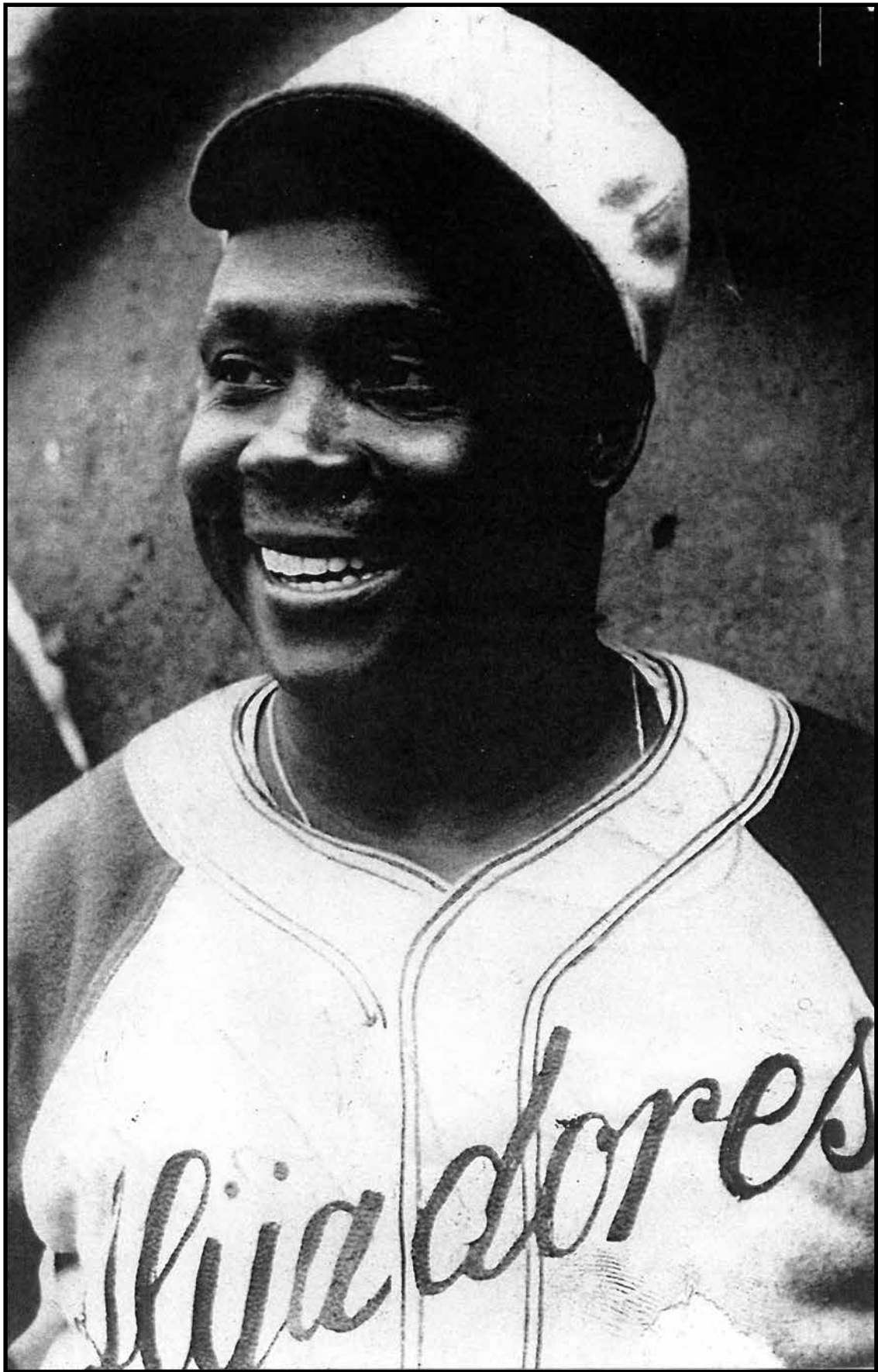
Category	Year	League	Number
Wins	1930	Cuban Winter League	1
	1932	Serie Nacional de Baseball Campeonato (AVB) (VZ)	7
	1936	Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division (VZ)	9
	1938	Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division (VZ)	8
	1939	Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division (VZ)	8
	1942-43	Cuban Winter League	10
	1943-44	Cuban Winter League	12
	1946-47	Cuban Winter League	10
Winning Percentage	1932	La Asociacion de Venezolana de Baseball (AVB)	.778
	1936	Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division (VZ)	.818
	1942-43	Cuban Winter League	.769
	1943-44	Cuban Winter League	.750
	1943-44	Venezuelan Professional League	1.000
	1946-47	Cuban Winter League	.769
Games Pitched	1932	Serie Nacional de Baseball Campeonato (AVB) (VZ)	9
	1939	Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division (VZ)	22
Complete Games	1939	Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division (VZ)	18
	1944-45	Cuban Winter League	9
Innings Pitched	1932	Serie Nacional de Baseball Campeonato (AVB) (VZ)	85
	1934	Serie Nacional de Baseball Campeonato (AVB) (VZ)	109
	1939	Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division (VZ)	177
Shutouts	1932	Serie Nacional de Baseball Campeonato (AVB) (VZ)	5
	1938-39	Cuban Winter League	3
	1943-44	Cuban Winter League	3
	1946-47	Cuban Winter League	3
Strikeouts	1932	Serie Nacional de Baseball Campeonato (AVB) (VZ)	100
	1936	Campeonato de baseball de Primera Division (VZ)	78
Earned Run Average	1932	Serie Nacional de Baseball Campeonato (AVB) (VZ)	0.27
	1939	Venezuela	1.88
	1946-47	Cuban Winter League	2.03

Batting and League Leader Hitting Titles

Category	Year	League	Number
Batting	1932	Serie Nacional de Baseball Campeonato (AVB) (VZ)	.371
Base Hits	1932	Serie Nacional de Baseball Campeonato (AVB) (VZ)	13
	1938	Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division (VZ)	25
Runs Scored	1938	Campeonato de Baseball de Primera Division (VZ)	11
Doubles	1930	Cuban Winter League	2
Runs Batted In	Reportedly led the Venezuelan League in runs batted in three different seasons, but no details are currently available.		

Selected Career Highlights

- From our research completed to date, Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia has a pitching record of 274-198 (.581) and a career batting average of .297 (790 for 2664) for games against all levels of competition.
- On April 17, 1932 Cocaina Garcia pitched a no-hitter in Venezuela against the Aguilas de Concordia. Garcia had 18 strikeouts in the game and at the plate he went 4 for 6 with a double, triple and homerun.
- On August 14, 1932 he pitched a 13 inning no-hitter against Universidad (Venezuela). He also struck out 20 batters in the game.
- In 1932 while playing for Caribe he hit for the cycle (single, double, triple and homerun) against the powerful Aguilas de Concordia in Venezuela.
- Garcia led the La Asociacion de Venezolana de Baseball (AVB) “league” in both hitting (.371 batting average) and pitching (7-2 w/ 0.27 ERA) during the 1932 season.
- In 1932 in a nine inning game against Gran Mariscal (VZ) Cocaina struck out 25 batters on his way to a 6-0 win.
- In 1940 Manuel Garcia pitched a no-hitter against Cardenales in Venezuela. He struck out 10 in his 4-0 win.
- He played on eight (8) championship teams during his Cuban Winter League career.
- On December 11, 1943 Manuel Garcia pitched the first no-hitter at La Tropical Stadium in Havana, Cuba.
- Won twelve (12) consecutive games during the 1943-44 Cuban Winter League season.
- Selected to play in two (1942 and 1944) Mexican League All Star games.
- Selected to the Cuban Winter League All Star team for the 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1946-47 seasons.
- Led the Cuban Winter League in wins for four different seasons (1930, 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1946-47).
- Helped lead the Tampico Alijadores to back to back Mexican League titles in 1945 and 1946.
- On April 10, 1948 while playing for Tampico of the Mexican League pitched a 2-0 no-hitter against Vera Cruz.
- During his career he pitched at least six no-hitters: Cuba (1), Mexico (1), United States (1) and Venezuela (3).
- During his professional baseball career, Manuel Garcia played on at least eighteen (18) championship teams. Also served as a coach on four (4) championship teams.
- Elected to the Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame in 1969.
- Elected to the Hall of Fame of Venezuelan Sport in 1992.
- Elected to the Venezuelan Baseball Hall of Fame in 2007.



Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia
Tampico Alijadores
Mexican League