

Forgotten Heroes:

Orestes “Minnie” Minoso



by

Center for Negro League Baseball Research

Dr. Layton Revel

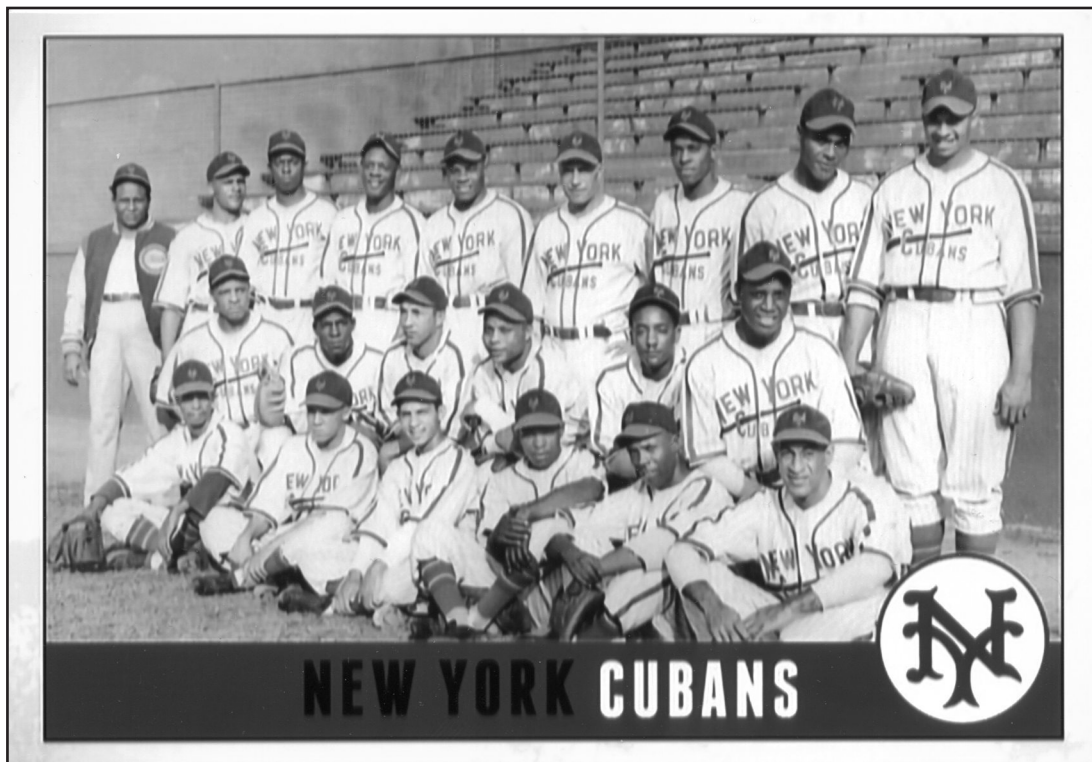
and

Luis Munoz

Orestes Minoso in the Negro Leagues



Orestes “Minnie” Minoso



New York Cubans (1947)
Negro National League

(Back row left to right – Pedro Ulacia, Homero Ariosa, Pat Scantlebury, Lorenzo Cabrera, Rafael Noble, Jose M. Fernandez, Pedro Diaz, Barney Morris and Claro Duany. Middle row left to right – Louis Louden, **Orestes Minoso**, Pedro Pages, Martin Crue, Dave Barnhill and **Silvio Garcia**. Front row left to right – Lino Donoso, Horacio Martinez, Jose Santiago, Chiflan Clark, James Jenkins and Luis Tiant, Sr.)

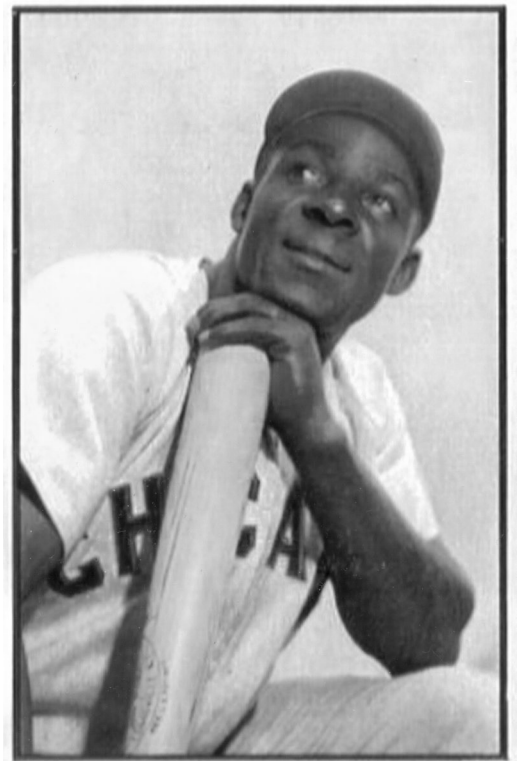
Saturnino Orestes Arrieta Armas (Minoso) was born to Carlos Arrieta and Cecilia Armas on November 29, 1922 (1925) in the small town of El Perico (Matanzas Province), Cuba which is located just outside Havana. Depending on which source you reference, you will find two different dates (1922 and 1925) listed for Orestes' birth year. Orestes is also unclear with his presentation of when he was born. His "official" website lists 1922 as his birth year, but his autobiography that was published in 1994 lists 1925.

The Matanzas region in which he grew up is rich in sugar cane and the region's economy revolves around the growing and processing of sugar cane. Orestes' father Carlos Arrieta worked as a laborer in the sugar cane fields. When his parents got married, his mother already had four other children from a previous marriage and those children went by the name "Minoso" which was the last name of her first husband. When Orestes was with his two older brothers, everyone referred to him as "Little Minoso." In reality, Orestes was not really a "Minoso," but the name stuck and he used it his entire life. When Minnie became an American citizen, he legally changed his name to Orestes Minoso.

Early in Orestes' professional baseball career in the United States, he was given the nickname of "Minnie" reportedly by Cleveland Indians, manager Lou Boudreau. During his career, he was also called "The Cuban Comet." In Mexico he was referred to as the "Black Charro."

Minoso stood five feet ten inches tall and weighed 175 pounds during his playing days. He batted from the right hand side of the plate and threw right handed.

Orestes Minoso was known as an excellent hitter during his entire career. He hit for both average and power. Minnie possessed great bat speed and was a good opposite field hitter. His natural speed helped him offensively to beat out an infield hit, take an extra base or steal a base when the opportunity presented itself. His base running style was often categorized as daring and flamboyant. This earned him the nickname of the "Cuban Comet" in the American media. Minnie was also an excellent bunter. In his three years in the Negro Leagues, Orestes had a .310 batting average and in seventeen seasons in the Major Leagues he had a career batting average of .298. During his professional baseball career in games against all levels of competition, he collected 4,457 hits in 14,710 at bats for a .303 career batting average.



Orestes "Minnie" Minoso

Minoso also had the uncanny ability to "steal first base." He would crowd the plate and lean into a pitch in order to get hit and get a free pass to first base. In his first ten seasons in the American League as a starter, he led the "league" in being hit by a pitch nine out of those ten years. During his Major League career he was hit by a pitch 192 times, which ranks him ninth on the all-time list of Major League players to be hit by a pitch. Even with being hit by a pitch so many times, Minnie was still a very durable player. During the prime of his career from 1951-1961 he appeared in 1,643 games which is the second highest total in the American League just behind Nellie Fox (1,691). In short, Minnie Minoso was just plain fearless at the plate.

Defensively, he started his career as a third baseman but transitioned to the outfield in 1950. Minnie had a strong accurate throwing arm, excellent range and the speed to get to the ball. Whether playing third base or in the outfield, he was courageous and always seemed to play with reckless abandon. At third he had no problems playing in on the batter and in the outfield he would run through the wall to make a catch. Minoso was recognized for outstanding defensive

abilities in the “Big Leagues” by winning three Rawlings Gold Glove Awards as the best left fielder in the American League in 1957, 1959 and 1960. When the Gold Glove Award was established in 1957, he won the award in three of the first four years.

In addition he was also a very smart ball player who was often categorized as a fierce competitor who delivered in the clutch. Minnie would take an extra base to put himself in a scoring position, steal a base with the game on the line or make a game saving catch even if it meant putting his body in harm’s way. He loved to play baseball and he loved to win. Both on the field and in the club house he was always known as one of the nicest guys in the game and his flashy style of play always made him a fan favorite everywhere he played.

Besides possessing all the physical tools to be a great ball player, Orestes Minoso also had strength of character that helped him overcome the many issues he was confronted with in his role as a pioneer in the integration of Major League baseball. When Minoso first came to the United States, he had to battle discrimination and injustice because of the color of his skin, lack of formal education, language barrier (he spoke no English) and adapting to a completely different culture than the one he grew up in Cuba. In an interview, Minnie summed up his attitude about life and people as follows:

“I’ve always seen people as human beings, without distinction of race or colors. This is one of the reasons why, everywhere I go, I make so many friends. And those who don’t know me get to know me. And that gives me a lot of satisfaction.”

Orestes “Minnie” Minoso was extremely popular everywhere he played. In Cuba he was a legend and national hero. In the United States he was “Mr. Chicago White Sox” and without any question the most popular White Sox player of all-time with the fans. In Mexico he was beloved by his Latin fans.



Orestes Minoso in Cuba

According to legendary Cuban sport writer Fausto Miranda, Minnie Minoso told him that his key to success as a ball player was that he used to play every ball game as if he were a rookie trying to make the team. That was the way that he got the best out of himself day in and day out.

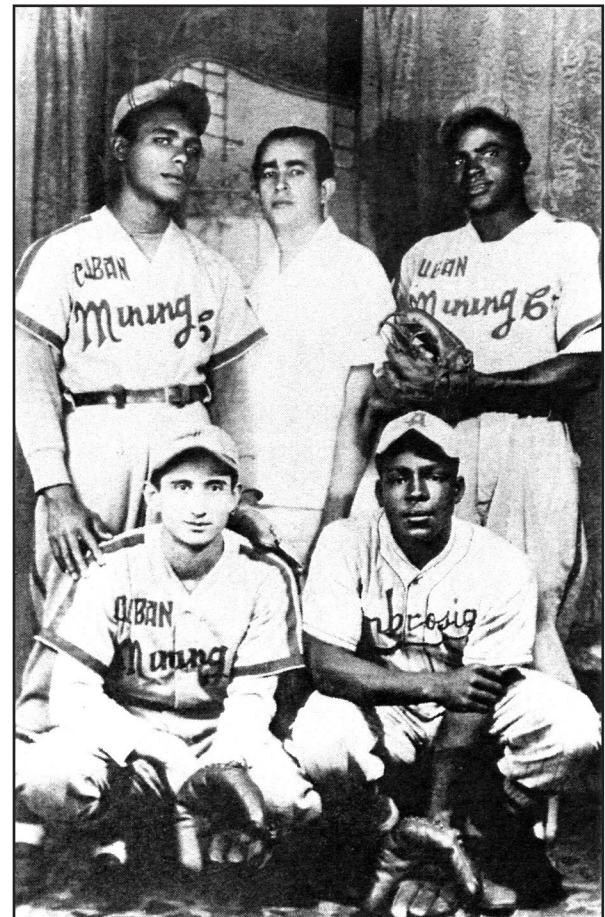
History seems to have overlooked and underappreciated Minnie's career when in reality he was an excellent ball player who could do it all. He could hit for both average and power, run like the wind and played great defense.

Early Baseball Career

Minoso grew up playing baseball with his two older brothers, Cirilo and Francisco, on the sandlots of El Perico. Cirilo and Francisco were both excellent ball players who played on the local factory team. When he was a young boy Orestes organized his own team "La Lonja" that was named after the sugar cane plantation on which his family lived. The La Lonja plantation was owned by Carlos Lopez who was said to have been very proud of the youth baseball team. The La Lonja team played other youth teams from neighboring farms and kids' teams representing the local factories. According to Minoso in his autobiography one of the highlights of his career came in 1955 when he took an all-star team (Minnie Minoso's All Stars) back to Cuba to play in the little town of El Perico. In remembering the event, he is quoted in the book as saying "what a thrill it was to play baseball in the town of my birth, in front of people who knew and remembered me as a little boy."

As he got older he ended up starring for the top local teams and traveling all over the island playing baseball. Everywhere he went he left local fans impressed with his baseball abilities. During his early years, Orestes learned to play every position on the field like his boyhood idol Martin Dihigo. Minoso excelled at every position he played and even threw a no-hitter when he pitched against an all-star team from Central Espana.

In 1941 Orestes moved to Havana and lived with his sister. Once in Havana, he found work making deliveries and then shining shoes. Havana also offered Orestes the thing he wanted most in life: the opportunity to play baseball as a professional. The first team he played for in the Cuban capital was sponsored by the Partagas Cigar Company. In addition to playing baseball for the company team, Orestes also worked part time in the factory rolling cigars. Before the end of the 1941 season, he tried out for the Ambrosia Candy Company team who were one of the best semipro teams in Havana. Minoso made the team as their starting third baseman. Rene Midesten who ran the Ambrosia Candy factory paid Orestes \$ 2 a game for playing baseball on the company's team and \$ 8 a week to work in the company garage. According to Minoso, he led the semi-pro league Ambrosia played for in hitting during the 1942 season with a .367 batting average. In 1943 Minoso moved to the Oriente Province of Cuba and played for the Santiago Mining Company. Their team was referred to as the "Cuban Miners." Orestes was the star of the team and quickly became a local sports hero. He was so good that he made \$ 100 per month plus expenses which was a sizeable sum for playing semi-pro baseball in Cuba in the early 1940's. While playing in Oriente, Orestes caught the eye of the Marianao Tigres of the Cuban Professional League. When he got the word that Marianao wanted to give him a



Orestes Minoso
Ambrosia Candy

tryout it was a dream come true because very few local players got the opportunity to play in the Cuban Professional League. Minoso made the team and became the starting third baseman for Marianao. Originally Minoso signed for \$ 150 per month, but that was quickly raised to \$ 200 per month by team manager Armando Marsans because he didn't want to risk losing Orestes to another team. Minoso's play was so outstanding in his first season of professional baseball that he was named the Cuban Professional League "Rookie of the Year" for the 1945-46 season. In his first year with the Marianao Tigres he batted .294 with a .371 slugging percentage.

Negro League Career

Minoso's rookie season in the 1945-46 Cuban Winter League (Cuban Professional League) was so impressive that it got him noticed by baseball owners in both the United States and Mexico. When Minnie was playing for Marianao one of his coaches was Jose Maria Fernandez who was also the manager of the New York Cubans of the Negro National League. Fernandez recommended Orestes to Alex Pompey the owner of the New York Cubans. While Fernandez was communicating with Pompey about signing Minoso to play for New York, Jorge Pasquel who controlled baseball in Mexico traveled to Cuba with his brother Bernardo in an attempt to sign Minoso to a contract. According to Minoso, he met with the Pasquel brothers at the Rio Hotel in Havana. The Pasquel brothers offered him \$10,000 to play the 1946 season in Mexico and \$ 30,000 if Minnie signed a two year contract. As attractive as their offer was, Minoso signed with Pompey and the New York Cubans. Minnie's contract with New York only paid him \$ 150 a month plus meal money but gave him what he wanted, "a chance to play in the United States."



The 1946 season opened with great anticipation for Orestes Minoso; he was fulfilling his dream of being able to play professional baseball in the United States. Minoso flew from Havana to Miami and then took a train to New Orleans where the New York Cubans would be conducting spring training. After a month of spring training the Cubans boarded a bus for the long trip back to New York. Minoso was the Cubans starting third baseman during his first year in the Negro National League. The 1946 New York Cubans were led by the hitting of Alex Crespo (.336), Silvio Garcia (.319), Rogelio Linares (.287), Dave Thomas (.277) and Minnie Minoso (.260). According to Negro League researcher John Holway, Minnie hit .302 for the season when "league" and "non-league" games were added together. The starting pitching staff for New York and their records in "league" games for the 1946 season were Pat Scantlebury (5-2), Dave Barnhill (5-3), Barney Morris (4-5), Martin Crue (4-4), Bill Anderson (3-2) and Luis Tiant, Sr. (3-3). The New York Cubans had a good season in 1946 and finished the season with a record of 28-21 (.571). They ended up in second

Chiflan Clark, Unknown, Rudy Fernandez and Orestes Minoso
New York City, NY

place to the Newark Eagles (47-16) in the final Negro National League standings.

Before the start of the 1947 season, the Brooklyn Dodgers traveled to Cuba to conduct their spring training camp. The Dodgers went to Cuba for spring training to avoid segregation problems that could be associated with them having Jackie Robinson on their roster. During their spring training, Brooklyn played a series of games against a Cuban all-star team that included Minnie Minoso on their roster. Minnie caught the eye of Clyde Sukeforth, who was Brooklyn's chief scout. Sukeforth recommended to Branch Rickey that the Dodgers sign the young Cuban third baseman. Rickey immediately gave Sukeforth his permission to sign Minoso to a contract with their farm team, the Montreal Royals. When Sukeforth could not deliver, Rickey sent Montreal Royals boss Mel Jones and two other top Dodgers scouts to sign Minnie. When they also failed Rickey sent his son to Cuba. At the same time that the Dodgers were wooing Minnie, Jorge Pasquel made another attempt to sign him. Minoso turned down the offers from both teams. In Adrian Burgos' book Cuban Star about the life of Alex Pompez, Dr. Burgos quoted Minoso as saying the following about the contract negotiations: "I'd rather play for the Cubans. No want to leave Pompez. He treat me good. I no leave him." An interesting side note to the Dodgers attempt to sign Minnie was that according to Alex Pompez, the Dodgers never talked with him about buying Minoso's contract.

The 1947 Negro National League season would be the best season the Cubans would ever have in Negro League competition. The New York Cuban hitters delivered all season. Lorenzo Cabrera (.352), Cleveland Clark (.338), Ray Noble (.325), Silvio Garcia (.324), Claro Duany (.297), Minnie Minoso (.294) and Lou Louden (.290) led the team in hitting during the season. Luis Tiant, Sr. (10-0) and Pat Scantlebury (10-5) anchored New York's pitching staff. Linoso Donoso (8-2), Dave Barnhill (4-0), Martin Crue (4-1) and Barney Morris (4-6) rounded out the pitching staff for the Cubans.

The Brooklyn Dodgers' interest in Minnie continued on into the 1947 season. Fay Young, sports writer for the Chicago Defender, reported in an article that was published on August 2, 1947 that Minnie Minoso was going to sign with the Brooklyn Dodgers after the East-West All Star game. Unfortunately the deal fell through because Pompez felt Brooklyn's offer was too low and if he couldn't get good compensation for his star third baseman, he would rather keep him on the Cubans roster.

The Newark Eagles won the first half of the Negro National League season but faded when they lost several of their star players to the Major Leagues. The New York Cubans claimed the second half of the season and were awarded the Negro National League title based on them having the best overall record for the entire season. The New York Cubans ended the season with a won-loss record of 42-18 (.700).

New York then met the Cleveland Buckeyes in the 1947 Negro League World Series. Led by the hitting of Minnie Minoso who went 11 for 26 (.423), the New York Cubans defeated the Cleveland Buckeyes four games to one for Cleveland (game one ended in a tie) to claim the Negro League World Series championship.



Pat Scantlebury and Orestes Minoso
New York Cubans



San Diego Padres (1949)
Pacific Coast League

(Minoso – back row second from right)



San Diego Padres (1950)
Pacific Coast League

(Minoso – back row – second from left)

The 1948 season would be the last for Minoso in the Negro Leagues and the end of the Negro National League. Minnie Minoso had a great season at the plate in 1948. He went 29 for 72 for a .403 batting average and a .611 slugging percentage. As a team, the New York Cubans struggled all season. They ended the season with a losing record of 16-27 (.372). Only the lowly New York Black Yankees (8-39) had a worse year.

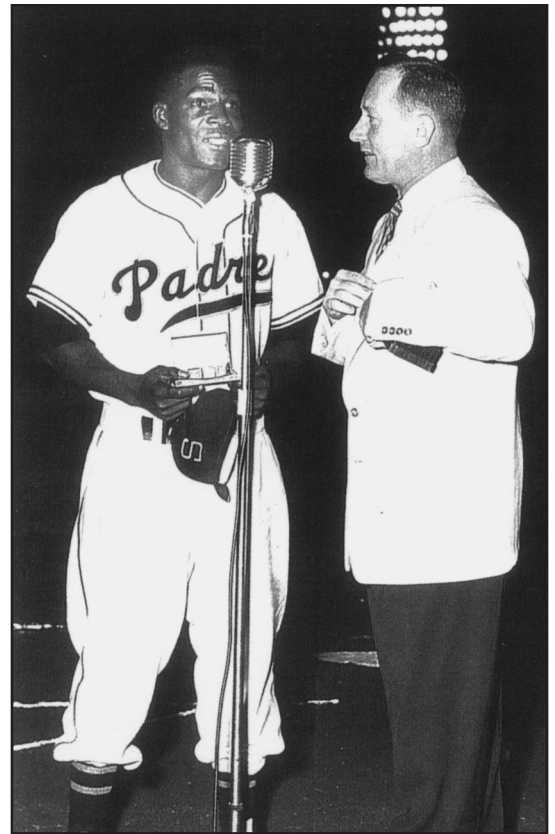
Besides a losing record, the 1948 season had also been a financial disaster for team owner Alex Pompez. He reportedly lost \$20,000 for the season. With the Negro National League folding after the regular season, Pompez saw the opportunity to recoup his losses for the season by selling his best players to the Major Leagues. Minnie Minoso was without a question his best asset. After Brooklyn's failed attempt to buy Minnie's contract in 1947, the next Major League suitor for Minnie was Bill Veeck and the Cleveland Indians. Minoso had been recommended to Cleveland by Abe Saperstein of Harlem Globetrotter fame. Saperstein had also been scouting New York Cubans pitcher Jose Santiago. Alex Pompez had been asking \$25,000 for Minnie's contract. After serious negotiations, the Cleveland Indians purchased Minoso and Jose Santiago for \$ 15,000.

Minor League Career

In September of 1948 Minnie Minoso was assigned by Cleveland to the Dayton Indians of the Class A Central League for the final month of the season. Immediately upon arriving in Dayton, Minoso began to feast on Central League pitching. In the eleven (11) games he played for Dayton, he went 21 for 40 for a .525 batting average and a .825 slugging percentage.

Minnie's contract with Cleveland afforded him the opportunity to do something that had always been a dream for him, buy his own car. Before returning to Cuba for the winter Minnie purchased a four door 1947 Plymouth sedan. Since he didn't drive, he had a friend drive him to Miami where he put the car on a boat to Havana. Over the years Minnie would become known in Cuba for his flashy automobiles.

After a strong showing in spring training in Tucson where he hit .400, Minnie was rewarded with a roster spot on the Cleveland Indians 1949 Major League roster and a contract that paid him \$ 1,000 a month. Minoso made his American League debut on April 19th. Unfortunately for Minnie, the Indians already had Ken Keltner at third base, so he spent most of his time on the bench for substituting at first base or in the outfield. Minoso got off to a slow start at the plate and after nine games was only hitting .188 when he was sent down to Cleveland's Triple A club in San Diego for the remainder of the 1949 season. The San Diego Padres played in the Pacific Coast League (PCL). As the team's starting left fielder, Minoso showed day in and day out that he could hit Pacific Coast League pitching.



Orestes Minoso
San Diego Padres

His hitting statistics for the 1949 and 1950 Pacific Coast League seasons were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1949	San Diego	137	532	99	158	19	7	22	75	13	.297	.483
1950	San Diego	169	599	130	203	40	10	20	115	30	.339	.539



Minnie Minoso, Larry Doby and Roy Welmaker
Cleveland Indians



Mike Fornieles, Chico Carrasquel, Minnie Minoso, Jim Rivera and Sandy Consuegra
Chicago White Sox

Led by the hitting of Luke Easter (.363), Al Rosen (.319), Minnie Minoso (.297) and the pitching of Jesse Flores (21-10), the 1949 San Diego Padres posted a won-loss record of 96-92 (.511) which put them in fourth place at the end of the Pacific Coast League season. The 1950 San Diego Padres fared even better with a 114-86 (.570) record and a second place finish at the end of the year. Minnie Minoso and Jack Graham (33 homeruns, 136 RBI and .293 BA) led the 1950 Padres in hitting. San Diego's top pitchers in 1950 were George Zuvernik (20-14) and Al Olsen (20-15).

Major League Baseball Career

After his great season with San Diego in 1950, Minnie Minoso was invited to the Cleveland Indians Major League spring training camp. Minoso tore up Major League pitching during spring training and ended up hitting 9 homeruns, drove in 35 runs and batted .381 during spring training. When spring training was over, Minnie had made the Cleveland Indians Major League roster for opening day of the 1951 American League season. The problem the Indians had in regards to Minnie was where to play him. Cleveland now had future Hall of Famer Al Rosen at third base. In addition, their outfield seemed set with Larry Doby, Dale Mitchell and Bob Kennedy. There did not seem to be a starting job available to him, so he rode the bench, filling in when the opportunity presented itself. Orestes got off to a good start in April and in his first 14 at bats for the Indians he collected 6 hits. With Minnie too good to be sent back down to the Minors and no real spot for him in the starting line-up, he was traded. On April 30th he was part of a three team trade that sent him to the Chicago White Sox. Minnie finished the 1951 season with Chicago as their starting left fielder. When he took the field for Chicago on May 1st he became the first black ball player to play for the Chicago White Sox organization at the Major League level. Minnie delivered for the White Sox immediately. In his first at bat for Chicago, Minnie homered off Vic Raschi of the New York Yankees. Minnie did not let up the rest of the season. In his first full season in the Major Leagues Minnie put up excellent numbers and finished second to Gil McDougald (New York Yankees) in voting for Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWAA) American League Rookie of the Year. It is important to note that Minnie had significantly better numbers than McDougald, but he wasn't a New York Yankee nor was he white. Minoso was, however, honored as the 1951 Sporting News Rookie of the Year for the American League.

Orestes Minoso played for the Chicago White Sox from 1951 through the 1957 season and put up excellent numbers each season.

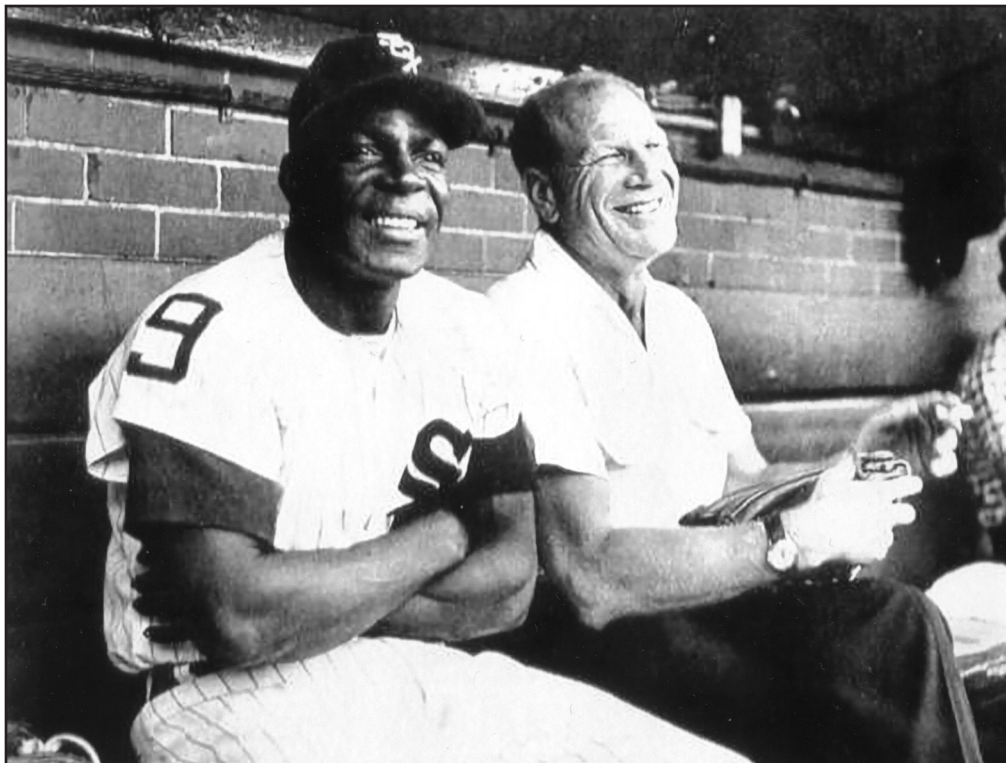
Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1951	Cleveland/Chicago	146	530	112	173	34	14	10	76	31	.326	.500
1952	Chicago	147	569	96	160	24	9	13	61	22	.281	.424
1953	Chicago	151	556	104	174	24	8	15	104	25	.313	.466
1954	Chicago	153	568	119	182	29	18	19	116	18	.320	.535
1955	Chicago	139	517	79	149	26	7	10	70	19	.288	.424
1956	Chicago	151	545	106	172	29	11	21	88	12	.316	.525
1957	Chicago	153	568	96	176	36	5	12	103	18	.310	.454

Prior to the White Sox trading for Minoso at the start of the 1951 season, Chicago had struggled through seven consecutive seasons of being a lower division team. They averaged a 6th place finish in the final American League standings over this period. Fueled by Minoso's outstanding season in 1951, the Chicago White Sox finished in 4th place in the American League. This was followed by five consecutive 3rd place finishes for Chicago. The common denominator in their success was Minnie Minoso putting up team leading numbers each year.

In December of 1957 Minoso was traded with Fred Hatfield by the Chicago White Sox to the Cleveland Indians for Al Smith and Early Wynn. The deal was one that Chicago could not turn down. They got Al Smith who had similar playing skills to Minnie but was five years younger and future Hall of Fame pitcher Early Wynn.



Bill "Moose" Skowron, Minnie Minoso, Nellie Fox and Mickey Mantle
Top Hitters in the American League



Minnie Minoso and Bill Veeck (Owner of the Chicago White Sox)

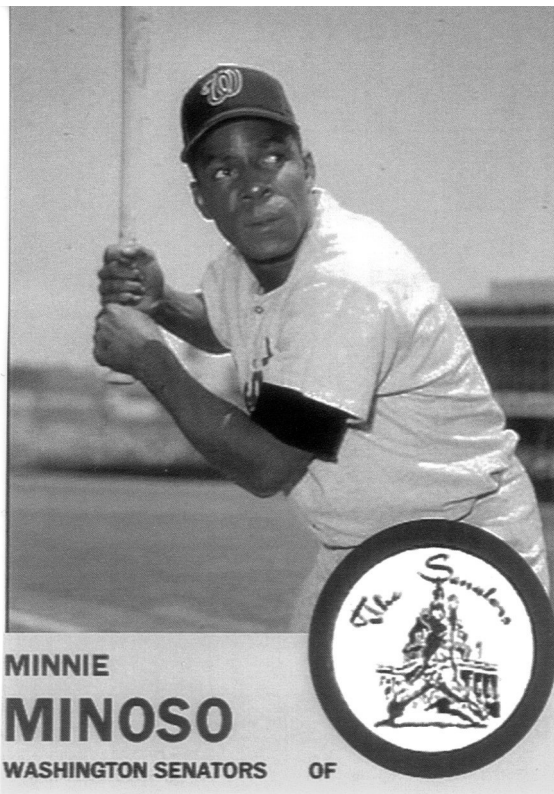
Back with Cleveland who had originally signed him, Orestes had excellent seasons in 1958 and 1959.

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1958	Cleveland	149	556	94	168	25	2	24	80	14	.302	.484
1959	Cleveland	148	570	92	172	32	0	21	92	8	.302	.468

After only two seasons in Cleveland, Minoso was traded back to the Chicago White Sox. On December 6, 1959 Minnie Minoso was traded with Dick Brown, Don Ferrarese and Jake Striker by the Cleveland Indians to the Chicago White Sox for Norm Cash, Bubba Phillips and John Romano. During the 1960 and 1961 seasons, Minoso put up the following numbers for the Chicago White Sox:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1960	Chicago	154	591	89	184	32	4	20	105	17	.311	.481
1961	Chicago	152	540	91	151	28	3	14	82	9	.280	.420

Orestes Minoso's career took a strange turn after the 1961 season when he was traded to the St. Louis Cardinals for Joe Cunningham. The trade shocked everyone in baseball including Minnie. According to Minoso he was totally unaware that he was going to be traded and that he first heard about the trade when he was listening to the radio while driving his car to a hitting clinic he was conducting for a group of school children in Chicago. In his autobiography, Minoso shared that in hind sight it shouldn't have surprised him because Al Lopez was managing the team. Minnie went on to share that Lopez had been his manager when he was traded in 1951 and 1957 and he didn't have any warning when both of those trades were done either.



While the 1961 season with Chicago had not been one of his best, it was still very good by any standard. This would be his last successful year at the Major League level. After a slow start in St. Louis, Minnie suffered the worse injury of his career on May 11, 1962 in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers. While going after a long fly ball hit by Duke Snider, Minnie ran into the left field wall and suffered both a fractured skull and broken wrist. After surgery and post-operative rehabilitation Minoso returned to the active roster on July 29th but was only used sparingly the rest of the season.

Right before the start of the 1963 season, Minnie was sold to the newly formed Washington Senators of the American League for \$ 30,000 and a minor league player to be named later. After a disappointing season in Washington for the last place Senators, he was released by the team in October with the option of coming to spring training the next season. Instead of going back to the Senators, Minnie opted to go to spring training with the Chicago White Sox. He worked hard and made the team but only played sparingly during the first part of the 1964 season.



Indianapolis Indians (1964)
Pacific Coast League

(Minoso – back row third from right)

On July 17th he was sent down to their Triple A farm team, the Indianapolis Indians of the Pacific Coast League. During Chicago's run at an American League pennant, Minnie returned to the White Sox in September as a player and part time coach. The White Sox fell one game short to the New York Yankees. During the last three years (1962-1964) of his Major League career Minnie hit a mere .196, .229 and .226.

At the end of the 1964 season, Minnie talked with his manager Al Lopez about coming back the next season as a full-time coach to replace Johnny Cooney who was leaving. Lopez told Minnie he would get back with him. He never did. Minnie found out he had been released by Chicago when he read it in the newspaper. Neither Al Lopez (Manager of Chicago) or Eddie Short (General Manager of Chicago) bothered to even call him. The experience crushed Orestes because he thought he was a part of the Chicago White Sox organization. In his autobiography he talked about the Chicago White Sox being a part of him. Minnie Minoso's brilliant Major League career had come to an end with only a short blurb in the newspaper.

Career in Mexico

When Minnie was released by the Chicago White Sox in 1964, he felt his baseball career was most likely over. Minoso who had worked in public relations for the S & H Green Stamps Company since 1962 began preparing for a life outside baseball. But that was not to be. During the time he was traveling for the S & H Green Stamp Company, Minnie started receiving telephone calls from Jesus Carmona who was the general manager of the Jalisco Charros of the Mexican League. According to Carmona, the owner of the team, Alvaro Lebrija, needed a player of Minoso's caliber to help turn around the team after they finished in last place with a dismal record of 47-92-3 9 (.338) during the 1964 season. After some assurances by Carmona that Minoso could have his old uniform number "9" and there were no Cuban players on the team that supported the Castro regime, Minnie packed his car and drove from Chicago to Guadalajara.

Lebrija was right. Minnie Minoso was just what his team needed. Minnie had an excellent year putting up the following numbers for the 1965 Mexican League season.

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1965	Jalisco	134	469	106	169	35	10	14	82	7	.360	.567



Orestes “Black Charro” Minoso
Jalisco (Mexico)
1965-1973

During the 1965 season Minnie led his team in hitting and finished in second place for the Mexican League batting title. By the end of the season, the Jalisco Charros led by the hitting of Minnie Minoso and the pitching of Minnie Rojas (21-12) improved their won-loss record by an astounding 24 games over the previous season. Jalisco had gone from last place the season before to third place in the final 1965 Mexican League standings with a record of 71-68-3 (.511).

Orestes Minoso would be part of the Jalisco organization from 1965 for the next nine years. In the United States Orestes Minoso was “Minnie” but from the time he arrived in Jalisco, he was known as the “Black Charro.” Over his time with Jalisco he played, coached and managed wherever the Charros needed him.

During the off season, Minnie frequently played winter baseball in Mexico in the Liga Sonora-Sinaloa (Mexican Pacific Coast League). Minnie won two batting titles playing winter league baseball in Mexico. The first was during the 1966-67 season with the Hemosillo Naranjeros. Minnie hit .344 to beat out Mexican League great Hector Espino (.338) for the batting title for the 1966-67 season. Minoso’s second batting title came during the 1969-70 season when he was playing for Mazatlan. He went 79 for 220 for a .359 batting average and a .509 slugging percentage for the 1969-70 season.

Minoso managed the Union Laguna Algodoneros of the North Zone of the Mexican League from 1970 to 1972. Union Laguna was also referred to as “Gomez Palacio” or “Torreon” when Minnie managed the team. Orestes had quit playing on a regular basis after the 1966 season, but that all changed in 1971. With his Torreon team stuck in a nine game losing streak, he inserted himself into the starting line-up to shake things up. In true Minoso fashion, he delivered a two out, two run game-winning double in the ninth inning to give his team the victory. Minnie started the rest of the season and batted .315 in the 122 games in which he played.

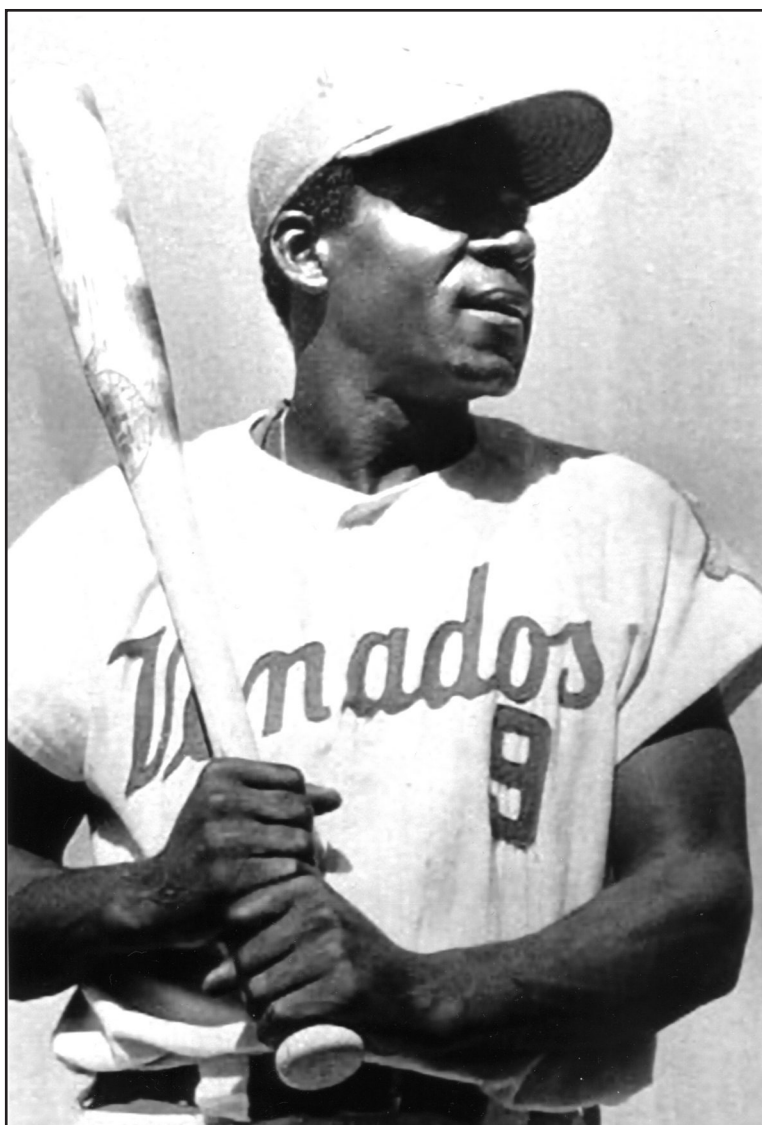
Minnie left the Jalisco organization after the 1973 season and spent most of the next two seasons in Puerto Vallarta. He also played and coached for a team in the small mining town of Cananea. This time was particularly important to him because was able to play with his son Orestes Jr. in Cananea and then again in the following season with Puerto Vallarta. One of the highlights of Minnie’s career occurred when he was the player-manager of Puerto Vallarta and his son was playing for him. The father-son tandem of Orestes, Sr. and Orestes, Jr. hit back to back homeruns to send Puerto Vallarta into the league championship series. According to Minnie, Puerto Vallarta took the league championship in seven games.

Brilliant Mexican League Career Comes to an End

After Minnie Minoso's career in the Major Leagues in the United States was over, he headed south to Mexico where he played, coached and managed for another eleven (11) seasons. Some of the highlights of his career in Mexico were as follows:

- At the age of 43 started his Mexican League career with a .360 batting average in 1965. Followed that up with a .348 season batting average in 1966.
- Compiled a career batting average in regular season Mexican League play of .317. (It is important to note that this was done between the ages of 43-51).
- Selected to three Mexican League All Star games (1968, 1969 and 1971).
- Compiled a career batting average of .343 in Mexican Minor League play.
- Won two Mexican Winter League (Liga Sonora-Sinaloa) batting titles (1966-67 - .344 and .359 – 1969-70). The second batting title was at the age of 47.
- In 1970 at the age of 48 while playing for Torreon of the Mexican league, Minnie hit .468 while playing part time.
- Member of several Mexican baseball championship teams. The last was with Puerto Vallarta when he managed and played with his son.

His outstanding career in Mexico culminated with him being elected to the Mexican League Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996.



Minoso Returns to the Major Leagues

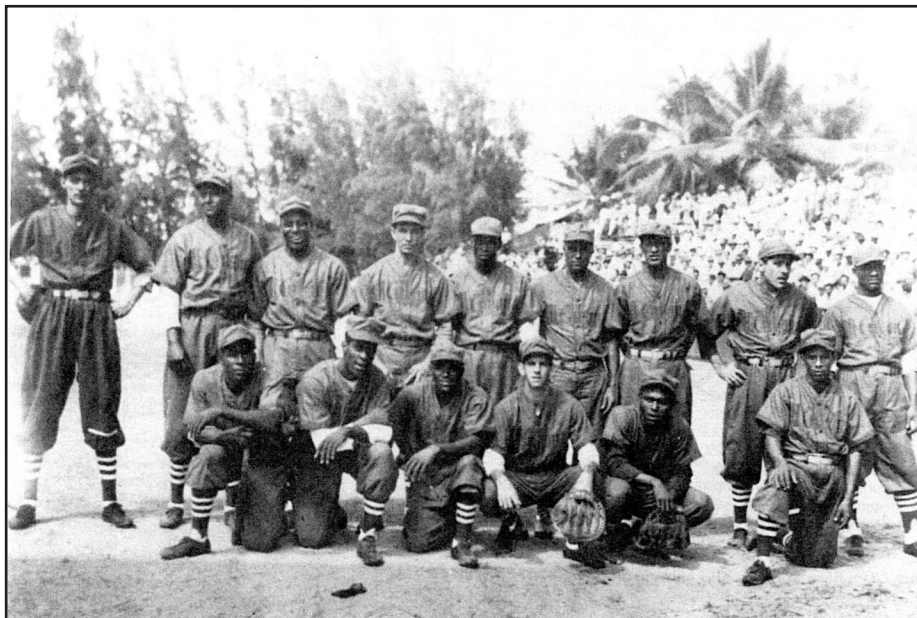
In December of 1975 while at his home in Puerto Vallarta, Minnie got a telephone call from Roland Hemond who was the General Manager of the Chicago White Sox. Hemond had been instructed by team owner Bill Veeck to offer Minoso a job coaching for the White Sox for the 1976 American League season. Minnie Minoso was once again a Chicago White Sox.

Minnie coached for the Chicago White Sox for the 1976 through 1978 American League seasons and during 1980 and 1981.

Orestes Minoso
Venados de Mazatlan
Liga Sonora-Sinaloa (Mexico)

Cuban Winter League Career

Orestes Minoso's first year in professional baseball was when he was signed by the Marianao Tigres for their 1945-46 season in the Cuban Professional League. He had an outstanding season during his rookie year and was voted the Cuban Professional League "Rookie of the Year." From 1945 through the end of 1961, he would be a fixture first at third base and then in the outfield for the Tigres. He spent his entire professional career in Cuba with the same team, the Marianao Tigres. This was a very unusual feat in Cuban baseball.



All Cubans (1946)
Tour of Puerto Rico

(Standing left to right - Raul Diaz, Santos Amaro, **Silvio Garcia**, Virgilio Arteaga, **Cleveland Clark**, **Jose M. Fernandez**, **Luis Tiant**, **Isidro Fabre** and **Pedro Formenthal**. Kneeling left to right - **Minnie Minoso**, Fernando Pedroso, Rogelio Linares, Euclides Cabrera, Felix Castaneda and Raul Alenagro.)

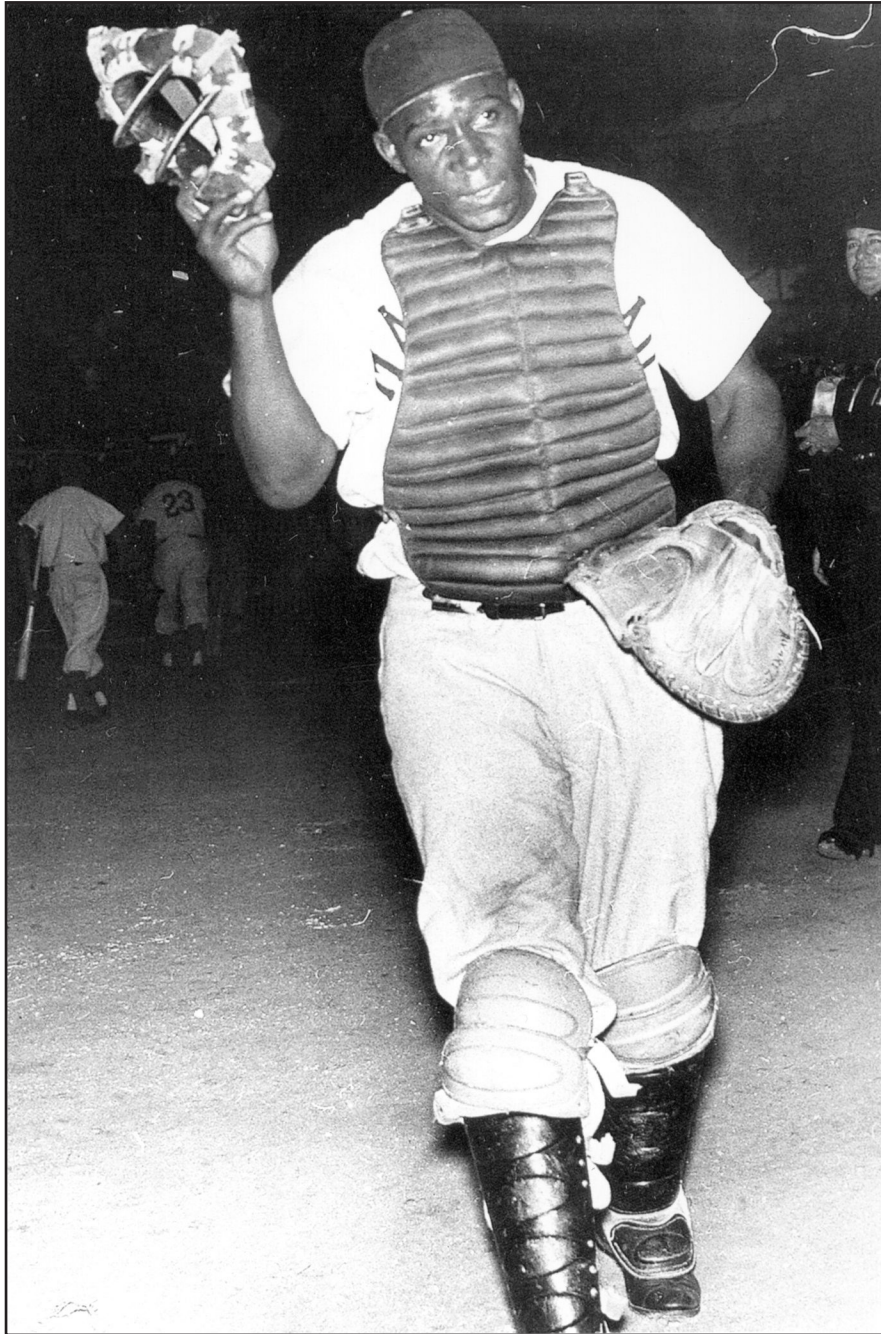
During his career in Cuba he only missed two seasons, one of which was the 1954-55 season when he was banned by his contract with the Chicago White Sox from playing winter league ball. Minnie Minoso played fourteen winter league seasons in Cuba.

Some of the highlights of his Cuban Winter League career with Marianao are as follows:

- Won the "Rookie of the Year Award" for the 1945-46 Cuban Winter League season.
- Offensively put up his best numbers of his Cuban career during the 1952-53 season when he hit 13 home runs, drove in 42 runs, .327 batting average and a .545 slugging percentage.
- Won the Cuban Winter League "Most Valuable Player Award" for the 1952-53 and 1956-57 seasons.
- Named to the Cuban Winter League All Star team five (5) times (1945-46, 1950-51, 1952-53, 1956-57 and 1957-58).
- Won the Cuban Winter League "Batting Title" for the 1956-57 season with a .312 batting average.
- Helped lead Marianao to Cuban Winter League championships for the 1956-57 and 1957-58 seasons.
- Led the Marianao Tigres to back to back Caribbean World Series championships in 1957 and 1958.
- Voted to the Caribbean World Series All Star team in both 1957 and 1958.

Minnie Minoso – Catcher

Minoso started his career at third base before he transitioned to the outfield. This rare photograph taken in Cuba shows Minoso in full catcher's gear. Minnie was playing for the Marianao Tigres of the Cuban Winter League at the time this picture was taken.



Orestes Minoso

Marianao Tigres
Cuban Winter League

Minnie also headed the Cuban Baseball Players Association when it was organized before the start of the 1960-61 season.

Minoso ended his Cuban baseball career as one of the best all-time hitters in the league's history. He compiled a career batting average of .280 and a slugging percentage of .422. The following chart identifies how he ranks among the leading hitters in Cuban baseball.

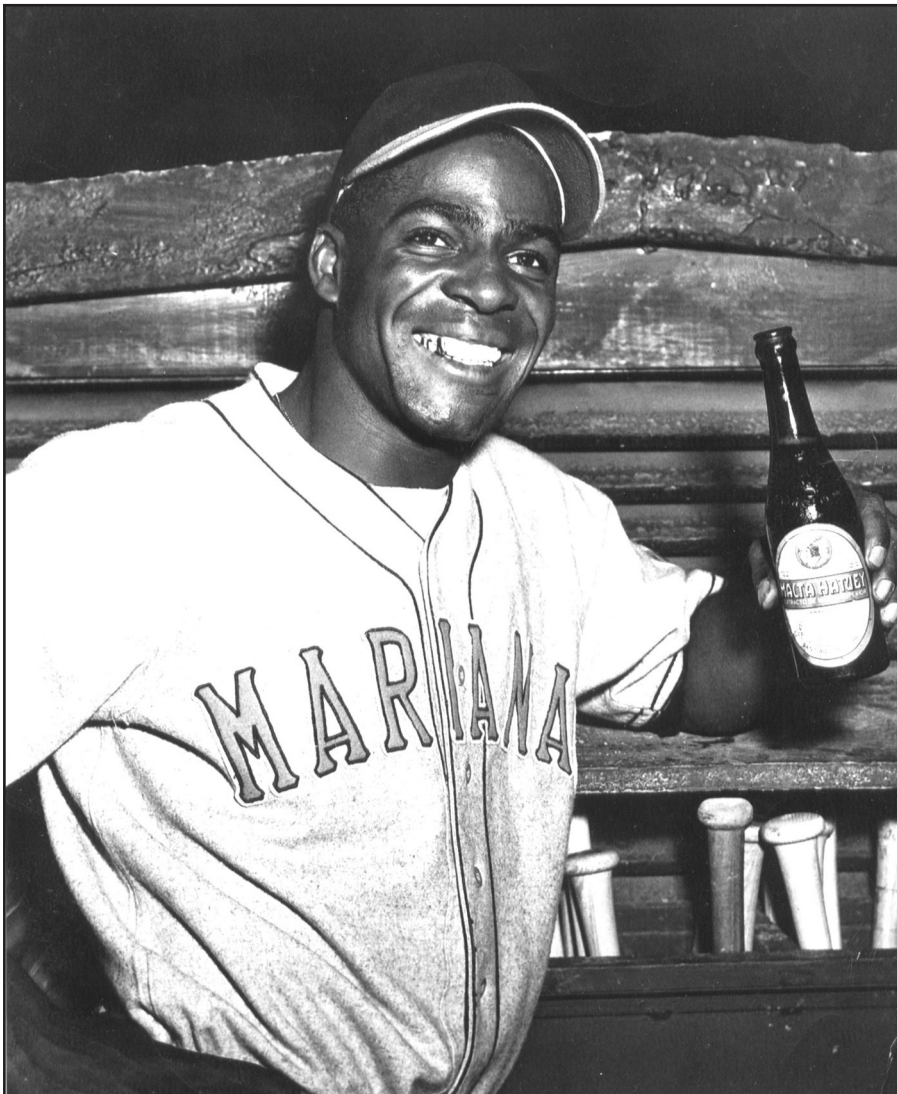
All-Time Cuban Hitters

	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Category Rank	2992 3 rd	504 2 nd	839 3 rd	125 4 th	51 2 nd	66 2 nd	393 3 rd	88 7 th

Orestes also holds the following all-time Cuban Winter League baseball records:

Year	Record	Number
1947-48	Triples (one season)	13
1952-53	Runs (one season)	67
1952-53	Total Bases (one season)	145
1952-53	Homeruns (four consecutive games)	5

Orestes Minoso's contributions to baseball in Cuba were "officially" recognized in 1983 when he was elected to the Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame.



Orestes Minoso
Cuban Icon

Five Decades a Famous Feat

Only two players in the history of Major League baseball have appeared in a Major League game in five different decades. The first was Nick Altrock and the other is Minnie Minoso. In order to accomplish this feat, the Chicago White Sox brought Minnie back to the active roster for a brief stay in 1976 and 1980. When he was activated during the 1976 season, he appeared in 3 games and got one hit in eight plate appearances. His lone hit made him the third oldest player in Major League baseball history to hit safely in an “official” game. Charles O’Leary singled in 1934 at the age of 58 and Jim O’Rourke got a hit in 1904 at the age of 54. The Miami Miracle attempted to have Minnie bat in 1990, but Major League Baseball would not allow them to activate him.

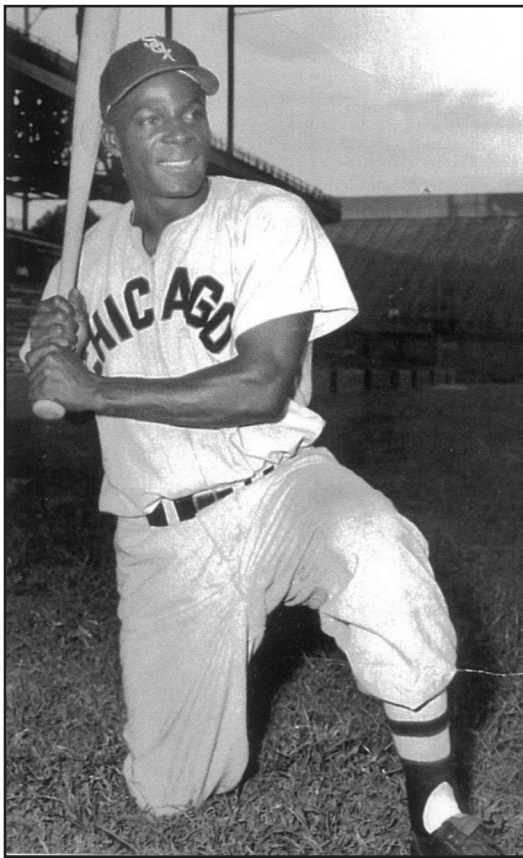


Minnie Minoso
Chicago White Sox (1976)

The St. Paul Saints of the Northern League continued to exploit the “most decades to have played baseball” scenario when they signed Minnie to come back to make an at bat appearance in 1993 and then again in 2003.

Finally in March of 2008, Minnie Minoso traveled with Ozzie Guillen and Jerry Hairston to Hermosillo to appear in a game for his old team the Hermosillo Naranjeros (Orange Sellers). Minoso’s at bat in Hermosillo’s game made the front page news of the Mexican city.

While these stunts did bring some notoriety and publicity to Minnie and the clubs that promoted the event, they did nothing to enhance his baseball legacy. Orestes Minoso should be remembered for the great player he was, not an old man coming up to the plate in a publicity stunt.



Minnie Minoso
Chicago White Sox

The Hall of Fame Doesn't Come Calling

On November 3, 2005 Orestes Minoso's name was added to a list of thirty-nine (39) former Negro League players and executives for consideration for induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. When the special ballot was voted on in February of 2006 Minnie fell just short of induction.

Minnie Minoso Today

Orestes "Minnie" Minoso or "Mr. Chicago White Sox" as he is often referred to lives in Chicago. He still makes personal appearances on a regular basis representing the Chicago White Sox. Fans all over the country love him and he is in constant demand for personal appearances. He is one of the great Latin ball players of all-time and represents professional baseball at its highest standard. He continues to serve as a role model to professional athletes everywhere.



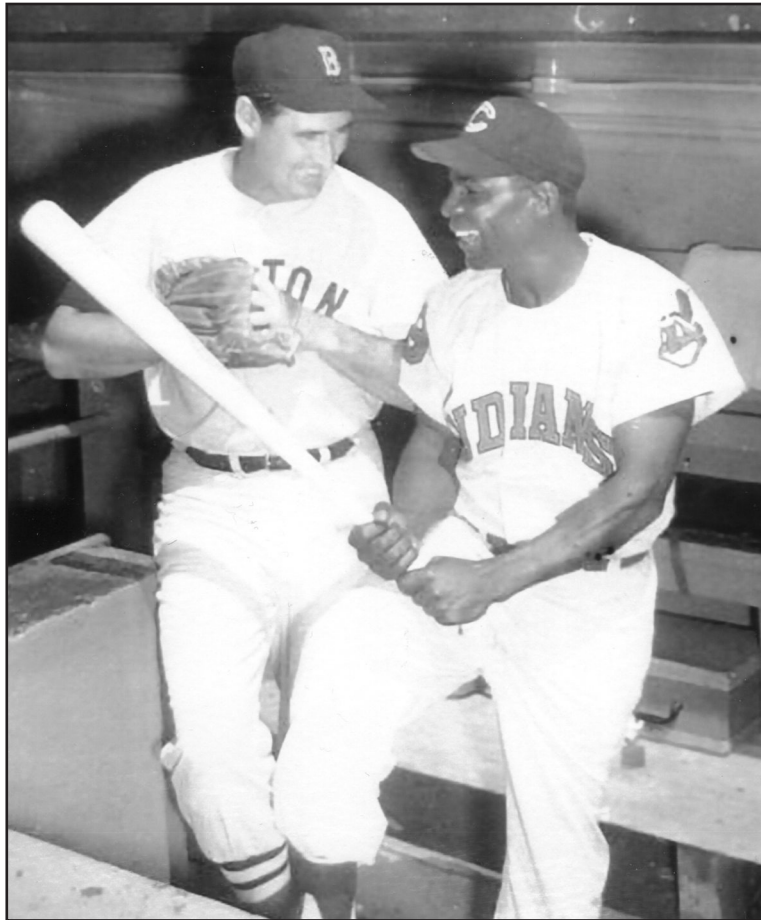
Minnie Minoso Signing Autographs for the Chicago White Sox Fans Early in Career

Minnie Minoso – Major Leaguer

Ted Williams
(Boston Red Sox)

and

Minnie Minoso
(Cleveland Indians)



**American League Gold Glove Winners
1960**

Minnie Minoso (outfield)
Jim Landis (outfield)
Luis Aparico (shortstop)
Nellie Fox (second base)

Assessing Minnie Minoso's Playing Career

- Orestes “Minnie” Minoso was an **excellent hitter** during his entire career. He posted the following career batting averages: Negro League (.310), Minor Leagues (.318), Major League (.298), Mexico (.325), Caribbean World Series (.356) and Cuba (.280). Current research has identified that Minoso has 4,457 hits in 14,710 at bats during his career. When all levels of competition are added together, Orestes Minoso had a career batting average of .303.
- Of the thousands of players who have played professional baseball over the 100 plus years since professional baseball began, **only one player (Pete Rose) in the history of the game has recorded more hits** than Minnie Minoso. The following chart lists the current research of the all-time hits leaders in professional baseball.

All Time Hits Leader List

Player	Number of Hits
Pete Rose	4,769
Orestes Minoso	4,457
Ty Cobb	4,379
Hank Aaron	4,245
Derek Jeter	4,121
Jigger Statz	4,093
Julio Franco	4,074
Ichiro Suzuki	4,048 (still active)
Stan Musial	4,023

- Minnie Minoso played professional baseball at a lot of different levels. The most important was the Major Leagues. Analyzing how he did at the Major League level provides the best insight into his ability as a hitter. Therefore, it is extremely important to see how his **offensive production compares against other American League hitters** during the prime years of his career from 1951-1961.

Highest Batting Average in American League: 1951-1961 (minimum 3,000 at bats)

Player	Batting Average
1. Ted Williams	.336
2. Harvey Kuenn	.313
3. Al Kaline	.309
4. Mickey Mantle	.308
5. Minnie Minoso	.305

Highest on Base Percentage in American League 1951-1961 (minimum 3,000 at bats)

Player	On Base Percentage
1. Ted Williams	.476
2. Mickey Mantle	.425
3. Eddie Yost	.401
4. Minnie Minoso	.395
5. Gene Woodling	.392

Most Hits in American League: 1951-1961

Player	Hits
1. Nellie Fox	2,051
2. Minnie Minoso	1,861
3. Mickey Mantle	1,700
4. Pete Runnels	1,563
5. Harvey Kuenn	1,518

Most Total Bases in American League: 1951-1961

Player	Total Bases
1. Mickey Mantle	3,195
2. Minnie Minoso	2,878
3. Nellie Fox	2,601
4. Yogi Berra	2,581
5. Jackie Jensen	2,388

Most Runs Created in American League: 1951-1961

Player	Runs Created
1. Mickey Mantle	1,376
2. Minnie Minoso	1,145
3. Nellie Fox	957
4. Yogi Berra	911
5. Eddie Yost	909

Most Runs Scored in American League: 1951-1961

Player	Runs Scored
1. Mickey Mantle	1,244
2. Minnie Minoso	1,078
3. Nellie Fox	1,009
4. Eddie Yost	891
5. Yogi Berra	840

Most Extra Base Hits in American League: 1951-1961

Player	Extra Base Hits
1. Mickey Mantle	681
2. Minnie Minoso	579
3. Yogi Berra	510
4. Jackie Jensen	498
5. Roy Sievers	474

Most Times on Base in American League: 1951-1961

Player	Times on Base
1. Mickey Mantle	2,839
2. Minnie Minoso	2,806
3. Nellie Fox	2,721
4. Eddie Yost	2,617
5. Pete Runnels	2,297

Most Triples in American league: 1951-1961

Player	Triples
1. Nellie Fox	90
2. Minnie Minoso	81
3. Mickey Mantle	66
4. Pete Runnels	58
5. Mickey Vernon	57

Most Stolen Bases in American League: 1951-1961

Player	Stolen Bases
1. Luis Aparico	238
2. Minnie Minoso	193
3. Jim Rivera	160
4. Jackie Jensen	139
5. Mickey Mantle	124

Of the ten categories listed above, Minnie Minoso ranks second in eight, fourth in one and fifth in the other. His numbers against Major League pitching speak for themselves he was one of the best hitters in the American League during his career.

- One problem in analyzing Minnie Minoso's career is that we are **missing statistics**. This is especially true as it impacts his career number of hits. Some examples of statistics that we know are missing are as follows:
 - Virtually all "non-league" games he played during the three years (1946-1948) that he was with the New York Cubans are missing. In the seven (7) games that have been found for him playing against "non-league" opponents, he batted .429 (15 for 35).
 - Missing stats for the eight game American Series (Cuba) played in 1946.
 - Missing statistics from when he played for the All Cubans in Cuba in 1946.
 - No statistics for the series he played against the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 in Cuba.
 - He played at least five post season barnstorming tours (1948 and 1952-1955) on Major League all-star teams and we don't have any of those numbers.
 - Missing the number of games played each season in the Cuban Winter League.
 - Missing his hitting statistics for the 14 games he played during the 1963-64 Dominican League season.
 - Missing several seasons numbers for hits, doubles, triples runs and stolen bases when in played in the Mexican Minor League system.
 - He played for Puerto Vallarta, Cananea and Leon during the regular season in 1974 and 1975 and all of those statistics are still missing.
 - Finally, we are missing several winter league seasons that he played in Mexico, especially in the Liga Sonora-Sinaloa, Mexican Pacific Coast League and Mexican Northwestern Winter League.

In short we could be easily missing several hundred at bats and a couple of hundred hits. Who knows, he may in actuality be the all-time hits leader in professional baseball.

- During his **last three seasons (1962-1964) in the Major Leagues, Minnie's productivity fell off dramatically**. Minnie Minoso had always been a career .300 hitter, but in his last three years in the Majors he hit only .221 (98 for 443). This lowered his MLBB career batting average by six (6) points from .304 to .298.

- Minoso possessed **excellent defensive skills**. He started his career playing third base and transitioned to the outfield in 1950. He had a strong accurate throwing arm, excellent range, and speed to get to anything hit in his direction. When the Rawlings Gold Glove Award was first given in 1957 he won a Gold Glove for his defensive play in the outfield. He also won a Gold Glove in 1959 and 1960. His 133 assists are the most for any outfielder in the American League from 1951-1961. Minnie led the American League in assists by a left fielder six (6) different times. He also led the American League in double plays by a left fielder four (4) times. His bat produced runs for his team and his defensive play saved runs.
- Orestes Minoso played an **important role in the integration of Major League baseball**. When he took the field on April 19, 1949 for the Cleveland Indians, he became the first black Latin player to play in the Major Leagues. He also was only the eighth black player in the Majors and only the fifth black player in the American League during the 20th century. On May 1, 1951 he also became the first black player to play for the Chicago White Sox. It is important to note that in 1951 only three American League teams (Cleveland, Chicago and St. Louis) had a black player on their roster and he was one of only four players (other three were Larry Doby, Luke Easter and Harry Simpson) who was a starter. When Minnie was selected to play in the 1951 All Star game, he became the first black Latin American to play in a Major League All Star game. In 1955, nine years after Jackie Robinson integrated Major League baseball, Minnie was the only black Latin player to appear in more than 100 games in more than one season. Minoso was in his ninth season as regular when the American League became fully integrated in 1959. It should also be kept in mind that being from Latin America he had a lot more to overcome than African American ball players from the United States. Minnie Minoso had very little formal education and had not attended college like Jackie Robinson, Larry Doby or Monte Irvin. In addition, he spoke no English when he first came to this country. Minoso overcame education, language and culture to become a fan favorite and the most popular Chicago White Sox player of all-time. Orestes Minoso was truly a pioneer in the integration of black Latin players to the Major Leagues.
- Minnie **got a late start in the Major Leagues**. He was already 26 or 29 years of age (depending on which source you use for his birthdate) in 1951 when he became a starter for the Chicago White Sox. Without any question, he lost at least five prime seasons during his early 20's that could have added very productive numbers to his Major League career totals.

He lost a couple of years playing in Cuba, three seasons in the Negro Leagues and two seasons in the Minor Leagues. When he finally got an opportunity to play every day in 1951 with the Chicago White Sox, he immediately became an All-Star and Most Valuable Player candidate (Minnie finished fourth in the MVP voting in 1951, 1953 and 1954). Minoso also finished second in the American League in 1951 for the batting championship with a .326 batting average. Once he got an opportunity to play at the major League level he quickly proved he was capable of playing at the Major League level long before he had been given the opportunity.

Bill James who is nationally recognized for his analytical skills and assessment of baseball players had the following to say about Minnie Minoso:

“Minoso didn’t get to play in the Majors until he was 28 years old, but had a better career after 28 than almost any Hall of Fame left/right fielder. He had a .389 on-base percentage – better than any of the other outfielders in this part of the rankings except Paul Waner (better than Raines, Clemente, Al Simmons, Stargell, Kaline, Ken Griffey Jr. for that matter better than Willie Mays or Henry Aaron). Minoso hit for power, drove in 100 runs like clockwork, was a Gold Glove outfielder and one of the best base runners of his time. Rate that group of outfielders in terms of power, defense, base running batting average, etc. and I think you’ll

see that Minnie more than holds his own. He led his league at various times in hits, doubles, triples, total bases, hit-by- pitch (in which he led ten times), sacrifice flies, stolen bases, stolen base percentage, on base percentage and slugging percentage. He never won a batting title, but was second in hitting twice, in the top five, five times. He was a hustling, aggressive player, immensely popular with fans both in Cleveland and Chicago. Had he gotten to play when he was 21 years old, I think he'd probably be rated among the top 30 players of all time."

When you look at the productivity of individual Hall of Fame players after they turned 27 years of age, the average Hall of Famer collected 1,441 hits as compared to Minoso's hits total of 1,960. Only three Hall of Famers after they turned 27 got more hits than him. He also got on base more and had more homeruns than the average Hall of Famer after age 27. In addition only Luis Aparicio stole more bases than him.

Bill James ranks Minnie Minoso as the 10th best left fielder of all-time ahead of 12 Hall of Fame members that included Billy Williams (11th), Ed Delahanty (12th), Joe Medwick (13th), Jesse Burkett (14th), Lou Brock (15th), Goose Goslin (16th), Ralph Kiner (18th), Fred Clarke (22nd), Zack Wheat (23rd), Jim Rice (27th), Joe Keller (28th) and Heine Manush (30th).

- One of Bill James' analytical measures is the Gray Ink Test which assigns a numeric value to a player based on how he finished in the Top 10 of various offensive categories in his league. The average Gray Ink Test score of members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame is a mark of 144. Minnie's score is 189 and puts him in 49th place among the all-time hitters of Major League Baseball. It is obviously well above the average score for members of the Hall of Fame. Minnie Minoso has the **highest Gray Ink score for any player not in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.**
- Another of Bill James analytical tools is the Win Shares system which assigns a numeric value to a player based on the number of wins they contributed to their team. The Win Shares rankings for players from 1950-1959 is as follows:

Win Shares Ranking – Major League Players 1950-1959

Player	Win Shares	Player	Win Shares
1. Mickey Mantle	317	9. Robin Roberts	236
2. Stan Musial	285	10. Minnie Minoso	234
3. Duke Snider	278	11. Larry Doby	226
4. Yogi Berra	276	12. Nellie Fox	224
5. Richie Ashburn	249	13. Gil Hodges	221
6. Eddie Mathews	248	14. Ted Williams	212
7. Warren Spahn	239	15. Eddie Yost	207
8. Willie Mays	237		

All nine players who ranked above Minnie and the two that rank right under him are all members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

The Win Shares listing ranks hitters and pitchers together. It also combines the American League and National League into one listing. When you look at **American League hitters only, Minnie places third in Win Shares ranking for hitters from the 1950's** with only Mickey Mantle (317) and Yogi Berra (276) ranking above him.

- When analyzing how Minnie Minoso **ranked among his contemporaries, not only did he hold his own, but he ranked among the best.**
- Orestes started playing professionally in 1945 and played on a regular basis for the next 30 plus years. The **longevity of his career** was amazing.
- Minnie Minoso was a **complete ball player**, he could do it all. He could hit for average and power, drive in runs, score runs, run the bases and play great defense.

Playing Career

Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
1946-1947	New York Cubans	Negro National League
1948	Dayton Indians	Central League
1948	New York Cubans	Negro National League
1949	San Diego Padres	Pacific Coast League
1949	Cleveland Indians	American League
1950	San Diego Padres	Pacific Coast League
1951	Cleveland Indians	American League
1951-1957	Chicago White Sox	American League
1958-1959	Cleveland Indians	American League
1960-1961	Chicago White Sox	American League
1962	St. Louis Cardinals	National League
1963	Washington Senators	American League
1964	Indianapolis Indians	Pacific Coast League
1964	Chicago White Sox	American League
1965-1966	Jalisco Charros	Mexican League
1967	Orizaba Charros	Mexican Southeast League
1967-1968	Jalisco Charros	Mexican League
1968	Puerto Mexico Portenos	Mexican Southeast League
1969	Jalisco Charros	Mexican League
1969	Puerto Mexico Charros	Mexican Southwest League
1969	Puerto Penasco Tiburones	Mexican Northern League
1970-1973	Union Laguna Algodoneros	Mexican League
1974	Cananea	Mexico
1975	Leon	Mexican Central League
1976	Chicago White Sox	American League
1976-1978	Chicago White Sox (Coach)	American League
1980-1981	Chicago White Sox (Coach)	American League
1993	St. Paul Saints	Northern League
2003	St. Paul Saints	Northern League



Chicago White Sox (1960)
American League
(Minoso seated – fourth from right)

Orestes Minoso in Cuba



Marianao Tigres
Cuban Winter League

(Minoso – middle row standing second from left)



Marianao Tigres
X Caribbean World Series Champions (1958)

(Back row left to right – Napoleon Reyes, Felix Masud, Orlando Leroux, Pedro Ramos, Solly Drake, Milton Smith, Julio Becquer, Bob Shaw, Rene Friol, Bill Werle, Jose M. Fernandez, Jose Valdivielso, Witty Quintana and Rafael Noble. Kneeling left to right – Angel Oliva, Asdrubal Baro, Casey Wise, Juanito Izaguirre, Rodolfo Arias, **Orestes Minoso**, Juan Delis and Mike Fornieles)

Winter Leagues and Post Season Play:

Year	Team	League
1945-46	Marianao Tigres	Cuban Winter League
1946	All Cubans	Exhibition Tour of Puerto Rico
1946	Cuban All Stars	American Series vs National League All Stars
1946-47	Marianao Tigres	Cuban Winter League
1947	Cuban All Stars	Series vs Brooklyn Dodgers in Cuba
1947	New York Cubans	Negro League World Series vs Cleveland Buckeyes
1947	New York Cubans	Five Game Series vs Havana Cubans (FIL)
1947-48	Marianao Tigres	Cuban Winter League
1948	Jackie Robinson's All Stars	Barnstorming Tour
1948	Cuban All Stars	Latin American Barnstorming Tour
1948	Cuban All Stars	Series vs Venezuelan All Stars in Puerto Rico
1948-49	Marianao Tigres	Cuban Winter League
1950-51	Marianao Tigres	Cuban Winter League
1951-52	Marianao Tigres	Cuban Winter League
1952	Jackie Robinson's All Stars	Barnstorming Tour vs Negro League Stars
1952-53	Marianao Tigres	Cuban Winter League
1953	Campanella All Stars	Post Season Barnstorming Tour
1953-54	Marianao Tigres	Cuban Winter League
1954	Roy Campanella's All Stars	West Coast Post Season Barnstorming Tour
1954	Roy Campanella's All Stars	Game vs Kent Parker's Major League All Stars
1955	Willie Mays All Stars	Post Season Barnstorming Tour
1955	Minnie Minoso's All Stars	Exhibition Tour of Cuba
1955-56	Marianao Tigres	Cuban Winter League
1956-57	Marianao Tigres	Cuban Winter League
1957	Marianao Tigres	IX Caribbean World Series
1957	All Cuban All Stars	Game vs All American All Stars (Cuba)
1957-58	Marianao Tigres	Cuban Winter League
1958	Marianao Tigres	X Caribbean World Series
1958-59	Marianao Tigres	Cuban Winter League
1959-60	Marianao Tigres	Cuban Winter League
1960-61	Marianao Tigres	Cuban Winter League
1963-64	Escogido Leones	Dominican Winter League
1966-67	Hermosillo Narajaneros	Liga Sonora-Sinaloa
1969-70	Venados de Mazatlan	Liga Sonora-Sinaloa
1973-74	Puerto Vallarta Dolphins	Mexican Northwestern Winter League
1974-75	Puerto Vallarta Dolphins	Mexican Northwestern Winter League



Cuban League All Star Team
(Minoso seated – first on left)

Major League Baseball Transactions Involving Minnie Minoso

Before 1948 season – Signed by Cleveland Indians as an amateur free agent.

November 18, 1950 – San Diego Padres contract purchased by Cleveland Indians.

April 30, 1951 – Traded to Chicago White Sox by the Cleveland Indians as part of a three team trade. The Chicago White Sox sent Dave Philley and Gus Zernial to the Philadelphia Athletics. The Philadelphia Athletics sent Paul Lehner to the Chicago White Sox. The Philadelphia Athletics sent Lou Brissie to the Cleveland Indians. The Cleveland Indians sent Ray Murray and Sam Zoldak to the Philadelphia Athletics.

December 4, 1957 – Traded with Fred Hatfield by the Chicago White Sox to the Cleveland Indians for Al Smith and Early Wynn.

December 6, 1959 – Traded with Dick Brown, Don Ferrarese and Jake Striker by the Cleveland Indians to the Chicago White Sox for Norm Cash, Bubba Phillips and John Romano.

November 27, 1961 – Traded by the Chicago White Sox to the St. Louis Cardinals for Joe Cunningham.

April 2, 1963 – Purchased by the Washington Senators from the St. Louis Cardinals for \$ 30,000 and a minor league player to be named later.

October 14, 1963 – Released by the Washington Senators.

April 8, 1964 – Signed as a free agent by the Chicago White Sox.

July 17, 1964 – Released by the Chicago White Sox.

September 10, 1976 - Signed as a free agent by the Chicago White Sox.

October 6, 1976 – Released by the Chicago White Sox.

October 3, 1980 – Signed as a free agent by the Chicago White Sox.

October 6, 1980 – Released by the Chicago White Sox.



Minoso Signs with the St. Louis Cardinals

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1946	New York	33	123	22	32	7	3	3	16	1	.260	.439
1947	New York	55	228	56	67	14	-	3	-	7	.294	-
1948	New York	-	72	9	29	6	3	1	-	2	.403	.611
	Total	-	423	87	128	27	6	7	16	10	.303	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Negro Leagues “Non-League” Games)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1946	New York	3	13	3	4	-	-	-	1	1	.308	-
1947	New York	3	17	-	8	1	-	-	2	1	.471	-
1948	New York	1	5	1	3	2	-	-	-	1	.600	-
	Total	7	35	4	15	3	-	-	3	3	.429	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (East-West All Star Games)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1947	New York	2	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.143	.143
1948	New York	2	6	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	.500	.833
	Total	4	13	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	.308	.462

Career Statistics – Hitting (Negro League World Series)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1947	New York	-	26	-	11	2	0	0	-	-	.423	.500

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Minor Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1948	Dayton	11	40	-	21	7	1	1	-	-	.525	.825
1949	San Diego	137	532	99	158	19	7	22	75	13	.297	.483
1950	San Diego	169	599	130	203	40	10	20	115	30	.339	.539
1964	Indianapolis	52	178	22	47	11	0	4	26	6	.264	.393
1993	St. Paul	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
2003	St. Paul	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
	Total	371	1350	251	429	77	18	47	216	49	.318	.506

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Major Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1949	Cleveland	9	16	2	3	0	0	1	1	0	.188	.375
1951	Cleveland	146	530	112	173	34	14	10	76	31	.326	.500
	Chicago											
1952	Chicago	147	569	96	160	24	9	13	61	22	.281	.424
1953	Chicago	151	556	104	174	24	8	15	104	25	.313	.466
1954	Chicago	153	568	119	182	29	18	19	116	18	.320	.535
1955	Chicago	139	517	79	149	26	7	10	70	19	.288	.424
1956	Chicago	151	545	106	172	29	11	21	88	12	.316	.525
1957	Chicago	153	568	96	176	36	5	12	103	18	.310	.454
1958	Cleveland	149	556	94	168	25	2	24	80	14	.302	.484
1959	Cleveland	148	570	92	172	32	0	21	92	8	.302	.468
1960	Chicago	154	591	89	184	32	4	20	105	17	.311	.481
1961	Chicago	152	540	91	151	28	3	14	82	9	.280	.420
1962	St. Louis	39	97	14	19	5	0	1	10	4	.196	.278
1963	Washington	109	315	38	72	12	2	4	30	8	.229	.317
1964	Chicago	30	31	4	7	0	0	1	5	0	.226	.323
1976	Chicago	3	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.125	.125
1980	Chicago	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
	Total	1835	6579	1136	1963	336	83	186	1023	205	.298	.459

Career Statistics – Hitting (Major League All Star Games)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1951	American	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
1952	American	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1.000	1.000
1953	American	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	2.000	2.000
1954	American	1	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	.500	.500
1957	American	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1.000	2.000
1959	American	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
1960	American	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
	Total	8	20	2	6	2	0	0	2	0	.300	.400

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Mexican League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1965	Jalisco	134	469	106	169	35	10	14	82	7	.360	.567
1966	Jalisco	107	376	70	131	18	1	6	45	6	.348	.449
1967	Jalisco	13	37	5	9	1	2	0	3	1	.243	.378
1968	Jalisco	22	54	9	16	5	1	2	13	1	.296	.537
1969	Jalisco	36	103	18	33	3	1	2	14	0	.320	.427
1970	Torreón	40	47	6	22	6	0	2	17	0	.468	.723
1971	Torreón	112	336	37	106	15	2	6	57	5	.315	.426
1972	Torreón	121	425	48	121	24	1	12	63	5	.285	.431
1973	Torreón	120	407	50	108	15	1	12	83	10	.265	.396
	Total	705	2254	349	715	122	19	56	377	35	.317	.463

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Mexican All Star Games)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1968	Extranjeros	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
1969	Extranjeros	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.250	.250
1971	Norte	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.500	.500
	Total	3	8	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	.250	.250

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Mexico Minor Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1966-67	Hermosillo	84	302	38	104	13	0	9	36	-	.344	.477
1967	Orizara	36	100	20	35	7	3	5	19	-	.350	.630
1968	Puerto Mexico	56	145	30	53	17	2	4	23	-	.366	.593
1969	Puerto Mexico	74	193	33	58	10	2	2	32	-	.301	.404
1969-70	Mazatlan	59	220	30	79	12	3	5	35	-	.359	.509
	Total	309	960	151	329	59	10	25	145	-	.343	.503

Career Statistics – Hitting (Cuban Winter League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1945-46	Marianao	-	143	14	42	7	2	0	13	5	.294	.371
1946-47	Marianao	-	253	36	63	9	5	0	20	7	.249	.324
1947-48	Marianao	-	270	43	77	15	13	1	36	7	.285	.448
1948-49	Marianao	-	260	42	69	8	5	4	27	9	.263	.381
1950-51	Marianao	-	252	54	81	12	6	4	41	10	.321	.464
1951-52	Marianao	-	144	19	39	6	1	2	10	1	.271	.368
1952-53	Marianao	-	266	67	87	9	5	13	42	13	.327	.545
1953-54	Marianao	-	176	35	52	9	3	9	36	2	.295	.534
1955-56	Marianao	-	252	47	70	10	3	8	36	9	.278	.437
1956-57	Marianao	-	218	40	68	13	3	7	38	-	.312	.495
1957-58	Marianao	-	238	37	60	9	1	8	34	3	.252	.399
1958-59	Marianao	-	228	33	60	8	1	5	25	8	.269	.373
1959-60	Marianao	-	169	25	39	3	2	4	23	4	.231	.343
1960-61	Marianao	-	128	12	32	7	1	1	12	1	.250	.344
	Total	-	2997	504	839	125	51	66	393	79	.280	.422

Career Statistics – Hitting (Caribbean World Series)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1957	Marianao	6	23	5	9	0	0	0	7	1	.391	.391
1958	Marianao	6	22	3	7	0	0	0	2	0	.318	.318
	Total	12	45	8	16	0	0	0	9	1	.356	.356

Career Statistics – Hitting (Dominican Winter League)

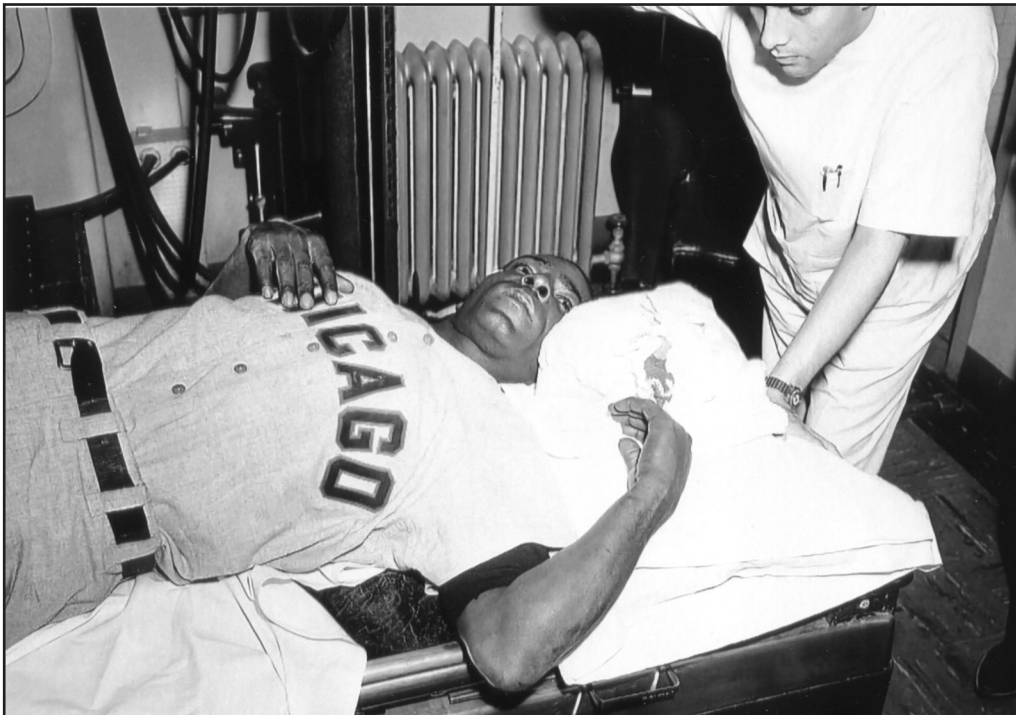
Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1963-64	Escogido	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.173	-

Career Hitting Statistics (Totals)

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Negro Leagues	-	423	87	128	27	6	7	16	10	.303	-
East-West All Star Games	4	13	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	.308	.462
Negro League World Series	-	26	-	11	2	0	0	-	-	.423	.500
Negro League “Non-League”	7	35	4	15	3	-	-	3	3	.429	-
Minor Leagues	371	1350	251	429	77	18	47	216	49	.318	.506
Major Leagues	1835	6579	1136	1963	336	83	186	1023	205	.298	.459
MLBB All Star Games	8	20	2	6	2	0	0	2	0	.300	.400
Mexican League	705	2254	349	715	122	19	56	377	35	.317	.463
Mexican All Star Games	3	8	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	.250	.250
Mexican Minor League	309	960	151	329	59	10	25	145	-	.343	.503
Cuba	-	2997	504	839	125	51	66	393	79	.280	.422
Caribbean World Series	12	45	8	16	0	0	0	9	1	.356	.356
Dominican Winter League	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.173	-
Total	3268	14710	2494	4457	755	187	387	2184	382	.303	-



Nellie Fox and Minnie Minoso Compare Injuries

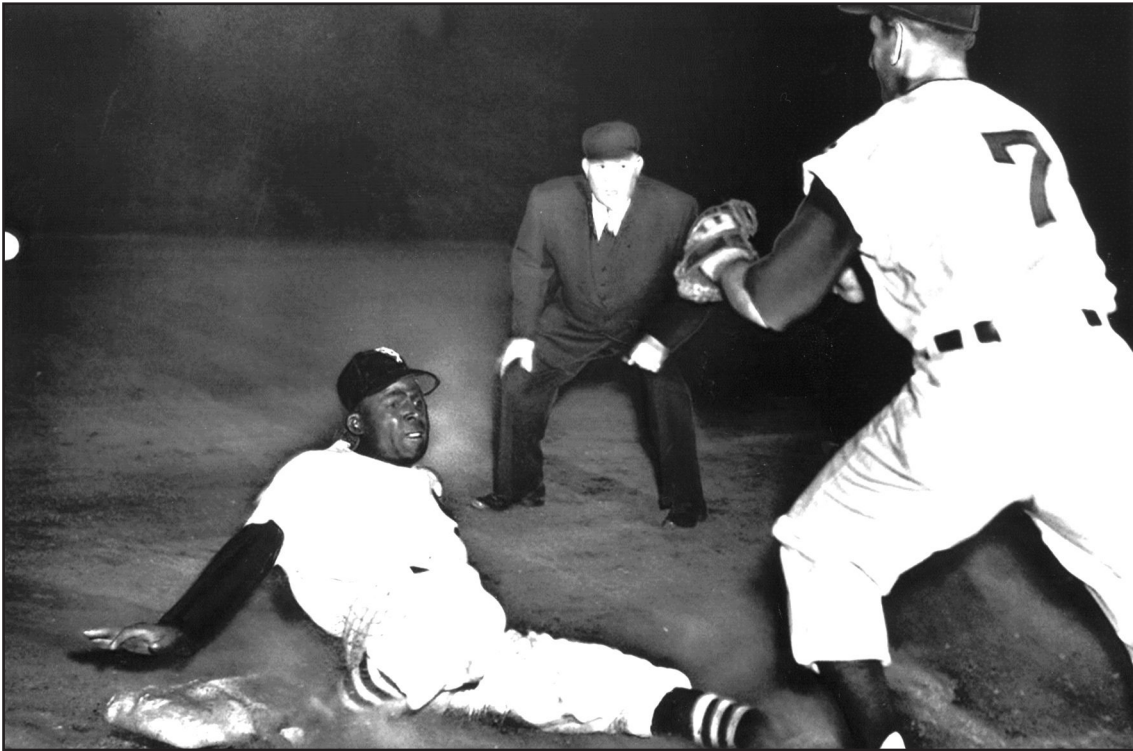


Minnie Minoso goes down after being hit by a Pitch

Batting and League Leader Hitting Titles

Category	Year	League	Number
Games	1960	American League	154
Runs Scored	1950-51	Cuban Winter League	54
	1952-53	Cuban Winter League	67
	1955-57	Cuban Winter League	47
	1965	Mexican League	106
Hits	1960	American League	184
Total Bases	1952-53	Cuban Winter League	145
	1954	American League	304
Doubles	1957	American League	36
	1965	Mexican League	35
Triples	1947-48	Cuban Winter League	13
	1951	American League	14
	1952-53	Cuban Winter League	5
	1954	American League	18
	1956	American League	11
Batting Average	1956-57	Cuban Winter League	.312
	1966-67	Liga Sonora-Sinaloa	.344
	1969-70	Liga Sonora-Sinaloa	.359
Slugging Percentage	1952-53	Cuban Winter League	.545
	1957-58	Cuban Winter League	.495
Runs Batted In	1957	Caribbean World Series	7
Stolen Bases	1951	American League	31
	1952	American League	22
	1952-53	Cuban Winter League	13
	1953	American League	25
Stolen Base Percentage	1955	American League	70.37 %
Sacrifice Flies	1960	American League	9
	1961	American League	12
Hit by Pitch	1951	American League	16
	1952	American League	14
	1953	American League	17
	1954	American League	16
	1956	American League	23
	1956-57	Cuban Winter League	11
	1957	American League	21
	1957-58	Cuban Winter League	15
	1958	American League	15
	1958-59	Cuban Winter League	10
	1959	American League	17
	1960	American League	13
	1960-61	Cuban Winter League	7
	1961	American League	16

Minnie Minoso – Unbridled Speed



Minnie Minoso (Chicago White Sox) steals a base



Minnie steals Home

Defensive League Leader Titles

Category	Year	League	Number
Gold Glove Award	1957	Major League (left field)	
	1959	American League (left field)	
	1960	American League (left field)	
Put Outs by a Left Fielder	1955	American League	267
	1956	American League	282
	1959	American League	317
	1960	American League	277
Assists by a Left Fielder	1954	American League	13
	1955	American League	18
	1956	American League	10
	1958	American League	13
	1959	American League	14
	1960	American League	14
Double Plays by a Left Fielder	1953	American League	3
	1954	American League	3
	1955	American League	2
	1960	American League	3

Major League Baseball Coaching Career

Year	Team	League	Position
1976	Chicago White Sox	American League	First Base Coach
1977	Chicago White Sox	American League	First Base Coach
1978	Chicago White Sox	American League	Third Base Coach
1980	Chicago White Sox	American League	Third Base Coach
1981	Chicago White Sox	American League	Coach

Managerial Career

Year	Team	League	Won	Lost	%	Place
1966-67	Hermosillo	* Liga Sonora-Sinaloa	23	12	.657	-
1967	Orizaba	Mexican Southeast League	40	66	.377	7 th
1968	Puerto Mexico	Mexican Southeast League	57	36	.613	3 rd
1969	Puerto Mexico	Mexican Southeast League	56	59	.487	4 th
1970	Union Laguna	Mexican League (North)	68	82	.453	4 th
1971	Union Laguna	Mexican League (North)	72	76	.486	4 th
1972	Union Laguna	Mexican League (North)	56	84	.400	6 th
1974	Puerto Vallarta	Mexico	-	-	-	-
1975	Puerto Vallarta	Mexico	-	-	-	-
1975	Leon	Mexican Central League	28	39	.418	6 th
Total			400	454	.468	-

- Record not complete for 1966-67 season.



Orestes Minoso, Martin Dihigo, Claro Duany, Unknown and Unknown



Marianao Tigres (Cuba) celebrate a Championship
(Minoso - third from left)

Selected Career Highlights

- Orestes Minoso played three seasons in the Negro National League with the New York Cubans and compiled a career batting of .310 for his Negro League career.
- Selected to the 1947 and 1948 East-West All Star Games (Negro League).
- Helped lead the New York Cubans to both a Negro National League and Negro League Worlds Series championship in 1947.
- When he made his Major League debut on April 19, 1949 for the Cleveland Indians, he became the first black Latin ball player to play in the Major Leagues.
- On May 1, 1951 when he debuted for the Chicago White Sox, he became the first black ball player to play for Chicago at the Major League level.
- Minnie Minoso compiled a career batting average of .298 with a .459 slugging for 17 seasons of Major League play.
- In twelve (12) seasons in the Major Leagues in which he was a starter, Minnie hit over .300 in eight (8) of those seasons.
- Had four Major League seasons with over 100 runs batted in: 1953 (104), 1954 (116), 1957 (103) and 1960 (105).
- Led American League in stolen bases in his first three full seasons in the Major Leagues.
- Selected for seven (7) Major League All Star teams: 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1957, 1959 (2) and 1960. All were representing the American League.
- Won a Gold Glove Award for his defensive play in the outfield in the first year of its inception (1957). Also won a Gold Glove in 1959 and 1960
- Member of the 1967 Jalisco Charros team who won the Mexican League championship.
- Selected to three Mexican League All Star teams (1968, 1969 and 1971).
- At the age of 47 he won the 1969-70 Liga Sonora-Sinaloa (Mexican Pacific Coast League) batting title in a .359 batting average for the season.
- Ranks second on the all-time list of number of hits by a professional baseball player with 4,457 hits. Only Pete Rose got more lifetime hits than Minnie Minoso. It is important to note that there are still a significant number of games in which Minoso played for which we do not have records. In short Minnie's hits total is still not complete.
- Compiled a career batting average of .303 in games against all levels of competition.
- Elected to the Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame in 1983.
- Elected to the Mexican Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996.
- Named to the Chicago White Sox All-Century team in 2000. In addition, his number "9" has been retired by the Chicago White Sox and a statue of Minnie Minoso was erected at the White Sox ball park (U.S. Cellular Field).
- Elected to the Caribbean Series Baseball Hall of Fame in 2005.
- Elected to the inaugural class for induction in the Latino Baseball Hall of Fame in 2010.

