

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Minnie Minoso

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Minoso, Minnie, 1922-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Minnie Minoso,
Dates:	June 7, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:53:10).
Abstract:	Baseball player Minnie Minoso (1925 - 2015) was an all-star player with the Chicago White Sox known as "Mr. White Sox." Minoso was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 7, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_084
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Baseball legend Minnie Minoso was born Saturnino Orestes Arrieta Armas Minoso in Havana, Cuba on November 29, 1925. The outfielder and third baseman played for 17 seasons on four different teams and ended his Major League playing career in 1980.

Known as the "Cuban Comet," Minoso was the first Chicago White Sox player to break the color barrier in 1951. In his first time at bat in his White Sox debut May 1, 1951, Minoso hit a home run in a game against the New York Yankees. He finished his rookie year as the American League leader in stolen bases and triples, and led the American League in stolen bases each year from 1951 to 1953.

While with the Chicago club, Minoso ushered in the era of the "Go-Go Sox." Although he was not present for the Sox' 1959 pennant win, they gave him an honorary championship ring.

Following stints with the Indians and Senators, Minoso batted .302 in 1958 and 1959 before the Sox reacquired him in 1960, when he led the American League in hits. While he retired from baseball in 1964, the Sox brought him out of retirement in 1976. He coached for the Sox in 1976-78 and retired in 1980. The club's president named him "Mr. White Sox" before his number "9" was retired in 1983. Minoso was a seven-time American League All Star and a three-time Gold Glove outfielder. He was elected to the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame in 1984 and the World Baseball Hall of Fame in 1990. Since his retirement from the game, he served as an ambassador for baseball and a Sox community relations representative. In 2002, he was inducted into the Shrine of the Eternals.

Minnie Minoso passed away on March 1, 2015 at the age of 89.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Minnie Minoso was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 7, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Baseball player Minnie Minoso (1925 - 2015) was an all-star player with the Chicago White Sox known as "Mr. White Sox."

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Minoso, Minnie, 1922-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Minoso, Minnie, 1922---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Chicago White Sox (Baseball team)

Occupations:

Baseball Player

HistoryMakers® Category:

SportsMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Minnie Minoso, June 7, 2002. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 6/7/2022 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Minnie Minoso, Section A2002_084_001_001, TRT: 0:28:24
2002/06/07

Minnie Minoso talks about his family background. Minoso was born on November 29, 1925 in Perico, Cuba. His father, Carlos Arrieta, was a ranch laborer who raised livestock and grew corn, rice, and beans. His mother, Cecilia Arrieta, passed away when Minoso was twelve. Minoso remembers her sweet, yet shrewd personality. As a child, Minoso had to walk two miles from home to attend the local grade school which was in a sugar factory. He began playing at a young age and managed his baseball team as a teenager. Minoso also talks about the debate about his birthdate and how he deals with critics.

Video Oral History Interview with Minnie Minoso, Section A2002_084_001_002, TRT: 0:29:04
2002/06/07

Minnie Minoso remembers when Jackie Robinson broke professional baseball's color barrier in 1947 with the backing of Branch Rickey, the general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Minoso began his baseball career in 1945 when he joined Cuba's Marianao Tigers. He first came to the United States in 1946 when he was signed by the New York Cubans of the Negro Baseball League. In 1948, Minoso was signed by the Cleveland Indians to play for their minor league team, the Dayton Indians in Dayton, Ohio. In his first season with the Dayton Indians, Minoso batted a .525 at Hudson field. Minoso got his major league start in 1949 with the Cleveland Indians after the team won the World Series. In 1951, he became the first black baseball player in Chicago, Illinois when he was signed by the Chicago White Sox. Minoso talks about his experiences of racial discrimination as a black baseball player and the importance of mentoring today's youth.

Video Oral History Interview with Minnie Minoso, Section A2002_084_001_003, TRT: 0:28:54
2002/06/07

Minnie Minoso was named Sporting News' Rookie of the Year after his first season with the Chicago White Sox in 1951. While with the Chicago White Sox, Minoso became good friends with Venezuelan teammate Chico Carrasquel with whom he remains in contact today. Minoso held the record for getting hit by the most pitches, 192 in total over the course of his career. He believes this high volume of brushback pitches and beanballs was due not only to his race, but also because of his at bat approach on the plate; Minoso often hit in the clutch. Minoso also talks about baseball players' function as public entertainers as well as factors behind the rise of home runs in baseball.

Video Oral History Interview with Minnie Minoso, Section A2002_084_001_004, TRT: 0:29:00
2002/06/07

Minnie Minoso describes himself as baseball's number one hustler, chronicling a long list of baseball injuries, including stiches, fractures, and a four-day coma in 1962. Minoso first played for the Chicago White Sox from 1951 to 1957, quickly establishing himself as a fan favorite. He is still recognized and respected by fans today. Minoso returned to the Chicago White Sox in 1960 after a two-year stint with the Cleveland Indians. Minoso retired from baseball for the first time in 1974. He moved to Mexico in 1965 where he managed and also played on teams in the Mexican and Pacifico League. He was inducted into the Mexican Professional Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996. In 1976, the White Sox called Minoso out of retirement as a base coach. During his six decades long career, Minoso was named an All-Star nine times. Minoso also talks about baseball today and names Ted Williams and Willie Mays as the best baseball players in history.

Video Oral History Interview with Minnie Minoso, Section A2002_084_001_005, TRT: 0:30:31
2002/06/07

Minnie Minoso is an American citizen who continues to enjoy a good reputation in his homeland Cuba by staying out of the political fray. He reflects on his relationships with Joe DiMaggio, his father, his wife, and other Cuban American baseball players. Minoso also describes how he would like to be remembered, and his vision for today's youth. Minoso narrates his photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Minnie Minoso, Section A2002_084_001_006, TRT: 0:27:17
2002/06/07

Minnie Minoso narrates his photographs.