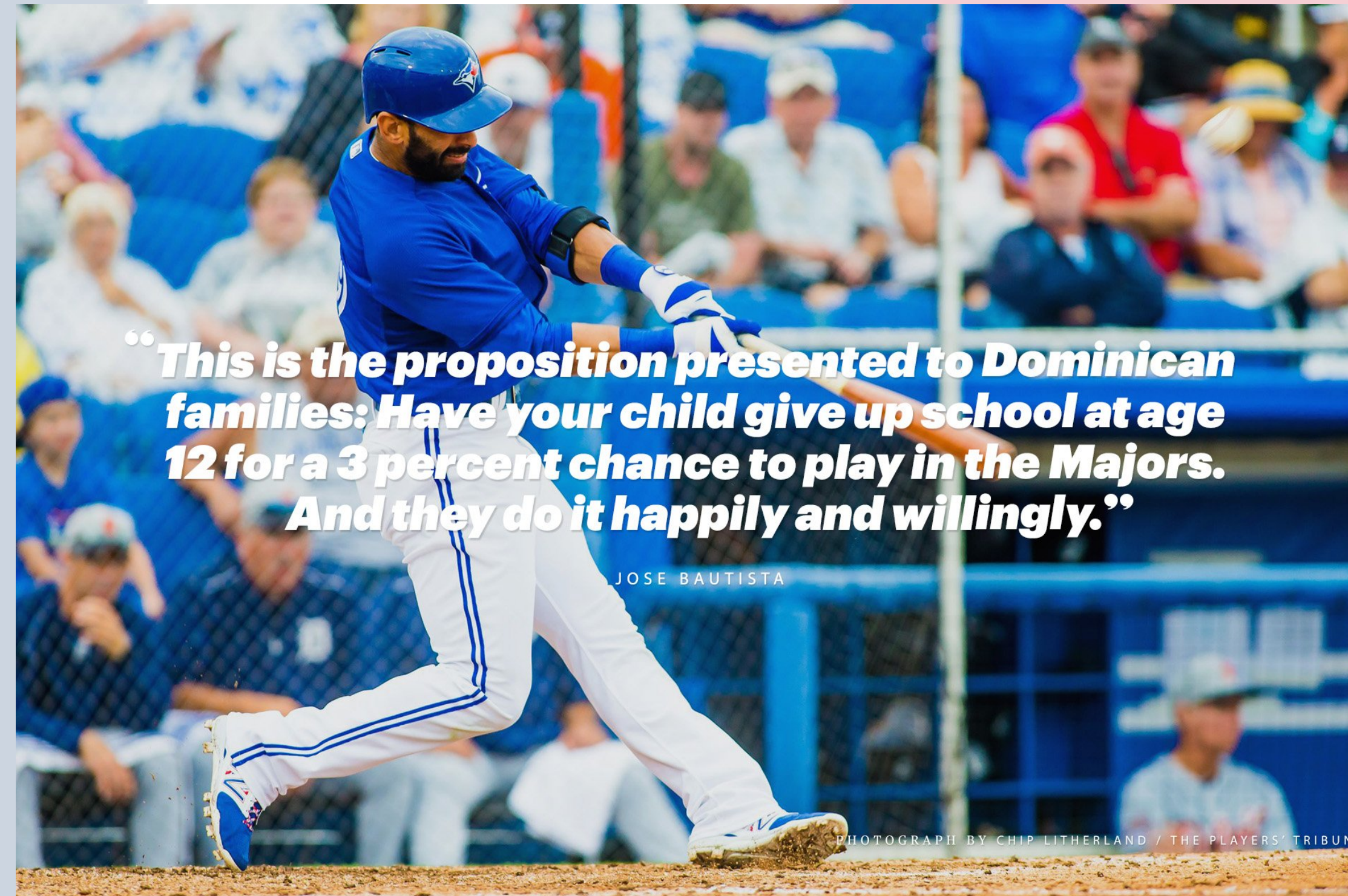


# Rethinking Baseball in the Dominican Republic

Reid Ostrom | Latin American and Caribbean Studies Capstone at Washington and Lee University | Winter 2018

## Beginning of Modern Baseball

- From introduction by Cubans in late 1800s, Dominican baseball marked by sovereignty and lack of outside influence
- 1956– Ozzie Virgil first Dominican player to play in the Major Leagues
- Free agency and academy system in 1980s changed everything



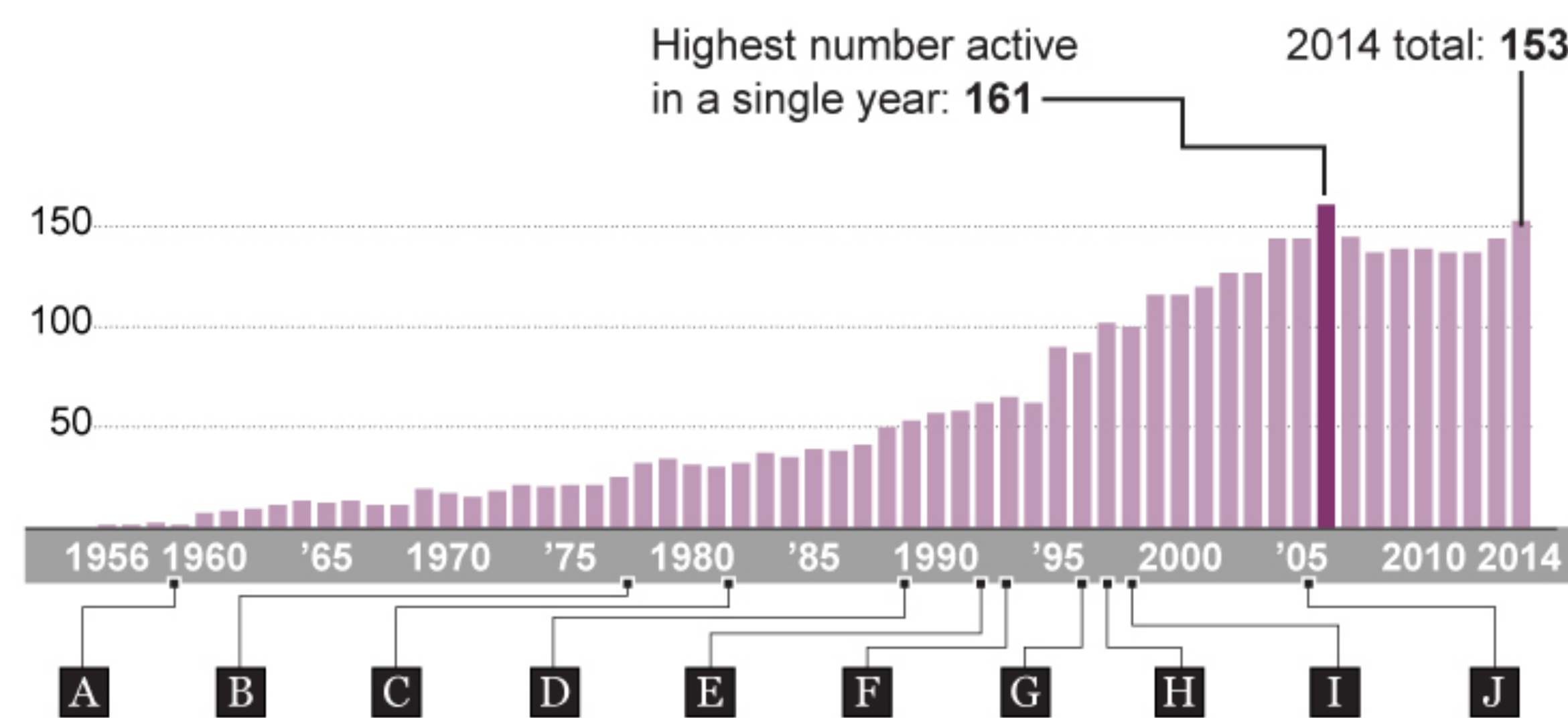
Jose Bautista, “The Cycle,” *The Players’ Tribune*, April 2, 2015.

## Cultural Resistance

- Superstars like Sammy Sosa, David Ortiz, and Albert Pujols reclaim Dominican identity with their success and passion for the game

**National pride is an “antidote” to hegemonic processes (Klein 1995)**

Getty Images, from RO Baseball. <https://.robbaseball.com>



Tribune Graphics. “Dominicans in Major League Baseball.” *The Chicago Tribune*. March 3, 2015.

**Baseball is “Dominicanized” (Klein 1988)**



## Baseball academy = colonial outpost (Klein 1989)

- American hegemony in the name of capitalism

**“locating resources, refining them for consumption abroad” (Klein 1989)**

**“pieces of exported fruit” (Vargas 2000)**

**“Would it be tolerated if underprivileged Americans were treated by Major League Baseball the way Latinos are?” (Vargas 2000)**



Courtesy MLB DR, MLB Photo Galleries: Dominican Republic Baseball Academies. [www.mlb.com](http://www.mlb.com).

## Future

- Dominicans fight for equal treatment as MLB attempts to maintain control
- International signing bonus pool and other proposals

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