



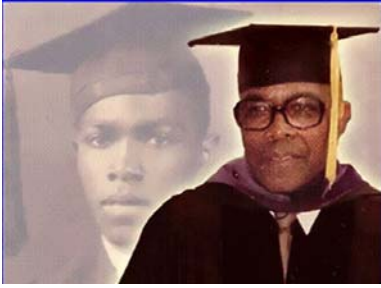
# **DRSEA INFORMER**

Volume II, Issue 2: A Publication For Your Reading Enjoyment

***Bola Del Juego (Play Ball)*** – While it will be sometime before the Dominican Republic Sports & Education Academy officially opens its doors (Target Date: September 2010), we are being deluged by young Dominican baseball players looking for an opportunity to play college ball in the United States. With the wealth of baseball players here, and the fact that only 5% of U.S. college baseball players are Latino, there are probably a lot of colleges and universities out there who could substantially benefit from adding a player or two from the Dominican Republic to their rosters. Finding the right matches is the conundrum.

The players who have contacted us all meet, or are on target to meet, the minimum eligibility standards required by the National Collegiate Athletic Association for students from the Dominican Republic in order to qualify for athletic scholarships, so getting them into a college is not so much the problem as identifying colleges that are a good match, not only in terms of baseball ability, but also career goals and comfort levels. Most of these young men have never been out of the Dominican Republic, so finding supportive and nurturing environments is essential. The classroom is important, but a college education is a total experience, and an experience that these young men would benefit greatly from.

If you think your college might be interested in one of these young men, or you know a college or university that could be, please send them a copy of this newsletter and suggest they contact us. Who knows, some college out there may just discover and develop the next Sammy Sosa. And we would be most happy if that person goes on to become **Dr.** Sammy Sosa.



### ***Reflexiones (Reflections)*** – Heaven got a new angel

Christmas Day with the passing of Dr. Frank Coleman in Philadelphia. Tick, as he was affectionately known, was 97.

Dr. Coleman was a contemporary of my father's, with my dad graduating from Lincoln University in 1934 and Tick a year later. Both bled Lincoln orange and blue.

While I knew Dr. Coleman most of my life, I got to know him as a friend and a brother after I joined the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, an organization he joined in 1932. Brotherhood is designed to bring fraternity members closer, but Tick was more than a brother, he was an inspiration.

He never talked a lot about the hardships he endured, just how he overcame them. Despite being short in stature, he was a superior athlete. He was the first black quarterback on the Central High School Public League Championship teams in 1929 and 1930, and he was also the first black member in the Philadelphia area on the Scholastic High School Football Team in 1928. While at Lincoln, he was elected class president three times and played quarterback on the football team. He was a member of the wrestling team, manager of the basketball team and sat on the Intramural Council. His football helmet and shoes are on display at the African American Museum in Philadelphia. For five decades, he campaigned to reestablish Lincoln's football team and witnessed its resurrection in 2007.

Tick was one of the first, if not the first, black Eagle Scouts in the nation. I remember him telling me how segregation prevented him from swimming at any of the public pools in Philadelphia, so when it came time for him to get his swimming merit badge, he jumped into the Schuylkill River to take the test. He devoted much of the rest of his life to bringing scouting to underprivileged youth; to honor his service, the Boy Scouts of America created the Dr. Frank "Tick" Coleman National Service Award to recognize paraprofessional scouters.

Dr. Coleman was an educator and advocator for underprivileged youth all his life. He started working at the Christian Street YMCA during segregation, but the challenges of the time just made him more adamant to find and create ways to serve the community and its youth. He was well educated in his field of counseling and worked for the School District of Philadelphia as a youth counselor for 32 years, retiring in 1981. That same year, he began his tenure at Lincoln University as director of Alumni Relations until 1988. He served on the Board of Trustees for 10 years and, in the early 90's was special assistant to the president of Lincoln for Alumni Giving. Throughout his life he supported a number of institutions, too numerous to mention, that worked to mentor thousands of youth in the city of Philadelphia. In one of his last interviews, he said, "I just want to make a difference in a young person's life."

I last visited Dr. Coleman in the hospital about a year ago when he was having a second leg amputated due to complications from diabetes. A day after the operation, he was sitting up in bed, upbeat and anxious to leave the hospital with his list of things he had to do. I since talked to him a few times on the phone, and last saw him at Lincoln at its first football game in nearly 50 years. It was a proud moment for him, one that I am glad he lived to witness.

As we celebrate the King Holiday, I am reminded of a quote by Dr. King: "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the

broader concerns of all humanity.” Tick Coleman started living a long time ago and never stopped until Christmas Day. Thanks Tick, you did make a difference, and we are all just a little better for it.

### ***Susan Van Lier Es Una Persona Especial (Susan Van Lier is a special person)***

– Susan Van Lier, a member of the DRSEA Board of Trustees, currently acts as an independent contractor representing bank mandates selling bulk REOs and non-performing notes to buyers nationwide. She also assists companies in raising funds, particularly in the real estate arena.

For the past 17 years, Susan has been personal and business manager for husband Norm Van Lier and was executive producer of “NBA Roundup with Norm Van Lier” on ESPN Radio 1000. Norm, a former NBA All Star with the Chicago Bulls, and I worked together at Northeastern University’s Center for the Study of Sport in Society.

Ms. Van Lier has been developing entertaining, commercially viable and thought provoking film, television, and radio projects for the past several years. She financed the feature film *Chi Girl*, which received, among other awards, the Grand Jury Prize for Best Picture at the Slamdance Film Festival in 1999. Ms. Van Lier went on to sell *Chi Girl* to New York distributor IFC Entertainment. She is an Advisory Board Member for the Slamdance Film Festival and the Kinghorn Foundation, among others.

### ***Otras Noticias De Interés (Other News of Interest)***

**Upping Education Hours** – Dominican Education Minister Melanio Paredes says that parents need to do their bit if the "1,000 hour" education plan is to be a success. He added that the country could not develop if students only receive 400 hours of education each year. Paredes was critical of the fact that a low number of students turned up for classes that resumed last week.

According to Paredes, Dominican students receive an average of 400 hours of class per school year, while schools in other countries in the region teach almost 800 hours per school year. Paredes said that in the month of January students would only receive three days of schooling because of the number of national holidays and the lack of cooperation from parents in ensuring their children go to school.

In related news, the government is studying the possibility of removing families from the Solidarity Program if children in the household aren't going to school. The Program assists low-income families and one of the requirements for receiving government assistance is that children must be attending school.

**Feeding The Poor** – The Price Stabilization Institute (Inespre) is aiming to reach many more people and provide affordable foods to nearly 100% of the poorest households by the end of the year through of a series of programs geared to local food markets. This goal will have to be attained with a budget that is close to RD\$29,000,000 a month (nearly RD\$400,000,000 per year) and a difficult operational process that overcomes difficulties left by the former administration that left the accounts frozen and several questions hanging in the air. The organization expects that the Ministry of Agriculture budget for handling these farmer's markets will be transferred to them, together with the program.

Inespre Executive Director Ricardo Jacobo gave a broad outline of the plans he wants to follow in order to restore some of the institution's credibility in order to handle these farmer's outlets and mobile distribution units ceded by the Ministry of Agriculture on January 1 and become a real price-based option in a country where traders refuse to lower prices. As of last week, Inespre was operating 22 farmer's markets in the poorer areas of Santo Domingo province and the National District, and others are in the process of being set up. According to Jacobo, another 15 or 20 market sites will be prepared, with the goal for January set at 100 sites serving the public. He said he was aiming to have 600 of these low-cost food markets set up around the country by year's end. According to his calculations, for every RD\$100 million invested in farmers' markets, as many as 350,000 families can be helped with lower cost foodstuffs, or a total of 1.8 million people on a monthly basis.

**Play Ball II** – A noteworthy baseball story is that Felipe Alou, the former major league manager and all-star player, has been named manager of the Dominican National Team and announced that, "The world is waiting for us to win the World Baseball Classic." Alou said that he wanted the players to know how much everyone was expecting of them. "We are a fearsome team;" he said, "any other result other than the championship will be considered a failure." With 55 years of experience in baseball Alou is one of the most respected managers in the game, and he has traveled to Miami, Las Vegas, New York, Puerto Rico and Venezuela to talk with the Dominicans who are expected to play for the national colors in the classic. Alou and his general manager Stanley Javier revealed that the national team will play exhibition games against the Florida Marlins on March 3, the Baltimore Orioles on March 4, and the St. Louis Cardinals on March 5 in West Palm Beach, Florida. Due to some of the rules on players injured the previous seasons, Rafael Furcal and David Ortiz may not be eligible for the Classic, and the same is true for left-hander Francisco Liriano who missed the 2008 season.

*Charles S. Farrell*

## **DRSEA Contact Information in the Dominican Republic**

Address: Calle 19 de Marzo, #103, Suite 305, Zona Colonial, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Phone: 829-505-2991

Website: [www.drsea.org](http://www.drsea.org)

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