

ALL-STAR ENGLISH

A PROJECT BEISBOL NEWSLETTER

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All-Star English Graduate Starts Baseball Scholarship in the USA

Congratulations to All-Star English graduate Julian Sinisterra for achieving the dream of a scholarship to play baseball and study in the USA with the amazing support of Club Deportivo Los Astros and Fundación Cubs Envigado. Julian earned this opportunity through hard work on and off the field. He dedicated much of his time to learning English on his own over the last several years. Last year, thanks to our generous donors and the U.S. Embassy in Colombia, we were able to offer him a ASE scholarship and help him reach the necessary English proficiency to secure a college scholarship. He is currently pitching for the Crusaders at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas, and studying English.

Born and raised in a small neighborhood of Vallejuelos in Medellin, he found baseball as an escape from the poverty, drugs and violence which pervade the area. After graduating, he wants to give back to his community through sports and education. According to Julian, "Education is the key to improving one's life and community. There will be obstacles and injuries along the way, and sports don't last forever. However, your education always stays with you." This is a story of focus and perseverance. Julián is an inspiration to our organization and all the young aspiring ballplayers in Colombia.



Athletics & Cubs Climb the Ranks

Another season of All-Star English has wrapped up, and the reigning champions, The Nationals, have pulled it off once again! In this issue, we would like to recognize the runner up teams, players and coaches. The Athletics - Jeny Ruiz, Maria Jose Bader, and Valentina Jimenez - showed perseverance on the road to second place, led by skipper Luisa Diaz. They kept the pressure on the eventual champions right through the final days of the season, leaving everything on the field.



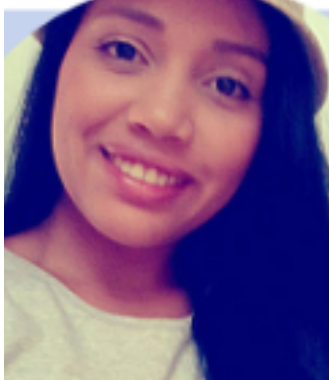
María Jose Bader



Valentina Jimenez



Jeny Ruiz



Luisa Diaz - Teacher



Juan Muñoz

Led by coach Elliot Roberts, players Juan Muñoz, Jorge Manuel Colón Peña, and Dayana Usuga Mieleles shined with their ASE averages, and their hard work was reflected in the standings.



Dayana Usuga Mieleles



Jorge Manuel Colón

The Cubs, meanwhile, really knocked it out of the park in the late goings to end up with an impressive third-place finish.

League Leaders: Season #3

As All-Star English continues to grow, we are consistently impressed by the dedication and drive that all our players show. There are certain specific All-Stars whose performances stand out and serve as inspirations to their peers, professors and fans!



Laura Sofia Acuña Aconcha (Atlántico)

Age 18. Outfield & Second Base. Laura has made great progress since entering the program, and has now advanced to the number one spot in the entire league. She is passionate about softball, traveling and reading. Her dream is to go to college and to become one of the country's top psychologists.

Edna Martinez (Córdoba)

Age 18. First Base & Outfield. Edna had a career season this year, posting a .931 average. Edna is currently in the fourth semester of her Public Accounting studies, where her discipline and English skills have helped her to become one of the top students in her class.



Laura Vanessa Rubio Ortiz (Atlántico)

Age 18. Shortstop. Laura is a strong leader both on and off the field. Not only is she a skilled and successful player, but she also dedicates a great deal of free time to promoting animals' rights projects in her home state of Atlántico.

Elver Vivanco (Bolívar)

Age 21. Baseball coach. Elver is currently studying a Bachelor's degree in Basic Education with an emphasis on physical education, recreation and sports. One of his major goals is to obtain a scholarship to study a postgraduate degree in sports training in 2023. His passion for sports inspired him to be part of the Project Beisbol team as a volunteer coach and be a U.S. Department of State Sport for Social Change Exchange Program participant.



League Leaders: Season #3

Maria Jose Martinez (Antioquia) Age 18. First Base & Right Field. Maria Jose is passionate about softball. She hopes to one day bring the same passion for softball to the world of business and create her own company to generate jobs for young professionals from underserved communities.



Maria José Martínez



Valentina Niebles

Valentina Niebles Delgado (Atlántico) Age 18. Pitcher. Valentina is a dedicated athlete who has shown stunning improvement over the last year, ending the season with a .906 average. She currently studies International Business and is grateful for the All-Star English program because she feels that learning English has given her more confidence in other areas of her life.

Gabriel Alejandro Márquez Wilches (Norte de Santander)

Age 19. Pitcher. Gabriel is an inspirational student. “This program is incredible because it offers us the opportunity to get to know new cultures through language and sports.” He works hard to spread his passion for baseball across his community in Norte de Santander.

Melanie Julieth Jimenez Osorio (Atlántico)

Age 17. Shortstop. Melanie is currently training to represent Colombia at the Pan-American Games and Women’s World Cup in 2023. Currently, she is also applying to universities to play softball and study in Colombia and the USA.



DHL Helping Learners

For years, DHL, the world's largest third-party logistics provider, has been leading the way with corporate responsibility by serving communities where they provide their services. In 2017, DHL created *DHL Helping Learners*, an initiative that donates refurbished, decommissioned DHL computers and educational equipment to schools, educational institutions and orphanages within the Americas region. Thanks to a long-term partnership with DHL Express, Project Beisbol was able to take part in this program in order to strengthen the All-Star English program. Since 2020, Project Beisbol has lent over 20 laptops to students in Colombia without access to this technology. So far, the partnership with DHL Helping Learners has been a game changer for All-Star English and the students.

According to *Esteban Rivas*, the DHL Express employee and co-founder of DHL Helping Learners, "In these times of remote learning, computers are essential. However, much of the world still has limited access to this technology. DHL Helping Learners is proud to support kids across Colombia with our partner Project Beisbol." Jose Mosquera, a student from Chocó and one of the beneficiaries of DHL's program, said, "I would like to sincerely thank DHL Helping Learners for the computer donations. My experience with All-Star English would not have been possible without DHL's support." Valentina Jimenez, one of the leaders of the All-Star English league, said, "DHL Helping Learners and Project Beisbol have changed my life as well as the lives of many of my softball teammates in Colombia. God bless you!"



Djinji Crocker, Project Beisbol's Vice President and volunteer of 13 years, visits Medellin to distribute the DHL Helping Learners computer donations to some of the leagues best students.



Coaches Corner

We wanted to do something a bit different this issue and do a deep dive into coaches' perspectives on All-Star English. We spoke with two of our best coaches, Amelia Mohammed and Jeny Acosta. The coaches were in agreement that teaching in the program was an enjoyable experience primarily thanks to the enthusiasm of the students. "The students are a joy to work with, they are very motivated to learn and develop the language which in turn motivates us teachers to challenge them more and more," said Amelia. "This is the first time I work with a foundation," Jeny said, "and the enthusiasm of the students is pretty awesome."

In terms of why they stay in the program, the coaches spoke about the impact they believe they can make. "Thinking that somehow I can be part of someone's life changing encourages me to continue and help the kids as much as possible so that they can have better opportunities in their life," said Jeny. Amelia, meanwhile, said "I like the vision of the school, I like that

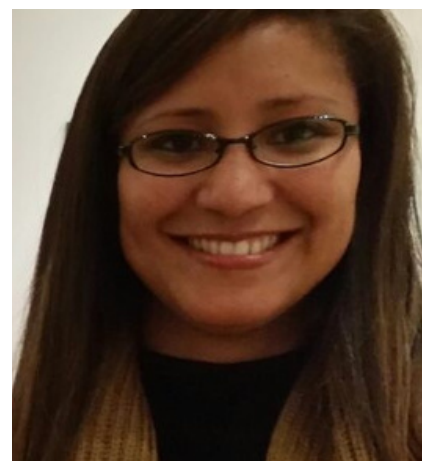
Project Béisbol gives an opportunity for kids to develop English skills with teachers of various backgrounds, cultures, and styles of teaching. It prepares learners for the next step in their journey towards achieving their life goals."

All-Star English, according to these coaches, is a vital piece of the educational process of an athlete. "Project Béisbol



Jenny Acosta

gives kids a safe and fun learning environment in a language they are learning with topics they are interested in. We teachers bring the world of baseball and softball to the students, making something that seemed far and out of reach become close and made tangible to them." Jeny emphasized that English was of great importance to athletes because it could potentially open doors abroad. "If you want to study or compete in the United States



Amelia Mohammed

or elsewhere, knowing English is a huge advantage as an aspiring athlete."

But it is not only the students who learn through the All-Star English program. These coaches, too, have learned valuable lessons. "The past year has taught me to be creative and to be patient," said Amelia. Teaching virtually has many challenges, but I have been able to grow as a teacher by finding creative ways to help my students progress, no matter the circumstances." Jeny said that her experience with the program had taught her an inspiring lesson: that no one's life is defined by their economic situation at birth. "No matter the lack of resources a person has growing up, if you believe in your talent, make great efforts, and show the world what you are capable of, you can reach incredible heights."

Regional Highlight: Norte de Santander

Norte de Santander, located in the northeast of Colombia, is a landlocked region of the country that has been shaped for years by its extensive land border with Venezuela. Most migrants who enter Colombia by land pass through Norte de Santander, and many settle in the region. This migration has helped create cultural dynamism and interest in elements of Venezuelan culture that the migrants bring with them, including food, music, and baseball.



Over the past two and a half years, Norte de Santander has been a focus area for Project Beisbol's sports and education programs due to its huge potential as a baseball and softball hub of the future. Project Beisbol has conducted baseball clinics and equipment donations in partnership with the local leaders and governments in Cúcuta, Villa del Rosario, Los Patios, El Zulia y Tibú. Its activities in the region go beyond the diamond. Project Beisbol has supported local youth with scholarships for the All-Star English program and implemented the Baseball Integration program focused on helping Venezuelans integrate in Colombia through baseball and



This social integration is a much needed tool to create a more peaceful society in the wake of massive forced migration. Project Beisbol is proud to partner with FUNVECUC, a local non-profit organization that benefits Venezuelan migrants with nutrition and health services on the border.

We are pleased to say that the Project Beisbol team will be carrying out its 10th mission to Norte de Santander in June 2022. Activities will include clinics and friendly competitions for all of the teams in the region, a coaches roundtable and workshop, English workshops for our All-Star English students and applicants, team building and conflict resolutions workshops, and a sizable equipment donation. We will be accompanied in the region by Donald Sivoletta, a New York University student and baseball player who will be doing an internship in Colombia with Project Beisbol for the entire month of August. In November, we are planning a full-day of youth and coaching clinics led by 5 MLB and MiLB players in collaboration with our partner, the Major League Baseball Alumni Association. This is going to be a huge year for baseball, education and unity in Norte de Santander. We are proud to be a part of it!

League Standings: Season #3

PLAYERS	DEPARTMENT	TEAM	ASE AVG
Laura Sofía Acuña	Atlántico	Phillies	.972
Edna Martínez	Cordoba	Giants	.931
Laura Vanessa Rubio	Atlántico	Nationals	.925
Angela Ruiz Mosquera	Valle del Cauca	Dodgers	.921
Elver Vivanco	Bolívar	Giants	.909
Valentina Elizabeth Niebles	Atlántico	Phillies	.906
Maria Jose Martinez	Antioquia	Giants	.896
Melanie Jimenez Osorio	Atlántico	Yankees	.885
Gabriel Alejandro Márquez	Norte de Santander	Cardinals	.880
Ana Sofía Laguna	Sucre	Red Sox	.880
Jeny Ruiz	Antioquia	Athletics	.877
Juan Andrés Muñoz	Norte de Santander	Cubs	.872
Jeremy Carlo Bolívar	Norte de Santander	Nationals	.864
Jeriza Padilla Castillo	Sucre	Mariners	.862
Maria Valentina Jimenez	Antioquia	Athletics	.842
Valery Pérez Hernández	Atlántico	Marlins	.840
Jose Antonio Jimenez	Atlántico	Angels	.839
Elias De La Hoz Arevalo	Atlántico	Dodgers	.832
Frank Wuillians Rodríguez	Norte de Santander	Nationals	.830
Jorge Manuel Colón	Atlántico	Cubs	.827
Ariacna Mildred Sandía	Atlántico	Marlins	.820
Angelica Peña	Cordoba	Tigers	.810
Mayerli Marquez Viloria	Antioquia	Blue Jays	.807
Jose Mosquera	Chocó	Giants	.802
Tatiana Cordoba	Chocó	Tigers	.801

	TEAM	COACH	WINS	LOSSES	ASE AVG
1	Nationals	Nicolas Rodríguez	31	5	.873
2	Athletics	Luisa Diaz	31	5	.860
3	Cubs	Elliot Roberts	29	7	.818
4	Phillies	Juan Florez	29	7	.814
5	Giants	Nicolas Rodríguez	29	7	.798
6	Marlins	Juan Florez	27	9	.763
7	Mets	Juan Carlos Vargas	26	10	.711
8	Mariners	Shawn Chattin	26	11	.684
9	Dodgers	Juan Carlos Vargas	25	12	.662
10	Red Sox	Melisa Echeveste	24	12	.660

Top 25 out of 100 students in the league. Above .800 ASE Average.

100
STUDENTS
ATHLETES

25
TEAMS

8
COLOMBIAN
STATES

37%
FEMALE
ATHLETES

35%
AFRO
COLOMBIAN

20%
VENEZUELAN
REFUGEES



About All-Star English

All-Star English is a unique and interactive online English course for motivated student athletes in Latin America. This interest-based program incorporates baseball and softball concepts into the language acquisition methodology, creating a fun and dynamic learning experience. View our [2021 Colombia Impact Report](#) to hear from some of our students.



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