



HI8MMJ

Manny Mota HI8MMJ - Born 1938 in Dominican Republic, Manuel Rafael Mota Geronimo - Professional baseball player and humanitarian.

Manny at the age of 19, demonstrated his hitting abilities when he first played in the minor leagues and was signed by Houston Colt .45s. He was then traded to the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1963 and quickly established himself as one of the league's premiere hitters. In the following years with the Pirates, Manny had over .300 hitting average before leaving to play with the S.F. Giants.

While at the Giants, Manny had the opportunity to play and to learn from Willie Mays and helped Mota further his skills and in 1969 was the first player selected in the major league expansion draft by the Montreal Expos. Later the same year, Manny returned to the West Coast via a trade with the L.A. Dodgers. Once in L.A. Mota became the number one pinch hitter there and hit over .300 during the next five seasons.

In 1973, Mota was selected to the National League All-Star team after leading the league in batting average - From 74 through 79, Manny was continuously called upon for late inning heroics, where he averaged 10 pinch hits for 6 straight seasons. The Dodgers appeared in the 74, 77 and 78 World Series. In 79 he established his place in the record books by becoming the all time leader in Pinch Hits off J.R. Richard.

In 1981 Manny appeared in his fourth World series, this time mostly as a coach but only to be activated later in the year for the stretch drive. Mota retired as a player from the Dodgers the following year. Mota left a career holding all time major league record for career pinch hits (150) which has since been broken by John Vander Wal and Lenny Harris and on an overall lifetime batting average of .304 and a .297 pinch hitting average. Mota was once again a coach for the Dodgers in the World Series in 1988, making this a total of five World Series appearances.

Thirty years after joining the Dodgers, Mota remains an active part of both the coaching staff and his community. In the off season, Mota and his wife Margarita reside in the D.R. where they run the Manny Mota International Foundation. Established over 30 years ago, this humanitarian org. provides needed resources and other assistance to disadvantaged youth and their families in both the Dominican Republic and the United States.

(If you were a Dodger fan, you would love the stadium announcer with the Manny Mota call to pinch-hit!) It is unknown where Manny got his interest in shortwave but we're glad he did. Partially scripted from wikipedia.com Who can ever forget those NBC TV Saturday games with Joe Garaziola in that mundane voice say "Now in the Days of Branch Rickey!"