

Béisbol! Latino Heroes of Major League Baseball

**ALBERT
PUJOLS**

JOSH LEVENTHAL



**BLACK
RABBIT
BOOKS**



Bolt is published by Black Rabbit Books
 P.O. Box 3263, Mankato, Minnesota, 56002.
 www.blackrabbitbooks.com
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Design and Production by Michael Sellner
 Photo Research by Rhonda Milbrett

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2015954869

HC ISBN: 978-1-68072-049-5 PB ISBN: 978-1-68072-306-9

Printed in the United States at CG Book Printers,
 North Mankato, Minnesota, 56003. PO #1797 4/16

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A Latino Legend



Albert Pujols steps up to the plate. It's the first **inning**, and there is no score. Pujols sends the ball deep to left field. Home run! That's number 499 in his **career**.

Four innings later, Pujols is up again. He smashes the ball into the seats. That makes 500 career home runs!

An All-Star Player

Pujols is a powerful baseball player. He is known for his great batting skills. He has hit more than 550 home runs so far in his career.

But Pujols wasn't always a pro ball player. He grew up in the Dominican Republic. His father often drank too much alcohol. Pujols had to help take care of him. Young Pujols had to make his own baseball equipment. Sometimes he used fruit for balls. He turned a milk carton into a glove. into a glove.





Number of Latino Major League Baseball Players

through 2015

642	Dominican Republic
341	Venezuela
253	Puerto Rico
193	Cuba
118	Mexico
55	Panama
17	Colombia
14	Curacao
14	Nicaragua
12	U.S. Virgin Islands
6	Bahamas
5	Aruba
4	Jamaica
3	Brazil
1	Belize
1	Honduras

A Young **Baseball** Star

Pujols was born January 16, 1980.

As a child, Pujols could hit a ball far.

He was very fast too.

Pujols and his family moved to the United States in 1996. They hoped for a better life there. Sixteen-year-old Pujols could only speak Spanish. He studied hard to learn English in high school.