



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 12, 2008

**TICKETS FOR THE OPENING ROUND OF THE
2009 WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC ON SALE NOVEMBER 17**

Ticket Strips for Round One Available for Purchase Online at WorldBaseballClassic.com

Full 2009 Tournament Schedule Announced

Ticket strips for Round One of the 2009 World Baseball Classic will go on sale to the public on Monday, November 17, World Baseball Classic Inc. (WBCI) announced today. WBCI, the tournament's organizing entity, has also announced the complete Official 2009 Tournament Schedule, set to begin in Tokyo, Japan on Thursday, March 5, 2009.

Ticket strips for the individual pools of Round One will consist of six tickets, one to each of the six games played in one of the four international first round venues. These strips will be available for purchase online at worldbaseballclassic.com, powered by MLB.com, the official website of Major League Baseball, as well as online and by phone in three of the four local markets. Round One games will be played entirely outside of the United States, in the Tokyo Dome in Tokyo, Japan; Estadio Foro Sol in Mexico City, Mexico; the Rogers Centre in Toronto, Canada; and Hiram Bithorn Stadium in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The release of the Official 2009 Tournament Schedule unveils the first-round match-ups for the second edition of the World Baseball Classic. Defending Tournament Champion Team Japan will open the 2009 event against Team China in the Tokyo Dome on March 5. The tournament's opening round will feature the following initial match-ups and will follow a double-elimination format:

TEAM OPENING GAMES BY VENUE

Tickets for all venues available online at www.WorldBaseballClassic.com.

Pool A: Tokyo Dome - Tokyo, Japan

Date	Local	ET	Match-up	Stadium
Thursday, March 5	6:30pm	4:30am	China vs. Japan	Tokyo Dome
Friday, March 6	6:30pm	4:30am	Chinese Taipei vs. Korea	Tokyo Dome

Pool B: Estadio Foro Sol - Mexico City, Mexico

Online: www.clasicomundialdebeisbol.com and www.ticketmaster.com.mx

By Phone: 5325-9000

Date	Local	ET	Match-up	Stadium
Sunday, March 8	1pm	3pm	South Africa vs. Cuba	Estadio Foro Sol
Sunday, March 8	8pm	10pm	Australia vs. Mexico	Estadio Foro Sol

Pool C: Rogers Centre - Toronto, Canada

Online: www.bluejays.com

By Phone: 416-341-1234; 1-888-654-6529

Date	Local	ET	Match-up	Stadium
Saturday, March 7	2pm	2pm	United States vs. Canada	Rogers Centre
Saturday, March 7	8pm	8pm	Italy vs. Venezuela	Rogers Centre

Pool D: Hiram Bithorn Stadium - San Juan, Puerto Rico

Online: www.clasicomundialdebeisbol.com and www.ticketpop.com

By Phone: 787-294-0001

Date	Local	ET	Match-up	Stadium
Saturday, March 7	12pm	11am	Netherlands vs. Dominican Republic	Hiram Bithorn Stadium
Saturday, March 7	6pm	5pm	Panama vs. Puerto Rico	Hiram Bithorn Stadium

The complete World Baseball Classic tournament schedule is attached below.

Strip sales for Round Two games at PETCO Park in San Diego, California and Dolphin Stadium in Miami, Florida, and the Semi-Finals and Final at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, California, as well as information on single-game tickets for the entire tournament, will be announced at a later date.

About World Baseball Classic, Inc.

World Baseball Classic, Inc. is a company created at the direction of Major League Baseball (MLB) and the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) to operate the World Baseball Classic tournament. The tournament, which is sanctioned by the International Baseball Federation (IBAF), is supported by MLB, the MLBPA, Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB), the Korea Baseball Organization (KBO), their respective players associations and other leagues and players from around the world.

About the World Baseball Classic

The World Baseball Classic is the premier international baseball tournament, sanctioned by the International Baseball Federation, and features the best players in the world competing for their home countries and territories. In March 2006, 486 players (235 of them from MLB organizations) representing 16 teams from across the globe competed in the inaugural event. More than 740,000 fans from 48 states and 15 countries attended games (16 of which sold out) and millions more watched on TV as Team Japan was crowned the first-ever World Baseball Classic Champion. The inaugural tournament was broadcast by 48 media outlets in 10 languages to 205 countries and territories around the world. Media members representing 25 different nations attended the 39 games in seven host venues across three countries/territories. The upcoming World Baseball Classic will be played from March 5 - 23 and will again feature 16 of the greatest baseball-playing nations in the world. The tournament will be held every four years thereafter, with plans in place to expand the participant field beginning in 2013.

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Greg Bouris, Major League Baseball Players Association, (212) 826-0808

Tournament Schedule (by Venue)

(Subject to change)



ROUND 1

POOL A Location: TOKYO DOME • Tokyo, Japan

Teams:	Game	Date	Match-Up	Local	ET
China	1	Thu, Mar 5	China vs. Japan	6.30pm	4.30am
Chinese Taipei	2	Fri, Mar 6	Chinese Taipei vs. Korea	6.30pm	4.30am
Japan	3	Sat, Mar 7	Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser	12.30pm	10.30pm (Fri)
Korea	4	Sat, Mar 7	Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner	7pm	5am
	5	Sun, Mar 8	Game 3 Winner vs. Game 4 Loser	6.30pm	5.30am
	6	Mon, Mar 9	Game 4 Winner vs. Game 5 Winner	6.30pm	5.30am

POOL B Location: ESTADIO FORO SOL • Mexico City, Mexico

Teams:	Game	Date	Match-Up	Local	ET
Australia	1	Sun, Mar 8	South Africa vs. Cuba	1pm	3pm
Cuba	2	Sun, Mar 8	Australia vs. Mexico	8pm	10pm
Mexico	3	Mon, Mar 9	Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser	8pm	10pm
South Africa	4	Tue, Mar 10	Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner	8pm	10pm
	5	Wed, Mar 11	Game 3 Winner vs. Game 4 Loser	8pm	10pm
	6	Thu, Mar 12	Game 4 Winner vs. Game 5 Winner	7pm	9pm

POOL C Location: ROGERS CENTRE • Toronto, Canada

Teams:	Game	Date	Match-Up	Local	ET
Canada	1	Sat, Mar 7	United States vs. Canada	2pm	2pm
Italy	2	Sat, Mar 7	Italy vs. Venezuela	8pm	8pm
United States	3	Sun, Mar 8	Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner	8pm	8pm
Venezuela	4	Mon, Mar 9	Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser	6.30pm	6.30pm
	5	Tue, Mar 10	Game 3 Loser vs. Game 4 Winner	5pm	5pm
	6	Wed, Mar 11	Game 3 Winner vs. Game 5 Winner	6.30pm	6.30pm

POOL D Location: HIRAM BITHORN STADIUM • San Juan, Puerto Rico

Teams:	Game	Date	Match-Up	Local	ET
Dominican Republic	1	Sat, Mar 7	Netherlands vs. Dominican Republic	12pm	11am
Netherlands	2	Sat, Mar 7	Panama vs. Puerto Rico	6pm	5pm
Panama	3	Sun, Mar 8	Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser	4.30pm	4.30pm
Puerto Rico	4	Mon, Mar 9	Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner	6.30pm	6.30pm
	5	Tue, Mar 10	Game 3 Winner vs. Game 4 Loser	6.30pm	6.30pm
	6	Wed, Mar 11	Game 4 Winner vs. Game 5 Winner	5pm	5pm

ROUND 2

POOL 1 Location: PETCO PARK • San Diego, California

Teams:	Game	Date	Match-Up	Local	ET
Pool A Winner	1	Sun, Mar 15	Pool A Winner vs. Pool B Runner-up	1pm	4pm
Pool A Runner-up	2	Sun, Mar 15	Pool A Runner-up vs. Pool B Winner	8pm	11pm
Pool B Winner	3	Mon, Mar 16	Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser	8pm	11pm
Pool B Runner-up	4	Tue, Mar 17	Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner	8pm	11pm
	5	Wed, Mar 18	Game 3 Winner vs. Game 4 Loser	8pm	11pm
	6	Thu, Mar 19	Game 4 Winner vs. Game 5 Winner	6pm	9pm

POOL 2 Location: DOLPHIN STADIUM • Miami, Florida

Teams:	Game	Date	Match-Up	Local	ET
Pool C Winner	1	Sat, Mar 14	Pool C Winner vs. Pool D Runner-up	1pm	1pm
Pool C Runner-up	2	Sat, Mar 14	Pool C Runner-up vs. Pool D Winner	8pm	8pm
Pool D Winner	3	Sun, Mar 15	Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser	7.30pm	7.30pm
Pool D Runner-up	4	Mon, Mar 16	Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner	8pm	8pm
	5	Tue, Mar 17	Game 3 Winner vs. Game 4 Loser	7pm	7pm
	6	Wed, Mar 18	Game 4 Winner vs. Game 5 Winner	7pm	7pm

FINALS

FINALS Location: DODGER STADIUM • Los Angeles, California

Teams:	Date	Match-Up	Local	ET
Pool 1 Winner	Sat, Mar 21	Pool 1 Runner-up vs. Pool 2 Winner	6pm	9pm
Pool 1 Runner-up	Sun, Mar 22	Pool 1 Winner vs. Pool 2 Runner-up	5pm	8pm
Pool 2 Winner	Mon, Mar 23	SF1 Winner vs. SF2 Winner	6:30pm	9.30pm
Pool 2 Runner-up				

2009 World Baseball Classic – Tournament Format

