



上壘 RUN

香港棒球總會季刊 HONG KONG BASEBALL ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY

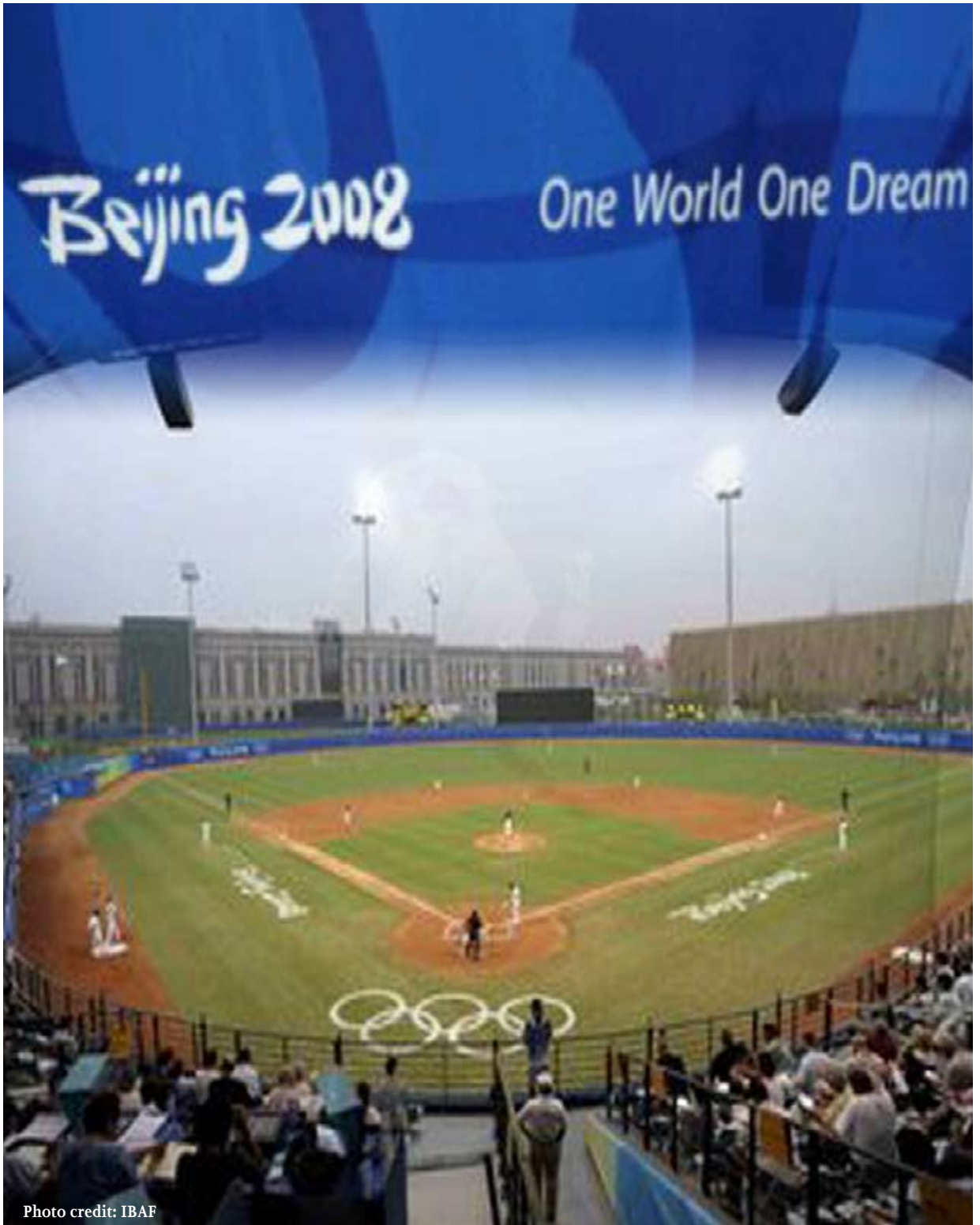


Photo credit: IBAF



香港“AA”代表隊與各賽隊一起享用午餐，同櫛為日本隊。
攝於第五屆 BFA 亞洲青少年棒球錦標賽



我們的歷史

香港棒球總會由一批熱愛棒球運動的人士創立，於1992年10月依據香港公司法註冊為一非牟利的有限公司；並於1993年3月舉行成立典禮。香港棒球總會發展快速，先後成為國際棒球聯合會(IBAF)、亞洲棒球聯合會(BFA)、中國香港體育協會暨奧林匹克委員會(SF&OC)會員。2005年打入中國第十屆全國運動會決賽週；2007年香港代表隊打入第二十四屆亞洲棒球錦標賽(2008北京奧運資格賽)，晉身亞洲八強。

我們的宗旨

推動講求健康、智慧、紀律、力和美的棒球運動；培養具有優秀技術、良好品格的運動員、教練員和裁判員；促進與各地的棒球活動交流；衝出香港，走向世界。

我們的會歌

《棒球之歌》

曲 譚展輝
詞 Sandy

B^b
Con Spirit (♩ = 126)

||: 3.4 5.6 5 4 | 5 - 3 - | 6 - 4 6 | 5 - 3 - |
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為博你欣賞 為博你鼓掌

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顆心都比火燙

我們的聯繫

香港棒球總會

HONG KONG BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

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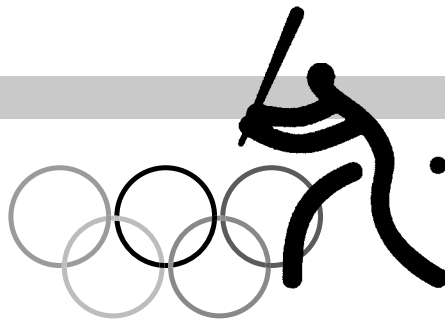
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棒球還須努力

李永權 香港棒球總會主席



北京奧運會結束了。運動員的堅韌拼搏，起跌哭笑，令人深深感動。棒球愛好者更是百感交雜，北京奧運之後，棒球有可能不再見於奧運。為爭取棒球重返奧運，國際棒球協會努力游說奧委會，各地之棒球總會大力協助，向各自的奧委會會員游說。

這次在北京奧運會舉行的棒球賽，參賽隊伍悉力以赴。中國隊在加時局以8：7戰勝中華臺北，這是中國隊有史以來第一次戰勝中華臺北隊。中國隊球員相擁流淚，興奮之情溢於言表。這勝仗顯示棒球在中國有新的突破。

這次奧運棒球比賽總成績：韓國取得冠軍，古巴亞軍，美國季軍。論實力，美國的棒球應最強，但由於美國國內棒球界的內部原因，代表美國出戰奧運的球員只是乙組球員，最強的甲組球員沒有參賽。否則戰果可能要改寫。

中華臺北棒球隊拿不到獎牌，連老遠從臺灣跑來捧場的球迷也感到失望而流淚。古語有云：「勝敗乃兵家常事」。但這只是安慰語。孫子兵法開首一句說得最實在，戰爭是生死猶關之大事，不可以不小心處理。對運動員來說，運動是勝負之事，要在最好狀態下進行。可是最好狀態的時間不長，高峯過去便是滑坡。運動員不能在最高峯時勝出，年紀再大時休想奪標。運動員練習經年，為求在奧運會這樣大型的國際賽事中掛上閃耀的獎牌。這一刻的閃耀能給運動員帶來榮譽，帶來財富。比賽場上零點零一秒之差，或一分之別，運動員的命運便要改寫。

大家都說運動不要拉上政治，在現實上兩者之間的關係常糾纏不清。由早陣子西方數國評擊中國處理西藏動亂的手法，開腔杯葛北京奧運；而在奧運棒球賽中華臺北對荷蘭一場比賽，全國政協主席賈慶林與台灣國民黨主席吳伯雄、台灣親民黨主席宋楚瑜歷史性地並肩出席捧場。這不是政治與運動的互動嗎？

說到棒球，真有點像七十年代的乒乓球，包含濃鬱的政治意義。棒球是一種以棒打球為主要特點，是一種集體性、對抗性很強的球類運動，被譽為「競技與智慧結合」、「促進身體平均發育」的運動。在美國、日本、韓國、古巴、台灣等國家和地區甚為盛行，被稱為「國球」。在上述的國家和地區，可以說每一個人都有打過棒球，也懂得欣賞棒球。

根據國際棒球協會的記述，棒球起源於英國的木球(cricket)和圓球(rounders)。美國人戴布第(Doubleday)在1839年組織了第一場類似棒球的比賽。美國人賈達威(Alexander Joy Cartwright)在1845年統一了棒球的名稱、打法和規則，棒球(baseball)的名稱才正式出現。在1873年棒球由美國傳入日本。台灣被日本侵佔期間，棒球傳入台灣。中國大陸的棒球也有100多年的歷史，但是長期以來處於時起時落停滯不前的狀態。1873年清政府在「中學為體、西學為用」的主張下，選派了30名青年學生赴美國留學。這些學生在耶魯大學組織了「中華棒球隊」，把棒球帶回中國。1949年，新中國成立後，棒球運動曾一度在解放軍基層連隊中廣泛開展，盛況空前，1959年第一屆全運會有23個省市隊參加棒球賽。但在1961年，棒球運動完全停頓。在當時的中國政府眼中，棒球是美帝國主義、日本軍國主義、台灣偽政府統治下的資本主義國家的玩意，不可以在國內推動。但在海峽另一方，棒球在台灣卻蓬勃發展，特別在1971年之後。1971年10月台灣被摒出聯合國，台灣人民頓感失落，覺得台灣名字不會再在國際舞台上出現。同年十二月，台灣的少棒隊竟然取得世界冠軍，台灣的名字再次在美國、日本等國家的報章出現。台灣人民欣喜若狂，數以萬計台灣人民走到機場迎接台灣小英雄凱旋歸來。

這幾年來，國內的棒球運動發展蓬勃，參加不同的世界賽，也開展了職業賽。國家領導人也以棒球作為拉近中、日、臺外交關係的一個平臺。去年4月溫家寶總理到日本的「融冰之旅」，穿上棒球衣與日本大學生一同練習棒球，更說這是他青少年時代最喜歡的運動。去年12月前日本首相福田康夫回訪我國，也全副棒球裝與溫家寶總理打棒球。台灣國民黨主席吳伯雄在5月到訪北京，率國民黨大陸訪問團參觀五棵松棒球場。看來國內的棒球發展在奧運會結束後，會有更快速的發展。

香港的棒球運動在過去十五年有長足的發展，可惜在場地不足的情況下，仍然是一個被視為小族群的運動。香港特區政府如果沒有看到棒球背後對大中華融合起到的軟作用，未能與時並進地加建棒球場，推動棒球運動，恐怕日後要追上時，會大嘆錯失先機。



Running back to the 2016 Olympic Games — letter from Harvey Schiller —

President of International Baseball Federation



Harvey W. Schiller, Ph.D.
President

To: All IBAF Member Organizations

Date: September 10, 2008

Dear member,

Once again, I want to keep you informed of the activities of your federation.

We have completed what may be termed the most successful Olympic Baseball competition in our history. The Beijing Games presented two superb venues for our contests and the eight participating teams were all competitive. Our game ending rule change was put into effect in five different games in a successful manner. Without this change, many games would have carried over into other competitions and interfered with logistical and security arrangements. Each team had at least one victory during the tournament. Congratulations to all and especially the Gold champion Korea team, Silver champion Cuba, and Bronze champion United States. Our host country, China, fielded a very competitive team and deserves recognition for their support of Baseball. We are making every effort to preserve at least one of the fields at the Wukesong Baseball complex.

As you know, Baseball will not be on the program for the 2012 London Games. We continue our efforts to return Baseball to the Olympic program for the 2016 Games. An important point which many have overlooked is that a return to the 2016 Games is not permanent and will require consideration for each succeeding Games to include 2020 and beyond.

Some important dates to be aware of are the following:

- November, 2008: IOC Programme Commission meets with each of the seven sports seeking inclusion for 2016.*
- March, 2009: IOC Programme Commission meets to recommend to IOC Executive Committee any or all sports to be added to the 2016 program.*
- June, 2009: IOC Executive Committee meets to consider recommendations from Programme Commission.*
- October, 2009: IOC Congress meets to consider 2016 Olympic City and sports to be added to 2016 program.*

Running back to the 2016 Olympic Games — letter from Harvey Schiller (continued) —



To: IBAF Member Federations
September 10, 2008
Page 2 of 3

We have been working diligently to provide IOC members, staff, and committees all the reasons why Baseball should remain on the Olympic Program. Building on the recent successful Beijing competition have been our efforts in WADA compliance and education, expansion of member organizations, marketing of Baseball on a global basis, expanding Baseball as a "Sport for All", growing our women's Game, and the best of training and coaching assistance.

Our women's championship was held in Matsuyama, Japan. It proved to be a successful tournament and our congratulations go to our champions, Japan! We will continue to grow our commitment to women in the years ahead.

We have recently appointed three women to our Executive Committee. They are Dr. Ndi Okereke-Onyiuke, Mme. Shen Wei and Ms. Sandra Monteiro. These appointments as well as those to our Athletes Commission will meet the IOC standards required of all Olympic sports.

The first round of the 2009 World Baseball Classic will be played next March at sites in Tokyo, San Juan, Mexico City and Toronto. Remaining games will be played in the USA with the championship game played at Los Angeles. Sixteen teams have been invited to the Classic. We are working to increase the number of teams to 32 for the 2013 Classic and beyond.

On 18 and 19 September, members of the Presidential Council will meet in New York to focus on the future directions of the IBAF and to consider administrative matters to include budget and staffing requirements. Approximately one year has passed since new officers were elected and it is now time to move forward on the day-to-day leadership of the IBAF. Keep in mind that no Olympic funds will be forthcoming to International Baseball following the 2012 London Games. Our financial status will be challenging



Running back to the 2016 Olympic Games — letter from Harvey Schiller (continued) —



To: IBAF Member Federations
September 10, 2008
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in upcoming years as the budgeting process takes on significant challenges. We have been successful in terminating our relationship with SMJ as our marketing agent and received a settlement payment. We will now be able to arrange our own media and sponsorship agreements.

Lastly, I have asked Mike O'Reilly of our Legal Commission to formulate the requirements of our statutes that require an IBAF election during the Ordinary Congress that takes place in the first year of the four year Olympic cycle. Specific information will follow in the near future.

There is much more to talk about in the upcoming months but I do hope these letters help in our desire to keep you as informed as possible.

With best regards,

Running back to the 2016 Olympic Games — letter from Jacques Rogge —

President of International Olympic Committee



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

The President

Doctor Harvey W. SCHILLER
President
International BASEball Federation
(IBAF)

Lausanne, 11 September 2008
Ref. No F/191/2008/qcw
By fax only: +1 212 445 00 54

Dear Harvey,

With the Games in Beijing now over, I wish to personally thank you for the contribution that your International Federation made to the success of these Games.

The International Federations have an essential role to play in the successful holding of the Games.

I am aware of the particular efforts your organisation made for the Games and I congratulate and thank you for this.

The reward for these efforts was the fact that the competitions enjoyed first-class infrastructure and highly efficient organisation, to the benefit of the IFs, athletes and spectators alike.

For this reason, I thank you for your efforts and your contribution, and I look forward to strengthening our cooperation as we deal with the mutual challenges ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Jacques Rogge



One Reason to Care About the Olympics (and a lot of reasons not to)

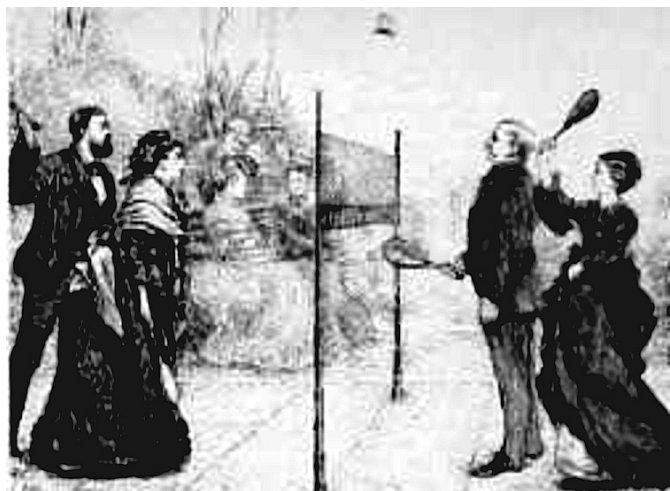
Ryan Landolt
Dragonflies Baseball Club (HK)

So the Olympics are over. It's back to traffic jams, polluted skies, and beggars on the streets in Beijing. But it was a good time for those involved. It was a *special* Olympics, if you will, for China. But just what does the legacy of the Beijing Olympics mean to China in particular, and the world as a whole? If you're like me, (and I think at least some of you are), the answer is, NOT MUCH.

Yes, we must congratulate all the gold medal winners. They do things with their bodies that I will never be able to do. But do we really care about some of these so-called sports? I know ping-pong and badminton are popular here in Hong Kong and in China, but should they really get as much publicity as basketball, volleyball or other real sports? The rule should be that if you can play it in a Victorian dress, it's not a sport. (Note that volleyball just made the list by the way due to the absence of American Football.)

And what about weightlifting? I have a good friend who was actually a Chinese weightlifter in his younger days, but can we really take a sport with events like the "clean and jerk" seriously. I even read in the newspaper about the "75kg Women's Snatch" competition. As interesting as it sounds, I don't want to get into that. Bada bing! I'm just betting that reporter wasn't American.

But instead of just being a party-pooper, there were some bright spots in the Olympics for real sports. The Americans finally won the gold again in basketball. The Chinese team gave them a good first half, so that was an exciting 20 minutes. And, I don't think I have to tell anyone the great story of the baseball competition, but I'll tell you anyway. The Chinese team beat Chinese Taipei! What an incredible upset. Even if they don't win a game for the rest of the year, those players on the Chinese national team will be content to know that they beat their cross-strait rivals. It's like the 1955 Dodgers beating the Yankees in the World Series when they really shouldn't have. There were no Jackie Robinsons on this Chinese team, but that last 4 minutes was about as surprising as stealing home.



With players like this, China should be too proud about dominating in this sport.
<http://www.msida-arrows.org/cms/images/stories/1875badminton.jpg>

That is the great thing about team sports in general, and baseball in particular. On any given day, the worst of teams can beat the best of teams. I've seen it happen in my own playing days, and we witnessed it in Beijing. If that doesn't speed up the development of baseball in China, I don't know what will.

What I think we are seeing is a passing of the torch in the developing baseball world. The resources in Latin America have been tapped for so long, and there are so many great players from places like the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Panama, that the focus on new development in Asia is really starting to take off. We should no longer be surprised when a great Japanese, Korean, or Taiwanese player makes it big in the major leagues. Asia is the next great talent pool for baseball, and China will be a big part of it.

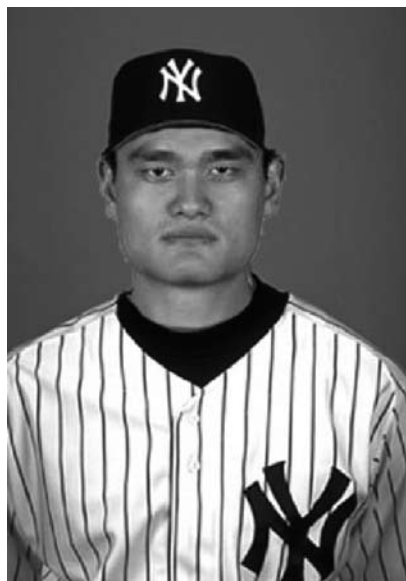
Just think that the 2006 World Baseball Classic and the 2008 Olympics were both won by Asian teams (Japan and Korea respectively), and you can see that there is no shortage of talent in Asia. So, even though baseball is being dropped from the Olympics in 2012, I say who cares. We have the World Baseball Classic, and the Olympics are for sports where the guys shave their bodies and wear silk short shorts anyway.

Also, one of the most annoying things about the Olympics is the flagrant display of national pride. People talk of being proud to be from a certain country. We heard it non-stop after the opening ceremony (which was definitely amazing, so don't get me wrong), and god knows I've heard it a million times growing up in America (usually from people who have never actually been to another country). But are we really proud of being Chinese, or American or Swiss, or whatever we are? Is *proud* the right word? The answer is obviously, no.

The fact that I am an American and that many of you reading this are Chinese is a simple genetic twist of fate. Why should I or anyone else be proud of something that happened totally by chance and took no effort on my part? To paraphrase the late, great George Carlin, you don't say you're *proud* to be 5'11". It just happens. There is no accomplishment. I'm *happy* to be an American. I could have been from France. Then I would be writing about a silly sport like soccer. Or I could be from Rwanda, and I'd probably be dead.



Jackie Robinson steals home in 1955 World Series. Yogi Berra still thinks he was out.



Something doesn't seem right here.
http://shanghaiist.com/2008/01/25/take_me_out_to.php

No, pride should be reserved for something that you do, and the Olympics are just not for me. I'll stick with baseball. I believe that China will too. Let the gold medal winners have their moment in the sun every four years. Let them have their Wheaties boxes and watch commercials. Baseball will continue to grow, and will become a part of the social fabric in China, the same way it is in Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, and maybe even the United States.

Then, when Chinese baseball does become competitive internationally, I believe we will look back on the 2008 Beijing Olympics as a kind of turning point. That is something that those players accomplished against very big odds. That is something of which they can most definitely be proud.



Olympic Baseball 2008

Diamond denouement favors Asia

Sources: <http://en.beijing2008.cn>



Manager Kim Kyungmoon is tossed in the air by his players. (Photo credit: Jonathan Ferrey/Getty Images)

Final Results

Gold	Korea
Silver	Cuba
Bronze	USA
4th Place	Japan
5th Place	Chinese Taipei
6th Place	Canada
7th Place	Netherlands
8th Place	China

BEIJING, August 23 -- In what may be the last Olympic appearance for Baseball, the Republic of Korea and Cuba put on a show for the ages as the Republic of Korea defeated multi-gold winner Cuba Saturday night under the lights of Wukesong Baseball Field, turning the final game into a classic pitchers duel on August 23 at Beijing 2008.

The Olympic Softball tournament was decided in a similar fashion, as Japan knocked off the perennial champions from the United States 3-1. With the Republic of Korea's undefeated run through Beijing, the epicenter of international baseball has clearly shifted across the Pacific.

The Republic of Korea sent Ryu Hyun-jin to the hill Saturday night, and Cuba countered with Norberto Gonzalez. The start was Ryu's second of the tournament; his first was a gem against Canada on August 15. The Republic of Korea lefty went nine shutout innings in that first outing, allowing only five hits and striking out six.

Tonight, the Republic of Korea wasted no time getting on the board, quickly jumping ahead 2-0 courtesy of Lee Seung-yuop's two-run blast to left, driving in Lee Yong-kyu. The homerun was Lee Seung-yuop's second of the tournament.

Cuba came right back in the bottom of the first inning, scoring one run on a Michel Enriquez solo shot.

The 2-1 score stood for the next five innings, with the only significant threat coming from the Republic of Korea in the top of the sixth. With two men on and two away, Lee Dae-ho lined a ball to center that was snared by a diving Giorbis Duvergel.

The Republic of Korea followed through on its threats in the seventh inning when, with two men on, Lee Yong-

kyu lined a ball to right that landed just fair and in front of the wall. The hit scored Park Jin-man and put Lee Yong-kyu on second as Lee Jong-wook moved to third. The hit chased Cuban pitcher Pedro Lazo, who never found his stride in relief of Gonzalez. Luis Rodriguez came on for Lazo and retired Kim Hyun-soo on a shallow fly to center.

Alexei Bell challenged the Republic of Korea in the bottom of the inning, blasting a solo shot to left center. The homerun was Bell's second as he added to his torrid tournament-leading 500 average.

Neither team scored in the eighth but Cuba threatened in the ninth inning as the Republic of Korea was unable to manufacture an insurance run in the top of the inning. Hector Olivera led off with a single to left field and Frederich Cepeda was put on base via the walk with one out and the ever dangerous Alexei Bell at the plate. Bell also took a walk that loaded the bases and forced the Republic of Korea to finally go to their bullpen, calling in Chong Taeh-won to relieve Ryu.

Chong forced Yuliesky Gourriel into a 6-4-3 double play as the Republic of Korea won their first gold medal in Olympic Baseball.

This is the Republic of Korea's second Olympic Baseball medal, having taken home a bronze from Sydney 2000. The silver medal was Cuba's second, also from Sydney, to go along with its three gold medals from Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 and Athens 2004.

Ryu (2-0) got the win as he went eighth and one-third innings, allowing two runs on five hits and seven strikeouts. Norberto Gonzalez (0-1) suffered the loss for Cuba as he allowed two runs on two hits in five and two-thirds innings of work. Chong was credited with his second save of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Baseball tournament.

Neither Baseball nor its sister sport of Softball will be contested at the London 2012 Olympics. After this sterling display of competition, their reinstatement may well be considered.

The Republic of Korea defeated Cuba 3-2 to win the Baseball gold medal at Wukesong Baseball Field in Beijing on August 23.