

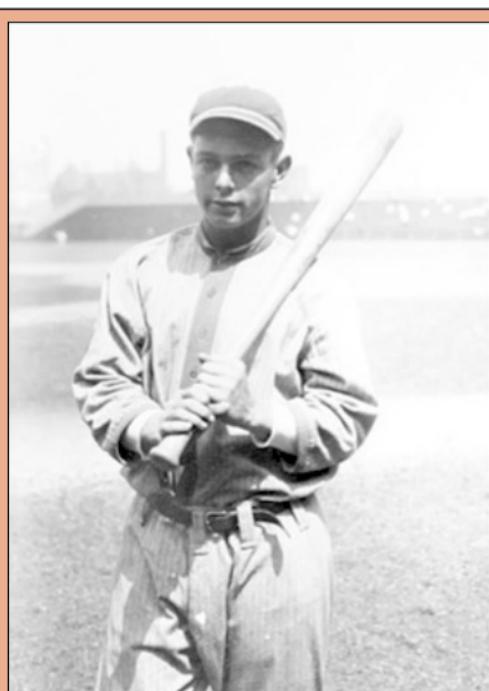
December 2, 1918 **Merito Goes it Alone**

On December 2, 1918, Habana's Baldomero "Merito" Acosta completes an unassisted triple play against Almendares in Cuban League play.

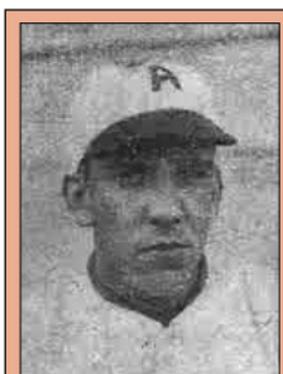
What makes Acosta's triple play even more remarkable is that he performed this rare feat as an outfielder.

There have been only 15 unassisted triple plays in major league history and all were accomplished by infielders - eight by shortstops, five by second basemen and two by first basemen.

The drama begins to unfold when Almendares' Joseito Rodriguez leads off eighth inning with a triple, Canilla Rivas walks and "Strike" Gonzalez is hit by a pitch loading the bases ... Jose Maria Fernandez drives home a run when he is walked by Habana pitcher Pastor Pareda.



Merito Acosta
1913 Washington Senators



Oscar Rodriguez
1912 Almendares

With the bases still full, Oscar (Barriguilla) Rodriguez hits a hard line drive to short centerfield where Acosta makes a running catch before running straight to second base to double up Rivas ... Fernandez, who had been running from first base, is chased down by Acosta and tagged for the third out of the inning.

The left-handed hitting Acosta plays 12 seasons in the Cuban League for Habana, Almendares and Marianao, finishing with a .292 batting average and one home run ...elected into the Cuban Hall of Fame in 1955, Acosta leads the Cuban League in 1918-19 with 30 runs scored.

"Washingtonians are likening Merito Acosta, the boy from Cuba, to Willie Keeler In his ability to draw a base on balls."

- Stevens Point Daily Journal, May 15, 1913

In 1913, Acosta makes his major league debut with the Washington Senators at the age of 17 ... the La Habana, Cuba, native plays in the major leagues for five seasons with the Senators (1913-16, 1918) and the Philadelphia Athletics (1918), hitting .255 with nine doubles and seven triples and 37 RBIs ... enjoys his best season with the Athletics in his final major league season in 1918, hitting a career-high .302 with 51 hits in 169 at bats.

In 11 minor league seasons, including eight with the Louisville Colonels, Acosta appears in 1,295 games, hitting .273 with 187 doubles, 79 triples and 17 home runs.