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The Venezuelan Professional Baseball League

Maybe Venezuela is not experiencing a good time right now, but one aspect the Venezuelans know is to have fun when it involves the most popular sport there, baseball. The Venezuelan league was established in 1945; then, it quickly increased the number of fans, becoming Venezuela´s dominant sport. However, the league is not the same as a couple of years ago when the stadiums were completely full of fans. Rising ticket prices and falling incomes have reduced attendance by about half. However, many fans have not lost their tradition of visiting the stadiums to support their teams every year. The most enjoyable things about the Venezuelan Baseball League are the rivalry between teams, the loyal fans, and the extraordinary abilities of the baseball players.

The rivalry between teams is similar to that between European soccer fans; sometimes the fans lose control, and they insult each other. Nevertheless, these are only a few cases reported; those people must leave the place. The stadiums smell like junk food, popcorn, sweat, and at the same time one can breathe fresh air. The games are so loud, one can hear high music, and the exciting screaming of fans and the announcer. The stadium seats are made of metal; they are not very comfortable; nonetheless, it does not prevent fun. The sight of the crowd is fantastic, and it looks like a huge ant hill that is moving to the rhythm of the songs. It´s so wonderful to attend those games even if one is not a baseball fan. The excitement is contagious.

The loyal fans are delighted to see their favorite teams play, so they enjoy wearing their team T-shirts, and they share ideas about the extraordinary plays. The loyalty between fans feels like all of them are friends or family; it is a cozy environment. One can hear the sound of screaming, clapping; they even weep when their teams are losing. The playoffs are the most exciting part of the season although they are tense at the same time. The fans’ eyes show happiness and hope. It does not matter if their teams won the championships last season; a true fan continues every year to encourage his/her team.

The extraordinary abilities of the baseball players are exceptional. When the game starts, every player is announced. They always go out to the field with a smile; they are wearing their baseball uniforms, and they look strong. The players’ skills in hitting, catching, throwing, and base running transform the game to an outstanding show. It is so enjoyable to see the Venezuelan major league players’ movements. The players’ skills make one feel so pleased and excited. Every great play is answered with a noisy celebration to praise the players. Definitely, it is a joyful show to admire the incredible abilities of the baseball players.

Finally, this description detailed the reasons baseball is the most popular sport in Venezuela, and why it is the first choice for thousand of Venezuelans. Of course, the Venezuelan Baseball League has been altered because of the political situation in that country. Baseball will always be an enjoyable tradition there, and hopefully it will get back to the same as it was a couple years ago when there were a lot of fans in the stadiums.

