

# Island Journeys

Cuba is open to competition with U.S. teams, but can it keep up?

**NOW THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA**, who met with Cuban leader Raul Castro last week, is playing ball with the formerly embargoed nation, how about the rest of us? The NASL's New York Cosmos, who play their home opener against Tampa Bay on April 18, will take on the Cuban national team in an exhibition in Havana this June, making it the first American professional team to play in Cuba in 16 years. The Cosmos are not alone. The NBA and FIBA will host development camps in Cuba this year, and MLB is attempting to schedule a spring training game in Havana for 2016. Baseball is the national sport, but soccer is on the rise. Here's how Cuban team sports teams stack up. —*Angelina Matarozzi*



## BASEBALL

**CURRENT WORLD RANK** 3

**GREATEST SUCCESS** 1992, '96 AND 2004 OLYMPICS, GOLD



## BASKETBALL

**MEN'S WORLD RANK** 58

**GREATEST SUCCESS** 1972 OLYMPICS, BRONZE

**WOMEN'S WORLD RANK** 13

**GREATEST SUCCESS** 1992 OLYMPICS, FOURTH



## VOLLEYBALL

**MEN'S WORLD RANK** 11

**GREATEST SUCCESS** 1976 OLYMPICS, BRONZE

**WOMEN'S WORLD RANK** 26

**GREATEST SUCCESS** 1992, '96, 2000 OLYMPICS, GOLD



## SOCCER

**MEN'S WORLD RANK** 109

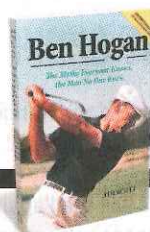
**GREATEST SUCCESS** 2012 CARIBBEAN CUP, GOLD

**WOMEN'S WORLD RANK** 96

**GREATEST SUCCESS** 84TH IN 2009 RANKING

## SIGN OF THE APOCALYPSE

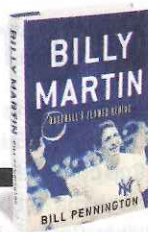
After a brawl on April 6, Irish Olympic silver medalist John Joe Nevin was **barred from every pub in County Westmeath** until his May 21 trial for public intoxication and abusive behavior.



**Ben Hogan**  
Tim Scott

The author worked with Hogan for years as a sales and marketing exec; not poetic but insightful peek behind some of the myths.

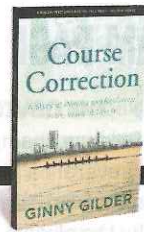
#weeniceman



**Billy Martin**  
Bill Pennington

*N.Y. Times* reporter offers a comprehensive and well-written take that expands on the man beyond cantankerous dirt-kicking sot.

#billyball



**Course Correction**  
Ginny Gilder

Olympic rower's sensitive memoir about an alcoholic mom, getting naked for Title IX and coming to grips with her sexuality.

#hihosilver



**Tommy Lasorda**  
Colin Gunderson

Authorized bio by a former Dodgers p.r. guy; great stories and quotes but a limited picture of the sometimes prickly Lasorda.

#baseballlifer



BOOKS

**TWEETABLE  
REVIEWS**