

Office of the Commissioner
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



ALLAN H. (BUD) SELIG
Commissioner of Baseball

June 12, 2008

Dear Fans:

Major League Baseball is proud of its partnership with USA Baseball and of its support for the Chinese National Baseball Team and for the development of baseball in China as a whole. The 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing present a terrific platform to expose our great game to the people of China. We know that the Chinese Baseball Association is excited and proud to host what promises to be the most competitive baseball tournament in the history of the Olympic Games, with the United States, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Cuba, Japan, Korea and the Netherlands joining the Chinese in the quest for a Gold Medal.

The Chinese National Baseball Team has been training in Arizona since April as the guests of Major League Baseball, competing in extended spring training against Minor League players from MLB organizations. We have given the Chinese team the opportunity to attend Major League games, work out and take batting practice in Major League ballparks and gain experience against good competition that they would not be able to find at home. This series of games against Team USA and teams from the New England Collegiate League culminates the Chinese team's visit to America this year to help prepare them to compete against such formidable competition at the Olympic Games this August.

The Chinese National Team has improved dramatically since Major League Baseball first began to assist its development in 2003. Four members of the team are now Minor League players in MLB organizations, including Wang Wei, a catcher in the Seattle Mariners organization who holds the distinction of having hit the first home run in the history of the World Baseball Classic.

This year, the historic MLB China Series, which featured the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres playing two games at the Olympic venue in Beijing, demonstrated the tremendous potential of baseball in China. We hope to continue our friendship with Chinese baseball and look forward to the day when baseball becomes as beloved a sport in China as it is in the United States.

Here's hoping for a great series and best wishes to the baseball fans in New England who will be enjoying the games!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan H. Selig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allan H. (Bud) Selig
Commissioner of Baseball