

**May 4, 1999**

Published on FIDEL Soldier of Ideas (<http://www.fidelcastro.cu>)

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"As I was saying, for a good part of the year our baseball players are the focus of attention of sports fans in this country. That is the truth. Baseball is to this country what soccer is to many others; it is as important as soccer is in many other countries. So, we need them here, in our country".

References to the original: [Speech given of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and President of the State Council and the Council of Ministers, welcoming the Cuban sports delegation returning from Baltimore, University of Havana, May 4, 1999](#)

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