

# Mazatlan Venados

## 2018-2019 season schedule, roster and team history

(Updated 10 June 2018)

Mazatlan Venados home baseball games at Estadio Teodoro Mariscal are played in the late afternoon or evening, under the lights. Weekend games start at 6:00 pm, weekday games at 7:30 pm.

Tickets for Venados games can be purchased in a number of locations including the stadium ticket office, Gran Plaza and Plaza Sendero.

mazatlantoday.net will be providing the Venados 2018-2019 season schedule as soon as it is available, likely by the end of July 2018. We also be updating this free resource with the roster prior to the season opener, and at appropriate points during the season.

If you are not subscribed to the MazatlanToday Community newsletter, consider doing so -- we bring you Venados news all year!

# Go Venados!

# A brief history of the Mazatlán Venados baseball team

The history of the Mazatlan Venados actually predates the founding of Liga de la Costa del Pacífico, the first professional baseball league on the Pacific coast of Mexico.

In 1941 there was no real baseball stadium in Mazatlan: the old stadium had been torn down and nothing had replaced it. Mazatlan businessman Teodoro Mariscal was made head of the Pro-Estadio Committee of Mazatlan, the goal of which was to raise funds to build a new baseball stadium in Mazatlan.

In 1942, when the new Mazatlan baseball stadium was still under construction, Teodoro Mariscal organized the first professional baseball games in the history of the city, recruiting players such as Felino Cárdenas, Mario Collazo, Indian Torres and pitcher Daniel ("La Coyota") Rios.

Mariscal was a promoter, and not about to let his young team suffer from lack of talent. On one occasion in early 1942 he hired Ramón Bragaña, a Cuban pitcher who was an established star playing for Veracruz on the Gulf Coast, to reinforce the Mazatlan pitching staff for a single series against the team from arch-rival Culiacán!

The Mazatlan Venados official team history begins on June 6, 1945, when the Liga de la Costa del Pacífico was formed.

The league was the creation of six prominent Mexican businessmen -- Enrique Peña Batiz in Culiacan, Rogelio Rodríguez in Empalme, Florencio Zaragoza in Guaymas, Fernando M. Ortiz and Juan Chávez E. by Hermosillo and Teodoro Mariscal in Mazatlán -- and the five teams that they created brought professional baseball to fans in Northwest Mexico.

Liga de la Costa was originally semi-professional, and team payroll was capped at ten thousand dollars.

Teodoro Mariscal was named President of the league, with Florencio Zaragoza serving as Vice-President, Ramón. A. Robles Secretary, Justo Ornelas Treasurer and Enrique Peña Batiz and Fernando M. Ortiz as voting founding members.

The Mazatlan Venados won the first Liga de la Costa championship in 1945 - 1946, largely as the result of the performance of their extraordinary pitcher Daniel Ríos, who pitched 10 wins during the 1945 - 1946 season, striking out 72 batters and ending the season with a 2.36 earned run average.

Rios was named the league's Most Valuable Player for the 1945 - 1946 season, an achievement he duplicated during the 1950 - 1951 season. Other early Mazatlan Venados superstars included Willie Aikens, Francisco Campos, Ángel Castro, Daniel Fernández, Dick Hall and Aurelio López.

In all, the Mazatlan Venados won five Liga de la Costa championships: 1945 - 1946, 1952 - 1953, 1953 - 1954, 1954 - 1955 and in the final year of the league's existence, 1957 - 1958.

The 1958 - 1959 season saw the debut of Liga Invernal de Sonora, an expanded baseball league that added teams from Los Mochis and Guasave.

The Mazatlan Venados were always competitive in this new league, and in 1962 won its championship following the inauguration of Estadio Teodoro Mariscal, the stadium that they still play in to this day. The original seating capacity of the stadium was 12,000, which was increased to 14,000 during a major renovation in 2000.

In 1965, Mazatlan joined the Mexican Pacific League (Liga Mexicana del Pacifico), and began to establish themselves as the premier professional baseball team in northwest Mexico.

The Venados have won nine Pacific League championships: 1974, 1977, 1987, 1993, 1998, 2005, 2006, 2009 and 2016.

The 2005 season marked a first in the history of the franchise: having won the Pacific League championship the Venados went on to win the Caribbean World Series, beating the Aguilas from the Dominican Republic 4 - 3 at home in Estadio Teodoro Mariscal under the leadership of manager Juan Jose Pacho.

The 2005 Venados were a powerhouse team with a star-studded lineup, including Luis Ayala, Jorge Campillo, Francisco Campos, Vinny Castilla, Elmer Dessens, Erubiel Durazo, Johnny Gomes, Miguel Ojeda and Derrick White.

Venados pitcher Francisco Campos was the hero of the day. The Dominican Republic roster included 18 players with major league affiliations. Campos was unfazed, and struck out 13 Dominican batters.

Vinny Castillo, Erubiel Durazo and Derrick White provided the batting firepower that powered the win, with relief pitcher Luis Ignacio Ayala sealing the victory by retiring Dominican Republic batter Bernie Castro to end the game.

The heroics of individual players during the 2005 season were exceptional, but the Mazatlan Venados team history is filled with extraordinary individual accomplishments.

- While Estadio Teodoro Mariscal is generally believed to favor pitchers, the Cuban-born major league superstar Orestes ("Minnie") Minoso won the Pacific League batting title in 1966-1967 and again in 1969-1970 playing for the Venados during the winter.
- Mazatlan Venados sluggers James Collins, Heber Gómez, Christian Quintero and Nelson Simons have also won Pacific League batting titles.
- American Jack Pierce won the Pacific League home run title during the 1974-75 season, knocking 14 out of the park.
- Other Mazatlan Venados Pacific League home run title holders include Willie Aikens, Wayne Cage, Kevin Grijak, Jeff Leonard and Bubba Smith.
- American Willie Aikens set another remarkable Pacific League batting record, hitting home runs in six consecutive games in 1986. Only Calvin Pickering, playing for Los Mochis, has equalled this record.

- The Venados roster has seen a number players named Pacific League Rookie of The Year including the first, Armando Lara, in 1972 -1973 who has been followed by Genaro Rodríguez, Martín Hernández, Andrés Cruz, Armando Valenzuela and Francisco Córdoba.

- Four Mazatlan Venados pitcher have thrown no-hitters: Kenneth Frailing, Rafael García and Blaine Beatty and Andrés Cruz.

Frailing, García and Beatty pitched their games during the the regular season, with Andrés Cruz pitching his spectacular no-hitter on January 14 in the 1990 postseason, delivering a knockout blow to the Mayos of Navojoa in Estadio Teodoro Mariscal.