



# NEWSLETTER

*Spring 2026*

## **About Us:**

Welcome to the Spring issue of the Baseball Assistance Team (B.A.T.) newsletter!

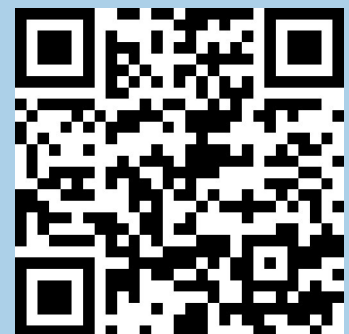
B.A.T. serves as a confidential lifeline for members of the Baseball Family facing medical, financial, or psychological challenges. Our goal is simple: to provide a short term bridge back to self-sufficiency when there is nowhere else to turn.

In each issue, we share success stories, important updates, and professional development resources to support your personal and career growth. Dive into this edition for a snapshot of the tools available to you today, and we'll see you again this summer!



## **Find Information On:**

- Success Stories
- Professional Development Events
- New Job Opportunities
- Communities & More!



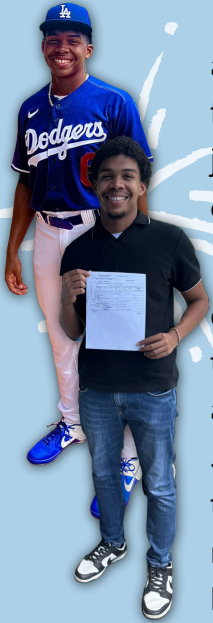
[Find Out More About B.A.T.](#)



# Success Stories

## **FORMER MINOR LEAGUE PLAYER WITH THE LA DODGERS EARNS INITIAL CREDENTIAL FOR HIS NEW CAREER AS A PILOT.**

*Santo Domingo, D.R. - January 2026.*



Earlier this year, B.A.T. scholarship recipient Jeremy Castro achieved a major milestone, earning his private pilot credentials from the Dominican Institute of Civil Aviation (IDAC). While his journey began on the baseball field, Jeremy's story is a powerful example of the career transitions B.A.T. is proud to support.

"I gave my all on the field, but life sometimes takes us down different paths," Jeremy shared. "Thanks to the support of this organization, I understood that when one door closes, another can open." Now aiming for his commercial license, Jeremy reminds us that education and preparation are the keys to new opportunities. "This is just the beginning for me; my goal now is to continue advancing with my instrument rating and become a commercial pilot."



## **YEYSON YRIZARRI - DOMINICAN SUMMER LEAGUE COACH BOSTON RED SOX**

*Santo Domingo, D.R. - February 2026.*

After a decade in the Minor Leagues and international systems, Yeyson Yrizarri has successfully transitioned into a professional coaching role with the Boston Red Sox. Following his final season in Colombia in 2025, Yeyson took a proactive approach to his next chapter by reaching out to B.A.T. to ask about the resources that could help him ease into his transition out of playing. He worked on creating his resume through Podium X and generated a LinkedIn profile. He educated himself on the data and scouting aspect of the game, translating his infield expertise into a professional portfolio.

"I kept sending it out and applying without losing heart," Yeyson shared, reflecting on five months of interviews with multiple MLB clubs. His grit eventually paid off in January when the Red Sox offered him a trial period as a coach that turned into a full-time position. Yeyson now encourages other former players to maximize the resources B.A.T. provides: "Baseball doesn't end when an organization releases you... if you have the opportunity to take advantage of B.A.T. and use Podium X, do it. Just as I achieved it, others can too."





## Success Story

### SHARPENING TRADE SKILLS

*San Pedro de Macorís, D.R. - March 2026.*

Former minor league player with the St. Louis Cardinals, Esteban Contreras, is proving that a successful transition usually begins with a commitment to learning. Currently attending vocational school in his hometown of Consuelo, Dominican Republic, Esteban is working to complete a certification in Domestic and Industrial Refrigeration. He opted for vocational training alongside a group of fellow players, favoring a faster route to high-demand skills over a traditional four-year education.

Esteban describes the B.A.T. scholarship as a vital tool that "opens doors that would otherwise be difficult to reach." By balancing his technical certification with his journey to complete his high school education, he is ensuring he remains competitive in today's job market. "This support allows me to focus on learning without the constant pressure of costs," Esteban shared, noting that the resources provided by B.A.T. enable him to "dedicate more time to projects, hands-on training, and research that strengthen my professional profile."



Whether in the cockpit of the plane, the dugout, or the technical workforce, these stories share an important common theme; the courage to embrace continued educational and professional development outside of the field. Jeremy, Yeyson, and Esteban prove that while the transition to life after baseball is a reality every player eventually faces, it is also an opportunity to open a wide range of new doors.

As we continue to support the Baseball Family in their transition journeys, we want to ensure no one feels they have to navigate this path alone. We hope these testimonies inspire you to take that first proactive step, knowing that B.A.T. is here to provide the tools, resources, and community to help you begin a success story of your own.



## NEWS

### NEW ADDITION TO B.A.T.'S CAREER TRANSITION PROGRAM!

*New York, NY - March 2026*

The Career Transition Program continues to expand with the addition of Andy Colon as our Career Transition Coordinator. A former outfielder who played two seasons (2022-23) with the Houston Astros in the Dominican Summer League, Andy brings a very unique understanding of an athlete's transition journey. After being released in April of 2024, he navigated the challenges of losing his identity as a player. As he began to think about his transition, he began connecting with people and resources to come to realization that he had different opportunities to build a successful life and/or career after baseball. Now, he is ready to leverage that firsthand experience and his passion for helping others to support our mission of supporting former players navigating life after baseball.

*Andy shared: "I am incredibly honored to join B.A.T. as a Career Transition Coordinator. My journey in baseball has really come full circle, going from playing professionally in the Houston Astros organization to coaching and mentoring athletes of all ages. Transitioning into this role feels like a natural next step in my mission to help others navigate their own paths ...*

*I am a 22-year-old who loves to learn and ask questions but I also love brainstorming ideas that can help my teammates at any given moment ... I've learned that you should never be scared to try new things and I'm eager to learn from all the incredible talent in this office while contributing my own unique perspective from the athlete's journey."*

We're happy to have Andy on board and can't wait for the impact he'll have among the players we serve!



## **CHEERS FOR CHARITY: NEW YORK LIFE PROUDLY SUPPORTS B.A.T. THROUGHOUT JANUARY**

*New York, NY - January 2026*

We are excited to highlight a special collaboration with New York Life, who named B.A.T. as their *Cheers for Charity* partner for the entire month of January. This partnership was made possible through the work of our MLB Sponsorship Group, who connected us with the New York Life Sponsorship Group, the team responsible for selecting us as their featured charity.

While New York Life typically hosts these weekly events to support various causes, their sponsorship team chose to dedicate all four Thursdays in January to B.A.T. New York Life employees showed up consistently to learn about our mission and donate to our cause.



## **BASEBALL ASSISTANCE TEAM (B.A.T) SETS FIFTH CONSECUTIVE FUNDRAISING RECORD WITH OVER \$5.3 MILLION RAISED**

*New York, NY - February 2026*

The Baseball Family has once again stepped up in a historic way! We are proud to announce that the 2026 Spring Training Fundraising Tour raised a record-breaking \$5,391,310. This marks our fifth consecutive year of growth and exceeds last year's total by nearly \$1 million. As we celebrate B.A.T.'s 40th anniversary, this unwavering support from 1,639 players, coaches, and front office personnel ensures we can continue our mission of providing confidential assistance to those in need. We are also excited to congratulate the New York Mets and the Los Angeles Angels as this year's recipients of the Bobby Murcer Award for their league-leading contributions.

**[Click here to see full story](#)**





## **B.A.T. CONTINUES AWARENESS EFFORTS DURING MINOR LEAGUE SPRING TRAINING "FRIENDRAISING" TOUR**

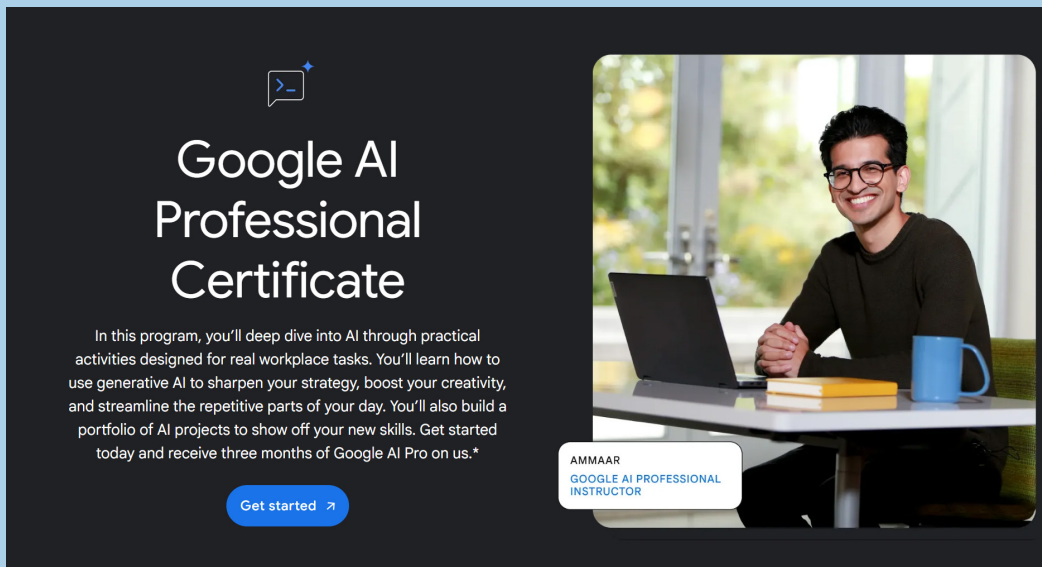
*New York, NY - March 2026*


Following our annual Spring Training Fundraising Tour, the B.A.T. staff hit the road once again, this time visiting every Minor League training camp. These visits are a cornerstone of our outreach, allowing us to connect directly with players and the broader Baseball Family. By sharing our mission and resources now, we ensure that if the unexpected happens after their playing days, they know exactly where to turn for support.

## **NEW GOOGLE AI PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE**

*New York, NY - March 2026*

Google released their "[Google AI Professional Certificate](#)" earlier this year. This is an offering to which we have full access, free of cost, through our partnership with Google for Nonprofits.



 **Google AI Professional Certificate**

In this program, you'll deep dive into AI through practical activities designed for real workplace tasks. You'll learn how to use generative AI to sharpen your strategy, boost your creativity, and streamline the repetitive parts of your day. You'll also build a portfolio of AI projects to show off your new skills. Get started today and receive three months of Google AI Pro on us.\*

[Get started](#) ➔

AMMAAR  
GOOGLE AI PROFESSIONAL  
INSTRUCTOR

**If you or any other eligible member of the baseball family would like access to our catalog, feel free to shoot Leonel Bejaran an email at [leonel.bejaran@mlb.com](mailto:leonel.bejaran@mlb.com)**



## TOOLS & RESOURCES

Take advantage of everything B.A.T. has to offer!

In this section, you will familiarize yourself with the different resources and tools available through B.A.T. These are free and will help you ease your transition into whichever field you decide to pursue. By adding and sharpening new skills, you will be a more competitive and prepared person outside of the baseball field.



### Career Transition Assistance Scholarship Program

- Technical and Vocational Courses
- Certifications
- High School Diploma
- Undergraduate Programs



### Google Career Certificates Program

- **AI Certificate (NEW)**
  - AI Essentials (Shorter Course)
  - Prompting Essentials (Shorter Course)
- Data Analytics
  - Advanced Data Analytics (Especially)
- Project Management
  - Agile Essentials (Shorter Course)
- Marketing & E-commerce
- Cybersecurity
- UX Design
- IT Support
  - IT Automation with Python (Especially)
- Business Intelligence (Especially)



### Podium X - Job Search Prep

- Resume & Cover Letter Builder
- Interview Preparation
- Job Board
- 1 on 1 bilingual assistance!



If you are interested in signing up, eligible for B.A.T.'s benefits, and/or have any questions contact [leonel.bejaran@mlb.com](mailto:leonel.bejaran@mlb.com) for more information.



## JOB OPPORTUNITIES



- [MLB Career Site](#)

- [Find League and Club Opportunities Here!](#)



- [TeamWork Online Site](#)

- [Find Opportunities in the Sports and Entertainment Industry Here!](#)



- [Baseball Connect](#)

- [Find Job Postings in Professional Baseball and Access Baseball Ops and Player Development Educational Content Here!](#)



- [Adecco Staffing](#)

- [Job Opportunities for U.S. Residents](#)
- [Job Opportunities for Puerto Rico Residents](#)
  - Email [leonel.bejaran@mlb.com](mailto:leonel.bejaran@mlb.com) if you apply for an opportunity. A referral will be made to land a potential job interview.



- [DBAT](#)

- [Opportunities for Former Players](#)



- [Mastercard - Worldwide](#)

- [MLB - BAT Talent Community](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



- [MLB Umpire Camps Registration Begins!](#)

- San Francisco, California - Registration Opens April 1st
- Nashville, Tennessee - Registration Opens May 1st
- Albuquerque, New Mexico - Registration Opens June 1st
- Vero Beach, Florida - Registration Opens July 1st
- New York City, NY - Registration Opens July 22nd





## Stay connected!

We are trying to keep all former players up to date with progress, success stories, resources, and tools. To build a community and expand our outreach, we are continuing the process of building communities across a few social media channels (please see below).

If you know other former players who might be interested in receiving updates like this, feel free to forward this newsletter to them and help us continue expanding access to valuable resources.



### **Former MLB & MiLB Players Network & Community - LinkedIn**

- [Group for Former Players](#)



Career Transition  
Information:  
[leonel.bejaran@mlb.com](mailto:leonel.bejaran@mlb.com)



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Mon - Fri, 9am-5pm  
(212) 931-7822  
[BAT@mlb.com](mailto:BAT@mlb.com)

