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CMST60; Marks; MWF
Informative Speech
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Purpose: To inform my classmates about Minor League Baseball, its relationship to Major League Baseball, and the different levels at which baseball players may have a professional career outside of the Majors.

Introduction

- I. Opening:** Display a baseball and mitt and introduce the idea of playing a game that you love to make a living.
- II. Thesis:** To explain the different levels and roles of Minor League Baseball and how it is a viable option for professional baseball players that may not make it into the big leagues.
- III. Connect:** If you have ever wondered about being a professional ball player while watching a Major League game on television, you might be surprised that there are many options available besides the big league. You don't have to make it to the Majors in order to have a successful career in baseball.
- IV. Preview:** Today I will tell you about the different levels of professional baseball found within the Minor Leagues and explain how the Majors aren't the only place to go for great baseball.

Body

- I. Main Point:** There is already a great deal of professional baseball being played in the United States that is not the same as the baseball that is shown on TV.
 - A.** According to a 2005 Newsweek article entitled "Not Just Peanuts" by A. Schwarz, there are 176 minor league teams that hosted more than 40 million fans.
 - B.** It also stated that there are Minor League ball clubs owned and run by such luminaries as former baseball players George Brett, Nolan Ryan and Cal Ripken Jr., and other sports players and celebrities such as Bill Murray, Warren Buffet, Dale Earnhardt, and Magic Johnson. (show picture)
 - C.** A related 2007 article in the PSA Journal titled "Photographing Minor League Baseball" stated that only five states do not have a team, the rest have at least one team, and on the east and west coasts, some states have as many as seven.
 - D.** Many players are current or former Major League ballplayers. The rest are working toward that level of baseball and eligible to be signed.

(**Transition:** Now that you know a little bit about the Minor League Baseball, I will explain how the different leagues are structured and their relationships to the Majors.)

- II. Main Point:** The organization is actually broken up into many different leagues, each one having a slightly different relationship with Major League Baseball. (show chart)
 - A.** According to Minor League Baseball's website, that I visited last week, the six main leagues are Triple-A, Double-A, Class-A Advanced, regular Class-A, Class-A Short Season, and Rookie.

1. Unique league relationships with Major League Baseball
 2. Kinds of players designated between leagues
- B.** A new player's first contract season is not very lucrative, with an \$1100 per month maximum with \$25 per day for meals while on the road!
1. Pay is negotiable after the first year
- C.** According to a 2003 article in Forbes titled "So, You Want to Own a Minor League Baseball Team" written by J. Cramer, a typical member of a 24 member team has a salary cap of \$60,000 per year.

Conclusion

I. Summary: As I have shared with you, there are many options available to people interested in playing professional baseball for a living.

- A.** Teams all across the country.
- B.** Growing in popularity year after year.
- C.** For both Major League players and prospective top-level players.
- D.** Pure professional baseball, just like the big league.

II. Closing: I hope that you have enjoyed by presentation and now know that there laying a wonderful sport like baseball for a living is not as impossible as it may have once seemed.

References

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