



INTO THE RECORD BOOKS — That's where Roman wound up on May 4, 1958, when he smashed three home runs in one game against the Giants in Seals Stadium. No Pirate had accomplished the feat since 1951. Frank Thomas, who also hit a homer in the game and congratulates his teammate here, was the next Pirate to hit three in a game, doing it later that same year.

signing up Mejias...it wasn't easy!

In 1953 Branch Rickey, then head man of the Pittsburgh Pirates, accepted the Cuban government's invitation to bring the Pirates to Havana for spring training — especially since the deal involved a \$50,000 all-expense free ride paid for by their government.

One of the ideas behind the Caribbean excursion was Rickey's theory that he could scour the Cuban bush country in quest of baseball prospects. The Bucs held a tryout camp there and out of it signed three boys — one of them Roman Mejias. The other two — David Jiminez, a pitcher, and Roberto Sanchez, a shortstop — never reached Pittsburgh, both quitting after several seasons in the minor leagues.

Mejias, of course, had never played professional ball. He arrived at the tryout camp only through the generosity of a Cuban lawyer named Munchy D'Arcos, who thought the kid had promise and paid the fare from Mejias' home town of Las Villas to Havana and back. The Pirates liked Mejias the first time they saw him. He was big and strong and could hit. When they decided to sign him, George Sisler, the Hall of Fame first baseman who was a Pittsburgh talent hunter, started out on a 100-mile auto ride with D'Arcos to Roman's home town.

"If you've ever traveled by car into the interior of Cuba, you can imagine what kind of ride we had," Sisler said recently. "We finally found Mejias in his home town, population 300.

"He was working as an assistant engineer on a train loading sugar cane. I sat in the back seat of the car while Munchy and Mejias (the M & M boys of the hour) conversed in Spanish in the front seat, talking contract. It was wild. It seemed that everyone in the village was crowded around our car, to witness the talk and the signing!"

COMPLETE PROFESSIONAL RECORD

Year	Club	League	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
1953	Batavia	Pony	117	484	156	30	10	8	97	42	.322
1954	Waco	Big St.	139	560	198	49	12	15	141	23	.354
1955	Pittsburgh	N.L.	71	167	36	8	1	3	21	1	.216
1956	Hollywood	PCL	166	594	163	20	9	15	71	32	.274
1957	Columbus	Int.	28	110	35	7	2	4	20	3	.318
1957	Pittsburgh	N.L.	58	142	39	7	4	2	15	2	.275
1958	Pittsburgh	N.L.	76	157	42	3	2	5	19	2	.268
1959	Pittsburgh	N.L.	96	276	65	6	1	7	28	1	.236
1960	Pittsburgh	N.L.	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
1960	Columbus	Int.	131	474	132	11	9	16	71	7	.278
1961	Pittsburgh	N.L.	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
1961	Columbus	Int.	126	428	119	11	6	21	71	9	.278
Major League totals			308	744	182	24	8	17	83	6	.245