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The Tall Mexican: The Life Of Hank Aguirre All-Star Pitcher, Businessman, Humanitarian



Synopsis

Growing up, Hank Aguirre rose every morning long before school to make and deliver tortillas as part of a small family business. In his free time, the teen-aged Hank played Legion baseball and in neighborhood pick-up games. After graduation, he signed on with the Cleveland Indians organization. Hank Aguirre enjoyed a successful, award-winning major-league career as a pitcher. Then, instead of basking in his popularity, he went on to found Mexican Industries in the burned-out heart of crime-ridden urban Detroit. His firm gave employment to more than a thousand people, bringing hope where there had once been only despair. This was a man who pushed beyond mere celebrity to become a true hero.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bob Copley paints a vivid and moving picture of a man who showed us all how to be better human beings. Hank Aguirre was no more perfect than the rest of us, and that made him the perfect role model for real people. He had talent and determination and compassion and he parlayed those qualities for the benefit of those less fortunate than himself. Aguirre showed us all how to be better managers and better citizens and better friends. Copley's biography brings us into the world of Hank Aguirre and allows us to experience life as a friend, neighbor, and colleague of Aguirre. And as such, in the end, we grieve Hank's untimely passing with the same sadness. Hank's legacy lives on, through his family and through all of us who are willing to share our blessings and opportunities with others. The Tall Mexican lets Hank Aguirre continue to provide a powerful role model for

generations to come. Share it with your children.

One of my memories of Hank Aguirre is his pitching in relief of the first major league game I saw in Detroit in 1958. After completing a game in Yankee Stadium in which Al Kaline broke his collar bone to make a diving catch to win the game the headline read "Tigers Find A Starter But Lose A Star", the Tigers found they had a legitimate starting pitcher for their staff. Hank's inability as a hitter are legendary, but the author spends a great deal of time on Hank's humanitarian efforts on behalf of Hispanic minorities in the Detroit area. His business efforts were ultimately successful, but the time spent away from his family took its toll. People are remembered for what they give, and Hank gave of himself to others. This is a very easy to read book, and one that would be beneficial to high school libraries even though the name of Hank Aguirre is an unknown to them.

hank aguirre, an all-star big-league pitcher and a Hispanic wanted to give back to his people, started a business in the Hispanic barrio of Detroit. He opened his business with 8 employees all of whom are Hispanic used his home to borrow money to finance the business in 1979. Today the company known as Mexican Industries has 1500 employees. 87% of whom are Hispanic. Sales this year will reach \$165 million. The payroll in the plants in Detroit alone will reach \$35 million. Hank died of prostate cancer in 1994; but his legacy lives on. All is described in his biography. The Tall Mexican will be inspirational to all Hispanics who feel their success will be buried in racial injustice. Reviews have been extremely favorable.

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