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## At Bat



## Juan De Dios Villarreal an Vintage Naranjero

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 Written by Jesus Rubio

Again, baseball is in mourning: Juan de Dios Villarreal has also just left for the eternal journey.

That's right, unfortunately.

The famous "Tambo", who was so angered by Miguel León, especially in old and disappeared ALR Stadium of Guaymas, shouting and despairing from the central grandstand with his megaphone "Villarreal, Villarreal, Villarreal", every time he stopped to hit .

He was a receiver of great physical strength and power to bat.

He played eight seasons with Naranjeros de Hermosillo: .263 batting, 259 produced and 64 homers. 73 doubles and two triples.

His maximum number of homers was 17 in the 1962-1963 season. He had another 15 in 64-75.

From the night of Tuesday Javier Reyna sent me an email where he told me: "sad news for our baseball; the afternoon of this February 27 died in this city in the former professional catcher, Juan de Dios Villarreal Castillo, who played for 15 years in the LMB with Sultans of Monterrey, Oil Poza Rica, Tampico Aligners, Eagle of Veracruz , Broncos de Reynosa and Pericos de Puebla. Rest in peace".

### Three titles with Naranjeros

It was with Naranjeros where he had his best moments, helping the team to achieve, first the bicampeonato of 60-61 and 61-62, with Virgilio Arteaga of strategist, and then one more in the 63-64.

Of the bicampeonato, already it has spoken to him many times. Today I will mention your latest Naranjero pennant:

That season Hermosillo had manager Leo Rodriguez and still the circuit was called Winter League of Sonora, now Mexicana del Pacífico.

Naranjeros had Jorge Fitch in the shorts; Marco Antonio Manzo in second; Rubén Esquivias at first; Juan de Dios Villarreal in the catcher and third base was played by Leo himself.

In the gardens, Eradio Burruel, Roberto "El Tawa" Lizárraga, Obed Plascencia, Benjamín "Cananea" Reyes, Andrés "El Avestruz"



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Rodríguez, Federico Bojórquez and Héctor Espino, who got his fourth batting title followed.

In the pitching were Miguel Sotelo, Blas Arredondo, Eusebio Elizalde, Horacio Solano, Mauro Ruiz (10-4 / pitcher champion) and Mario "Toche" Peláez.

Villarreal was replaced by Juan "Yaqui" Limas, who later, in 1966, would jump to the field as umpire in summer and winter.

In that season Héctor Espino was the MVP for the second consecutive year with .379 (fourth consecutive title), 77 bases produced (leader) and 25 home runs, losing the triple crown in the home run with Ronnie Camacho, of the Rieleros de Empalme, who gave 27 to establish for the first time that record, which in 71-72 tied Bob Darwin, with Hermosillo.

Equally special mention must be given to the oranger starter Horacio Solano, because his great number of victories contributed enormities to the conquest of the pennant.

His record was the best in the league with 14-4 in wins and losses, 53 walks and 116 strikeouts, with a 3.24 ERA.

Rest in peace the great "Tambo".

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