

37th BASEBALL WORLD CUP Live on www.stadeo.tv

Sixteen nations, eager to prove global supremacy and anxious to establish momentum heading into the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, collide at this year's International Baseball Federation (IBAF) World Cup of Baseball from Nov. 6-18 in Taiwan.

www.stadeo.tv will play host to the 37th Baseball World Cup live on the internet, a two-week showcase of continuous diamond action between the top international baseball powers in the world.

41 games Live and Free

stadeo.tv, fresh off its hugely successful coverage of the European Baseball Championships in Barcelona in August, will once again be on hand using cutting edge streaming technology to broadcast live and free 41 of the 68 games to the international baseball audience, including all quarterfinal, semifinal and championship final action.

Nine-time defending champion Cuba will be seeking a remarkable tenth straight World Championship but will have to battle World Baseball Classic champion Japan, as well as 14 other nations, including recent world medalists Chinese Taipei, the United States, Korea and Panama for championship glory.

Sanctioned by the IBAF, the Baseball World Cup returns to Chinese Taipei for the first time since 2001. The Netherlands hosted the 2005 World Cup, a tournament that once again displayed Cuba's gold medal dominance and saw Korea win silver and Panama capture the bronze. And just like 2005, expect the unexpected, like Korea's 5-1 upset of Japan in the quarterfinals to knock the Japanese out of medal contention.

With the Beijing Olympics only nine months away, teams most certainly will be jockeying for position early in pool play to establish momentum throughout the tournament and on into next August.

Opening ceremonies are scheduled for 17:00 on Tuesday, Nov. 6 at Tien-Mou Stadium in Taichung. Then the real fireworks begin as host nation Chinese Taipei squares off with Italy in the tournaments opening game at 18:00. Also featured in Pool A are the United States, Mexico, Spain, Panama, South Africa and Japan. Rivals Mexico and the United States clash immediately on Wednesday night to round out opening day in Pool A.

Pool B will kick off on Wednesday afternoon at noon in Taipei, with defending champion Cuba facing Australia in a key early round matchup. The Netherlands, Thailand, Germany, Venezuela, Korea and Canada make up the rest of Pool B. The Korea versus Canada match-up is an intriguing one, and will end a great first full day of pool play.

Baseball stars of today and tomorrow

The United States will field a team stockpiled with Triple A and Major League Baseball experience, including pitcher Jeff Karstens, who started several games for the New York Yankees the last two seasons, and third baseman Andy LaRoche and outfielder Delwyn Young, who both enjoyed stints for the Los Angeles Dodgers this past season. The U.S. is coached by former World Series champion manager Davey Johnson (New York Mets) and pitching coach Marcel Lachemann (Angels, Marlins and Rockies).

Expect nothing less than excellence from Cuba, who's won gold in this tournament 25 out of the 36 times it's been played. Standouts Osmani Urrutia, Freddie Cepeda and pitcher Yadel Marti will once again lead Rey Vicente Anglada's squad.

Those and a number of familiar faces from the rosters of last year's World Baseball Classic participants Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea, Mexico, South Africa, the Netherlands, Panama, Italy and Venezuela will be on hand in Taipei.

Australia's 24-man squad will include five current and former MLB players and seven silver medalists from their 2000 Olympic squad. Canada features two players with former major league experience (Kevin Nicholson with the Padres and Mike Johnson with the Expos) and a wealth of talented minor leaguers under the age of 25 on its roster.

Get your game face on. The battles between the lines will be epic. And www.stadeo.tv, establishing itself as the premier international sporting event streaming company, will be there every step of the way.

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