

ESPN@~USA vs Dominican Republic Live Streams

Free WBC SEMI FINALS 2026

On Sunday, March 15, 2026, the sporting world turned its eyes to loanDepot Park in Miami, Florida, for what was widely hailed as the "Dream Semifinal." The United States and the Dominican Republic clashed in a high-stakes 2026 World Baseball Classic (WBC) semifinal that delivered on every ounce of its pre-game hype.



In a thrilling display of power pitching and late-game heroics, Team USA secured a 6-4 victory over the Dominican Republic, advancing to the WBC Final to defend their home turf against the winner of the Venezuela-Italy matchup. The Atmosphere: A Caribbean Carnival in Miami

Though the game was played in Florida, the stands were a sea of red, white, and blue—on both sides. The "Plátano Power" was out in full force, with air horns, drums, and flags turning the Marlins' home stadium into a neutral-site pressure cooker. With over 36,000 fans in attendance, the energy surpassed even the highest expectations for the tournament.

The Pitching Duel: Skenes vs. Severino

The marquee matchup focused on the mound:

Paul Skenes (USA): The reigning Cy Young winner lived up to the "Paul Skenes Experience," pumping triple-digit fastballs from the first inning. He worked through a dangerous Dominican lineup, striking out seven over five innings of work and allowing only two runs.

Luis Severino (DR): The veteran right-hander leaned on his experience, neutralizing the heavy bats of Aaron Judge and Bryce Harper early. Severino kept the game tight, exiting in the 6th with the score tied at 2-2.

Turning Point: The Long Ball Returns

The Dominican Republic took an early lead in the 3rd inning when Vladimir Guerrero Jr. launched a 415-foot solo blast that nearly left the stadium. However, the United States responded in the bottom of the 5th.

Aaron Judge, who had been quiet for much of the tournament, finally found his timing. With two runners on, Judge drove a slider into the left-field seats, a three-run homer that shifted the momentum entirely to the Americans.

Key Box Score Stats

Metric	Team USA	Dominican Republic
Runs	6	4
Hits	9	11
Errors	0	1
LOB (Left On Base)	7	10
Late Game Drama		

The Dominican Republic refused to go quietly. In the top of the 8th, Juan Soto and Manny Machado hit back-to-back doubles to trim the lead to 5-4. With the tying run on second, the U.S. turned to their "fireman," Mason Miller.

Miller entered the game and threw the fastest pitch in WBC history—a 104.2 mph heater—to strike out Julio Rodríguez and end the threat. Team USA added an insurance run in the bottom of the 8th via a Bobby Witt Jr. RBI single, and Miller slammed the door in the 9th to secure the save.

The Strategic Masterclass

Manager Mark DeRosa made several critical moves that defined the win:

The Bullpen Carousel: Utilizing high-leverage arms like Tyler Rogers and Joe Ryan early to bridge the gap to Miller.

Defensive Shifts: The U.S. outfield, led by Pete Crow-Armstrong, took away at least two potential extra-base hits from Fernando Tatis Jr.

Patience at the Plate: Team USA forced the Dominican bullpen to throw 25+ pitches per inning in the final third of the game.

Wider Context: A Busy Sports Weekend

While baseball stole the headlines, the USA vs. Dominican Republic rivalry extended across other disciplines this month:

Basketball: In the FIBA World Cup 2027 Qualifiers (Feb 26), the Dominican Republic pulled off a massive upset, defeating the USA 87-79.

Softball: Earlier in February, the U.S. Men's National Team dominated the DR with a 7-0 shutout in the Pan Am Championship.

Soccer: The U17 squads played to a hard-fought 1-1 draw in the CONCACAF Championship.

Final Verdict

For the Dominican Republic, managed by the legendary Albert Pujols, the loss is a bitter pill to swallow for a roster many considered the most talented in the tournament's history. For the United States, the win is a statement of intent as they head into the Tuesday final.

"This is what we came here for," said Aaron Judge post-game. "You want to play the best in the world on the biggest stage. We respect that Dominican team immensely, but we've got one more job to do."