



Five Hall of Famers for 2016 Elected

The Players Selection Committee of the Baseball Hall of Fame (337 members) has elected Masaki Saitoh and Kimiyasu Kudo from among 23 eligible candidates (9 new candidates and 14 returnees) in the Players Division prepared by the Screening Committee. The Expert Division of the Players Selection Committee (112 members) has elected the late Kihachi Enomoto from among 13 eligible candidates (4 new candidates and 9 returnees) prepared by the Screening Committee.

The Special Selection Committee (14 members), on the other hand, has selected the late Takizo Matsumoto and Masatake Yamanaka from among the 10 eligible candidates.

The membership of the Baseball Hall of Fame is now 192, including 41 living Hall of Famers. The site and date of the 2016 Induction Ceremony are to be decided in due course of time.

SAITOH, Masaki

Born in Saitama Prefecture on Feb 18, 1965.

Upon graduation from Kawaguchi Municipal High School in 1982, Saitoh was drafted by the Yomiuri Giants with first-round pick. His remarkable year was in 1989 when he set NPB record of 11 straight complete games. He also notched 20 wins, 7 losses with a 1.62 ERA, won most wins, best ERA and Sawamura Award and led the team to capture the league pennant and victory in the Japan Series. He was the league leader in most wins in 1995, most wins and best ERA in 1996, earning Sawamura Award for two years in a row, his third overall. As an ace pitcher, he contributed much to the team. After 18 years with the Giants, he retired in 2001.



He threw and batted right.

His career records include: 426 G, 180 W, 96 L, 2,375.2 IP, 1,707 SO, 2.77 ERA, best win-loss percentage three times (1990,92,96), best ERA three times (1989-90,96), most wins five times (1989-90,92,95-96), most strikeouts once (1995), MVP once (1990), Best Pitcher Award five times (1989-90,92,95-96), Sawamura Award three times (1989,95-96), Best Nine Team five times, and Golden Glove Award four times, 11 straight complete games (May 10-July 15, 1989). He finished in the Top 10 in ERA nine times and appeared in the All-Star series six times.

(Photo: BBM)

KUDO, Kimiyasu

Born in Aichi Prefecture on May 5, 1963.

Upon graduation from Nagoya High School of Electricity in 1981, Kudo was drafted by the Seibu Lions with sixth-round pick. In 1986, he finished with 11 wins and led the team to the league pennant along with victory in the Japan Series, and was named Japan Series MVP. During his time with the Lions (1982-94), he played an active part in leading the team to the League championship eleven times and victories in the Japan Series eight times. In 1995, he joined the Fukuoka Daiei Hawks. In 1999, he



notched 11 wins, won best ERA and most strikeouts, and helped propel the team to the league pennant and victory in the Japan Series. He joined the Yomiuri Giants in 2000, when he won Best Pitcher Award and helped the Giants capture the league pennant and Japan Series title. Afterwards, he played for the Yokohama BayStars (2007-09) and then moved to the Seibu Lions again (2010). In his 29-year baseball career (NPB record), he piled up 224 wins.

He threw and batted left.

His career records include: 635 G, 224 W, 142 L, 3,336.2 IP, 2,859 SO, 3.45 ERA, best win-loss percentage four times (1987,91,93,2000), best ERA four times (1985,87,93,99), most strikeouts twice (1996,99), MVP twice (1993,99), Best Pitcher Award once (2000),

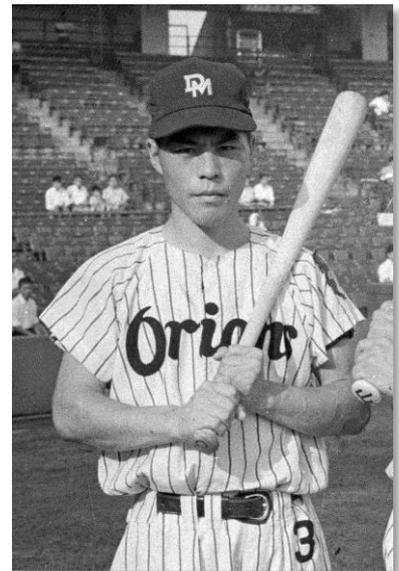
Best Nine Team three times, Golden Glove Award three times and Shoriki Award once (1987), most strikeouts in a single inning (4 strikeouts/ Aug 2, 1996), most consecutive base on balls in a single inning (5 base on balls/ May 23, 1991), most consecutive hitless at bats (84 at bats/ April 11, 2000-July 26, 2002). He finished in the Top 10 in ERA eleven times and appeared in the All-Star series ten times.

(Photo: BBM)

ENOMOTO, Kihachi

Born in Tokyo on December 5, 1936 and died on March 14, 2012.

In 1955, Enomoto joined the Mainichi Orions outside of the draft system after graduating from Waseda Vocational High School. He gained NPB debut at the season opener as fifth batter in the starting lineup, and ended up the season playing 139 games, batting 146 hits with .298 BA and garnered Rookie of the Year Award. He made great contribution to the team as a stable batter among the Orions' "Missile lineup". In 1960, he led the league with



batting average and most hits, and helped the team capture the league pennant. He proved to have been a mainstay of the team, amassing 100 or more hits for 15 consecutive years starting from his rookie year.

He threw and batted left.

His career records include: 2,222 G, 7,763 AB, 2,314 H, 979 RBI, 246 HR, .298 BA, batting champion twice (1960,66), most hits four times (1960-62,66), best OBP once (1966), Rookie of the Year (1955) and was in Best Nine Team nine times. He made best fielding percentage at first base in a single season (.999/ 1968), 1,128 consecutive errorless chances for first baseman in a single season (April 6-Sep 3, 1968), 1,516 consecutive errorless chances for first baseman in back-to-back seasons (Aug 13, 1967-Sep 3, 1968). He finished in the Top 10 in RBI ten times and appeared in the All-Star series twelve times.

(Photo: BBM)

MATSUMOTO, Takizo

Born in Hiroshima Prefecture on March 20, 1901 and died on November 2, 1958.

Matsumoto grew up in U.S. due to his family's relocation. On his return to Japan, he was admitted to Koryo Junior High School and then entered Meiji University in 1925. He accompanied the 1929 Meiji University baseball team's world tour as its manager.

In 1932, he started teaching at Meiji University and took up a professorship from 1939 until 1958. He attended the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin as an investigator and foreign relations manager.

In 1946, he was elected in the first postwar general election to the House of Representatives and was re-elected five times afterwards. During the period he acted as a Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and a Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary. He also served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Japan Sports Association (1948-58).

After the World War II, by fully utilizing his English proficiency, he was actively involved in various negotiations with people concerned to resume baseball in Japan including the National Invitational High School Baseball Tournament. During the 1949 San Francisco Seals' goodwill tour of Japan, the first of its kind after WWII, he served as chairman of the Japanese executive committee. He also headed the executive committee for the Nonprofessional Inter-hemisphere Series between Japan and the Fort Wayne Capeharts held in Japan in 1950. In addition, when the Amateur Baseball Association was first set up in 1949, he assumed an advisory role and became its deputy chairman in 1955. Thus he had dedicated himself to the resumption of baseball in the postwar period.

(Photo: BHFMM)



YAMANAKA, Masatake

Born in Oita Prefecture on April 24, 1947.

In 1966, he entered Hosei University and played an active role for its baseball club

from the spring onward. Under manager Reiichi Matsunaga, he pitched for the Hosei Nine with a legendary trio, Koji Yamamoto, Koichi Tabuchi and Masaru Tomita, with whom he contributed a great deal to build the heyday of the Hosei University. During his university career, he attained a marvellous achievement by accumulating 48 wins (13 losses), the Tokyo Big 6 League record for most wins.

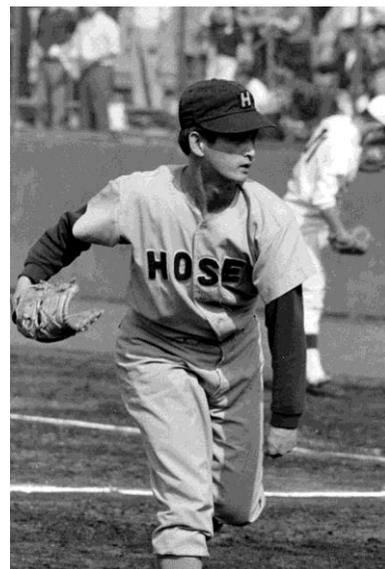
On graduation, he joined the Sumitomo Metal Industries baseball club in 1970. He made history in the nonprofessional baseball world by participating in the Inter-City Baseball Championships for six consecutive years (1970-75). In addition, as manager of the SMI (1981-84), he won the 53rd Inter-City Baseball Championship in 1982 and two consecutive Japan Baseball Championship titles from 1983 to 1984.

At the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, he served as pitching coach for Team Japan to capture the Silver medal, and managed it to the Bronze medal when baseball became one of the official Olympic events at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

Later, as a great manager of Hosei University baseball club (1994-2002), he built up another golden age of the team winning seven times in the Tokyo Big 6 Baseball League and once in the National University Baseball Championship.

From 2004 to 2009, he served as managing director of the Yokohama BayStars, during which he also held important positions such as a member of the Technical Committee for the World Baseball Classic and the head of the NPB Draft System Steering Committee.

(Photo: BBM)



The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum