



## Four Hall of Famers for 2018 Elected

The Players Selection Committee of the Baseball Hall of Fame (376 members) has elected Hideki Matsui and Tomoaki Kanemoto from among 17 eligible candidates (6 new candidates and 11 returnees) in the Players Division prepared by the screening committee.

The Expert Division of the Players Selection Committee (127 members) has elected Tatsunori Hara from among 14 eligible candidates (4 new candidates and 10 returnees) prepared by the screening committee.

The Special Selection Committee (14 members) has selected the late Masao Taki from among the 9 eligible candidates.

The total number of inductees in the Baseball Hall of Fame now stands at 201, including 44 living Hall of Famers. The details of the 2018 Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremonies to be announced in due course.

## Hideki MATSUI

Hideki Matsui joined the Yomiuri Giants as a first-round draft choice in 1992. During his 10 years with the Giants, he won three home-run titles, had the most runs batted in (RBI) three times and won a batting title, plus helped lead the team to four Central League pennants and three Japan Series titles.

He made his way in 2003 to the New York Yankees in the Major League Baseball (MLB). He was instrumental in making that team the World Series champion in 2009 and was named MVP of the World Series. Also known as “Godzilla”, slugger Matsui compiled a spectacular career in both the Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) and the MLB. In 2013, he was presented with the People’s Honor Award by the Prime Minister of Japan.

### Bio

Birth place:	Ishikawa Prefecture
Date of birth:	June 12, 1974
	Seiryō High School
1993-2002	Yomiuri Giants
2003-2009	New York Yankees
2010	Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim
2011	Oakland Athletics
2012	Tampa Bay Rays

### NPB career records

Position played:	Outfielder
Season played:	10

Bats: Left  
Throws: Right

Games: 1,268  
At Bats: 4,572  
Hits: 1,390  
Home Runs: 332  
RBI: 889  
Batting Average: .304

Batting title: 2001  
Most home runs: 1998, 2000, 2002  
Most RBI: 1998, 2000, 2002  
Highest OBP: 1998, 2000, 2002  
MVP: 1996, 2000, 2002  
Best Nine Award: Eight times  
Golden Glove Award: Three times  
All-Star appearances: Nine times  
Shoriki Award: 2000  
Most consecutive games on-base: 65 from May 5 to August 3, 2001

#### MLB career records

Position played: Outfielder, Designated Hitter  
Season played: 10

Games: 1,236  
At Bats: 4,442  
Hits: 1,253  
RBI: 760  
Home Runs: 175  
Batting Average: .282

World Series MVP: 2009  
All-Star appearances: Two times

## **Tomoaki KANEMOTO**

Tomoaki Kanemoto joined the Hiroshima Toyo Carp in 1991 as their fourth draft choice. In 1995, he established himself as a regular player, making 104 appearances. He achieved so-called the “triple-three” by collecting .315 batting average, 30 home runs and 30 stolen bases in the 2000 season. He moved to the Hanshin Tigers in 2003 and played a key role in helping the team win the Central League pennant. He proved himself to be an “Iron Man” and the mainstay of the team by playing in 1,766 consecutive games from 1998 to 2011, and by setting the world record of 1,492 consecutive games without missing an inning starting from 1999 through 2010.

#### Bio

Birth place: Hiroshima Prefecture  
Date of birth: April 3, 1968

Koryo High School

1992-2002	Tohoku Fukushi University
2003-2012	Hiroshima Toyo Carp Hanshin Tigers

### NPB career records

Position played:	Outfielder
Season played:	21
Bats:	Left
Throws:	Right
Games:	2,578
At Bats:	8,915
Hits:	2,539
Home Runs:	476
RBI:	1,521
Batting Average:	.285
Most RBI:	2004
MVP:	2005
Best Nine Award:	Seven times
Most consecutive games without missing an inning:	1,492 from July 21, 1999 through April 17, 2010
Most Consecutive at bats without double play:	1,002 from May 12, 2000 – September 28, 2001
Hits for the cycle:	April 24, 1999
All-Star appearances:	Eleven times

## **Tatsunori HARA**

Tatsunori Hara joined the Yomiuri Giants as a first-round draft choice in 1980. In the following year, he won the Rookie of the Year with 126 hits and 22 home runs. His performance was a key factor for the Giants to win the Central League pennant and the Japan Series title in the year. As well, he helped lead the team to the league pennant in 1983, capturing the RBI title with 103. He would become the pillar of the Giants in the post Nagashima-Oh era.

After his retirement, he led the Giants to seven league pennants and three Japan Series titles during his 12 years with the team as a manager. He also guided Team Japan to achieve a second successive victory at the World Baseball Classic in 2009.

### Bio

Birth place:	Kanagawa Prefecture
Date of birth:	July 22, 1958
	Tokai University Sagami Senior High School
	Tokai University
1981-1995	Yomiuri Giants
1999-2001	Coach, Yomiuri Giants
2002-2003	Manager, Yomiuri Giants
2006-2015	Manager, Yomiuri Giants
2009	Manager, National team for the World Baseball Classic

### NPB career records (player)

Position played:	Infielder, outfielder
Season played:	15
Bats:	Right
Throws:	Right
Games:	1,697
At Bats:	6,012
Hits:	1,675
Home Runs:	382
RBI:	1093
Batting Average:	.279
Most RBI:	1983
Most game-winning RBI:	1982,1983
MVP:	1983
Rookie of the Year Award:	1981
Best Nine Award:	Five times
Golden Glove Award:	Two times
All-Star appearances:	Eleven times
Most sacrifice flies in a season:	12 in 1991
Most home runs in an inning:	2 in May 12, 1985

#### NPB career records (manager)

Season managed:	12
Games:	1,715
Wins:	947
Losses:	712
Winning Percentage:	.571
League pennants:	2002, 2007-2009, 2012-2014
Japan Series titles:	2002, 2009, 2012
Shoriki Award:	2002, 2009, 2012

## **TAKI, Masao**

Masao Taki played for the Chukyo Shogyo baseball club and won the 1937 Summer National High School Baseball Tournament and the 1938 Spring National Invitational High School Baseball Tournament. He also helped lead the Chukyo Shogyo to win the 1954 summer and the 1956 spring tournaments as the general manager, thus accomplishing the remarkable feat of winning both the spring and the summer tournaments both as a player and a general manager.

In 1956, he became the manager and general manager for the Chukyo University baseball club, winning a total of 28 Aichi University Baseball League championships including 11 consecutive championship titles. In 1970, he led the team to become the first baseball club representing Aichi Prefecture to earn the All Japan University Baseball Championship title.

He had long devoted himself to, and was highly successful in, training coaches and developing their leadership. The late Hiroyoshi Sai, manager for the Okinawa Suisan Senior High School baseball club, was trained under Taki. Thus, he made significant contributions to the development of Japanese amateur baseball.

#### Bio

Birth place: Aichi Prefecture  
Date of birth: September 8, 1921  
Died: April 2, 2012

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