



## Three Hall of Famers for 2019 Elected

The Players Selection Committee of the Baseball Hall of Fame (381 members) has elected **Kazuyoshi Tatsunami** from among 18 eligible candidates in the Players Division prepared by the screening committee.

The Expert Division of the Players Selection Committee (140 members) has elected **Hiroshi Gondo** from among 15 eligible candidates prepared by the screening committee.

The Special Selection Committee (14 members) has selected **Haruo Wakimura** from among the 10 eligible candidates.

The total number of inductees in the Baseball Hall of Fame now stands at 204, including 46 living Hall of Famers. The details of the 2019 Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremonies to be announced in due course.

### **Kazuyoshi Tatsunami**

Drafted by the Chunichi Dragons in the first round in the 1987 NPB Draft. In 1988, his first professional season, he started in shortstop and bat second in the lineup from the opening game, played in a total of 110 games throughout the course of the season and contributed to the team's league pennant win. That same year, he was named Rookie of the Year. He was also selected as a Golden Glove winner, becoming the first rookie drafted directly out of high school to win the esteemed award. He continued to display his superb offensive and defensive skills throughout his career, contributing to the team's league pennants in 1999, 2004 and 2006. In 2007, he was shifted to a pinch-hitting specialist role, and helped lead his team to a victory in the Climax Series and Japan Series.

On July 5, 2003, he recorded his 2,000th hit at the age of 33 years and 10 months, making him the youngest player in the Central League to achieve that feat. His 487 career doubles is an NPB record, and he also recorded a total of 2,480 hits (8th all-time,) won two Best Nine Awards and five Golden Glove Awards, and played his entire career as a star player for the Chunichi Dragons.

Born on August 19, 1969

From Osaka Prefecture/Throws right-handed and bats left-handed

Graduated from PL Gakuen High School

1988~2009: Chunichi Dragons

Active for 22 seasons: Infielder

2,586 games/8,716 at-bats/2,480 hits/171 homeruns/1,037 RBI/.285 batting average

Rookie of the Year (1988)/Best Nine Award twice/Golden Glove Award five times, 487 career doubles (1st all-time) Japan and Central League record

Hit for the cycle (August 22, 1997) 11-time All-Star

## ***Hiroshi Gondoh***

After joining the Chunichi Dragons in 1961, he pitched 429.1 innings, recording 35 wins with an ERA of 1.70. That year, he led the league in ERA, wins and strikeouts, and was named the Rookie of the Year. The following year he won 30 games and led the league in wins once again, serving as the de-facto ace of the team.

After retiring, he joined the Chunichi Dragons as a pitching coach for their farm team in 1973, and followed that up by serving as a pitching coach for three different franchises. After his stint as a coach for Yokohama Baystars, he was appointed as the team's manager in 1998. By managing the team's powerful unstoppable offensive lineup, nicknamed the "Machine Gun Offense," and a bullpen led by star closer Kazuhiro Sasaki, he helped lead the team to its first league pennant and Japan Series victory in 38 years.

Born on December 2, 1938

From Saga Prefecture/ Throws right-handed and bats right-handed

Graduated from Tosu High School ~ Bridgestone Tire

1961~1969: Chunichi Dragons

1973~1983: Coach for Chunichi Dragons

1988~1989: Coach for Kintetsu Buffaloes

1991~1993: Coach for Daiei Hawks

1997: Coach for Yokohama Baystars

1998~2000: Manager of Yokohama Baystars

2012: Coach for Chunichi Dragons

2017: Coach for WBC Japan National Team

Active for 8 seasons: Pitcher, infielder

Pitching stats (active for 5 years)

210 games/82 wins-60 losses/1,136 innings/667 strikeouts/2.69 ERA

Hitting stats

483 games/1,041 at-bats/214 hits/18 homeruns/85 RBI/.206 batting average

Best ERA once (1961)/Most wins twice (1961~1962)

Most strikeouts once (1961)

Rookie of the Year (1961)/Sawamura Award once (1961)/Best Nine Award once

Three-time All-Star

Most innings thrown in a season: 429.1 innings (1961) Central League record

Manager stats

Three years/407 games/219 wins-186 losses-2 draws/541 winning percentage

## ***Haruo Wakimura***

He was a third baseman for Shonan High School at the 31st National High School Baseball Tournament, contributing to the team's first ever appearance and championship in the tournament. At The University of Tokyo, he appeared in league games from his freshmen year, and during his senior year he was selected as the team captain. After graduating from university, he played in the Intercity Baseball Tournament as a member of the Toyobo Tomida baseball team, leading the team to the quarterfinals of the tournament. In 2002, he was appointed as the 5th Chairman of the Japan High School Baseball Federation, and in 2004, he signed the "Memorandum on the selection of rookies," that was exchanged with the NPB, which greatly helped smoothen the feud between pro baseball and amateur baseball in Japan at the time. With cooperation from the Japan Professional Baseball Players Association, he also helped organize the "Beyond the Dream" symposium which was hosted by active professional players. Thanks to this symposium, the rule preventing active professional baseball players from participating in practices held by their alma mater was lifted, helping to establish the framework for a cordial relationship between professional and amateur baseball that exists today.

Born on January 15, 1932

From Tokyo

1948~1951: Kanagawa Prefectural Shonan High School

In 1949, his sophomore year, he played and won the 31st National High School Baseball Tournament.

1951~1955: The University of Tokyo

He started league games as a freshmen player, and served as the team captain during his senior year.

1955~1957: Toyobo

In 1955, he played in the 26th Intercity Baseball Tournament and led Toyobo Tomida to the quarterfinals of the tournament. He played for Toyobo Iwakuni for two years from 1956

2002~2008: 5th Chairman of the Japan High School Baseball Federation