

The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum



(<http://www.baseball-museum.or.jp/>)

Articles in NEWSLETTER, Vol.22, No.3 (October, 2012)

(Prepared by Ryuichi Suzuki)

p.1 Mini-mini Experiment, Bat Making Demonstration and Glove Making
~Report on Summer Events, Part 1~

Shinichi Hirose, President

We are very glad that the three events during the summer were quite successful and many participants, especially elementary and junior high students, enjoyed the pleasure and fun of baseball through them.



Mini-mini Experiment Corner, which proved a great draw as a good subject for free study last year, was open again this year for a much longer period, from Saturday, July 28 until Sunday, September 2, excepting three days for other events. It was held twice every day for 30 minutes at the Hall of Fame Gallery, being conducted by our curator and librarian in turn. The subjects were, “secrets of breaking balls,” “Let’s weigh Ichiro’s spikes,” and “Let’s weigh and measure Takeya Nakamura’s bat.” It was a timely project, because the performance of the two players in recent years were the talks of the fans.

Bat making demonstration, the 9th consecutive project since 2004, was held at the BHFG on Friday, August 17 and Saturday, August 18, three times each day for one hour in front of many visitors who would watch the game by Yomiuri Giants at Tokyo Dome at night. Craftsman Takahiro Watanabe from Mizuno Technics demonstrated his skill for the first time in two years, explaining the material of bats and the whole process of bat making. In a pleasant atmosphere, he let a few elementary school pupils experience paper filing and amiably answered questions like, “What is most important in planing bats?” “How can I become a bat craftsman?” and so on, in a way understandable to young pupils.



Glove making, a combined work by a parent-child pair to make their one and only glove, was also popular last year, so it was naturally held again this year on Monday, August 20. Twelve pairs of parents and their children were selected by lottery from among many applicants and they toiled, under the guidance of the staff from Mizuno Corporation, about three hours in the last process of making a glove for use in rubber baseball. What they did was a fairly difficult task of

piercing threads into the glove, which gave all the participants a sense of achievement and satisfaction. Some of them were also busy taking a note or a photo for their independent study.

p.2 A Independent study on baseball and Mini-mini Experiment Corner
~ Report on Summer Events, Part 2~

Independent Study on Baseball

From Saturday, July 21 to Sunday, September 2, another annual event, “Independent study on baseball!” was held at the Baseball Library, the Event Hall (for display of artifacts) and the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery (for Mini-mini Experiment). A total of 458 (an increase of 118 over last year) elementary and junior high school students participated in their independent study on baseball. Both 4th and 5th graders had more than 100 participants, and a total of 4th to 6 graders account for 68 percent of the whole participants. The increase of 3rd graders from 38 last year to 78 this year will show that the participants have become younger.

As for their subjects of study, baseball implements were chosen by 365 pupils, an increase of 229 compared with last year. It is probably because they can make hands-on study at the Event Hall and watch the mini-mini experiment in the BHFG.

Grade		History	Implements	Technique	Stadium	Others
E1	7	2	3	0	0	2
E2	24	7	16	1	2	3
E3	78	18	61	3	7	7
E4	107	25	103	5	6	14
E5	111	34	85	5	11	17
E6	92	30	76	6	6	17
J1	23	5	10	4	1	1
J2	12	2	9	0	0	2
J3	4	1	2	2	0	1
Total	458	124	365	26	33	64

B Mini-mini Experiment Corner



From Saturday, July 28 until Sunday, September 2, Mini-mini Corner was open every day (excepting August 17, 18 and 20) twice every day (14:00 and 15:00) for 30 minutes at the Hall of Fame Gallery.

The subjects for 14:00 were: “Secrets of breaking balls (a balloon was used),” “Let’s compare old and new gloves (used in 1890s, 1920s and nowadays),” and “Let’s weigh Ichiro’s spikes (only elementary school pupils were permitted to hold them in hand).”

The subjects for 15:00 were: ”Standardized balls, as compared with former official balls (by dropping both cores),” and “Let’s measure and weigh Takeya Nakamura’s bat (only elementary pupils were permitted to hold it). Nakamura led the Pacific League

in home runs last season.
 About 1,520 visitors stopped by the Corner in 34 days.
 Many of them seemed to have visited the Baseball Museum for the special purpose of watching the experiments at the Corner. Apparently they gave some pupils a hint for their independent study, and for many, an impetus to visit the Corner next Summer.



p.3 Inductees Remembered (37) A Memory of My Husband

Kazuko Ishii, widow of the late Shosei Go, 1995 Hall of Famer



It has been 25 years since my husband died in 1987 after playing for Japanese pro baseball for 20 full years. His ability for baseball bloomed at Kagi Agriculture and Forestry Middle School in Taiwan, whose team participated in the national tournament at Koshien Stadium four times. He overcame all kinds of hardships in pre-war and post-war Japanese pro baseball. He batted and threw left-handed and was a fleet-footed outfielder, but exceptionally in 1946 he exerted his uniqueness by availing himself of his strong arm and pitched as many as 27 games.

In private life, I was rather inexperienced as the wife of a pro baseball player, but fortunately we were kindly helped by many people. First we met our great benefactor in Taiwan: manager Hyotaro Kondo. My daughter saw a piano for the first time at the home of Tadashi Wakabayashi, manager of the Hanshin Tigers. We enjoyed a close friendship with Kaoru Betto with the Hanshin Tigers and the Mainichi Orions. My son was coached by Kazuhiro Yamauchi on how to ride a bicycle. The popular singer Hibari Misora fondly cuddled my daughter. After retirement, we were closely acquainted with Sadaharu Oh as a fellow countryman. Indeed my husband left me a variety of fond memories through his baseball life.

When we got married, we lived near Koshien Stadium, but my house was surrounded by vacant field. My husband, though very anxious about his lone family, had to be out to many away games. It was soon after the last war, and like everyone else, we found it very difficult to obtain household goods and foods. On days off, I used to go out shopping with him, intending to help him carry the purchase. More often than not, he anxiously took a good care of me who was almost 12 years younger than he and knew nothing about baseball. Above all, he was fond of his children. On days off, it was his custom to take the children on the bicycle and go to his favorite coffee shop. He often took them to a traveling circus. It gave him much joy to see them cheering at the acrobatics. It was the same with our grandchildren. Almost every week, he took them to a zoo and came back satisfied with eating toast and drinking juice with them. Even now they often say, "I cannot forget him. His words and sight are stamped in my memory." My daughter kept a shop and was apt to be too busy to take care of her children, so she was thankful to her father for his help.

My husband was a gourmet and good cook. On taking a delicious dish, he would get its recipe and cook it for the family. Unlike traditional Japanese fathers, he was a real family man and liked to be in the kitchen. He always prepared special sandwiches on a day-off morning. When a group of guests came, he was glad to serve his specialty. In a large basket steamer, he steamed glutinous rice and made *chimaki*, a rice-dumpling wrapped in bamboo leaves. He added quail eggs and stewed cubes of pork, making it a perfection which I

have tried in vain to reproduce myself. I am only proud of catching up with him recently in preparing his other specialties, *sukiyaki* in an iron pan and rice vermicelli, for my children and grandchildren.

He was the second son in a large family of five sons and two daughters. He was particularly in good terms with his younger brother close in age, who often came to Japan on vacation with his sister. His first souvenir was sugar cane which was quite new to me. How impressed I was when I tasted it. As he grew up in Taiwan which was then a part of Japan, he spoke Japanese fluently. Contrarily my husband, who lived in Japan proper for a long time, could not speak Mandarin at all. He showed him to the Imperial Palace and Shinjuku Garden. At Akihabara he helped his younger brother buy in bulk. The brother was a pleasant person. When he drank, he would sing songs of poplar singers like Haruo Oka, Koichi Aoki, Noriko Awaya, and others, often ending in a duet with my husband. Hand in hand or arm in arm with his sister, he enjoyed meeting her again after a long absence, speaking with gesture in Japanese and Mandarin respectively.

Recently Hiroshi Okamoto, a writer, published *The Human Locomotive, Go Shosei ~ A Novel* in Taiwan. Kagi National University (descendant of Kagi AFMS) presented me with its gorgeous bulletin. My heart was full when I was told that my husband's photograph was on display in its campus. I would like to express my deep thanks to the people concerned for their continued kindness to my deceased husband.

Last but not least, I would like to wish for the further prosperity and development of the Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum and baseball world in general.

p.4 Library News *Yakyu Nenpou* (Baseball Yearbook)

Taku Chinone, co-librarian



Let me introduce *Yakyu Nenpou* which was originally published 110 years ago in 1902. It continued to be published until 1915, excepting 1906. *The size was 17 cm by 11 cm. The first issue, which was published on September 21, 1902, contained 10 chapters dealing with games with foreigners' teams, nationwide competitions, history of baseball in Japan, games in Tokyo, practice matches of Ichiko baseball club, techniques in baseball, nationwide middle school games, games in Kansai district, baseball rules, and supplement (written by Hekigotou Kawahigashi, who was taught baseball by Shiki Masaoka). With the results of games and group photographs of players, it gives a good glimpse of baseball in those days. (* All of the issues are available at our baseball library.)

The most interesting article to me is the baseball rules which is described in the publishers' address as "an annotated edition of Mr.Aoi's translation in accordance with the rules adopted in America this year." When compared with the baseball rules in Spalding's Official Base Ball Guide published in New York in 1902, the baseball rules in question have turned out to be an exact translation into Japanese of the American version. They are the more understandable by the added annotations based on the observation of games in Japan. The imprint says that the editor is Takuo Itoh, but the actual editors seem to be Keiichi Kubota and Shotaro Takato mentioned at the end of the publishers' address. They are graduates of Ichiko (the present faculty of Liberal Arts, Tokyo University) and so junior to Yokio Aoi, 1959 Hall of Famer, who translated the baseball rules into Japanese for the first time in 1895. Kubota was the third baseman and Takato was the catcher with the Ichiko Nine. Kubota graduated from Ichiko in 1901 and civil engineering department of Imperial Tokyo University in 1905. After entering the Railways Ministry in 1908, he became its vice minister in 1931.



The publisher was Mimatsu Sporting Goods Store started by Takuo Itoh in 1882 at Hongo-5-10, Hongo (now Bunkyo)-ku, in Tokyo. Its catalogues, which give valuable information on the shape and price of baseball implement in those days, are available at our baseball library. Besides *Yakyu Nenpo*, it published *Makyuujits* (v. NL 20-3) and many sports books.

p.5 Rara avis (79) Admission tickets for the first pay games in Japan, 1907

Takahiro Sekiguchi, Co-curator



There were two topics in baseball in Japan at the turn of the 20th century. One is the beginning of the traditional Waseda and Keio rivalry in 1903 and their victory over the dominant Ichiko Nine. But the incipient Waseda vs Keio rivalry came to a sudden suspension when they met in a tiebreaker in the fall of 1906. The cheering party of the both teams got so excited and wild that it was impossible to continue the game. The other is the increasing exchange of baseball teams between Japan and the U.S.A. In 1905, Waseda Nine went to America to play games against their counterparts and came back with new techniques and strategy. From 1907 onwards, American teams

(the first being the Hawaii St.Louis) came to Japan almost every year, enhancing the level of local baseball.

The items introduced here are two admission tickets sold for games of the Hawaii St.Louis in 1907. The team won the pennant in the Hawaiian League and visited Japan at the invitation of Keio University. Admission was charged on all of the games for the first time to cover the expenses of the invitation.

The ticket above left is for the first game against Waseda on November 7 (originally slated on Nov.6) and the right one is for the third game against Keio on November 12 (originally slated on Nov. 9). The size is both 7.5 cm by 11.2 cm. The members of the Hawaii St. Louis were mostly alumni of St.Louis University, thus the name of the team was St. Louis. Admission as printed on these tickets is classified into three prices: white, 60 *sen*; blue, 30 *sen*; red, 10 *sen*. They are comparatively high, as *Yakyu Nenpo* and *Undo no Tomo* (Athletics Companion), both quoted below, cost 40 *sen* and 11 *sen* respectively.

Yakyu Nenpo (No.6, 1908) reports the first game of the series, "On October 31, a game between Hawaii and Keio, which had long been awaited by scores of thousands of people in Tokyo, was held at Mita. At 1 p.m., the members of the Keio Nine appeared in gray uniform, followed by the American players beautifully donned in navy blue uniform with peony colored cap on...."

The series ended in a 6-2 win on the part of the Hawaii St. Louis, with Keio 3-2, and Waseda 3-0. In the forward of *Undo no Tomo* (Vol.2, No.11, published on November 25, 1907), Iso Abe, president of Waseda baseball club, however, made a favorable comment on the series, saying, "It will take us another ten years to catch up with them. They were too strong for us. We are very grateful to Keio University for their efforts to

enliven the baseball world this fall by inviting the Hawaii St.Louis. Both Keio and Waseda Nines made a good fight against such a strong foe. They made a success, not a failure.”

Five future Hall of Famers participated in the series. Keio: catcher Zensuke Shimada (then Nenosuke Fukuda) and second baseman Yaichiro Sakurai. Waseda: pitcher Atsushi Kohno, second baseman Kiyoshi Oshikawa, Center fielder Chujun (alias Suishu) Tobita. Interestingly, Tobita was then a freshman, and would succeed Oshikawa as second baseman on his graduation.

These admission tickets are on display at Baseball History Corner until the end of coming November.

p.6 A. Application for authorization of Public Interest Incorporated Foundation, Part 1
Shinichi Hirose, President

I would like to report in several series of my article how we have been grappling with the various problems involved in our project to be authorized as a public interest incorporated foundation and how it has been progressing.

It may be known to many people concerned that civil law corporations (i.e., incorporated associations and foundations) set up under Article 34 of the civil law prior to its revision shall be automatically changed to exceptional-case civil law corporations (i.e., exceptional-case incorporated associations and foundations) as from December 1, 2008 when the new public interest corporation system was put into force and that in the event that an exceptional-case civil law corporation wishes the transition to a public interest incorporated association or a public interest incorporated foundation, it must submit a written application for the authorization to an administrative agency by November 30, 2013.

Acquisition of the status as a public incorporated corporation will guarantee:

- 1) The privilege of using the name of a public interest incorporated foundation will surely enhance the trust of society in us.
- 2) Tax will be exempted from the business for public interest. A preferential tax system will be applied to donations.

In view of the fact that many federations, associations and organizations, like Japan Student Baseball Association and Japan Rubber Baseball Association, have acquired the status of public interest corporation, we also began in 2007 to take up preparation to comply with the new system by overhauling the internal rules like financial administration regulations, disposing and compensating part of the fundamental assets. At that time, however, all we did was to hammer out a course of action for the transition to a new public interest corporation.

Concrete measures were taken for the first time in June 2011 when a councilor election committee was set up and its members were approved at the combined meeting of directors and councilors. With this as a turning point, other measures, a gradual change of the article of contribution being their precursor, began to be taken one after the other.

A project team joined by a licensed tax accountant was set up in July 2011 and, holding a meeting once a month, it started to do every work necessary to acquire the status of a public interest corporation. In October, an official resolution was made by directors and councilors in writing to approve the transition to a public interest incorporated foundation and the application for the authorization to the Prime Minister. In the mean time, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (ME) had approved the above-mentioned method of election of the first councilors.

Application of authorization is stipulated to be made either to the Primer Minister or the prefectural governor. In view of the difficulty of its selection, we asked for instructions to officials in charge of public interest corporations at both the ME and Tokyo Metropolis. Their mutual decision was that it is most appropriate to be done to the Prime Minister, in that the implementation of our important business conducted by the Baseball Hall of Fame, that is, the induction of baseball greats who have done a great contribution to Japanese baseball, is pertinent to public interest purposes and that the nationality of the candidates does not matter in the election of prospective Hall of Famers.

We have set the goal, namely, the day when we will start as a public interest incorporated foundation under the new system of public interest corporation, on April 1, 2013, and began to prepare necessary papers in June, 2012. In the next issue of our Newsletter, I will explain both the new articles of association replacing the current articles of contribution and our new organization system.

B. Visitors to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (August, 2012 through October, 2012)

1) August 17 & 18 Slyly, Mascot of Hiroshima Toyo Carp



2) August 25 Participants in the inaugural IBAF Technical Commissioner Clinic (held in Tokyo on August 23~26), led by Kazuhiro Tawa, 1st Vice-President of the IBAF

3) September 19 Mah (Chiba Lotte Marines)
 (photo right with cheer performers, M☆Splash!!)
 Clutch & Clutchina (Tohoku Rakuten Eagles)
 (photo left with Hirose, BHFMM president)



p.7 Congratulations! Madonna Japan's three consecutive victories in IBAF Women's Baseball World Cup

A



Prominent in the Special Exhibition at the Entrance Hall are three trophies won by Team Japan, “Madonna Japan,” in the IBAF Women’s Baseball World Cup.

Also on display are the winning ball from the final game of the 5th WBWC, uniform worn by pitcher Yukari Isozaki, MVP of the 5th WBWC, and photo of Team Japan in the 3rd WBWC.

The exhibition is to continue until the end of 2012.

Women’s Baseball World Cup is a world baseball championship held under the auspices of the International Baseball Federation (IBAF). It has been held every other year since 2004

	Year	Venue	Winner	Runner-up
1st	2004	Canada	U.S.A.	Japan
2nd	2006	Taiwan	U.S.A.	Japan
3rd	2008	Japan (Matsuyama)	Japan	Canada
4th	2010	Venezuela	Japan	Australia
5th	2012	Canada	Japan	U.S.A.

B News from Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

- 1) An election of new directors and councilors was held on the occasion of the expiration of the present term. Four directors have been re-elected, three new directors elected, two auditors re-elected, 15 councilors re-elected, and five new councilors elected.

On the premise of the transition to a public interest incorporated foundation, the quorum of directors and councilors has been changed to 16~20 and 6~10 respectively.

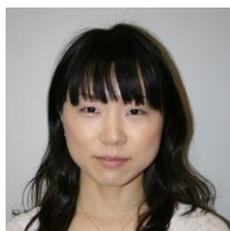
New Directors Kazundo Ohmori, president of Japan Rubber Baseball Association
 Masayuki Naito, Managing director of Japan Student Baseball Association
 Kunio Shimoda, Secretary-general of Nippon Professional Baseball
 Organizaion (NPB)

New Councilors Toyomi Munakata, Managing director of Japan Rubber Baseball Association
 Takeshi Sasaki, Professor at Gakushuin University
 Hiroko Yamada, Women’ Baseball Committee, IBAF
 Tokunori Sakisaka, Deputy secretary-general of Japan Amateur Baseball
 Federation
 Atsushi Ihara, Deputy secretary-general of NPB

Retiring directors Shinya Sakai Kojiro Shiraish
 Yoshihiko Miyauchi Tohru Shimada
 Eiji Hatta Hideo Okabe
 Ichita Itabashi

Retiring councilors	Ryozo Kato	Yewkow Hayashi
	Yoshinobu Suzuki	Katsuji Kawashima
	Masaru Ushiro	Takayasu Okujima
	Shiromitsu Hanai	Osamu Ino
	Yoshio Maekawa	

New member of the staff



On and from October 1, Mariko Shinozuka (b. 6.17.1982) assumed her position as co-curator.

She graduated from Faculty of Arts, Keio University, in 2005, majoring aesthetics and science of arts. After graduating from School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester, in 2008, she worked for several museums, including Marylebone Cricket Club Museum in London, until 2009.

2) Guide to the Baseball Museum

The entrance is to the right of Gate 21 of Tokyo Dome.

Hours: 10:00 – 18:00 (March through September)

10:00 – 17:00 (October through February)

Visitors are requested to enter at least 30 minutes prior to the closing time.

Admission: 500 (300 *) Adults

200 (150 *) Elementary and junior high school students

(* Per person in a group of 20 or more)

300 Senior citizens (aged 65 or more)

Closed: Mondays except those 1) during the spring and summer school vacations

2) that fall on National Holidays

3) when a pro baseball game is played at Tokyo Dome

and the New Year holidays (December 29 through January 1)

In other words, from November to January, the museum will be closed on:

November 5, 12, 19 and 26; December 3, 10, 17 and 29~31;

January 1, 7, 21 and 28

2) The definite date of the Induction Ceremony for 2013 which is to be held in the middle of next January is now undecided, but will be announced on our Website in due course of time.

3) Starting from the Newsletter Vol.23, No.2, “Many to See, Much to Enjoy,” (which was temporarily suspended in this issue, will be changed to “So Many to See, So Much to Enjoy.”

p.8 Essay (50) Historic “October 8” and Wisecrack

Keitaro Sawada, Nikkan Sports

The telephone rang at the bedside. I took up the receiver in a daze, not knowing where I was and half thinking I was at a hotel. “Hello?” “Where are you, now?” Where? I’m speaking on the extension telephone. Where else I am than at a hotel? Oh, bless me! “The bullet train has already departed. What on

earth are you intending to do? You, fool!” My chief rang off in anger. My watch said it was 9:30 in the morning. A few minutes before, Manager Nagashima and his players left Nagoya on time for Tokyo in triumph after winning the historic 10.8 matchup.

Just before the final game of the 1994 season, the Yomiuri Giants and the Chunichi Dragons were in a flat-footed tie with the same record, 69 wins and 60 losses. In a winner-take-all game 130, the Giants defeated the Dragons 6-3, with the strong pitching trio, Makihara, Saitoh, and Kuwata, and helped by two home runs by Ochiai and Matsui. Manager Nagashima called the game a national event.

After sending the MS for the last edition, at past 2 in the midnight, I joined the celebration at an Sushi shop nearby and together with the Giants and their staff drank to toast their victory. I felt a great sense of relief. If the Giants had been defeated, they would have surely been thrown into a storm of a hot stove league. There was a possibility that Manager Namashima would resign, and Ochiai, who had been traded to the Giants on FA system in that year, would retire, too. Indeed, he told me just after the game, “I would have hung up my spikes.” I did not remember how much I drank. I barely remember returning to the hotel at dawn. Then, the telephone rang.

When I came back to my newspaper, my head in charge of the Giants was waiting for me. I was severely scolded. “Mind you! I was not you who won the championship!” Retorting was out of the question. I was simply lowering my head, saying to myself in admiration, “His words cut me to the quick!” As he guessed right, I was under an illusion that I myself was the winner in the historic game.

There is another unforgettable memory from that year. The focus of attention before the Japan Series with the Seibu Lions was whether Ochiai could play in the first game. He had injured the adductor muscle in his left leg on October 8. On the preceding day, I rang him up at his home using a pay phone in the basement restaurant at Tokyo Dome. (There was no cellphone in those days) “Ochiai-san, are you O.K.? After all, you can’t play, can you?” He rang off after saying, “I’m already decided.”

Concluding that he would play, or at least wished to play, I reported to my chief and wrote a headline, “Ochiai will make a steamroller appearance.” It turned out an utter fake. On next day, there was not his name on the starting lineup. He later said, “I would manage to bat, but fielding and running would be impossible.” The manager and coaches seemed to be wishing for him to force himself to play, but he decided not to. He judged his conditions calmly and concluded that his appearance would cost him the game. I was making a wishful thinking, however. He should play in spite of his injury. If so, he would cut a brilliant figure. Didn’t he say he would make a man of manager Nagashima? So went my *naniwabushi*, or tear-jerking story

He was the DH in the third game at Seibu Stadium. At first at bat, he hurt his adductor muscle again running into first base on an infield grounder. After all he ended his Japan Series with one game and four at bat, but the Giants led by Nagashima clinched the Japan Series 4 to 2. What the result would be, if Ochiai had stuck to his appearance, wishing Fate would turn his way?

Eighteen years have passed since then. Whenever I recollect these two episodes, I feel a cold sweat running down my spine.