



# The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

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

## Articles in NEWSLETTER, Vol.22, No.4

(The English version prepared by Ryuichi Suzuki)

p.1 2013 Hall of Famers Elected

Shinichi Hirose, President

The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum announced its Hall of Famers for 2013 at the press conference held at 3 p.m. at the Baseball Hall of Fame on Friday, January 11, 2013. The Players Selection Committee elected two former Hiroshima Toyo Carp pitchers as it did likewise last year. The Players Division selected Yutaka Ohno, a mainstay in their heyday, and the Expert Division selected Yoshiro Sotokoba, who pitched a no-hit, no-run in his first win in pro baseball. On the other hand, the Special Selection Committee elected Kazuo Fukushima, who pitched for Kokura High School to win two successive victories at the Summer National Baseball Championship immediately after the World War II. (See pages 2-3 for the inductees' bios) The membership of the Hall of Famers is now 180, including 35 living Hall of Famers.

The procedure of the press conference was a little different from last year. The opening speech by Ryozo Kato, chairman of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, and his presentation of the induction certificate to each of the 2013 inductees were followed by the acceptance speeches by the two Hall of Famers elected by the PSC. Ohno said, "Though I started as a test player, I did my best going through so many things. I'm really pleased that my endeavor has been appreciated." Sotokoba said with deep emotion, "I never thought I would be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, so I'm extremely pleased."

Ohno and Sotokoba played under Takeshi Koba, 1999 Hall of Famer and now field manager of Tokyo International University team, who spoke for them again as their guest speaker. "I am very glad that my six former players in all were elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame." The other guest speaker, Koji Yamamoto, 2008 Hall of Famer and manager of the Samurai Japan, said, "Two years in a row, two players from the Hiroshima Toyo Carp have been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. I feel like there are favorable winds blowing for the team," and continued convincingly, "I'm also from the same team. Boosted by this tailwind, I'll do my best to win the oncoming WBC." It was followed by taking commemorative photos of the three inductees joined by their guest speakers and Chairman Kato.

The press conference resumed with the report of the PSC selection by Gotaro Nagase, representative director of the PSC and that of the SSC selection by Yoshio Nishida, chairman of the SSC. Fukushima made his acceptance speech. "I'm more excited than when I took the mound at Koshien Stadium. It is an honor greater than I deserve. I was really blessed with wonderful teammates." His guest speakers, Reiichi Matsunaga, his good rival of the same age in Fukuoka in high school days and later manager of Team Japan in the Los Angeles Olympics, and Yoshio Arimoto, a member of the SSC, told their nostalgic memories of playing against him. His famous episode of scooping up a fistful of sand (see page 3) was also talked about.



Even after the press conference was over, interviews of each inductee by some 100 media people from 28 organizations continued for more than half an hour.

Photo

(From left in the front row) Yutaka Ohno, Yoshiro Sotokoba, Ryoza Kato, and Kazuo Fukushima

(From left in the back row) Koji Yamamoto, Takeshi Koba, Yoshiaki Arimoto, and Reiichi Matsunaga

p.2 2013 Hall of Famers elected by the Players Selection Committee

Gotaro Nagase

Representative Director of the PSC

The 53rd Players Selection Committee elected in the Players Division Yutaka Ohno, a former rubber baseball player who notched 148 and 138 saves in pro baseball, and in the Expert Division Yoshiro Sotokoba, who pitched three no-hitters (excelling Eiji Sawamura by including a perfect game) into the Baseball Hall of Fame. They played together for the Hiroshima Toyo Carp from 1977 to 1979. Following Manabu Kitabepu and Tsunemi Tsuda, their selection marks the tenth pair of players who played for the same team at the same time and were chosen for induction at the same time. It was also the first time that a pair of former players were selected for two consecutive years from the same team.

In the election in the Players Division, 323 out of the 327 members with an experience of reporting baseball for 15 years or more selected the names of 7 candidates at most on a ballot, and Ohno received 273 ballots (84.5% of the total of valid ballots) by a majority of 30 over the stipulated number (75% and more, 243 ballots). It was a remarkable increase by 96 from last year when he got 177 ballots.



“I was overwhelmed when I came here and realized again how wonderful it was to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. I joined pro baseball as a test player and have greeted, I cannot believe it, this wonderful day. I am grateful to all the people I have been indebted to.” An employee (at Izumo Credit Cooperative) turned pro has his starting point on his first appearance as a pitcher in his first year with the Hiroshima Toyo Carp.

In a game with the Hanshin Tigers on September 4, 1977, at Hiroshima Municipal Stadium, he took the mound in the top of the 8<sup>th</sup> inning when his team was well behind. He lost 5 scores with 2 walks and 5 hits including a grand slam and retired only one batter. Walking back in tears to the dormitory in Misasa, he

rang up his mother Fujiko. “Don’t give up with losing only one game!” Her encouraging remark helped him regain confidence in his ability. He is the first Hall of Famer as a former outdraft prospect, which is equivalent to a trainee in the current draft system where no outdraft prospects are admitted. “Even a rubber ball player and a test player like myself has done this feat. I’ll be glad if my experience will prove a good incentive for young players.” This is the very remark which can be uttered only by a person who has gone through a lot like him.

In the Experts Division, 38 of the 48 electors consisting of directors of the PSC and the living Hall of Famers elected by the PSC selected the names of 3 candidates at most on a ballot, and Yoshio Sotokoba, who failed to win the election by one last year, received 29 ballots, just 75% of the total of valid ballots and the stipulated number, winning selection to the Baseball Hall of Fame. “I cannot believe it. Me? No! I’m delighted beyond words.” When he was referred to his feat of three no-hitters, he said, “Of course I am proud of the record, but I thought it had nothing to do with the induction. I thought I would never be inducted.” Now an inside story. 36 electors had selected 3 candidates, one elector 2, and the last one 1. Sotokoba had received 27 ballots when the vote-counting of 3-candidate ballots was over. It turned out, coincidentally, that in the very last two ballots Sotokoba was selected!



Sotokoba, the fourth inductee in the Expert Division, was the ace of the Hiroshima Tokyo Carp when they won the first victory in the Central League, while Ohno helped them win the Japan Series in 1979, '80, and '84. Takeshi Koba, a 1999 Hall of Famer, who had managed the team in those years, was the guest speaker for two consecutive years. “I was so blessed with good players that I was estimated for my managership and earned a plaque myself.” As he humbly admitted, six players who had played under him were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame: Sachio Kinugasa, 1996. Koji Yamamoto, 2008, the other guest speaker and manager of the Samurai Japan, as well as the aforementioned four inductees for 2012 and 2013. All of them played their entire active career for the Hiroshima Toyo Carp. That’s why the *Akatheru* (Red Helmet) squad were predominant indeed.

p.3 2013 Hall of Famer elected by the Special Selection Committee

Yoshio Nishida, member of SSC

The Special Selection Committee elected Kazuo Fukushima into the Baseball Hall of Fame. The eligible candidates for election by the SSC are 1) amateur players, coaches, managers, and umpires; 2) those people who contributed, or have contributed, a great deal to the development of pro and/or amateur baseball in terms of organization, management or otherwise.

Kokura Middle School entered the revived National Middle School Baseball Championship held in Nishinomiya Stadium in the summer of 1946 (Fukushima was on the bench), a year after the World War II, which proved the start of Kokura MS entering 7 consecutive times the National Invitational High School Baseball Tournament and the National High School Baseball Championship. In the 1947 NMSBC which was held at Koshien Stadium, Fukushima pitched for Kokura MS, throwing 5 complete games, and led his team to win the title, bringing “the championship flag across the Kanmon Strait for the first time.” Moreover, he threw five consecutive shutouts

during the 1948 NHSBC, so his alma mater is the last winner in the old education system and the first in the new system. The back-to-back victories at Koshien in summer had not been repeated until 2005 when Tomakomai HS affiliated to Komazawa University did the wonderful feat.

(NB Under the new education system, middle schools changed to high schools in 1948.



In the last appearance in Koshien Stadium in the summer of 1949, Kokura HS lost the game in the quarterfinals against Kurashiki Industrial HS in the bottom of the 10<sup>th</sup> inning by 7 to 6. He had left the mound in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning. After exchanging greetings at the end of the game, the dejected Fukushima unconsciously scooped up a fistful of sand in front of the dugout and put it in the pocket of his uniform. No one but Shunzo Nagahama, vice umpire of the game, watched it. On arriving back home at Kokura, Fukushima received an express letter from Nagahama. It said, “Dear Fukushima, you will find a small amount of sand in your uniform’s pocket. It contains all the lessons you cannot learn at school. I hope you will lead a rightful life.” He fumbled in the pocket for the sand and took it in the flowerpot for an Indian rubber tree. This is admittedly the beginning of “sand of Koshien” legend and he still keeps the sand around an Indian rubber tree.

Before television broadcasting started a few years later in 1953, all baseball fans would listen to the radio broadcast of baseball games live from Koshien Stadium, confirm the news by the newspaper in the next morning, and commit it to memory by taking up their favorite magazine. Nowadays impressions from the TV screen are all they get from Koshien Stadium. It seems to me a wonder that there existed a baseball officer who did not miss a defeated pitcher scooping up memorable sand in front of the bench. I cannot but feel that young players were embraced in extensive affection.

In his Waseda University days, the Waseda Nine won four victories in eight seasons, but his 13-7 record was not conspicuous compared with his senior ace Toshinobu Sueyoshi and junior ace Renzo Ishii. He was popular, however, with young women fans, because he was stylishly dressed in uniform and was nicknamed “Ebi-sama in Meiji Shrine Stadium,” in association with a popular Kabuki actor, Ebizo Ichikawa (grandfather of the present Ebizo). Graduating from Waseda University in 1954, he joined the Yahata Iron-manufacturing company, and in the Intercity Non-pro Baseball Tournament, he took the mound in 5 games and led his team to victory for the second time in 17 years. He managed his alma mater for a time and after retirement in 1966, he was appointed as a director for the Japan Baseball Federation and now he serves as its chief director of Kyushu Region.

We are especially glad to be able to induct him into the Baseball Hall of Fame when he is still hale and hearty, for Reiichi Matsunaga, his great contemporary, was enshrined six years ago in 2007.

In the former issue of our Newsletter (vol.22, no.3), I dwelt on what is “public interest incorporated foundation” and on our project to be authorized as a PIIF. In this issue, I will explain the articles of association, which are the core of the new system, and our new organization structure.

In the new system, the articles of association must be newly drawn up and enacted in place of the former articles of endowment which stipulated the activity of the former incorporated foundation. The main change involved in the transition to a PIIF is the alteration of the name of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Japanese, namely “*Yakyu Dendo Hakubutsukan*,” in place of “*Yakyu physical education Hakubutsukan*.” “Physical education” is also to be deleted from the articles stating the object of the activity, “collecting materials on baseball and related physical education.” In preparing to set up a baseball museum in the latter part of 1950s, it was necessary to deal with sports in general to be authorized by the administrative agency, the Ministry of Education, as an incorporated foundation. The recognition of baseball by the general public was supposedly low in those days, but baseball has now attained the status of national pastime and our baseball museum has concentrated its collection on baseball materials. At the same time, our Baseball Hall of Fame has attracted more and more attention and its annual press conference to announce new Hall of Famers has enjoyed increasing exposure in mass media (see page 1). It is to be hoped that the new name of our institution will do much to popularize its activities.

As for organization structure. In the old system, a voting right by attendance by proxy was permitted in the meeting of the directors and councilors, but in the new system, attendance in person has become an obligation in principle. In order to streamline the process of transition to the new system and to be more efficient in the conference and its clerical work, the quorum of the officers was changed at their election in October, 2012: directors, from 10~15 to 6~10; councilors, from 26~31 to 16~20. The council has been reinforced by the appointment of Takeshi Sasaki, former president of Tokyo University and now professor at Gakushuin University, and Hiroko Yamada, member of Women’ Baseball Committee, IBAF.

As for the change of our organization structure. Under the former articles of endowment, the staff were divided into the secretariat (administering office affairs under a secretary general) and the arts department (running the museum with curators as its core). But in the current circumstances, all of the staff are involved in the whole complicated work of the museum and there exist no meaning in dividing the sections. As a matter of fact, we had instructions from officials in charge at the administrative agency to clarify the organization structure. So we have decided to integrate them into a new structure under a president.

We are firmly resolved to achieve our mission as a baseball hall of fame and museum under the new system.

A Memory of my grandfather

Nobuyuki Takeuchi

Grandson of Ichiro Kimijima, 2009 Hall of Famer



My grandfather had an honor to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame as not a baseball player but a baseball historian as was reported by the International Herald Tribune/the Asahi Shimbun on Friday, January 14, 2009. His induction was credited to his epoch-making book, “The early stage of baseball in Japan” published in 1972, admittedly the centenary of baseball in Japan.

He was born in 1887 as the eldest son of Goro Kimijima, who ran the old Myogaya Inn (established in the Edo period) at Shiobara Spa in Tochigi Prefecture. At the turn of the age from Edo to Meiji, his father predicted that foreigners would visit spas (and supposedly expected his successor to get educated in Western style). So my grandfather spent his primary school days in a bigger town, and began to enjoy playing baseball when he was in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Kawanishi (now Otahara City). He continued to play at Utsunomiya Middle School and played second base for First High School (Ichiko) in Tokyo in the famous bouts with Third High School (Sanko) in Kyoto. He studied economics and finances at Tokyo University and entered the Bank of Japan, when he was dispatched to London and inspected banking facilities in Europe for two years. When he was manager of the branch office in Hakodate and Moji, he was zealous to start a golf club. As vice-president of the Bank of Korea, he issued yen in foreign currency. After the World War II, he was purged from public service, but he devoted himself to investigate the early history of baseball in Japan.



I was told that, stirred by Japan’s victory in the war against Russia, he decided in his sensitive youth to serve the country in stead of succeeding his father in the family business. He found a rival in Takeo Kimijima, his young “uncle” (a year senior to him), who had exerted a great influence on him throughout his life. Takeo was regarded as a child prodigy. He played baseball at Utsunomiya MS, studied at Ichiko, and became a professor at Kyushu University after studying at Chemical Department of Tokyo University. He collaborated with Bridgestone Tire Com. and developed tire industry without help from abroad. Later in life my grandfather sincerely admitted he owed what he was to his great uncle. In this connection, I feel that a competition among a large family in the pre-War and after the War in Japan was a big instigation to success not only in student and pro baseball but also in the development of Japan’s politics and economy.

Back to baseball in relation to my grandfather. Strange to tell, when he entered the Bank of Japan, employees who had played baseball in middle and high schools were notoriously low in their estimate at work, so he tried desperately to hide his baseball career. Indeed the situation is poles apart from now. When I was a schoolboy, he threw a ball with a good snap of the wrist when I played catch with him. Though old, he had still strong legs and was my rival in sumo wrestling. Later in life, he loved both student and pro baseball. He was on intimate terms with Matsutaro Shoriki (b.1885), 1959 Hall of Famer, who was also a Tokyo University graduate, so he liked to give his comment on watching the Giants on TV.

In 2003, when a monument was erected in the precinct of Gakushi Kaikan (the birthplace of baseball in Japan) at Kanda in Tokyo, I was invited to attend the unveiling ceremony. I took his photo with me and let him see the monument which had been constructed with a wish that baseball would become a bridge between Japan and the USA. I was glad I could pay my belated homage to my dear grandfather. In conclusion, I sincerely hope that Japan and the USA will continue to be on friendly terms like the days when president Bush and premier Koizumi enjoyed playing catch together.

p.6 A Rara avis (80) Lefty O'Doul's uniform in 1934 Japan-U.S. Competition

Takahiro Sekiguchi, co-curator



We have had a valuable donation of Lefty O'Doul's uniform from Mrs Michiko Yokozeki. He wore it in the fall of 1934 when he came to Japan as a member of All Americans to play with All Japan. It was originally presented by Lefty O'Doul (2002 Hall of Famer) to his friend Fumio Saeki who came from Hawaii. After serving as head of the sports department of the Yomiuri Shimbun, he was appointed in 1967 as a director in charge of the first team of the Yomiuri Giants, and in 1971 managing director. From the V-9 (1965-73) of the Giants to his death in 1982, he was the mainstay of the front office, playing an active role in overseas negotiations, which led him to a close relationship with Lefty O'Doul.

On December 26, 2012, the anniversary of the foundation of the Yomiuri Giants, a presentation ceremony was held at the Baseball Museum in the presence of Mrs Michiko Yokozeki (niece of Fumio Saeki), her relatives, and Hitoshi Yamagishi, director of the Yomiuri Giants. The uniform had been displayed at our Museum twice in 2005 and 2006 on loan from Yokozeki, and in 2012, which marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Saeki's death, Yokozeki was kind enough to donate it to our Baseball Museum.



The uniform is made of Spalding and "Spalding" and "F. L. O'Doul" are embroidered at the neck. Compared with other uniforms worn by other members of All Americans, there seem to be two types of shirts: those with a stand-up collar (like O'Doul's) and those without (like those worn by Ruth, Gehrig and Gomez). The type seems to be the same with all the players of a team, but there is an exception (for example, Philadelphia Athletics).

On a circular patch attached to the left chest, "ALL AMERICANS" and a stylized American flag are embroidered with luster. A smaller one is attached on the left sleeve with the superimposed "U" and "S" embroidered, and, likewise, stylized American flag on the right sleeve. Lustered red, white, and blue (colored used for the American flag) lines are used on the neck, placket and sleeves. Though it is an away uniform in grey, it is very colorful indeed.

It is kept so clean that we cannot believe that it was made 79 years ago. It will be on display at the Baseball Hall of Fame gallery until the end of January and after that until the end of March at Japan-USA Competition Corner in the Exhibition Hall together with a uniform worn by Jiro Kuji, 1959 Hall of Famer and captain of All Japan in 1934.

B Topics Notable visitors from October, 2012 to December, 2012

- 1) October 27 Members of Tokyo Kitasuna L.L., who won the 2012 Little League World Series. After taking photos, they joined the Giants Nine and participated in the first-pitch ceremony preceding the first game of the Japan Series at Tokyo Dome.



- 2) November 20 Champion Trophy for 2011 and 2012 of the Cal Ripken World Series (NB under 13) were donated to the Baseball Museum by Fujita, president of the Japan Boys Baseball League Inc., with Seki, vice president, Sekiya, leader of the Team Japan, and two others in attendance. The trophies are on display at the Boys Baseball Corner.



- 3) November 22 Seven rookies of the Yomiuri Giants headed by pitcher Tomoyuki Sugano. After making a tour of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, they had their photo taken in front of the uniform worn by their manager Hara in his rookie days.



- 4) December 23 Yasuhiro Takai, who played for the Hankyu Braves in the 1970s. His photo was taken with the plate commemorating his 20<sup>th</sup> pinch-hit home run. On January 8, 2013, his bat at the 27<sup>th</sup> pinch-hit home run ( still NPB record) was presented and has been on display since then.





A team named “Kamakura Old Boys” participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> InterCity Baseball Tournament in 1934. The team consisted of the players recruited by popular writers in Kamakura, such as Masao Kume, Ton Satomi and Jiro Osaragi, whose interest in baseball grew more and more until they had their own team. Kume assumed office as its general manager, and Satomi and Osaragi supported the team behind the scenes. Headed by manager Shigeo Inagaki, pitcher Yoshinobu Amamiya (formerly Minakami, a graduate of Waseda University), most of them had played in the Tokyo Big6 Baseball League. Kamakura Old Boys moved into the tournament by defeating Kawasaki Columbia in the Tokai regional elimination (KC was such a strong team as participated in the tournament 7 times in 8 years, 1933~1940). KOB was a rare bird in the tournament, and was reputed to have a fair chance to upset a strong team on condition that its pitchers were in good form, but the team was defeated by All Taipei by a score of 10-1.

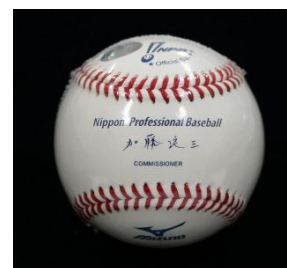
In our baseball library, there is a book, “Bittersweet Smile Essay,” written by Masao Kume. It contains 29 essays and a set of *Haiku* entitled “Returned Flowers,” and was published in 1953 by *Bungei Shunju Shinsha*. In “A Memory of Scribblers’ Baseball Team,” he said partly, “In the middle of 1920s, I organized a baseball team with Satomi and Osaragi...My opponent was a team consisting of cartoonists and Kabuki actors.... our members were...we rooted.....,” and ended his essay by saying that there was no space left to tell about KOB. Thus the reader is left unexplained on the possible connection between the two teams, but Kume mentions a few interesting episodes on Suishu Tobita, 1960 Hall of Famer (“he came to see our game and wrote an article,” Hachiro Satoh (“he was a good catcher”) and Jiro Osaragi (“he pitched a slide”r).



I conclude my essay by saying that baseball written by writers has unique attraction which cannot be found in baseball books proper.

## B News from the Baseball Museum

- 1) Change in staff      Miwako Atarashi retired at mandatory retirement age on December 31, 2012. She is now a commissioned curator working one day a week.
- 2) On Sale      Official standardized ball with serial number and certificate by NPB  
                          @ ¥ 2,500 (including tax)  
                          It is also available by mail. The postage is ¥250 per ball, ¥400 per 2 or 3 balls, and free of charge for 4 balls or more.



### 3) Guide to the Baseball Museum

The entrance is located 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) Primary & Junior High School students  
(\* Per person in groups 20 or more)  
¥300 Senior citizens aged 65 or more

Closed: Mondays except those 1) during the spring and summer vacations,  
2) that fall on National Holidays,  
3) when a pro baseball game is held at Tokyo Dome.

N.B. In other words, from February to April, the museum will be closed on:  
February 4, 18, and 25; March 4 and 18; April 8, 15 and 22.

P. 8 Essay (51) Baseball Rules Revisited

Masahito Fujiwara, Kyodo Press

Oshima is in the batter's box, Houlton on the mound, Kamei at first base and Kittaka is first base umpire. At this brief mention, any baseball fan will visualize the 2<sup>nd</sup> game of the final series in the climax series between the Chunichi Dragons and the Yomiuri Giants at Tokyo Dome in 2012.

In the top of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning, first batter Oshima knocked a grounder to the right of Houlton on the first bound. Seemingly he reacted quickly to the grounder and caught it, but actually the ball was stuck between two fingers in his glove. Unable to take it out, he tossed his glove to Kamei, who caught it by claspings it to his chest just in time. One out! No, Kittaka called, "Safe!" So it turned out to be an infield hit.

Within a moment, I withheld my judgment. Such as I am, I am a full-fledged baseball reporter. "It was not a proper catch!" To quote a passage from Baseball Rules, Chapter 2: "A catch is the act of a fielder in getting secure possession in his hands or glove of a ball in flight and firmly holding it." That is, claspings a glove with a ball between fingers is not a catch.

It took me too long before getting into my theme. I have something to say about "baseball rules." It is not easy to locate the source of information in question. I am not always fortunate in my research, though I managed to find the chapter and verse regarding Kittaka's judgment. On top of that, the sentences are so difficult that I get gloomy as if I was reading a law book. At least the index should be improved a little. Maybe I must put up with a foreseeable refutation, "It's only because you are not familiar with baseball rules," but my opinion will find silent and broad support from the people concerned.

Let me take an example from "10.12 Errors." The actions to be charged an error is stipulated in (a) with 8 cases, (b) and (c); those not to be charged an error in (d) with 5 cases, (e), and (f) with 2 cases. The articles are the more complicated with comments and notes inserted from time to time. "Prolong the time at bat of a batter" and "A fielder's mental mistake that leads to a physical misplay" are other stumbling block for me. If I could read baseball rules with a good understanding of the content, I would be a lawyer and run for an election as a promising candidate from a third pole.

On the other hand, I am pleased with an article on an obstructed squeeze play, “The Runner 7.07.” In my paraphrased brief version, it says, “when the catcher obstructs a batter trying a squeeze play, the pitcher is charged with a balk.” In my conjecture, this action is basically the catcher’s batting obstruction and the batter is awarded first base and the runner must go back to third base. Even if the catcher intends to prevent a run, his action is too harsh, so the pitcher is charged with a balk and the runner on third base is awarded a score. The pitcher is to be pitied, as he is entirely blameless, but I admire the spirit in “Baseball Rules” which takes proper steps to meet the situation and does not allow any pernicious action.

I sympathize with a catcher, however, who tries, on detecting a squeeze play, to obstruct a batter by even bumping against him when a runner is on third base in the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> inning and a score means a game-ending run. The article on charging a balk may have been added to prevent such an action as to slip past the nets of the rules. “Infield fly” was allegedly added as it was apparently a mental play to try a double play by turning “force play” into the defensive’s own advantage. Probably to forestall mental players, baseball rules have been revised partly every year, as witnessed by 7 additions and deletions in the 2012 edition.

“Baseball Rules” was supposedly a thin book indeed. By and by, mental players (like the advocate of so-called ID baseball in Japan) found loopholes in the rules and thought out their tricks of trade and “Baseball Rules” became thicker and thicker in response to it. By the way, the famous advocate of ID baseball would be a shrewd lawyer now if he had not been a baseball player.

(NB ID is an abbreviation of Important Data.)