



The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

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

Articles in **NEWSLETTER, Vol.23, No. 1 (April 2013)**

(The English version prepared by Ryuichi Suzuki)

p.1 From the chairman

Ryozo Kato



It is my pleasure to declare that, as of April 1, 2013, Incorporated Foundation Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has set off on a new step of its activity as Public Interest Incorporated Foundation, Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. I am very grateful for many people concerned who have rendered us kind assistance and support to this transition.

The original concept of a baseball hall of fame and museum was born of two projects in 1956. The NPB had drawn up a plan to set up an institution to commemorate its 20th anniversary. Korakuen Stadium, on the other hand, had worked out a similar institution to commemorate its 4th president Munehide Tanabe. The NPB and the Tanabe Commemorative Project Committee agreed to build a baseball hall of fame and museum with support from the entire amateur baseball world. In 1958, it was authorized by the Ministry of Education to set up *Yakyu Taiiku Hakubutsukan* (Baseball Physical Education Museum), to be operated by the entire baseball world in Japan. It was finally opened to the public on June 12, 1959.

The first Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was a detached building bordering on the Korakuen Amusement Park adjacent to Korakuen Stadium. When Tokyo Dome was opened in 1988, the BHFMM moved inside of Tokyo Dome on March 17, 1988, the entrance being near Gate 21. With a much larger floor space than before, it is now admittedly the largest museum of its kind in Japan, having some 30,000 collected items of memorable artifacts ~ bats, gloves, photos, trophies, etc.~ and more than 50,000 volumes of books and magazines at the baseball library.

Along with collecting and displaying memorable baseball artifacts, our main purpose is to honor the baseball greats, who have contributed to the development of baseball in Japan, by inducting them into the Baseball Hall of Fame. We have now 180 Hall of Famers including the nine first Hall of Famers in 1959. It is to be noted more than 100 media people covered the press conference last January to announce three new Hall of Famers. At the juncture of being authorized as a public interest incorporated foundation, we have changed our name in Japanese to *Yakyuu Dendo Hakubutsukan* to enjoy more exposure among the general public.

We would like to ask, while at the same time expressing genuine gratitude for your kind cooperation extended to us thus far, that you continue to encourage us with your support towards the realization of our mission of promoting baseball culture in Japan.

p.2 A

Unveiling and ribbon-cutting ceremony

Shinichi Hirose, president



On April 1, the unveiling and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held simply but solemnly in front of the entrance to mark the re-opening of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. Unlike a cold weather on the previous day, it turned out a sunny, warm spring day. Following an opening speech by Ryozo Kato, chairman of the board of directors, a banner on the wall with the old name was raised up at the call of the MC, revealing a new name there, “Public Interest Incorporated foundation, Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.” The ribbon-cutting was jointly done by Ryozo Kato, Norio Ichino (JABA, second from left), Yewkow Hayashi (Tokyo Dome, second from right), Shinji Kushiro (Tokyo Dome, right) and myself.

Dome, second from right), Shinji Kushiro (Tokyo Dome, right) and myself.

B

New officials

Chairman	Ryozo Kato, NPB	
Director	Norio Ichino, JABA	Masayuki Naitou, JSBA
	Kazundo Omori, JRBA	Kunio Shimoda, NPB
	Yewkow Hayashi, Tokyo Dome	Shinji Kushiro, Tokyo Dome
	Shinichi Hirose, BHFH	
Councilor	Hitoshi Yamagishi, Yomiuri Giants	Ryohei Satoh, Chunichi Dragons
	Junsei Atarashi, Tokyo Yakult Swallows	Kiyooki Suzuki, Hiroshima Toyo Carp
	Keiichiro Yotsufuji, Hanshin Tigers	Hiroshi Sasagawa, Yokohama DeNA Baystars
	Toshimasa Shimada, Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters	Noriaki Iida, Saitama Seibu Lions
	Koichiro Takada, Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks	Tomoharu Inoue, Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles
	Nobuhira Hayashi, Chiba Lotte Marines	Yoshio Murayama, Orix Buffaloes
	Atsushi Ihara, NPB	Kazuhiro Tawa, JSBA
	Noriaki Sakisaka, JABA	Toyomi Munakata, JRBA
	Hiroko Yamada, IBAF	Takeshi Sasaki, formerly Tokyo University
	Masahiro Mori, JASA	Hidekazu Kitada, Tokyo Dome
Auditor	Hiroshi Kubo, Yomiuri Shimbun	Tsutomu Nagaoka, Tokyo Dome

C Special exhibition, “A History of Baseball Hall of Fame”

~ In celebration of the re-inauguration of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in April, 2013 as a public interest incorporated foundation ~

Monday, April 1, 2013 through Sunday, July 7, 2013

At the Exhibition Hall of the Baseball Museum



The Baseball Hall of Fame was set up on June 12, 1959 to extol and honor the achievements of the baseball greats who have made a great contribution to the development of baseball in Japan. The current exhibition traces the history of the Baseball Hall of Fame by featuring all of the 180

Hall of Famers, photos of their induction ceremony, and changes in the election rules. Also on display are some 60 items of artifacts and memorabilia used by representative Hall of Famers, topped by a bat which Nagashima used when he hit the 8th home run (the new record then) in the Tokyo Big6 Baseball League in 1957.

p.3 Application for authorization of public interest incorporated foundation, Part 3

Shinichi Hirose, president

As a summary of my report on our project to be authorized as a public interest incorporated foundation, I will present a chronology of the whole process so far.

June 2, 2006	Act on Authorization of Public Interest Incorporated Associations (PIIA) and Public Interest Incorporated Foundations (PIIF) was publicly announced. By this act, any corporation wishing the transition to a PIIA or a PIIF must submit a written application for the authorization to the administrative agency on and after December 1, 2008 and must be granted Public Interest Corporation Authorization by November 30, 2013.
June, 2007	The Board of Directors and Councilors (BDC) of the BHFMM took up preparation to comply with the new system by overhauling the inner rules like financial administration regulations, disposing and compensating part of the fundamental assets, and preparing financial statements.
June, 2008	The BDC of the BHFMM discussed the transition to a PIIF.
December 1, 2008	Act on PIIA and PIIF came into force.
June 9, 2009	The BDC of the BHFMM decided on the transition to a PIIF.
July 6, 2010	The round robin BDC approval on a partial revision of the articles of contribution.
June 13, 2011	The BDC set up a new councilor election committee
July 14, 2011	A countermeasure project team was set up with an advisory licensed tax consultant, and its first meeting was held at the BHFMM. (It was held 13 times by August, 2012.)
October 22, 2011	Application for the authorization of the rules of the directors on the election of the first councilors was submitted to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (ME).

October 28 & 31, 2011	The round robin BDC resolution on the transition to a PIIF and the application for the authorization by the Prime Minister.
November 24, 2011	Approval by the ME of the rules of directors on the election of the first councilors (Meanwhile, prior consultation with officers at the Cabinet Office was held two times).
June 11, 2012	The BDC resolved and approved a partial revision of the articles of contribution, the new articles of association, change of the name of the institution, and the new organization system
June 27, 2012	The first meeting of the committee on the election of the councilors.
July 17, 2012	Application to the Prime Minister for the authorization of transition to a PIIF (Meanwhile, reciprocation of check & guidance and re-application two times).
November 2, 2012	Public Interest Corporation Committee of the Cabinet Office granted a report of the authorization of transition to a PIIF by the Prime Minister to the BHFMM.
March 21, 2013	Certificate of the above authorization was officially granted.
April 1, 2013	PIIF BHFMM came into being.

I am very glad that with strenuous support of many people concerned the transition to a PIIF was successfully accomplished. Sincere and special thanks are due to those people in charge at many antecedently authorized baseball institutions who gave me ungrudging advice and assistance on the relevant procedures.

p.4 Rara avis (81) Artifacts from Samurai Japan in the 2013 World Baseball Classic

Takahiro Sekiguchi, senior curator



Until the end of last March, a special exhibition was held at our Baseball Museum to support Samurai Japan in the 2013 World Baseball Classic. We had an extensive help from the NPB staff who helped us collect memorable artifacts on the spot from every game played in Fukuoka and Tokyo.

Especially an effort was made to gain the winning ball at the end of every game and to ask manager Koji Yamamoto to write the date, the name of the opponent team, his signature and message on the ball immediately after the interview on the field. “One win against Brazil,” (after the come-from-behind first victory on March 2), “Samurai Japan” (after the game with China on March 3),



“Tough fight” (after a breath-taking 1ning game against Chinese Taipei on March 8), “Now to America!” (after an overwhelming win against the Netherlands which assured Samurai Japan of advance to the semi-finals with 6 home runs and 16 scores on March 10), “Let’s reach the top!” (After defeating the Netherlands again in the final of Pool 1 on March 12) All of them were written in vivid handwriting showing the excitement of the game. Those balls collected in

First Round at Fukuoka on March 2 and 3 were put on display at the Baseball Museum on March 5 and those from Second Round at Tokyo Dome were open to the visitors on the following day after the game.

Other collections were lineup cards and caps of the opposing teams exchanged at the ceremony prior to the game. Though Samurai Japan was beaten by Puerto Rico in the semi-finals, spikes worn by Kenta Maeda and Masahiro Tanaka, and bats used by Yoshio Itoi and Sho Nakata were collected likewise by the NPB staff. All of these items together with a uniform worn manager Koji Yamamoto and the Japanese flag autographed by the members of Samurai Japan are on display at the entrance hall.

p.5 Inductees Remembered (39) My Father

Itaru Osafune, eledest son of Kiro Osafune, 2012 Hall of Famer
(Compiled by the editor based on his talk on March 8, 2013)



Kiro Osafune, my father, was born in Okayama prefecture on January 30, 1924. His parents were carrying a fish wholesale trade in Futsukaichi-machi in Okayama City. He went on to Tenri Middle School where his elder sister and her husband were teaching. He played baseball and rugby (a forward). Probably because he knew how hard and dangerous it was to play rugby, I was opposed by him when I was invited to join the rugby club in my high school days.

On entering Waseda University, he joined the baseball club, but, with the worsening of the war, he had to quit Waseda halfway to go to the front. He seems to have been stationed near the Russian-Manchurian boarder, but as he naturally did not like to recollect the dismal wartime, he talked little about those days. Back from the front, he worked for Nippon Metallurgy and later for Nichirei. He had intended to go back home to help his parents with their trade, but he was asked by Yasuhiro Itami, 1978 Hall of Famer and his senior at Waseda, to help Itami with his work at Tokyo Big6 Baseball League, for which he began to work in 1952. It was soon after the end of the war, and TBBL was not long after resuming its activity. His job should have been a temporary one, but actually he continued to work for it until his death in 2007.

At the weekend during the spring and fall seasons of the TBBL and the rookie league in spring and the rookie tournament in fall, he went to Meiji Jingu Stadium. He was out to Koshien Stadium for weeks during the spring and summer national high school baseball championships. He shuttled between home and MJS in June for All Japan University Baseball Championship, and in November for Meiji Jingu Baseball Tournament. When I was a schoolchild, I could not but feel that my home was quite different from others in that my father was out on school holidays and that baseball season coincided with good seasons of the year (N.B., for family life). Though he was so busy, he made time to plan a family trip and took us to Izu and Hakone, which proved to be one of pleasant memories afterwards. He used to invite mainly managers of university teams and enjoyed sitting around a one-pot meal or having a barbecue. Meal was very expensive in those days, so he probably treated them to show his appreciation for their work behind the scenes.

He opened the way for pro baseball to participate in the Olympics and sent a combined team to the 2000 Sydney Olympics. When student baseball was concerned, he made it a point to observe the Japan Student Baseball Charter, but he seems to have thought that in order to win in the international competition like the Olympics, it was

necessary after all to rely on pro baseball. At the Athens Olympics in 2004, manager Shigeo Nagashima fell ill at the last moment and Kiyoshi Nakahata became the acting manager. My father was often urged to replace the manager, but he firmly declined by saying, “Illness originates in the mind. He will never recover himself if he is replaced as manager.” It was his message to encourage Nagashima. When Nakahata apologized him for ending in the copper medal, he reportedly said to console him, “The letter copper in Chinese character is composed of a combination of the two letters gold and same, that is, copper is the same with gold!”

He often went to foreign countries ~ not only Taiwan, South Korea, and Hawaii but Brazil ~ by accompanying Team Japan or university baseball clubs, and enjoyed interchange with people whom he got acquainted over there. He set great store by human ties. I know many of his acquaintances in my own business. The surname Osafune is uncommon in Japan, so it happens that when I exchange the business cards with new customers, they sometimes respond by asking me, “Are you a son of that famous Osafune?” His acquaintances are living all over the world. He cherished the ties with them as dearly as those with baseball people in Japan, but at the same time he was a family man who had always in mind Hiroki, his wife, two children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

p.6 A Library News Aratani Baseball Club
Taku Chinone, Librarian

In 1928, Aratani Baseball Club in California came to Japan and played against 20 teams, most of whom were leading baseball clubs in those days. Aratani BC visited Tokyo, Yokohama, Hyogo, Hiroshima, Fukuoka, and Hokkaido. In the first game in Tokyo at Meiji Jingu Stadium on August 23, Aratani BC defeated Sundai BC 5 to 3. Takeo Tabe, 1969 Hall of Famer, played shortstop for Sundai BC. The final result of Aratani BC tour was a marvelous record of 22 wins, 4 losses and 1 tie.

Setsuo Aratani, its owner, said in the November issue of *Yakyukai* (Baseball World) (Vol.18, No.13. 1928), “The players of Aratani BC consist of 10 Americans, 3 Japanese and 2 Mexicans, and all of them are working in my farm in California.” Captain Matsuno added, “Ours is the only team in California which consists of players of different nationalities.” According to Aratani, he was then 42 years old. He had played baseball at Onomichi Middle School. At 19, he went over to San Francisco in 1905, and in 1923, he set up Guadalupe Agricultural Company in Guadalupe in the central part of California and started farming.



In retrospect, it was eight years before the current pro baseball was born in 1936, but all of the teams defeated by Aratani Baseball Clubs were top-class club teams consisting mostly of former university players. The wonderful feat of Aratani BC can be traced in *Yakyukai*, *Undokai* (Athletic World) and *Undo-Nenkan* (Athletic Almanac) which are available at our Baseball Library.

Announcement	“Rounders” and “Cricket” in <i>Outdoor Games</i> (1883) are now available in Japanese in the digital archives of our Website.
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B Sustaining members for 2013 Invited



Since its inauguration in 1959 as a museum specializing in baseball, the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has been dedicated to its functions of collecting, preserving, and exhibiting materials on baseball and its related sports. We now have about 30,000 artifacts and photographs, and some 50,000 books and magazines, and we have more than 150,000 visitors per year to the baseball museum and the baseball

library. We have honored baseball greats by inducting them into the Hall of Fame through annual selections by the Players Selection Committee and the Special Selection Committee.

Sustaining members are expected to endorse and support the above projects by paying the membership fees.

Privilege of Sustaining Members

Sustaining members are entitled to receive the following:

- 1) Quarterly Newsletter
- 2) Complimentary ticket (i.e., member's card) valid throughout the year. This ticket is also valid for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y.
- 3) 5 courtesy tickets for non-members (Individual membership)
20 courtesy tickets for non-members (Corporation membership)
- 4) Occasional News Release
- 5) 10% reduction to the items on sale at the baseball museum
- 6) *The Baseball Hall of Fame 1959-2012* (Published in March, 2012)
(Junior members excepted)

There are three kinds of sustaining members. The yearly membership is valid from April to March.

- 1) Individual membership (Membership fee is 10,000 yen)
Overseas membership fee is 100 dollars)
- 2) Corporation membership (Membership fee is 100,000 yen)
Overseas membership is 1,000 dollars)
- 3) Junior Membership (Primary and junior high school students.
Membership fee is ¥2,000

*The membership fee for new individual sustaining members varies according to the month when they join.

From April to September: ¥10,000 yen
October to December: ¥5,000 yen
January to March: ¥2,000 yen

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask the Management at 03-3811-3600.

p.7 A Topics (January, 2013 – March, 2013)



- 1) March 12 Bert Blyleven, pitching coach, and Steve Janssen, bullpen coach, of the Netherlands National Team visited prior to the final game against Japan. Blyleven was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown in 2011.
(In photo, they are flanked by Hirose on left and by Suzuki and Nakamoto on right.)

- 2) March 23 New uniforms to be used by four clubs of Japan Women's Baseball League were presented to president Hirose (photo left) in a ceremony held in the Baseball Hall of Fame attended by four JWBL players (from left: Miri Iwaya, Mika Konishi, Yasuko Ohzawa, and Chihiro Satoh), and its official (photo right).



B News from the Baseball Museum

1) On sale ①



50 commemorative balls autographed by Yutaka Ohno, 2013 Hall of Famer

@ ¥25,000 (tax included) (photo above)

50 commemorative balls autographed by Yoshiro Sotokoba, 2013 Hall of Famer

@ ¥25,000 (tax included) (photo below)



Please come and visit our Website

at: <http://www.baseball-museum.or.jp> for details. They are official standardized balls with a serial number encased in a glass box with a pedestal (145mm x 130mm x 130mm). The supplements are: a certificate issued by chairman of the board of directors, public interest incorporated foundation, The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum; *The Baseball Hall of Fame, 1959 to 2012*; 6 admission tickets to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

On sale ②

Kattobashi (Chopsticks made of broken bats. The term is a portmanteau word: “kattobase” (Slam it outta here!) + “hashi” (chopsticks). Three kinds of Kattobashi are available. For men, women (¥1,890 including tax) and for children (¥1,575 including tax). All of them are our original items with the logo, “Hall of Fame.” Also available are those kattobashi with the log, “Samurai Japan” of three different length.



2) 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 April to July, the museum will be closed on:
April 22; May 13, 20 and 27; June 3, 10, 17 and 24; July 3 and 8.
July 3 will be closed for a commemorative ceremony.

P. 8 Essay (52) Starting points of baseball players

Hirokazu Terao, Nikkan Sports

The finished red *raku* ceramicware was named “*shoshin*” (original intention). Mr. Tamasaburo Bando, a noted female impersonator of Kabuki, and I were lodging together in a kiln on a small island in the Japan Sea. We did not use a potter’s wheel. We got the clay to shape by molding it with short, pliable hands and shaving the top of the tea bowl with a pallet. When we were not pleased with the completed work, we started again from scratch and toiled until it was completely dark. Sitting all day long in the kiln was such back-breaking work for me that I almost gave it up halfway, but he was a man of resolute will and continued his work steadily.

After being removed from the kiln, his tea bowl proved to be such an excellent work that it drew “oohs” and “aahs” from a ceramic artist who happened to be staying with us. Mr. Bando was recognized as a living human national treasure (an important intangible cultural asset) and called by the famous novelist Yukio Mishima a flower of mystery. He is assuredly the leading kabuki actor and is expected to play an important part in handing down customs and ceremonies at the newly-opened Kabuki Theatre. Even such an actor who has reached the apex of his profession wrote “*shoshin*” on the paulownia box encasing his tea bowl. It was really enthralling to see him take great care not to let himself fall into self-conceit.

This year will be a crucial season for Japanese pro baseball. The 2013 WBC ended in a disappointing result, and Japan is far from basking in the afterglow. A better prospect for the reinstatement of baseball in the 2020 Olympic Games will depend on the efforts of baseball people concerned. For several years in the past, I have met Mr. and Mrs. Yoshio Yoshida in Paris. He was the skipper of the Hanshin Tigers in 1985 when they won the Japan Series, and he is now a member of the task force of the IBAF to reinstate baseball in the Olympics. We checked baseball in Italy last year, and he is more experienced in international competition than any other person in Japan, as he managed Team France for seven years and played in 33 countries around the globe (wishing to be eligible to play in the Olympics).

In 1985, he led the Hanshin Tigers to victory in the Central League for the first time in 21 years, but to his chagrin he was ousted from the position in 1987 when the team ended in the cellar after a power coup. He managed to meet baseball-loving people in France which was quite new to baseball and pursued his new career there backed and encouraged by new friends. It may have been difficult indeed to popularize baseball in a backward country (baseball-wise, of course) such as France. “The fungo bat was the only means of

communication with beginners. The catcher never dared to step out of his position to catch a ball out of his reach. The meaning of the sacrifice bunt was beyond their comprehension.” His words clearly show the state of affairs of baseball in France in those days. We can hardly imagine how difficult it must have been for Yoshida to coach those French players who had been an excellent player and manager,

Fortunately, they hold an alumni of former players every year in Paris. Among attendees there are a bureaucrat, a hotel employee, a scout of a MLB team, and, interestingly, a manager of a sporting goods company. In a soccer-loving country where baseball is rarely seen being played, he is intent on producing baseball implement. When Yoshida saw a mitt extended to him, he found “*kokoro*” (heart) and “*waza*” (technique) were stitched in the pocket of the mitt. “I still remember monsieur Yoshida’s word. Practice! Practice! I am going to sell this mitt.” It was really heart-warming to listen to their conversation which testified that the spirit of a baseball missionary was being steadily handed down.

Come to think of it, I remember feeling goose bumps when I saw Tetsuharu Kawakami, with a sand wedge in hand, trying to keep scooping out a golf ball in his garden. It was one day, on February 1, when he seemed to feel a stir in his heart at the start of spring training damp. “There is nothing perfect in life. We only try to be perfect until we die.” This is the very expression uttered by the legendary god of batting. He was of the opinion that we do everything not only for ourselves, our family, and our team, but also with a spirit of thanks for the society in which we live. Herein I also find another starting point of a baseball player who makes an effort to reach the pinnacle of performance.

Recently I feel somewhat dissatisfied with comment made by commentators on TV. They are apt to rely too much on their old experiences and do not give any impression they have developed a new knowledge. One day, at the Pershing Baseball Stadium in the woods of Vincennes on the eastern outskirts of Paris, a baseball game was being played in the heavy rain. One of the spectators was none other than monsieur Yoshida! This is what a baseball player should do: Go back to the starting point.