

The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum



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

Articles in **NEWSLETTER, Vol.23, No.2 (August, 2013)**

(Translated by Ryuichi Suzuki)

p.1 Two Induction Ceremonies for the 2013 Hall of Famers

Shinichi Hirose, President

The Induction Ceremony for the 2013 Hall of Famers elected by the Players Selection Committee was held on Saturday, July 20, 2013 at Meiji Jingu Stadium prior to Game 2 of the 3-game All-Star Series. The 1st game was played at Sapporo Dome, the franchise of Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters, but the venue for the ceremony was at Meiji Jingu Stadium, as both of the Hall of Famers had played for the Hiroshima Toyo Carp (HTC) in the Central League.

Yutaka Ohno, who was elected in the Players Division, joined the Carp in 1977 as an undrafted prospect after playing rubber baseball for the Izumo Credit Union team. In 1988, he received the Sawamura Award with a CL-leading ERA. Moving later to the bullpen, he led the CL in saves in 1991, and won his second ERA in 1997. In his 22-year career with the Carp, he played a major role in leading his team to five CL pennants and three Japan Series titles.

Yoshiro Sotokoba, who was elected in the Experts Division, joined the Carp in 1964. He recorded his first pro victory by throwing a no-hit, no-run game. In 1968, he notched a perfect game and in 1972, threw his third no-hit, no-run game, a feat matching Eiji Sawamura and exceeding him by including a perfect game. In 1975, he led his team to its first pennant in the CL with the most wins and most strikeouts.

At the Induction Ceremony, all of the managers, coaches and members of the Central and Pacific Leagues' All-Stars lined up in front of their benches. The public address system called in Yutaka Ohno and Yoshiro Sotokoba near to the pitcher's mound in sync with the introduction of their playing days on the big screen. Ryozo Kato, Chairman of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, awarded them with a replica of their plaques which are to be displayed on the wall of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Then a bouquet presentation was made to Ohno from Koji Yamamoto, former manager of the HTC and 2008 HOF, and to Sotokoba from Takeshi Koba, former manager of the HTC and 1999 HOF. After photo taking, Ohno made an impressive acceptance speech. "Little did I dream that a pitcher who yielded 5 scores in 1/3 inning, with 135.00 ERA in the first game as a pro pitcher, would be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. I did not give up, however, and tried my best to be recognized by fellow players." Sotokoba said, "I cannot forget the first victory in the Central League. The feat was achieved by mutual cooperation of the teammates, and I am still grateful for them." The ceremony ended in a standing ovation from the stands.

N.B. The Induction Ceremony for the 2013 Hall of Famer elected by the Special Selection Committee is scheduled to be held on Thursday, August 15, at Koshien Stadium.



(Photo from left: Koji Yamamoto, Yutaka Ohno, Rozo Kato, Yoshiro Sotokoba, and Takeshi Koba)

p.2 Summer Events and Exhibition for 2013

A) Events

1) Baseball Study by Elementary and Junior High School Students; through Sunday, September 1

At Baseball Library and its adjacent area

Baseball terminology, stadiums, equipment, statistics, and history of baseball will provide good topics for free study for juvenile students during their summer vacation.

The two librarians and student assistants will be ready to show them how to read books in the library and use artifacts on display ~ bats, gloves, etc.~ to help them with their free study.

(Photo right from 2012)



Mini-mini Experiment Corner

Two times every day: 14:00, 15:00

Through Sunday, September 1, excepting August 12, 13, and 14

At the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery

Subjects: How curveballs are thrown, etc.

(Photo right from 2012)



2) Demonstration of bat making

Tuesday, August 13 and Wednesday, August 14

11:00-12:00, 13:30-14:30, and 15:00-16:00

At the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery; with cooperation by Mizuno Corporation

It will mark the 10th year of bat making demonstration at the baseball museum.

The craftsman at work will be ready to answer any questions from the floor.

It will make a good subject for free study. (Photo from 2012)



B) Special Exhibition “Hall of Famers for 2013”

Through Monday, September 23
At the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery

The exhibition features the three 2013 Hall of Famers; Yutaka Ohno, Yoshiro Sotokoba and Kazuo Fukushima. Artifacts and photos related to the new inductees and their plaques are on display with their biographies and records.

(N.B. Fukushima’s plaque is to be on display after August 15. See the last line on page 1.)



C) 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, some 50,000 books and magazines, and we have more than 100,000 visitors per year. 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.



My husband grew up in a town in the northeastern region in Japan where people lived embedded in one-meter deep snow from early winter till late spring. His first encounter with baseball was one day in 1945, soon after the end of the last war, suffering from want of supplies. He was allowed to join older boys in the neighborhood, playing with a homemade, hardened cloth ball. When he belonged to a baseball team at high school, all the practice in winter was to run on the snow, but he was blessed with life-long teachers and friends.

When he joined the Nankai Hawks, he had to spend first two years in the farm team, but he managed to make it to the first team with his career-long batterymate Katsuya Nomura (1989 Hall of Famer), to whom he owed 221 wins. He was backed up by so-called one-million dollar infield, managed by the skilled Kazuto Tsuruoka, 1965 HOF. After retirement, he was a baseball commentator for Osaka Asahi Broadcasting. Later he was a pitching coach for the Hanshin Tigers (under Yoshio Yoshida, 1992 HOF), Yomiuri Giants (under Sadaharu Oh, 1994 HOF) and Kintetsu Buffaloes (under Akira Ohgi, 2004 HOF).

At home, as an active player, he was not able to attend the field day or school plays for his two children, but later for his four grandchildren, he was glad to participate in these functions to his great satisfaction. He was not a family man at all, but at the end of the year, he actively pounded steamed rice into cake. He solemnly placed rice cakes one on the other in order of size on the one small wooden stand in the alcove, and placed a glove and a white ball, gift-wrapped with red-and-white strings, on a sheet of Japanese paper placed on the other. It was his habit to pray before them for the New Year.

It seemed to me that he was thinking about nothing but baseball but spent a happy life. Even when he was hospitalized later in life, he led a serene life there, and lying on the bed, he always held a soft plastic ball in his right hand. When his condition took a sudden turn for the worse, he began to fling his arm, holding a ball tightly with his three fingers, as if trying to throw it with a snap of the wrist. His friends at the bedside began to whisper the song of the Nankai Hawks, to which the lying husband responded by raising his knees slowly. “We’re back at Osaka Stadium, aren’t we?” He seemed to understand my words. He nodded with a smile, and silently got off to his never-waking sleep. His life started with a cloth ball, succeeded by a hard horsehide ball, and ended with a soft plastic life!

My baseball-loving husband pitched entirely for the Nankai Hawks, and erected a tombstone in life in a temple less than a kilometer from Osaka Stadium. “It commands a good view of bright lighting of the Stadium from here!” Regrettably when he died, it had changed to a wilderness of modernistic commercial buildings. But the temple is situated on the “Setting Sun Hill,” which has been famous since the Heian Era as a suitable place to view a large ball-like setting sun in the evening sky as bright as the lighting at a night game. Probably he was not aware of this, but he will surely be convinced now.

Soon after his death, he was given Yonezawa Citizen’s Honor Award and Yamagata Prefectural Honor Award. Yonezawa Municipal Stadium has been renamed as Minagawa Stadium in honor of him. All of these culminated in his induction to the Baseball Hall of Fame. I firmly believe that he is well aware that he owes these honors to his beloved hometown, their people, his senior and peer baseball players and that he should share the honor with those fans who warmly encouraged and supported him for a long time.

My husband always said, "I'm happy that I was born in an age when I could play baseball." I also heartily hope that a peaceful age will continue forever when all people can play baseball and enjoy watching baseball.

p.4 Library Note The Daimai Baseball Club and *Baseball in America*
Taku Chinone, co-librarian



In 1925, the Daimai Baseball Club made a tour of America and played local teams in a variety of places from March to July. *Baseball in America* consists of a collection of articles on the tour mainly by its members.

In March, 1920, Osaka Mainichi Shimbun and Tokyo Daily Shimbun held a get-together in Nagoya. They organized the All-Daimai team and played a local baseball team, which led to the formation of the Daimai Baseball Club in May, 1920. With the participation of Michimaro Ono (1959 HOF) and Hisashi Koshimoto (1967 HOF) from Keio University in 1921, and Genzaburo Okada (1978 HOF) from Meiji University in 1922, it became one of the top-class teams in name and reality.

The 13 members of the touring Daimai Baseball club were: (pitchers) Michimaro Ono, Kyouichi Nitta; (catchers) Hideo Mori, Kan Igawa; (infielders) Hisashi Koshimoto, Tairiku Watanabe, Shinji Kirihara (1984 HOF), Hiroshi Utsumi, Shinzaburo Utsumi; (outfielders) Kazuo Takasu, Eiji Sugai, Chotaro Kawagoe, Takeshi Futagami.

The object of the American tour was not only the improvement of baseball technics. According to Shintaro Okumura (1875-1951), head of the Club and later president of Osaka Mainichi Shimbun, said in the preface of the book, "The American tour by a Japanese team aimed at the acquisition and study of baseball techniques, and it did help considerably promote friendships between Japan and America, but it had additional big object. All of the members of the Club are our young newspaper reporters..... In the Daimai Baseball Club's American tour, I intended to attach more emphasis on the phase of their school excursion by reporter corps than on that of their baseball training."

The contents of *Baseball in America* are: accounts of the major league baseball, impressions of the major leaguers ~ a joint review, impressions of the major league, watching the World Series, review of their games (12-26-1) and supplement. Koshimoto's account is more interesting than those of Ono and Kirihara. Koshimoto, who would become manager of Keio University in 1926, comments on the game between the Washington Senators and Detroit Tigers. "The most impressive is a loss-defying attitude of Ty Cobb. Facing the opponent team, he is always either on the move or shouting a word. Playing under the fierce Cobb, all of the Tigers players are active and full of vigor, while the Senators players are, as the team's name goes, gentlemen-like, and playing the game in silence like Japanese student players." Comparing Japanese players with the major leaguers, he adds, "In fielding, the time will come when Japanese players will catch up with the major leaguers, but never it will in batting."

The Daimai Baseball Club disbanded in 1929. It is of interest to note that about 20 years later in 1948, five members of the touring Club were still active with the Mainichi Shimbun as reporters: They are: Michimaro Ono (Tokyo branch), Hideo Mori (West branch), Hiroshi Utsumi (West branch), Shinsaburo Utsumi (Nagoya branch), and Chotaro Kawagoe (Tottori branch). (N.B. Osaka Mainichi Shimbun merged with Tokyo Daily Shimbun in 1943.)

Baseball in America (1926) (see photo) is available at our Baseball Library.



The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum holds a collection of over 30,000 baseball-related items. Let me give you an idea of the Museum's documentation procedure and demonstrate a cricket ball which is the very first object accessioned into the permanent collection.

Museums are responsible for collecting, preserving, researching, and displaying objects in such a way that the future generations will have the opportunity to appreciate them. Ever since the Baseball Hall of Fame and the Museum was started in 1959, it has continuously made efforts to collect artifacts related to baseball. When a material is accessioned into the permanent collection, each item is documented and allocated its accession number sequentially. As of March 2013, the latest accession number has come to 10,743. When separate parts of a single object or a group of objects are involved, those items are assigned the same accession number but have numeric suffixes added. In the case of a set of uniform, i.e., jersey, pants and cap, "-1", "-2", and "-3" are added following the same accession number. When each physically divisible part of an item is counted as a separate object, then the total number of items in our museum collections comes to 34,778 as of March 2013. The current method of acquisition is through donation only, though some objects seem to have been acquired through purchase at the beginning. The museum has never disposed of any accessioned items from its collection.

Upon opening the Museum in 1959, a great number of museum artifacts were accessioned at one time, among which the cricket ball shown left was chosen as the accession number "1". The leather-covered hard cricket ball with roughly 23cm in circumference, 7.1cm in diameter and 140g, was donated by Sotaro Suzuki (1968 Hall of Famer). The inscription on one side of the face is almost totally illegible.

The first "laws of cricket" were written in 1744, in which the size of the ball was formalized for the first time as being between 9 and 9 1/4 inches in circumference. The size of the ball was later reduced in 1927 to between 8 13/16 inches and 9 inches. In light of these facts, the ball in question may date from around 1900 or the very beginning of 1900s.

There are constant debates about the origin of baseball. Baseball was once considered to be an American invention or originated with cricket. Looking back on the history, a variety of ball-and-stick games were widely enjoyed in England amongst the common people. Cricket originally became popular with children then gradually recognized as a major sport, as witness the stipulation of the first laws of cricket in London in 1744. Baseball and cricket might look similar, but are actually quite different sports. The shape of a cricket field is oval or circular, and the full 360-degree field is fair territory. As compared to baseball where batters score runs by running around the bases, cricket batsmen only run back and forth between two wickets.

There is another kind of English ball-and-bat game, in which batsmen run around more bases instead of running back and forth as in cricket. This is considered to have evolved into rounders. It is generally agreed nowadays that rounders or its earlier form moved to the U.S. and developed into baseball.

As may be understood from the above, supposedly our first curators some fifty years ago thought that cricket was so much older than baseball but that they were interrelated and had a common ancestry. For this reason, they made a respectful response by giving a memorial accession number "1" intentionally to this particular ball.

The cricket ball is on display at the ad hoc baseball history corner in the exhibition hall during the summer vacation. (See page 2)

p.6 Topics Notable visitors, May 2013 through July 2013
(All of the events were held at the Baseball Hall of Fame gallery.)



1) May 17 Press conference on “Lions Classic 2013” was held from 1 p.m. and Takumi Kuriyama and Shogo Akiyama (outfielder, Saitama Seibu Lions) were in attendance in uniform worn by the Tokyo Senators, their ancestors.



2) June 11 “Saitama vs Chiba Rival Series” was announced at the press conference held from 6 p.m. attended by the presidents (Hajime Igo & Iekumi Nakamura), managers (Hisanobu Watanabe & Tsutomu Itoh) and captains (Takumi Kuriyama & Yoshifumi Okada) of Saitama Seibu Lions and Chiba Lotte Marines), being escorted by their club mascots (LEO & MAR-KUN) and prefectural mascots (KOBATON & CHI-BA+KUN) respectively.

3) June 29 Ryoza Kato (Chairman of the BHFH), Peter O’Malley (Dodgers owner, 1970-1998), and Renzo Ishii (former manager of Waseda University Baseball Club) (photo left) cut the ribbon to open the special exhibition: Baseball in Japan and the O’Malley Family. The exhibition, which was held until July 15, featured 14 items on loan from the O’Malley family and 18 items owned by the BHFH (including a bat used by Jacky Robinson and a cap and jumper worn by Ike Ikuhara). The opening ceremony was attended by people connected with the O’Malley family (photo right).



Kato, O’Malley and Ishii



4) July 10 The members of Nippon Paper Manufacturing Company Baseball Club at Ishinomaki, the first rep of Tohoku District in the 84th Inter-City Baseball Championship in 2013 for the first time in three years, met their *Aojishiki*, (Blue Lion Flag) again. It was originally displayed at the reception room of their company, but it was swept away together with the building by the big tsunami caused by the 3.11 Big Tohoku Earthquake in 2011.

Fortunately it was miraculously recovered in July from a heap of rubble in the removing work. It was on display at ICBC in 2011 and later at the BHFMM as a symbol of reconstruction from the disaster. (N.B. *Aojishiki* is a championship flag given to 14 regional champions qualified as the first rep of their region to enter the annual ICBC. See NL 21-4)



5) July 12 The members of the U.S.A. Baseball Collegiate National Team, who participated in the 39th U.S.A.-Japan International Collegiate Friendly Series in 2013.

6) July 19 Yuhei Takahashi (Waseda University Baseball Club), who pitched the 3rd perfect game in the history of the Tokyo Big6 Baseball League in a game against Tokyo University BC on April 21. His game ball was donated to the BHFMM and now is on display at the entrance hall.



p.7 Fans Appreciation Day Celebrated

Members of each of the 12 Fan Clubs of the NPB have been invited free to the Baseball Museum on their Fan Day between May 15 and August 15. On these occasions, every preparation has been made to cater to particular fans: the plaques of their Hall of Famers are marked with ribbons; their artifacts are especially on display; either their club's appearance in the Japan Series or games in the pennant race is shown in the movie theatre; easy access to their literature at the Baseball Library, etc.

Date	Team	Features
May 15	Chiba Lotte Marines	Guided tour
May 18	Saitama Seibu Lions	Team mascot "Leo"

May 25	Orix Buffaloes	Uniforms worn by Boomer and Nomo
June 5	Yomiuri Giants	Team mascot “GIABBIT”
June 22	Chunichi Dragons	Team mascot “DOALA”
June 25	Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters	First pitched ball by Rookie Shohei Ohtani
July 1	Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks	Team mascot “Herculy” and Yuhei Honda’s mascot “Pon-chan”
July 9	Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles	Team mascots “Clutch” and Clutchena” with cheer girls “Tohoku Golden Angels”



Fans Appreciation Days of Hiroshima Toyo Carp (July 24), Tokyo Yakult Swallows (August 1), Hanshin Tigers (August 3) and Yokohama DeNA Baystars (August 15) are slated to be reported in the next Newsletter to be published in coming October.

News from the Baseball Museum

- 1) The newly-started public interest incorporated foundation, the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, held its first meeting of the board of directors on Thursday, May 23, and that of the councilors on Monday, June 10, at 11 a.m. at Tokyo Dome Hotel respectively. The BOD approved the following items on the agenda: (1) reports on activities, statement of accounts, and auditor’s certificate for 2012;(2) reports on activities and budget for 2013 ;(3) revision of regulations according to the transition to a new status; (4) schedule of the meeting. The BOC approved the following items on agenda: (1) reports on activities, statement of account, and auditor’s certificate for 2012; (2) officials’ remuneration regulations.



BOD meeting



BOC meeting

- 2) On Sale Commemorative balls autographed separately by Yutaka Ohno and Yoshiro Sotokoba, 2013 Hall of Famers. 50 balls apiece are available.

@ 25,000 (including tax)

Please go and visit: <http://shop.npb.or.jp>

They are official NPB balls encased in a glass box with a pedestal (145 mm x130 mm x 130 mm). The supplements are a certificate published by the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum; *The Baseball Hall of Fame, 1959~2012*; and 6 admission tickets to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.



4) 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)	Elementary & Junior High School students (* Per person in groups of 20 or more)
¥300	Senior citizens aged 65 or over

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.

NB In other words, from August to October, the museum will be closed on the following days.

August, open all days: September 2, 9 and 30; October 7, 21 and 28

Editor's Note: Regrettably, "So Many to See, So Much to Enjoy" is suspended in this issue.

Henri Suzuki, Tokyo Shimbun
Member of the Players Selection Committee

Returning from a trip to South Korea, a friend of mine said to me, “Pro baseball over there is interesting indeed!” As I had taken him uninterested in baseball, I was a little surprised by his response. In the game he watched, cheer girls danced on the roof of the dugout to rock and hiphop music, all of them dressing more and more lightly as innings went on. Each time they did it, all the fans around them joined their excitement. “I thought I would go only once, but I ended up visiting the stadium three times!” For a person like myself who had thought himself enjoying pro baseball in Japan and America in an orthodox manner, that was nothing but improper way of enjoying baseball, but it was true that I felt a little culture shock at its existence.

It reminds me that NHK televised a special program in which they searched for the reason why pro baseball surpassed soccer in popularity in South Korea. If my memory serves me aright, it was reported that baseball fans are young and there are many female fans and that all the fans on stands are as excited with loud music as at a rock concert. According to the Korean Baseball Organization, the whole attendance increased from 2,390,000 in 2002 to over 7,000,000 unprecedentedly in 2012 when KBO had 9 clubs, an miraculous increase when one thinks of the population of 50,000,000 in South Korea. The core of baseball fans are young people in the 20s comprising more than 40 % of the whole, and nearly 40 % of them are women! It is quite natural, then, that many young couples are to be seen at the stadium enjoying a baseball date.

The scene changes to America. When I was covering the MLB, I happened to be in the same plane from Boston to Cleveland as some 20 passengers in Red Sox uniform. Admission tickets at Fenway Park were too popular to get, so they had to go all the way to Cleveland to watch their away game. It was not a rare phenomenon, I was told. When the plane approached the runway to land, all of them began to give a large call of Red Sox and got more and more excited.

But once they were at the stands of Progressive Field in Cleveland, they were greeted by an unexpected cold welcome. Red Sox fans in uniform were introduced in the Aurola—Vision one by one, ticked by a large ×, and at each time incurring loud booing all over the stadium. On the contrary, when Indians fans in uniform were introduced, they were ticked with a large ○, and greeted by a thunderous clapping of hands. It was repeatedly done between the innings, being actually enjoyed from the bottom of their hearts by both booing Indians fans and booed Red Sox fans. It was anyway strange scenery for me.

Speaking of Aurola—Visions, when a young couple are introduced there at a MLB stadium, spectators at large urge them loudly to kiss, and in my experience, all of them willingly responded. I am not sure if it can be called an event, but this is reportedly done at stadiums in South Korea. How about in Japan? I am undecided

whether young couples nowadays dare to kiss in the presence of a large audience. After all, all of these people: fans dancing and crying in loud music; lightly dressed cheering girls in their center; unmercifully booed and delighted fans in their away stadiums; kissing couples in the stare of a large audience, are seeking for space far apart from their daily life. What is “space apart “ peculiar to Japan? The big task is up to those people including myself who are connected with pro baseball in Japan.