

The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum



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

Articles in **NEWSLETTER**, Vol.23, No.3 (October, 2013)

(Prepared by Ryuichi Suzuki)

p.1 The Induction Ceremony for the 2013 Hall of Famers, Part II

Shinichi Hirose, President

The induction ceremony for Kazuo Fukushima who was elected by the Special Selection Committee was held on Thursday, August 15 (the anniversary of the end of WW II), at the Koshien Stadium. It was the 8th day of the 2013 National High School Baseball Championship and the ceremony was held between the first game (Seiko Gakuin vs Fukui Commercial) and the second (Kumamoto Technical vs Sakushin Gakuin) preceded by the awarding ceremony for distinguished managers with coaching experience of 20 years or more.

Immediately after WW II in 1947, Fukushima led his Kokura Middle School to win the National Middle School Baseball Championship by going the distance in 5 games. In 1948, he pitched 5 shutout games and won the second championship in the re-named National High School Baseball Tournament. Due to overuse of his elbow, he failed to win the third consecutive victory in 1949 by being lost to Kurashiki Technical in the quarterfinals. At the end of the game, he unconsciously scooped up a fistful of sand into his pocket in front of the backstop, which acknowledgedly gave rise to the tradition of taking a fistful of sand home by defeated participants in the tournament.

The ceremony was held in front of the backstop under the burning sun, well-matched for the traditional summer tournament, being watched by full of spectators in the stands and surrounded by the people from his alma mater nearby. His playing days were shown on the big screen and the PA system called in Fukushima, who, tense but with his back ramrod-straight, set foot in the sacred ground with his old cap on for the first time in over sixty years.

Ryozo Kato, Chairman of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, awarded Fukushima with a replica of the plaque which was to be hung in the Baseball Hall of Fame, and a bouquet was presented by Takayasu



Okushima, president of the High School Baseball Association of Japan. In his acceptance speech, Fukushima expressed his pleasure of being awarded the highest honor of the induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame, and thanked his old teammates, seniors, and Kokura HS for their cooperation. He also expressed his wish to do what little he could to contribute to the development of baseball. The speech got a standing ovation from the stands and the ceremony ended with photo taking (see photo).

(from left: Ryozo Kato, Kazuo Fukushima, and Takayasu Okushima)

A Independent Study on Baseball

From Saturday, July 20 to Sunday, September 1, an 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 467 (an increase of 9 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 (114, 117 each), and the total of 4th to 6th graders accounts for 70 percent of the whole participants.

As for their subjects of study, the most popular was baseball history (135, 29%) and implements (312, 67%; bats 105, balls 94, particularly breaking balls in conjunction with the mini-mini experiment).

Grade		History	Stadium	Implements					Technique	Record	Others
				Implement	Bat	Glove	Uniform	Ball			
E1	5	3			3	1		4	1	1	
E2	9	6	1	2	5	6		7		2	2
E3	62	18	2	5	22	6	3	12	1	1	9
E4	114	36	5	6	26	23	1	19	2	3	14
E5	117	27	4	9	28	25	1	24	1	1	18
E6	96	30	4	7	16	11	1	18	5	1	13
J1	21	10	1	2	3	1		7			1
J2	8	4				1		1			1
J3	6				1			1	2		1
Others	5	1			1	2		1			3
Total	467	135	17	31	105	76	6	94	12	9	62

B Mini-mini Experiment Corner

From Saturday, July 27 until Sunday, September 1, Mini-mini Corner was open every day (excepting August 12, 13 and 14), 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 and a cardboard were used),” “Let’s compare old and new gloves (replica of ones used in 1890s, 1920s and nowadays),” and “Let’s weigh Ichiro’s spikes (a 2013 model provided by Asics Co.) (only elementary junior high school pupils were privileged to hold them in hand).”



The subjects for 15:00 were: “Secrets of regular baseballs (rules on baseballs; process of producing baseballs explained using baseballs in their production phases);” and “Let’s measure and weigh a bat used by Shinnosuke Abe, the Yomiuri Giants (offered by Mizuno Corporation) (only elementary and junior high school students had the privilege to touch it). About 1,500 visitors stopped by the Corner in 34 days. Many of them took a note of the talk and made a further study at the museum library, some of whom shot the experiments in videotapes.



C On Monday, August 12 Glove making: a combined work by 15 pairs of child-parent to make their one and only glove. They

toiled, under guidance of the staff from Mizuno Corporation, about two hours in the last process, that is, piercing threads into the glove. The participants were quite satisfied with their work.

- D Bat making demonstration: the 19th consecutive event since 2004, on Tuesday, August 13 and Wednesday, August 14, three times each day (11:00, 13:30, and 15:00)



Craftsman Takahiro Watanabe from Mizuno Technics explained the materials of a bat and demonstrated bat making in the presence of a total of 3,240 visitors.

Three elementary students were privileged to experience paper filing. Watanabe answered amiably to various questions from the floor.

p.3 Inductees Remembered (41)

A Memory of My Grandfather

Yoshimi Karita, granddaughter of the late Hisanori Karita, 1969 Hall of Famer



I do not remember talking to my grandfather when I was a child. He was too severe to talk to. My sister and I would visit the house where my mother was born and, naturally enough, we felt at ease making merry, running about and making a noise, when, out of the blue, our grandfather dropped a bombshell! But we liked his house and dropped by it almost every day, as it was within walking distance of our school. My mother would pick us up in the evening. You might ask me, “Why did you go there with all a horrible grandfather?” There was a good reason for it. He was good at cooking and, more often than not, he served a delicious borsch, his specialty. He was very amiable then and spoke to us gently with a smile, “How is it? Good?” But at other times he was often alone in the garden, looking after the plants and flowers.

When he was actively playing pro baseball, I often saw his photos in the magazines and newspapers, and looked at him on TV, but it cannot be said I knew him well. All I heard about him was “a hidden-ball play,” “masterly second baseman,” and “There is no player like him at no time before or after. “ I am not sure, but he was probably true to these expressions. He was reportedly the first to do the hidden-ball trick in the history of pro baseball in Japan. I remember that an announcer on TV described him as a masterly player at his unbelievably quick throwing after catching a ball. And I hear he was notorious for being ordered to be out of the game from time to time.

I vividly remember the induction ceremony of my grandfather. I was 9 years old and was glad to go to Korakuen Stadium. I was to unveil his plaque at the pitcher’s mound in the ceremony. But in actual fact it was my male cousin who played the glorious role. At the last moment it was decided that a boy would be better suited because it was to do with baseball! Honestly speaking I was eager to do it myself, so you can imagine how sorry I was!

When we grew up, we visited his house as before. There were few words exchanged with him, but on seeing us he was all smiles, raising his right hand high. It was surely his way of greeting us. This is the so-called age of IT. If you search “Hisanori Karita” on a PC, you can obtain an enormous amount of

information on his glorious performance. My mother retorted, however. “It’s quite natural, but as far as my father is concerned, I know much more than that!” Indeed it’s quite natural that she knows his father in his active competition.

When I was contacted by the editor of this Newsletter, my mother and I had a whale of a time recollecting him. So this essay is an amalgam of my recollection and hers which I did not know before. He is a grandpa of my pride and joy, and I am heartily proud to have a splendid pro baseball player as my grandfather.

Last but not least, I’ll be saying a silent prayer for the success of the present pro players and sincerely wish for a further prosperity of pro baseball in Japan.

p.4 Rara avis (83) Kansen Hirose, designer of the 1934 Japan-U.S. Baseball Competition Poster
Mariko Shinozuka, curator



Let me introduce a famous poster promoting the 1934 Japan-U.S. baseball competition (shown down in the photo left) and a rare photo shown left here. The famous promotion poster is on display at our baseball museum and has been its centerpiece of the exhibits since the inauguration back in 1959. The poster is famous because it proved to be a big incentive to induce the reluctant Babe Ruth to come over to Japan in the fall of 1934. (Its details are written in *Apocrypha of Japanese Pro Baseball ~ the path of the Tokyo Giants* (1976) by Sotaro Suzuki, 1968 Hall of Famer.)

In November, 1972, Kansen Hirose, who had designed the poster, visited the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum which was then a detached building adjacent to the former Korakuen Stadium. He had two of his photos reproduced by the BHF, one of which is shown here in the left and testifies clearly a close relationship between Babe Ruth and the poster, and that between the designer and the said pair. The photo was taken in front of the former Imperial Hotel (aka Wright House) where the members of the American team stayed in 1934. The photo shows from left: Kansen Hirota, Sotaro Suzuki, Babe Ruth, Tsuneo Horiguchi, and an anonym. The signature down left is of Hirose’s.) Horiguchi is the famous “Piston Horiguchi,” who was active in the boxing world in the pre- and post-war Japan. According to what Junji Ohno, the then director of the BHF, heard from Hirose, Horiguchi met Ruth as the representative of the only and popular pro sport in Japan. (The current pro baseball in Japan started in 1936.)

The other photo shows Babe Ruth and Tsune Horiguchi, both in a fighting boxing posture, and Hirose in between them posing as a referee.

Kansen (or Ichiro) Hirose was born in August, 1898, at Ama, Oki-gun, Shimane Prefecture. At the age of 14, he went up to Tokyo and studied Japanese painting. After working for the Shusei Design until 1921, he set up the Nippon Design at Kyobashi, Tokyo, in 1930. He worked on many illustrations and posters, and exercised his talent in the new field of commercial art. In searching of how he came to design the famous promotion poster, I had a chance to talk with his descendants with kind cooperation of the library and board of education in Okinoshima, but regrettably I was not able to obtain any detailed information. His Nippon Design was located near Ginza-3-chome where the Yomiuri Shimbun, the sponsor of the 1934 Japan-U.S. competition, used to be, so it may be surmised that the two had some unknown connection between them.

Incidentally, the BHFMM has two promoting posters for games of the 1934 Japan-U.S. competition at Jingu Stadium and Koshien Stadium. Another one with a slightly different layout (other than the name of the stadium) for a game at Yokohama was recently discovered. Judging from the fact that the competition was held at 12 cities (Hakodate, Sendai, Toyama, Utsunomiya, Omiya, Tokyo, Yokohama, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Osaka, Kyoto, and Kokura), hitherto unknown posters for these venues and concomitant episodes will come up in the near future.

p.5 Column: So Much to See, So Much to Enjoy (44)

For me, the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is a treasury of information

Shinichi Tanaka, sustaining member of the BHFMM

The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is a time machine. It is an outdoor bench to enjoy the cool evening breeze. It is also a place where one can indulge in a sense of one's superiority and camaraderie.

As a child, my father took me to the Korakuen Stadium for the first time. When we went up the stairs from the entrance, we saw the bare ground and the turf lit by the cocktail beams. It was as if the sunlight streamed in through an opened small window. It was beautiful. My fondness for baseball was triggered first by this emotion. After 55 years, I still frequent baseball stadiums. At the same time, on retirement, I began to visit the BHFMM to make a research on the career records of baseball umpires. At the entrance I show the receptionist a pass and going down the stairs I turn right and see the entrance to the library. It is like a small window I saw at a stadium in my boyhood.

The stadium was quiet, not boisterous as today." All heard was a sigh "Oh, dear! " at an error, or "Wow!" at a hit or home run. Kaoru Betto (1988 HF) was at bat in the clutch. All was quiet and the spectators watched him in breathless suspense. At the next moment, quite a stir and clapping of hands over his home run. When I saw his uniform at the Museum later on, I was in a time machine, recollecting the scene vividly.

One summer day, I was at the baseball library as usual, when I saw a boy and his mother were at a loss how to start his free study on the repulsion of baseballs. I couldn't help cutting in. "How about comparing the distances of home runs hit by Valentien last year and this year?" In these days when an adult accosting a child is apt to be regarded as a suspicious character, an old man like myself can talk to kids irrespective of age at the Museum. Indeed there were days when a grandfather chatted amiably on an outdoor bench with a boy or a girl in the neighborhood

On September 10, 2013, the lineup of a game between the Yakult Swallows and Hiroshima Toyo Carp said that Koichi Nagai was the third base umpire. My instinct predicted that this would be his first umpiring in the pennant race. I opened my portable PC and surfed the data on umpires I had input at the Museum, and confirmed my prediction. When the bottom of the 5th inning was over, I spoke to him from the stands. "Congratulations on your first appearance!" He nodded. Of all 17, 883 spectators, it was only myself that knew this fact. I indulged in self-complacent sense of superiority.

The historic day came on September 15, 2013. I was in the midst of Yakult fans and expectant ad hoc fans at Meiji Jingu Stadium. I proudly showed them a newspaper clipping on Sadaharu Oh's 55th home run hit through a downpour. "It was 49 years ago back in 1964, in the same year that the Tokyo Olympics were held." All of them looked amazed. Valentien hit the 56th home run. At that moment all the people were overjoyed with one heart and mind, exchanging high fives and hugged each other. A single clipping helped me share joy with

hitherto unacquainted strangers. I owe this entirely to the Museum Library. A stadium where one can come together without words is an ideal place to indulge in a sense of camaraderie

Incidentally, it was the 1,999th game for Masaharu Kasahara, the plate umpire of the memorable game. I chuckled at my thought that I was the only person in the 30,319 spectators who knew this fact. It was the very day when I indulged in a sense of superiority and camaraderie at the same time.

Thus I enjoy going to the Museum, for I can ride a time machine and indulge, to repeat, in a sense of superiority and camaraderie.

p.6 Library News

Nihon Taiiku Shuho-sha and its *Taiiku Shuho*

Taku Chinone, co-librarian

Let me introduce *Taiiku Shuho* (Athletics Weekly) published by Nihon Taiiku Shuho-sha (NTS) after WW II



The first issue was a special one in a handwritten mimeographed copy on 4 pages of straw paper(25cm x 17cm) and was published on December 1, 1945, with Kenshi Ohno as its editor and publisher. It contains the line score of the All-Waseda vs All-Keio game held on November 18 at Meiji Jingu Stadium, and those of the games in Kansai League (participants: All-Kobe, All-Osaka, and All-Kyoto). A whole page is allotted to the East-West competition (the first resumed pro baseball game after WW II) held at MJS on November 23, 1945.

The *TS* (No.550, January 1, 1946) is the final report of the grand sumo tournament in 16 pages. Interestingly Ohno says in the editor's note:

“NTS was one of the victims of the first big air raid in Osaka at midnight on last March 12....Regrettably all the manuscripts of the pro baseball records in the fall of 1944 and that of the last installment of the 19 years of history of the Tokyo Big6 Baseball League were burned to ashes together with the printing house. It is impossible to re-publish them. Besides we suffered a fatal blow by the loss of massive amount of printing paper.”

To add to his report on the severe condition of publication during the war, he mentions his new determination: “It is most welcome that we need not care about the inspection of the authority on the wording and contents of the magazine. ...We are determined to continue to publish the magazine with the original title and report news on baseball and sumo which will cater to fans across the country.” True to his remark, *TS* was published 22 times including extra issues in 1946.

Apparently the *TS* had been published in prewar days as judged by the number attached to the one published on January 1, 1946 (mentioned above), but allegedly *Base Ball News*, which was first published in 1932 with the inauguration address by the said Ohno, was its predecessor. Another evidences is that the number attached to the last issue of the *TS* we possess at the baseball library is No. 200. (Cf. NL vol.18, No.3) However, it is not certain when it was renamed the *TS*. To make the matter complicated, NTS began to publish *Baseball News* in addition to the *TS* first as a weekly and in time as a biweekly in alternation with the *TS*, which ceased to be published after the May 1, 1947 issue of *Baseball News*. As a weekly, *Baseball News*, under editor & publisher Ohno, continued until its No.708 issue (dated November 20, 1952) and now is a valuable source of information about baseball soon after WW II.

All the issues of the *Taiiku Shuho* published immediately after WW II are available at our baseball library.

p.7 A Fans Appreciation Day Celebrated (Cont.)

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

(Fans appreciation days of the eight clubs held before July 24 were reported in the previous issue of the Newsletter published in August, 2013)

Date	Team	Features
July 24	Toyo Hiroshima Carp	Team mascot “Slilie”
August 1	Tokyo Yakult Swallows	Display of Fan books at the library
August 3	Hanshin Tigers	Team mascot “Torakie” and virtual batting
August 15	Yokohama DeNA Baystars	Former and present uniforms



B Notable visitors ~ July through October



July 21 Yutaka Ohno, 2013 Hall of Famer, inspected the special exhibition, “2013 Hall of Famers” and gave an encouraging message to the members of Kirikiri Baseball Sports Boys’ Club (Iwate Prefecture) who were on tour of the BHFMM.

July 21 Yoshiro Sotokoba, 2013 Hall of Famer, inspected the special exhibition, “2013 Hall of Famers,” with his family.





October 3 Wladimir Valentien, an outfielder of Tokyo Yakult Swallows, met his 56th home run ball at the entrance hall, where the pair of his spikes he wore at the memorable game and his other artifacts were on display.

October 9 Hiroki Kokubo, the newly appointed manager of the Samurai Japan attended the press conference held at the gallery of the Baseball Hall of Fame.



C News from the Baseball Museum

1) The board of directors of the BHFMB met at 11:00 on Tuesday, October 8. at Tokyo Dome Hotel and approved the partial revision of the rules of the Selection Committees.



2) New Items on Sale

a) 100 sets of 5 commemorative postcards in the original envelope @ ¥ 500 including tax



b) Original key holder made from cow hide used for official baseballs. of gold tooling, green in color, 100mm x 40mm



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)	Elementary & Junior High School students (* Per person in a group 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.
and during emergency holidays

NB In other words, from November to January, 2014, the museum will be closed on the following days.

November 11, 18, 25 ~ 30; December 1, 2, 9, 16, 29 ~ 31; January 1, 6, 20, 27

Editor's Note: The procedures for the selection of annual Hall of Famer(s) usually begin in October. The date of the Press Conference for the announcement of the successful candidates for 2014 will be published in due course of time on our Website.

p.8 Essay (54) Ichiro's First Hit

Toshiro Sano, Hochi Shimbun
Member of the Players Selection Committee

The year 2013 has seen an unprecedented rush of new records in baseball. Wladimir Valentien of the Tokyo Yakult Swallows broke the former record of 55 home runs in a season established by “the world-famous” Sadaharu Oh 49 years ago in 1964 when the Tokyo Olympics were held. Masahiro Tanaka of the Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles garnered 24 successive wins from the start of the season and gave a crowning touch to his team's first championship in the Pacific League. But what must not be forgotten was Ichiro's 4,000 combined hits in NPB (Orix Buffaloes) and MLB (Seattle Mariners and New York Yankees).

Sports newspapers in Japan dated August 23 devoted many pages to cover the great feat of a batting genius. There were many other items of news on the same date: the first victory of Maebashi Ikuei High School in the National Baseball High School Championship in Koshien Stadium; the death of singer Keiko Fuji by falling down, and so on. But considering its news value, it was quite natural that Ichiro's feat hit the headlines. He played hard and steadily for many years and reached the unrivaled figure. All the newspapers carried the upgraded news prepared mainly by MLB beat writers. Ichiro himself talked for more than 40 minutes in the press conference after the game, and his long but profound talk was reported verbatim in the local sports newspapers. However, the 10 lines of sentences in Sports Hochi cut me to the heart.

Following the headline, “The First Hit in Pro Baseball Unreported,” the article went like this. “Ichiro's first hit

on the first team was in his second game in his career against Fukuoka Daiei Hawks at Heiwadai Stadium on July 12, 1992. He was a starting player (left fielder, batting 9th) for the first time. In the 5th inning, he hit to right against Keiji Kimura, but in the final edition of Sports Hochi, no mention was made even in the miscellaneous column.”

I must confess that the beat writer for the Orix BlueWave was none other than myself. Not a word was written about him? The article didn't wash with me. In my understanding, though Ichiro Suzuki had joined as the fourth choice in the high school draft, the manager and coaches of the first team were well aware that Suzuki in the farm team had a good sense of batting and they expected him to become a future leadoff . I logged in to the database at once to retrieve the pages of the day.

The headlines on the front page said, “Komada’s lead-off hit crashes the (Hiroshima) Carp.” “Shinjo’s two home runs help the Tigers back to 3rd place” ~ this was a fair treatment for the Giants-oriented Sports Hochi. The target of my research was found on the fourth page. The subheads said, “Don Schulze notches third win,” “(manager) Doi is all smiles over the team’s easy win,” but there was not a word about Suzuki (in the Tokyo edition), nor in the Osaka edition, either. Perhaps my senior roving reporter went to Hakata on my behalf? I pulled out my old diary from a cardboard box in the closet. Actually, I was in the press box of Heiwadai Stadium. My diary said, “(The Orix) won, but no report (was sent).” Maybe I judged his performance worthless and did not persuade my news desk to take it up.

I cannot but feel remorse for my lack of insight into his potential ability 21 years ago, but Ichiro spoke without attachment of his first hit in his interview. “Was there a stir in the stadium? No way! Not even in the dugout on my side. I was just an 18-year-old boy. How could peer players feel joy at my success? ‘Nip him in the bud,’ they might have been thinking. It was natural for them not to be pleased to see a boy of 18 years and 7 months coming up for the first time and making a hit. In this atmosphere, I decided to train myself hard and steadily for three years. Why for three years? In four years, talented university graduates of my age would be joining and becoming my rivals. So, as a high school graduate, I had to develop my body and skills in three years so that I would be a regular in the fourth year. The fifth year would be too late. That was my life plan as a high school graduate.”

It was just the kind of speech expected from him. He made plans based on a hard look at what things would be like in the future, leaving no time for drowning in transient sentiment or emotions. He ended his 13th year in the MLB with his worst record: 136 H, 0.262 BA and 20 SB. The veteran player, who declares that he wants to play the whole season in all of the 162 games, is still a baseball kid who is a stranger to a decline in body and spirit. Though he will be 40 next year, he reportedly has “5,000 hits at 50” in view. It is not altogether a dream. I wish he would end his last phase of his baseball career in Japan and make his last hit here so that I could share with his Japanese fans the joy of searing the scene of his last performance into our eyes.