



The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

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

Articles in NEWSLETTER, Vol.24, No.1 (April 25, 2014)

(The English version prepared by Ryuichi Suzuki)

p.1 Report of our activities in 2013

Shinichi Hirose, President

It is my pleasure to report the first-year activities of our Public Interest Incorporated Foundation, Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. I would like to express my thanks again here for many people concerned who rendered us kind assistance and support to the transition from the Incorporated Foundation, BHFIM as from April 1, 2013.

On April 1, the unveiling of the new name was held at the entrance prior to the opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by chairman Ryozo Kato and other baseball dignitaries. It was preceded a few days before by the distribution of some 3,000 memorial posters with photographs of the 180 Hall of Famers to baseball organizations and mass media. The poster was also displayed for weeks at six places around Tokyo Dome City.

From April 26 to May 29, a special exhibition celebrating the simultaneous receiving of the People's Honor Award by Shigeo Nagashima (1988 Hall of Famer) and Hideki Matsui (on May 5) attracted so many visitors that the attendance in May exceeded 25,000, the 2nd largest monthly attendance next to May 1988 (ca.38,000) when the BHFIM was newly opened within the Tokyo Dome which was completed on March 17, 1988.

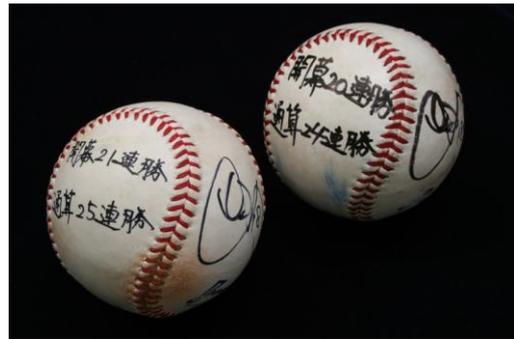


On June 29, the opening ceremony of a special exhibition, "Baseball in Japan and the O'Malley Family," which was longstanding in planning, was held at last with the attendance of Petr O'Malley (Dodgers owner, 1970-1998) and related people from Waseda University baseball club. The exhibition lasted until July 15.

During the summer school vacation in July and August, the annual mini-mini experiment and other events catering especially to elementary and junior high school students were held to get them familiarized with baseball.

On September 13, Masahiro Tanaka, Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles, notched the 21st consecutive win from the start of the season (and 25th consecutive total from 2012), a new Japan record, and on September 15, Wladimir Valentien, hit the 56th home run, also a new Japan record. With the kind cooperation of the two baseball clubs, their feat was later represented at our entrance hall by their respective balls involved in the play.

Thus, with kind cooperation of pro and amateur baseball throughout the year and by our various promotional works, the attendance for the fiscal year of 2013 was some 118,000, 140% more than the previous year, topping 100,000 for the first time in four years.



As for organization system. One of the big changes in the new system is how to hold the meeting of the directors.

Attendance in person and the number of meeting are strictly stipulated by the articles of association, which has naturally necessitated more careful preparation in holding the directors' meeting. We have had a close contact with the administrative agency and dealt carefully with the conduct of proceedings, plan decisions and the minutes. On March 6, 2014, we held the 7th meeting of the directors and got approved on the 2014 projects and settlement of accounts, thus successfully ending the whole procedures for the fiscal year of 2013.

At the advent of the second year as a PIIC, we are firmly resolved to enhance the recognition by the general public and achieve our mission of promoting baseball culture by various projects as a baseball hall of fame and museum. We would like to ask for your continued support towards the realization of our mission.

p.2 A Fans Appreciation Days

As in 2013, members of each of the 12 Fan Clubs of the NPB are cordially invited on their Fan Day to the Baseball Museum. On these occasions, every preparation is made to cater to particular fans: artifacts of their team are on display; its appearance in the Japan Series is shown in the baseball theater; visit of its mascot, e.g. Slyly of the Hiroshima Toyo Carp on April 9 (see photo).



Date	Club	Date	Club
April 9	Hiroshima Toyo Carp	May 16	Yomiuri Giants
April 20	Chunichi Dragons	June 7	Saitama Seibu Lions
April 23	Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters	June 8	Chiba Lotte Marines
April 24	Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles	June 18	Orix Buffaloes
April 30	Tokyo Yakult Swallows	July 1	Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks
May 7	Yokohama DeNA Bay-Stars	July 13	Hanshin Tigers

B Sustaining Members for 2014 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 to 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.

Sustaining members are entitled to receive the following privileges:

- 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

How to become a sustaining member Please fill in the application form at the Baseball Museum. It can also be obtained by mail. A bill is to be sent to you on receiving your application form.

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



A blazing stopper! My husband began to be so called from sometime or other. Overpowering fastballs pitched in a dynamic movement of the body, showy punching of the air in triumph when he struck out a batter, staring at the batter as if to say, “C’mon! Hit me if you can.” Such aggressing pitching may have helped produce such a nickname. To people who knew him only as a pitcher, he may have looked a person of strong-minded, wild, and big-hearted character who disdained minding trivial matters. But to me, he was quite a different man at home. He was mild, sensitive, gentle, meticulous and almost a born worrier.

He was of character who could not be assured if he did not check everything by himself, for example, to make sure that the house is locked before going to bed, that all possible sources of fire are extinguished, and that his alarm clock works after trying it several times. He kept the cupboard and wardrobe tidy and in order all by himself. Before going golfing or on a party, he coordinated his clothes and put a tag on each according to when he would wear it. When he came back from his away games, I would put his suit on the hanger, but once he found that the suit on the hanger was placed only a few millimeters ill-balanced right and left, he hanged it again, saying, “It’s not done properly!”

When packing for away games and spring training camp, he did it all by himself unlike many of his fellow players who let their wife do it, He could not feel at ease if he did not do it himself. How different the two figures were! A meticulous person who checked his clothes against tags, and a blazing stopper on the mound. I could not but burst out laughing sometimes, but he was serious indeed, and I must admit that it was a laughable but a charming phase of his character, which in fact spared me many chores at home.

He rarely brought baseball back home and always talked quietly with his family, whether he succeeded or not in saving the game, which was really surprising to his fellow players or their wives. He often said that he lost his mother for cancer because he had his mother worry too much about him by turning a pro baseball player. He may have intended not to worry his family any more because he had suffered from such a guilty conscience. I surmise it was quite difficult for him to control his emotions. He kept his self-control when he fell ill in bed. I now work for a hospital as a physical therapist and, consulting many patients, I realize how difficult it is for them to accept illness. He must have been vexed and wanted to scream in pain, but he never got wild or abandoned himself to despair, and kept on fighting against his illness, dreaming to go back to the mound again. It has been brought home to me once again how strong he was.

My father-in-law, who had outlived his son, died 10 ten years ago and I helped my sister-in-law and her uncle and aunt clear up his house, when I happened to find in the drawer of the tea shelf a few letters which my husband had written to his family on entering Kyowa Fermentation company. All of them were in bad writing, but filled with thoughtfulness towards each member of his family. Tears spilled from my eyes. “How could he be so concerned at the age of only 18!”

He led a stormy life with recurrent injury and illness, but he was fortunate in being loved, helped, and supported by many people, and had a posthumous honor of becoming a Baseball Hall of Famer, and last year

the baseball stadium in Shunan (his hometown) was named after him, “Tsuda Tsunemi Memorial Stadium.” In his grave he must be deeply appreciating with thanks the happiness of meeting with his favorite baseball which brought him an honor greater than he deserved.

p.4 Rara avis (84) Jackie Robinson’s Bat and a 1956 Japan-U.S. Baseball photo album

Mariko Inagaki, curator

In October 2013, a documentary film, “42,” depicting the life of Jackie Robinson (1962 Hall of famer), was

released in Japan and Mrs. Rachel Robinson (91) visited Japan to promote it.



In the fall of 1956, the Yomiuri Shimbun invited to the Brooklyn Dodgers, the champions of the National League of that year. The Dodgers stayed in Japan from October 18 to November 16 and had a 14-4-1 record against All-Japan, the Yomiuri Giants and the pickup All-Stars. Jackie Robinson drove in the

winning run in the last game. He hung up his spikes after the tour to Japan.

The BHFMM possesses a bat Jackie Robinson actually used at a game at Korakuen Stadium. It was broken during the game and he gave it to Toyohiko Tanaka, one of the bat boys on that day. Some 40 years later, while Tanaka watched Hideo Nomo (2014 Hall of Famer) pitching for the Dodgers, he suddenly remembered receiving a broken bat from Jackie Robinson and decided to donate it to the BHFMM. It was a Louisville Slugger bat, with measurements: 89 cm long, 6.7 cm thick and 950 grams in weight. (see photo above)

After the Japan-U.S. goodwill baseball competition, the Yomiuri Shimbun presented the Dodgers people with souvenir albums depicting their baseball tour. We are in the possession of one of them whose measurements are 26.5 cm x 36 cm x 4 cm. It is entitled “BROOKLYN DODGERS GOODWILL TOUR OF JAPAN 1956 YOMIURI SHIMBUN TOKYO JAPAN” (see photo above) on its cover (made of Japanese brocade) with red & white cranes and Japanese apricot figures printed on it, Among 33 photographs are those which depict the Dodgers players in the parade on cars greeting fans who gathered to welcome them in the rain; visiting Toshogu Shrine in Nikko on an off-day tour; floating down the Hozu River; and visiting Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima.

We reproduced a few photographs and on October 16 presented them (setting one in a frame) to Mrs. Rachel Robinson who was watching a game between the Yomiuri Giants and Hiroshima Toyo Carp at Tokyo Dome. (see photo right) She was very glad to receive them because she was not in possession of the album in question.



Tetsuo Akiyama, Sustaining member of the BHF

Descending the stairs of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, you will find yourself in various spaces. In the rest area past the entrance hall, you will see a big relief full of energy on the wall. (see photo) The relief bears the following inscription in the bottom right.



Title: Super Excitement; Produced by Ted Tanabe;
In raising funds for the Baseball Hall of Fame and
Museum; Dream All-Star Game, November 1983;
OB All-Star Game, July 1984; Sapporo Beer Baseball
Tournament, March 1988;
Under the sponsorship of Sapporo Beer Co.

On March 18, 1998, Tokyo Dome, the first domed stadium in Japan, opened its doors to the public (and the BHF was newly opened within Tokyo Dome). The above-mentioned celebratory baseball tournament was held there from March 29 until April 3. I was working for SBC in charge of the tournament, so I had to visit the new stadium every day during the tournament. This was the start of my connection with Tokyo Dome and I think I was destined to frequent the BHF.

A small library is situated at the end of the floor. It boasts the largest volume of baseball books in Japan and the librarians are admirably versed in baseball. This is my treasure-house of baseball. I first visited there on April 20, 2006. Since the fall of 2012, I have frequented there once or twice a week as fancy takes me. It can safely be said that it is my library. My target is the Takahashi Unions, which appeared suddenly like a submarine volcano on December 24, 1954 for special necessities of the Pacific League. The new baseball club strove to operate in a self-supporting accounting system, but was tossed about in a turmoil of the league and disappeared on March 6, 1957 as the weakest baseball club in history, aka outgoing “windowgazer.”

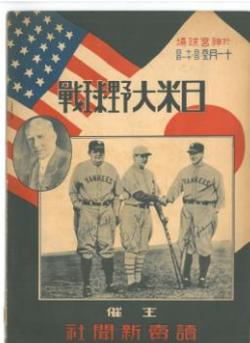
Owing to unavoidable circumstances, I have been searching the three years of their history: how they came and went; complicated undercurrent in the league; records of all of their games and players. My object is to compile these into a booklet. My work started when I received a series of materials on the Takahashi Unions from Norio Fukushima, former secretary general of the Pacific Leagues who had been my close acquaintance from the time the 12-club tournament was held in 1988. At first I took it easy and intended only to itemize things, but the change of circumstances filled me with a sense of mission to leave their history to the next generation.

Unfortunately almost all of the people concerned in the club operation in those days are numbered among the dead. The only sources available are newspapers and books published in those days. For records, I have had help from the archives at NPB and, for details of their history, first from a nearby library but later the most reliable BHF library. The yellowish 60-odd-year-old newspapers, not in a smaller or facsimile edition, sometimes minutely covered, are apt to be “Fragile: Handle with Care,” but has a warmth and full impact. Reading through these newspapers and magazines, I can easily visualize the scene like movies, chuckling to myself or unable to suppress

a laugh. More often than not, I blurt out at a new discovery in spite of myself.

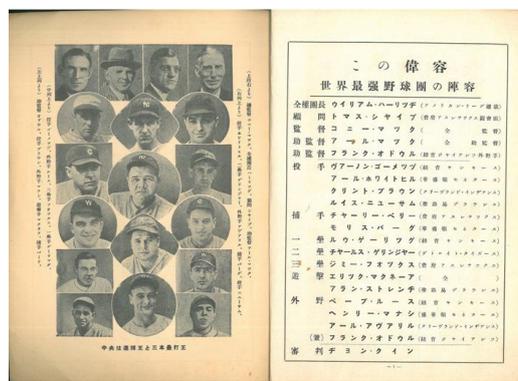
The history of the Pacific League itself was in a murky state and reads like a detective story. There was a game stopped by power failure, an evidence of its age. The TU was the weakest club, but did their best. There are many episodes that reminds me a proverb, “Fact is stranger than fiction.” This year falls on the 60th anniversary of the Takahashi Unions Though the participants are dwindling, their reunion party has continued for so many years. Recently I frequent the BHF library, impatient to complete the booklet sooner and make more detailed research.

p.6 Library Note A look at the 1934 Japan-U.S. Baseball Pamphlet
Taku Chinone, Librarian



On the 80th anniversary of the coming of the American All-Stars headed by Babe Ruth in 1934, I will introduce a pamphlet publicizing the Japan-U.S. competition. The 34-page pamphlet entitled “The Japan-U.S. Baseball Competition” is of 27 cm x 19 cm size. Photographs of Connie Mack, Babe Ruth, Jimmy Foxx and Lou Gehrig are on its cover. The date of publication is not mentioned, but can be construed from its content. The schedule of the games at Jingu Stadium is written on page 2, but the one at local stadiums and the members of the Japan All-Stars were “to be decided soon.” The Yomiuri Shimbun published the All-American members on September 21, and the first member of the All-Japan on October 5, so it can be surmised that the pamphlet was published between these two dates.

On the back of the cover are photographs of the 18 members with Gomez, Ruth, Foxx and Gehrig in the center, and on the opposite page 1 is the list of the 20 members entitled “The Imposing Lineup of the Strongest Baseball Team.” (photo right) As the revised diagram below shows, seven of them (including Heinie Manush, 1964 Hall of Famer) did not come eventually, and players were replaced by others, but the All-Americans including eight future Hall of Famers (Frank O’Doul was inducted to the Japanese BHF) must have made a great impact to the Japanese baseball world.



The welcoming messages of Keisuke Okada, prime minister of Japan, Joseph Clark Grew, American ambassador to Japan, and Marquis Nobutsune Ohkuma, are printed on pages 4, 5, 6 respectively. The 20 members of the All-America are being introduced from page 7 to 26 one by one.

Please visit our Website and surf “library” and then “digital archives” to read this historical pamphlet.

	Name	Club	N.B. # did not come	
Leader Plenitentiary	William Harridge	President of the American League	#	1972 Hall of Famer
Adviser	Thomas Shibe	Vice president, Philadelphia Athletics	#	
Manager	Connie Mack	Manager, Philadelphia Athletics		1937 Hall of Famer

Sub-manager	Earle Mack	Sub-manager, Philadelphia Athletics	#	
Pitcher	Lefty Gomez	New York Yankees		1972 Hall of Famer
Pitcher	Earl Whitehill	Washington Senators		
Pitcher	Clint Brown	Cleveland Indians		
Pitcher	Bobo Newsom	St. Louis Browns	#	
Catcher	Charlie Berry	Philadelphia Athletics	#	
Catcher	Moe Berg	Washington Senators		
First baseman	Lou Gehrig	New York Yankees		1939 Hall of Famer
Second baseman	Charlie Gehringer	Detroit Tigers		1949 Hall of Famer
Third baseman	Jimmie Foxx	Philadelphia Athletics		1951 Hall of Famer
Shortstop	Eric McNair	Philadelphia Athletics		
Shortstop	Alan Strange	St. Louis Browns	#	
Outfielder	Babe Ruth	New York Yankees		
Outfielder	Heinie Manush	Washington Senator	#	1964 Hall of Famer
Outfielder	Earl Averill	Cleveland Indians		1975 Hall of Famer
Outfielder Sub-manager	Frank O'Doul	New York Giants		2002 Hall of Famer
Umpire	John A. Quinn	American League		

p.7 A Topics (February ~ April, 2014)

1) Ichiro's uniforms on display

In celebration of Ichiro's feat of 4,000 hits (in Japan and the U.S. combined), his three uniforms he has worn in his career with Orix Buffaloes, Seattle Mariners, and New York Yankees are currently on display.



2) March 26 Mr. Ryan Flynn, CEO of New Zealand Baseball Association, and Mr Syahrir Nawier, President of Baseball & Softball Association and his three officials visit the BHF.M.



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 May to July, the museum will be closed on:
May 12 and 19; June 2, 16, 23 and 30; July 7

P. 8 Essay (56) The Big Fives of high school baseball and In-service training for post career

Kiichi Nagahama, Tokyo Sports Shimbunsha &
Osaka Sports

Let me introduce a life full of ups and downs led by a former batting pitcher with the Hanshin Tigers. Mitsuo Aogumo graduated from Hirata High School in Shimane Prefecture and in his junior year at college, he joined the Hanshin Tigers out of the draft system in November 1976. According to him, he was a fastballer who struck out batters without relying on breaking balls and was nicknamed “Suguru Egawa from San-in region.” In those days, the Big Fives of high school baseball were much talked about, namely, Masakatsu Tsuchiya (Choshi Commercial), Kazuhiko Kudoh (Tsuchiura Nichidai), Eishoku Nagakawa (Yokohama) and Shoji Sadaoka (Kagoshima Technical). They were of the same age as Aogumo, so he liked to blow his own trumpet: “I am one of the Big Fives of high school baseball!” The above-mentioned Kudoh, who also pitched for the Tigers, recalls, “He pitched excellent balls with a streamlined motion. I thought he had the making of a good pitcher.” Thus there is no mistaking that he was a promising pitcher.

However, he suffered from a recurring shoulder and elbow injury and had to retire in only three years without joining the active rosters. On the strength of his natural throwing ability, he was hired as a batting pitcher. He was so well compatible with Akinobu Okada, the leading batter of the team, that he was called Okada’s lover. At the same time, he was very caring for other players, especially Yutaka Wada, current manager, Katsuo Hirata, manager of the second squad, and Shinjiro Hiyama who retired this year. His advice as a batting pitcher proved fruitful and he was adored by his fellow players, who accosted him by his nickname.

He went through another ordeal in 2000 off-season. The elbow which he overused for 21 years came to be no use at last. He wanted to continue to work for the team behind the scenes as scorer, coach’s assistant, implement manager, ...but no job was offered to him. He decided to make a last-ditch effort to support his family. For three months, he stayed in a “as-you-like-it” pancake store which was run by his friend, with whom he got acquainted in Aki (Kochi Prefecture, the very site of the Tiger spring camp). After becoming fully proficient as a cook, he opened his store “Cloud” specializing in meat roasted on a hot iron plate. It was in Nishinomiya, where he managed to find many patrons almost every night, including his former teammates headed by Okada, then manager of the Tigers.

Though his store boasted excellent taste, it was located unfavorably and lost customers little by little. In a few years he closed his store and moved to Aki relying on his old friend. His “as-you-like-it” pancake store, “Ao-chan”, however, prospered only during February when the Tigers opened spring camp, so his breakdown was only a matter of time. At present no one of his acquaintances with the Tigers can contact him nor know where he lives.

This spring many former pro baseball players succeeded in regaining license to instruct students at high schools and universities. Under the present system which started last July, former pro baseball players can obtain license to become an instructor at high schools and universities on condition that they get training prepared by both pro and amateur authorities and that they pass the qualification examinations set by Japan Student Baseball Association. The new system which had dramatically relaxed the conditions attracted as many as 480 applicants and 435 of them succeeded in obtaining a license by the end of March.

One of the applicants, Eiji Kanamori, who practiced batting with Aogumo in his Tiger days, assumed manager as of April 1 for Kanazawa Gakuin Higashi HS (Ishikawa Prefecture). A thousand emotions crowded in on his mind. "I am very glad to manage a high school baseball team in my hometown." Actually when Aogumo left the Hanshin Tigers and had to seek for a new way of life, he said to me, "To tell you the truth, I want to go back to my hometown and instruct baseball. To open a teppan-yaki-ya is not my choice" At that time, he was mentally and physically at his peak, and his personal circumstances were well enough, but as a matter of fact, it was quite impossible to obtain license to instruct at either high school or university.

There was a long war between pro and amateur baseball. The thaw was too late. If their compromise had reached a little earlier, Aogumo's small dream might have come true.