

The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum



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

Articles in NEWSLETTER, Vol.24, No.3 (October, 2014)

(Prepared by Ryuichi Suzuki)

p.1 Talk Show on Baseball and the Olympics

Shinichi Hirose, President

On Thursday, August 7, the 30th anniversary of winning the first gold medal in the demonstration sport of baseball at the Los Angeles Olympics, a talk event, “Baseball and the Olympics” was held at the Hall of Fame Gallery starting at 10:30 A.M. The panelists were managers of Team Japan: Reiichi Matsunaga, 2007 Hall of Famer, Los Angeles, 1984; Yoshinobu Suzuki, Seoul, 1988; Masatake Yamanaka, Barcelona, 1992; Katsuji Kawashima, 1996; Kozo Otagaki, 2000, and Katsumi Hirosawa, a big gun at L.A. in 1984.

The talk event began by Matsunaga’s memories of the game against Team U.S. at Los Angeles, when he was deeply impressed by the wide gap between *yakyu* and baseball. Hirosawa followed him by recollecting the game with a surge of nostalgia. “Just before the game, the American players seemed relaxed listening to music, while we were forced to practice baserunning. But the stern taskmaster of a manager said, ‘It is natural for you to be tense today. Exert yourselves in the very tense condition.’ His frank wording, I believe, led us to a victory over Team U.S.”



costs.

As for Suzuki, the one-armed pitcher Jim Abbott was most impressive. In the final game against Japan, he was unable to catch the line drive with his glove in his right hand. Not shying away off the ball, he stopped it by letting it strike his chest and threw out the batter at first base. Suzuki felt a strong determination in Abbott to win the game at all

(Photo from left: Reiichi Matsunaga, Katsumi Hirosawa, and Yoshinobu Suzuki)

p.2 (Photo from left: Masatake Yamanaka, Katsuji Kawashima, and Kozo Otagaki)



In 1992, baseball was admitted for the first time to regular sports of the Barcelona Olympics and saw the first participation of Team Cuba which would capture the gold medal. In the semifinal, Japan was defeated by Taipei China which would obtain the silver medal. Yamanaka still remembers vividly that on the bus back home no one uttered a word out of frustration over the unexpected defeat. In 1996, Team Japan under Kawashima fought a fierce seesaw game (9 to 13) against Team Cuba in the final. The Japanese squad in tears made a circuit of the stadium with a thunderous burst of applause from the large audience.

In the 2000 Sydney Olympics, when pro players were first allowed to join the team, Team Japan under Otagaki was defeated in the third-place play-off. It was heartwarming for him to see the pro players, who were suspected unfoundedly of lower enthusiasm, shedding tears of vexation together with their non-pro fellow players. The talk show ended by a declaration by Matsunaga that all of them will make united efforts to restore baseball to regular sports in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in that baseball has developed into a worldwide sport through painstaking efforts by many people both at home and abroad.



(Photo from left: Hirosawa, Yamanaka, Matsunaga, Suzuki, Kawashima and Otagaki)

p.3 Inductees Remembered (45)

A Memory of My Father

Sadako Tamura

2nd daughter of Shinji Hamazaki, 1978 Hall of Famer



I have few memories of my father as I did not live long with him, but I will try to tell about him by digging back into my old memory about him which starts with the days when we lived in Dalien. Our family were father, mother, elder sister, myself (an elementary school student then), and two younger brothers (younger sister was not born yet).

On New Year's Day, we children played mahjong under his guidance. He was a mahjong lover and had taught us how to play it. I didn't like it much, but he got me to join as mahjong needed four players. My sister and brothers were good at it, but it was usual with me to be instructed by him over my shoulder. Many people of his Dalien Baseball Club came to my house. Three young players boarded with us for a little while before they got settled in their new house. Sometimes seven or eight players visited us to enjoy barbecue. My father was not particular about as to what he ate and liked to eat with many people cheerfully and boisterously.

In March, 1947, we were repatriated from Manchuria and lived temporarily at the house of my father's brother (Tadaharu Hamazaki who played for the Chunichi Dragons) in Kitaurawa in Saitama Prefecture. In June, we moved to Kansai as he was appointed manager of the Hankyu Braves. I did not live long with him after that, but I remember well that, quiet as he was with me, he was talkative with reporters. After retirement in 1963, he used to live in a rental condo in Itoh, Shizuoka Prefecture. My daughters and children of my brothers' would often visit him every summer vacation and told me that he was always playing mahjong alone. I don't know why he could, but it clearly shows how much he liked mahjong.

He seemed to be such a gentle grandpa as to take his grandchildren to dinner so often. There are two unforgettable episodes connecting my elder daughter with him. When she was a baby, he bought cute leather baby shoes and a one-piece dress with a fastener in front from top to bottom. Both were souvenirs from his tour to Hawaii. There was none like that dress in Japan in those days and I did not know how and why he bought it. I was quite surprised when I received it. And I was glad to know that she still keeps the shoes as his valuable keepsake. The other is that he wept at her wedding ceremony. My daughter was his first grandchild. Before her birth, he would often boasted to his close reporters that he was to be a grandpa soon. At the ceremony, he was so overwhelmed with emotion that tears ran down his cheeks.

He may be regarded in the pro baseball world as a person who does not mince his words, but to me and my children, he was a quiet, caring and gentle person. Indeed he seldom said anything kind, but was considerate in manners and behavior. It turned out recently that one of our neighbors sent a letter to seven former pro baseball managers asking for their autographs but none but my father responded to his request. To hear this episode, I felt very glad and proud of him. It was just like my caring, gentle father.

p.4 Report on Summer Events

A Independent Study on Baseball



From Saturday, July 19 to Sunday, August 31, an annual event, “Independent study on baseball” was held at the Baseball Library and the Event Hall (on and after July 31). A total of 428 elementary and junior high school students participated in their independent study on baseball. A subtotal of 4th to 6th graders (89, 106 and 83 respectively) accounted for 64 percent of the whole participants. On the other hand, there was an increase of lower grade elementary students: First graders from 9 last year to 20 this year, and second graders from 29 to 31 likewise.

As for their subjects of study, the most popular were baseball history (117; 23%) and implements (272; 63%). Breaking ball saw an increase over last year from 12 (3%) to 21 (5%).

Grade	History	Stadium	Implements					Breaking ball	Record	Others	
			Implement	Bat	Glove	Uniform	Ball				
E1	2		1	6	2		4		1	4	
E2	6		1	6	8	3	5	1	2	5	
E3	17	2	6	9	20		10	1	1	9	
E4	30	1	5	17	23	1	13		3	10	
E5	30	4	3	12	25	5	16	7	3	10	
E6	27	1	3	8	20	5	13	6		15	
J1	3		1	4	3		2	3		1	
J2				2	1	1	4	3		1	
J3	2						2			2	
Others	1			1	2		1			1	
Total	117	8	20	65	102	15	70	21	10	58	
(%)	23		63						5		

B Mini-mini Experiment Corner

From Thursday, July 31 until Friday, August 29, the annual presentation project “Mini-mini Experiment Corner” was held on 14 days, twice every day (at 14:00 and 15:00), for 30 minutes at the Hall of Fame Gallery. The subjects for 14:00 were: “Secrets of breaking balls (fundamentals were explained using a balloon and a cardboard),” “Let’s compare old and new gloves (a brief history of gloves, with a replica of one used in 1920s and another used nowadays on display),” and “Let’s weigh Ichiro’s spikes (hands-on experience for elementary and junior high school students).”



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 Wladimir Balentien” (another hands-on experience for elementary and junior high school students).

Participants increased by 50% over last year. Many of them took a note of the talk and made a further study at the museum library with their parents.

p.5 C Guided Tour for Elementary and Junior High School Students

By either of the curators on Saturdays and Sundays in August when there were no other events.



D Glove Making Class for Parent-Child Pairs



On Thursday, August 21, 15 pairs of parent and child chosen from 79 pairs of applicants on the website participated in a child-centered combined work of making their one and only glove in the world. They toiled, under guidance of the staff from Mizuno Corporation, about two hours in the last process, that is, piercing threads into the glove, some of them taking a snapshot.

E Bat Making Demonstration



The 14th consecutive event since 2004, on Friday, August 22 and the following day, three times and for one hour each day (11:00~12:00, 13:30~14:30, and 15:00~16:00) Craftsman Takahiro Watanabe from Mizuno Technics explained

the materials of a bat and demonstrated bat making. Three elementary students were privileged to experience paper filing. Watanabe answered miably to various questions from the floor.

p.6 F Summer Umpire School



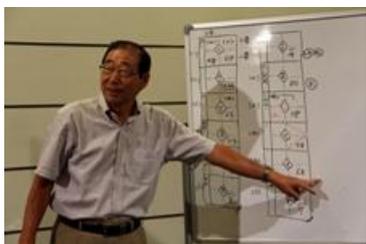
One of the new projects under the auspice of NPB. It was held on Monday, August 4 and Monday, August 11, each at 13:00.

The lecturers were Osamu Ino, former umpire-in-chief and now member of Baseball Rule Committee, Masato Tomoyose, incumbent umpire-in-chief, Natsuo Yamazaki and Takeshi Hirabayashi, both umpire instructors. They explained the history of umpires, their implement used in a game, and demonstrated how to make a judgment

in action. It proved to be a revealing experience for not young but old baseball fans who have had no opportunity to get in touch with umpires, the other important factors in baseball games.



G Let's Record a Baseball Game



The other new projects under the auspice of NPB. It was held on Tuesday, August 19. The lecturer was Shigeo Ishii, former chief scorer of the Central League. According to him, there are two scoring formats: one is Keio format adopted by NPB, the other is Waseda format adopted by amateur baseball in genera. After giving an explanation on the details of Waseda format of scoring, he demonstrated a simultaneous scoring by viewing a game on the screen. The young and old participants on the floor also wrote in their own scorebook, comparing it with the model on the board. Believably the lecture enhanced the interest of the young participants in baseball.



Topics from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (July through early October, 2014)

A Notable visitors



July 14 Shozo Etoh, manager of Keio Baseball Club, standing in front of the plaque of his brother, Shinichi Etoh, 2010 Hall of Famer.

July 17 The members of JX-ENEOS Baseball Club under manager Hideaki Okubo come to view the special exhibition, "Inter-city Baseball Championship." They would advance to the semi-finals in the 85th ICBC in the following week.



p.7 July 20 The members of JR Higashi-Nippon Baseball Club under manager Tetsuya Horii come to view the special exhibition, "Inter-city Baseball Championship." They would advance to the quarterfinals in the 85th ICBC in the following week.



July 20 Masanori Sugiura, winner of the Hashido Award two times, standing in front of his artifacts on display at the special exhibition, "Inter-city Baseball Championship"



September 9 Michael Schmidt, secretary general of the International Baseball Federation

September 9 Hideo Nomo, 2014 Hall of Famer, standing in front of artifacts on display at the special exhibition showcasing the 2014 Hall of Famers



October 10 Hisashi Yamada, 2006 Hall of Famer, franked by Shinichi Hirose, president of the BHF

B News September 12 Artifacts from the longest baseball game in the world



The winning ball, official score sheets, and white board from a semifinal game between Chukyo of Gifu Prefecture and Sotoku of Hiroshima Prefecture at the 59th National High School *Nanshiki-yakyu* Championship held at Akashi Tocalo Stadium. The semifinal started on August 28 but it was suspended at the end of the 15th inning. The game was suspended again on 29 at the 30th inning, and once again on 30 at the 45th inning. It was resumed on August 31 and in the top of the 50th inning, Chukyo scored 3 and won the game 3-0.

p.8 Visit to the U.S.A.

Natsuki Nakamoto, Administration Director



Following a visit last year by president Shinichi Hirose and librarian Taku Chinone, curator Mariko Inagaki and myself went to the U.S, visiting the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, headquarters of MLB, and three stadiums in New York and Boston. We left Narita on September 20 and returned on September 28.

Our route to Cooperstown was different from those taken by our colleagues so far. On September 22, after about five hours' ride in Amtrak from Penn Station, we were picked up at Utica Station by Tom Lyoncher, landlord of the B & B in Cooperstown where we put up. We were given an introductory explanation for a couple of hours by president Idelson on the organization, daily management and annual induction ceremony. According to him, all of the staff members are involved in the induction ceremony and its related events, to which living Hall of Famers are invited annually. Scores of thousands of baseball fans come all the way to Cooperstown to celebrate the newly inducted baseball greats together with the small residents of the town.



Senior curator Tom Sieber conducted us in the behind-the-scenes tours. It was very interesting to know that the internal accession committee decide which to accept from many materials (implements and photos) offered and that even Cooperstown, the senior (by 20 years) counterpart boasting of larger finance and facilities has a lot of the same challenging problems in collecting, preserving and exhibiting increasing materials. Both museums are trying to attract as many visitors as possible, attaching great importance to education programs (e.g., our independent study at summer vacation) to promote baseball. At Giamatti Research Center, we met James L. Gates, Jr., librarian, and Matt Rothenberg, GRC manager. Hopefully we will keep on exchanging mutual information and develop a good relationship as ever.

A reminder to our sustaining members! As you may be well aware, you are privileged with complimentary admission to the National baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown on producing your membership card due to the agreement reached between the two museums on October 1, 2006. Please make full of your membership and visit the baseball mecca sometime in the near future.

p.9 Visit to the U.S.A (Cont.)

At the headquarters of the MLB in New York, where we enjoyed watching two matchups between Yankees and Blue Jays, we met Mickey Shupin, Int. Game and Market Development, and Jimmy Rosenberg, Coordinator Int. Licensing, who are closely involved with the forthcoming Japan-U.S. competitions in November, and asked for their cooperation with our acquisition of coveted artifacts from the series.



In Boston, we met Mikio Yoshimura, Asian Business Development Specialist.

He conducted us along Fenway Stadium, explaining a long history of Boston Red Sox, its promotional and social activities, and their relations with the NBHFM and MLB.

In conclusion, we are firmly determined that we will make good use of the information we have obtained from our recent visit to the U.S.

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

Please fill in an application form at the Baseball Museum to become a sustaining member.
The application form 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.

p.10 “Learn from History” Homecoming of NPB players (Cont. Central League)

Visits (from July to September) by the representative players (44 in all) from each of the 12 clubs of the NPB in celebration of the 80th anniversary of pro baseball in Japan. Their itinerary includes paying their respect to the cenotaph near the museum in memory of the baseball players killed in WWII (See photo Top right below) As a proverb goes, they are expected to study the past to learn new things.

July 4 Chunichi Dragons



July 15 Tokyo Yakult Swallows



August 3 Hiroshima Toyo Carp



August 26 Yomiuri Giants



August 27 Hanshin Tigers



September 12 Yokohama DeNA Baystars



p.11 A Date and members of NPB players visiting the BHF
 (The photo in the middle shows their autographs and photos which are on display collectively in a shelved cabinet down the entrance stairs)

(NB) PPA: president of the players association

Date	Team	Players
May 25	Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters	Shota Ono, catcher (PPA) Takuya Nakashima, infielder Haruki Nishikawa, infielder Shohei Otani, pitcher Naoyuki Uwasawa, pitcher
May 28	Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles	Wataru Karashima, pitcher Takashi Kawai, pitcher Manabu Mima, pitcher
June 7	Saitama Seibu Lions	Kazuhisa Makita, pitcher (PPA) Yuji Kaneko, infielder Yusei Kikuchi, pitcher Fumikazu Kimura, outfielder Ken Togame, pitcher
June 9	Chiba Lotte Marines	Yuji Nishino, pitcher Yoshifumi Okada, outfielder Daichi Suzuki, infielder
June 18	Orix Buffaloes	Brandon Dickson, pitcher Yuuki Nishi, pitcher Daiki Tomei, pitcher

June 20	Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks	Nobuhiro Matsuda, infielder (PPP) Yuichi Honda, infielder Akira Nakamura, outfielder Yuuki Yanagita, outfielder
July 4	Chunichi Dragons	Yohei Oshima, outfielder (PPA) Naomichi Donoue, infielder Yudai Kawai, pitcher Kazuki Yoshimi, pitcher
July 15	Tokyo Yakult Swallows	Ryosuke Morioka, infielder (PPA) Katsuki Akagawa, pitcher Yuhei Nakamura, catcher Yasuhiro Ogawa, pitcher
August 3	Hiroshima Toyo Carp	Kenta Maeda, pitcher Daichi Osera, pitcher Takaya Toda, pitcher
August 26	Yomiuri Giants	Shuichi Murata, infielder (PPA) Itaru Hashimoto, outfielder Kentaro Nishimura, pitcher
August 27	Hanshin Tigers	Shintaro Fujinami, pitcher Yuta Iwasada, pitcher Atsushi Nomi, pitcher
September 12	Yokohama DeNA Baystars	Tatsuya Shimozono, outfielder (PPA) Shoichi Ino, pitcher Tomoya Mikami, pitcher Kentaro Takasaki, pitcher

B News from the Baseball Museum

1) Items on Sale (All prices include tax)

a) Commemorative goods celebrating the forthcoming Japan-U.S. Series (11/11~20)



- Uniform (replica, home & visitor) ¥8,430
- Muffler towel ¥1,950
- Wrist bands (in pairs) ¥1,730
- Key ring ¥ 830
- Pinned badge ¥ 720

b) Official baseball ¥2,600 Authentic standardized ball for use in the 2014 NPB.

Packing & shipping charges: ¥250 par 1, ¥400 for 2 and 3, and free for more than 3 balls.



c) Commemorative postcard featuring 2014 Hall of Famers (Hideo Nomo, Koji Akiyama, Chikara Sasaki, Choichi Aida) a set of four ¥400



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: ¥600 (*¥500)	Adults
¥400	High school and university students
¥200 (*¥150)	Elementary & Junior High School students
	(* Per person in a group of 20 or more)
¥400	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 November to January, 2014, the museum will be closed on the following days.

November 10, 17; December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 ~ 31; January 1, 19, 26

Editor's Note: Regrettably "So many to see, so much to enjoy," "Rare avis," and "News from Baseball Library" are suspended in this issue due to the shortage of space.

p.12 Artifacts dedicated to the Baseball Museum



August 8 Hitoki Iwase, Chunichi Dragons, notched 18th save against Yomiuri Giants on July 26, reaching the first 400 saves in NPB.

August 23 Motonobu Tanishige, playing manager of Chunichi Dragons, hit the first home run of this season in a game against Yokohama DeNA Baystars on July 22, marking him as the first NPB player who has hit one or more home run for 26 consecutive years.



October 2 Masahiro Yamamoto, Chunichi Dragons, took the plate on September 5 at 49 years and 25 days against Hanshin Tigers, proving himself the oldest pitcher who appeared, started and won a game. (Photo was taken at Nagoya Dome on October 1)

October 7 The 14 members of Team Japan who won the 2014 IBAF Women's World Cup at Miyazaki in September. The Team Japan, headed by Captain Akiko Shimura and pitcher Ayami Sato this year, has captured the Cup for four consecutive years. Their feat is now represented by their four trophies now on display at the Baseball Museum.

