

The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum



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

Articles in **NEWSLETTER**, Vol.25, No.2 (July, 2015)

(Translated by Ryuichi Suzuki)

p.1 Induction Ceremonies for the 2015 Hall of Famers, Part I

Shinichi Hirose, President

The Induction Ceremony for the 2015 Hall of Famers, Atsuya Furuta elected by the Players Selection Committee and Kazuo Hayashi elected by the Special Selection Committee, was held on Friday, July 17, 2015 at Tokyo Dome prior to the first game of the 2-game All-Star Series.

When Furuta played for Toyota Motor Corporation in 1988, he participated in the Seoul Olympics as a member of the All-Japan and played an active role in winning the silver medal. After joining the Yakult Swallows in 1990, he helped build their heyday as a brainy catcher and lead to their 5 pennants in the Central League and 4 victories in the Japan Series. He was the first to reach the 2,000-hit mark as a player with a career in university and corporate baseball.

In 1964, Hayashi set up the Japan Little League to propagate hard ball baseball among elementary school students. In 1970, he set up the Chofu Senior as an intermediary organization to cater to young hardball baseballers before high school. Later he arranged the merger of Little and Senior baseball. From 2005 until his death in 2009, he devoted himself to the development of young baseball population as president of Japan Little Senior (Junior High School Hardball) Baseball Association.

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 Furuta and Hayashi Jr, near to the pitcher's mound in sync with the introduction of spots of playing days of the two Hall of Famers on the big screen. Katsuhiko Kumazaki, chairman of the BHFMM, awarded them with a replica of their plaques which were to be displayed on the wall of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Then a bouquet presentation was made to Furuta from Shingo Takatsu, Furuta's batterymate and now pitching coach of the YS, and to Hayashi Jr. from Daisuke Araki, winning pitcher for the Chofu Little under the late Hayashi at the 1976 Little League World Series .

After photo taking, the two Hall of Famers made an acceptance speech followed by a standing ovation from the spectators in the stands. Furuta :“I am really moved and feel honored today. I owe much to many baseball mentors. (To spectators) Please keep on loving and rooting for Japanese baseball.” Hayashi Jr. on behalf of his late father: “I am honored to report the highest award in baseball to my father in Heaven. I am glad to mention two of the 2015 All-Stars in particular, Shinnosuke Abe and Takashi Toritani,



who had played for Little Senior baseball. I am determined to follow the steps of my father in contributing to the development of baseball in Japan.”

(Photo from left: Shingo Takatsu, Atsuya Furuta, Katsuhiko Kumazaki, and Daisuke Araki)

p. 2 Summer Events at Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

- 1) Baseball Study by Elementary and Junior High School Students; Friday, July 17 through Monday, August 31. 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, mitt~ to help them with their free study. (Photo right from 2014)

- 2) Mini-mini Experiment Corner

Two times (14:00, 15:00) each day for about 20 minutes
July 31 through August 31, excepting August 3, 10, 18 and 19.
At the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery
Subjects: How curveballs are thrown, etc.

(Photo right from 2014)



- 3) Talk-in: Summer Umpire School

13:00 ~15:00: Monday,
August 3, and Monday, August 10
At Baseball Hall of Fame gallery

Instructors: Osamu Ino, member of
Baseball Rules committee, former
umpire-in-chief Masato Tomoyori,
incumbent umpire-in-chief of NPB

Natsuo Yamazaki, former umpire and incumbent instructor of NPB
Gaku Hirabayashi, former umpire and incumbent instructor of NPB,



- 4) Talk-in: How to record a baseball game Thursday, July 30

- 5) Demonstration of bat making

Tuesday, August 18 and the following day.
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 12th 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.

6) Special Exhibition “Hall of Famers for 2015”

Through Sunday, September 27.

At the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery

The exhibition features the three 2015 Hall of Famers; Atsuya Furuta, Kazuo Hayashi and Ryohei Murayama. Artifacts and photos related to the new inductees and their plaques are on display with their biographies and records.

7) Special Exhibition: “High School Baseball and Baseball Hall of Fame”



In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Middle (now High) School Baseball Championship.

Through Sunday, September 6

At the Exhibit Hall of the Baseball Museum

Under the auspices of Japan High School Baseball Association, Asahi Shimbun and Mainichi Shimbun.

The exhibition traces the history of high school baseball and introduces Hall of Famers who played an active part in high (formerly middle) school baseball. The special features are:

a uniform worn by pitcher Masao Yoshida, 1992 HOF, who led his Chukyo Commercial (which boasts most victories both in summer and spring tournament) to three successive victories in the summer tournament); uniforms worn by those teams which won three times or more in summer and spring tournaments combined; a glove used by pitcher Juzo Sanada, 1990 HOF, who led Kaiso MS to a victory in the 26th summer tournament.



8) Special Exhibition: “Eulogy to Koshien Stadium”

Through Sunday, September 6

At Amateur Baseball Corner of the Baseball Museum

Nine poems, essays and scorebooks written by the late writer, Yu Aku, in the Sports Nippon from 1979 to 2006.

9) Tie-up project with the Museum of Hanshin Koshien Stadium

Tuesday, July 28, through Sunday, September 6.

The visitors to the Museum of Hanshin Koshien Stadium are privileged to enter our Baseball Museum with reduced admission on presentation of the admission ticket to MHKS, and vice versa.

Takako Hirose, second daughter of Masao Date, 1989 Hall of Famer



Some 20 years have passed since my father passed away. When I was a child, I was not in good health nor good at sport, so I knew little about baseball. My mother, however, told me that he used to play for Waseda University and that he took an active role in the Japan-U.S. baseball games in early days of Showa Era. His induction to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1989 was widely reported in the media. When I attended his induction ceremony as one of his family members, it came home to me once again that he was a big name in baseball world.

Two photos of my father's are hung in my sitting-room. One is a group photo of All-Japan and All-US. teams taken in 1931, in which my father stands side by side with Lefty Grove, a famous smoke ball pitcher. The other with Babe Ruth extending his arm on my father's shoulder (photo below) was taken in 1934 when Ruth came to Japan as a member of All-U.S. Incidentally he named his dog Lou, Basis, or John after Lou Gehrig, which shows how deeply he was attached to the Japan-U.S. games he had participated in. He was not alive when a big earthquake struck Kobe in 1995. I hurried to his wrecked house nearby where my mother lived alone, and helped her carry out dear household possessions. I tried to take out autographed balls and the photos related to the Japan-U.S. games, when I happened to find a memo on the display shelf: "In loaning these items to the media, you must wear gloves and take care not to smear them your fingerprints." I remember following his direction as if we did only yesterday.



When Tomoo Hirooka, former president of Asahi Shimbun and senior to my father at Ichioka Middle School, paid his homage to my father's grave, he said, "I must take off my hat to your father. He would often visit the grave of his seniors', Osamu Mihara, being one of them." It was a pleasant revelation to me. I rarely talked about baseball with him at home, but he was a gentle and fond father. My elder sister and I often sang to his organ accompaniment, so even now I can sing well Waseda's popular university song, "To the north-west of Tokyo, in the precinct of Waseda, ..."

In my later life, whenever I was in low spirits, I was encouraged by his saying: "No wild boars are bigger than a hill." "Whatever happens in this world ends in this world." Whatever happened, he stayed calm and collected. It was mainly because, when he was young, he played amid the din and excitement of large audience at Meiji Jingu Stadium. For a timid person as I was, he was a good example to follow. Regrettably I must stop recollecting my fond father, but I must mention that I wanted to see his two dreams come true. He wanted to revisit Cooperstown, mecca of baseball, with his friend Tsuneo Ikeda, president of Baseball Magazine Co. (NB Their first visit was made soon after he was inducted to Japan's Baseball Hall of Fame.) As a sequel to his book, "My Baseball History of Show Era," he wanted to write about those players who had tried assiduously but failed to be successful in baseball.

p.4 Topics From April to July (2-1)

April 8 a visit by Ernesto Maija, Saitama Seibu Lions, 2014 home run king for the Pacific League.



May 2 a visit by Yukihiro Nishizaki and Hiroshi Tsuno, both pitched for Nippon Ham Fighters.



May 14 A press conference for Mazda All-Star Games 2015 was held at the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery, attended by the both skippers, Kimiyasu Kudoh (PC) and Tatsunori Hara (CL) and Atsunori Inaba, Dream Kids Adviser.



May 27 Artifacts of Daisuke Miura, Yokohama DeNA Baystars, on display until July 17. He pitched against Tokyo Yakult Swallows on May 5, 2015, and marked a victory for the 23 consecutive years, tied by Masa Yamamoto (Chunichi Dragons) and Kimiyasu Kudoh (Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks).



May 28 A visit by Antony Seratelli, Saitama Seibu Lions, in conjunction with the Lions Day (v. page 6)



June 20 A visit by Motonobu Tanishige, catcher and manager of Chunichi Dragons, and Kazuhiro Wada (CD). Tanishige hit a home run on May 5, 2015, against Hanshin Tigers, marking the NPB record of hitting a home run for 27 consecutive years. Wada marked the 2000th-hit against Chiba Lotte Marines on June 11, 2015.



June 22 Press conference for WBSA Premier 12 Professional was held at the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery, attended by Hiroki Kokubo, manager of Samurai Japan, Sadaharu Oh, special adviser of Samurai Japan, and Katsuhiko Kumazaki, NPB commissioner. The first WBSA Premier 12 is slated to be held in Chinese Taiwan and Japan November 8 through 21 with the participation of 12 countries ranked top (Japan) to the 12th (Mexico) in the world. The first game of Round 1 (a round robin tournament) held at Sapporo between Korea and Japan on November 8. At the press conference, Japanese leaders talked about their enthusiasm and determination for the coming world tournament.



June 28 A visit by a squad of 230 rookies of the Tokyo Big6 Baseball League after they attended a instruction seminar held at Meiji University nearby.



June 29 A visit by Tomoya Mori, a new phenom of Saitama Seibu Lions, in time for the start of the special exhibition, “High School Baseball and the Baseball Hall of Fame,” with a definite item in view. When he played for Osaka Toin HS in 2012, the Toin Nine clinched the spring and summer tournaments at Koshien Stadium and their championship medals were on display on the very day.



June 29 BHF’s original baseball charms were presented to University Japan team (manager Tatsuya Yoshinami and captain Seishiro Sakamoto) prior to the send-off game against the picked NPB. The UJ is slated to participated in the Universiade. The baseball charms will be presented to the representative team of other categories. .



July 15 A visit by Seino Transportation baseball club headed by manager Norio Hayashi to inspect the exhibition, “Inter-City Baseball Tournament.” They would participate in the 86th ICBT at Tokyo Dome.



July 19 Talk-in, “Koshien and I” in conjunction with the special exhibition, “High School Baseball and the



Baseball Hall of Fame,” which commemorates the 100th anniversary of high school baseball. One of the panelists was Akira Inoue, a former Asahi Shimbun journalist who had pitched for Matsuyama Commercial HS against Koji Ohta of Misawa HS in the final of the 51st NHBC in 1969. This pitching



duel extended to a tie in the 18th inning and ended in the ensuing day, culminating in a victory by Matsuyama. The other was Toshiharu Shimamura, who had made a live reports on NHK from many games. The two panelists recollected minutely on the game with its image shown on the screen in front of them. Inoue also talked about games he later watched and reported.

p. 6 Fans Appreciation Days

Members of each of the 12 Fan Clubs of the NPB have been invited (free for elementary and Junior high school students) to the Baseball Museum on their Fan Day prepared for them from April 8 through September 2. On most of these occasions, they were blessed with a museum tour with their mascots. Every preparation on the part of the BHFMB has been made to cater to the particular fans; original postcard to be presented to the first 300 members with membership card; 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 at the baseball theater; easy access to their literature at the Baseball Library, etc.



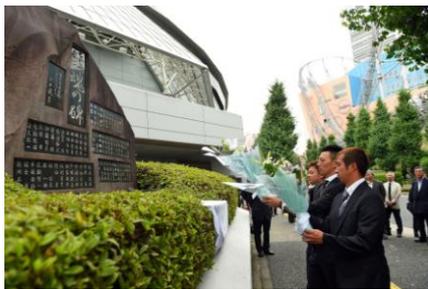


April 8 Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters
 May 13 Hiroshima Toyo Carp
 May 28 Saitama Seibu Lions
 June 20 Chunichi Dragons
 June 29 Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks
 July 11 Hanshin Tigers

April 11 Yomiuri Giants
 May 16 Tokyo Yakult Swallows
 June 3 Orix Buffaloes
 June 24 Yokohama DeNA Baystars
 July 3 Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles

N.B. Chiba Lotte Mariners day is slated to be held on Tuesday, September 2.

p.7 (A) Floral tribute to the Cenotaph on July 17



On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, Motohiro Shima (Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles) and Akihiro Higashide (Hiroshima Toyo Carp) offered flowers at the Cenotaph dedicated to the memory of those pro baseball players who were mobilized to the front during the WWII and unfortunately never returned. It was originally built in 1981 and moved to the present site in 1988 when Tokyo Dome was completed. 73 pro players are enshrined.

Information Wanted

Incidentally, the BHFMM is searching for information on the war dead of the WW II, (1) who had played for the pre-war NPB and are now either enshrined or yet to be enshrined, (2) who had played for the pre-war schools or universities and participated in any of the following categories: (a) the Summer and/or Spring national tournament at Koshien Stadium, (b) university leagues in Tokyo and Osaka, and (c) Inter-city Baseball Tournament, and now either enshrined or yet to be enshrined to the Baseball Monument, which was dedicated in the Baseball Museum in 2005.

For more details, please refer to Toshimasa Fudetani, Business director of the BHFMM at 03-3811-3600.

(B) News from the Baseball Museum

- 1) The members of the BHFMM board of directors met on Thursday, May 21 and approved (1) reports on activities and statement of accounts for the fiscal year of 2014 and (2) the agenda of the directors' meeting, and also talked on Monday, June 8 at the same place about (1) selection of the chairman (representative director), and (2) selection of the executive director.
- 2) The members of the BHFMM councilors met on Monday, June 8 and approved (1) the reports on the 2014 balance sheet and income account (the statement of net property increase and decrease), (2) the revision of the certificate of incorporation, and (3) selection of directors and the auditor.
- 3) Changes in the Staff

- a) Resigning Administration Director. Natsuki Nakamoto was transferred to Personnel Section, in charge of career development, of Tokyo Dome. Inc. on June 1, 2015.
- b) New Director, Projects and Publicity Toshimasa Fudetani (b.1962)



On graduating from First Literature Department of Waseda University in 1986, he entered Korakuen Co., Ltd. (now Tokyo Dome Co.) and worked at merchandising, facilities, and restaurant & souvenir sale sections before becoming director of Tokyo Dome Hotel. He was transferred to the BHFH on April 28, 2015.

- c) New Manager, Business Management Tomoo Yasuda (b.1967)



On graduating from Economics Department of Rikkyo University in 1991, he entered Tokyo Dome Co. and worked at concessions, amusement park, and restaurant & Souvenir sale sections. He was transferred to the BHFH on April 28, 2015.

4) On sale

- 1) “Baseball Hall of Fame 2015” ¥2,700 including tax.

The first official guide of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in three years, including the bios of 10 additional Hall of Famers and other new articles.



- 2) Baseball (Lucky) Charm ¥ 800 including tax.

Believe it or not, it will keep you from injury, improve your baseball ability and help your and/or your favorite team win the game.



5) 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 groups 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 August to October, the museum will be closed on the following days.

August, open all days; September 7, 14 and 28, October 5, 19 and 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.

p.8 Essay (60) Adaptability Sei Shimoda, Yomiuri Shimbun
Director of Players Selection Committee

"Adaptability" means the ability to change in order to be successful in a new and different situation. For three seasons from 2009, I had the opportunity to cover games of the MLB. After arriving in the U.S., I was surprised to see Hiroki Kuroda pitching for the Los Angeles Dodgers. I used to watch him pitching as the ace for the Hiroshima Toyo Carp. To me, he was a typically hard-throwing pitcher, throwing fastballs with all his might. I found a different Kuroda in the U.S. It is true that he sometimes threw fastballs as he did in Japan, but mostly he threw two-seam fastballs on the inside corner. Instead of trying to strike out batters one after another as he did in his Hiroshima days, he tried to make the batters hit grounders by not allowing them to hit the ball on the meat of the bat.

He was well aware, he told me, that his fastballs did not work well in his first season in the Major Leagues (2008), though he notched a record of 9-10. I was surprised at his adaptability to conform to Major League baseball by abandoning his familiar style. Many Japanese Major leaguers seem to stick to their old style, believing in their experience in Japan. For example, when Hideo Nomo (Kintetsu Buffaloes) moved to the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1995, he notched a 13-6 record with his famous "tornado" pitching. In the case of Daisuke Matsuzaka, my contemporary with the Boston Red Sox, I did not see much difference from his Seibu Lions days.

It may be difficult to judge which way is correct. But from the point of achieving a stable record for a long time in Major Leagues, it seems to me that, to seek a new way to adapt oneself to a new situation like Kuroda, is a better approach to success. From this aspect, Ichiro Suzuki of the Florida Marlins may be the most balanced. In 2009, he began muscle training to increase his weight in preparing to play in the Major Leagues the following year. But, after his first season in the Majors, he decided to go back to his former weight. The reason was simple enough. He felt himself too heavy to play comfortably. Injuries can occur in the Majors more easily, with more games played and more distances to travel than in Japan. If he feels something wrong with his body, he takes it as a suspected injury. He is sensitive to conditions of every part of his body. To keep his best performance means everything to him.

Once his direction is settled, he is well aware what he should do. He hit more than 20 home runs every year in Japan, but he is not intent on hitting the long ball in the Majors. Seeing him clearing the fence in the batting practice, Ken Griffey, Jr., said, "He ought to hit more home runs in a game," but Ichiro would not listen to this advice. He was fully confident to follow his style once he figured out how to succeed in the Majors.

Every person encounters a turning point in his or her life. We are faced with a decision which way to take: to stick to the former style or adjust to a new one by forming a clear view of the situation. Indeed, we can learn much from baseball.