



The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

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

(The English version prepared by Mariko Inagaki)

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Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Official App launched!

Shinichi Hirose, President

Over the last few years, we have been considering the development of new interpretive aids such as audio guide. Also, with more international visitors coming to our museum, we started looking for a way to correspond to the trend of multi-lingualization. We placed the primary focus on the Hall of Fame Gallery, because we believe, by coming up with a unique service/tool for the main gallery in our museum, we would be able to enhance our visitor experience and consequently increase attendance numbers.



In January 2015, we received a proposal from the ITEC Hankyu Hanshin Co., Ltd. and the Dream Online Inc. It was about a smart device application that enables visitors to access videos and photos of the Baseball Hall of Famers by using smartphones and other devices. Compared to providing information using the audio guide which we had in mind previously, this app seemed to be much more interesting and memorable approach to reveal a variety of information about the Baseball Hall of Famers and create more complete pictures of their baseball career, especially for those in younger generation who have never seen them playing in the field before. Moving image and/or photograph of the

player itself does transcend language boundaries. Since this app is also available in English, I am certain that our international visitors will also be able to enjoy and gain a better understanding of the Japanese Hall of Famers.



Around that time, we had also been working together with the Nippon Television Network Corporation and the Nippon Television AX-ON Inc. to develop a video footage that introduces each of the Baseball Hall of Famers. We eventually put these projects together and, after much consultation with both sides, the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Official App has finally been unveiled.



The press conference to announce the new app was held on March 14.

Following the speech by Katsuhiko Kumazaki, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Kazuhiro Sasaki (2014 HOF), who was invited as a guest, scanned his plaque into his smartphone and enjoyed watching a short video depicting him pitching for the Yokohama Baystars. If you have never tried yet, please come and give it a try. We hope you will enjoy our app.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to express our deepest appreciation for those who have supported us in this matter.

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Guide to the Baseball Hall of Fame Official App:

On March 14, the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum launched the official smart device application. It can be downloaded free from both the Apple App Store for iOS devices and the Google Play store for Android devices.

Features:

1. It uses augmented reality technology that enables you to access exclusive contents such as videos and photos of the Hall of Famers if you use it within the Hall of Fame Gallery.
2. It enables you to browse information about the Hall of Famers including photos from the Hall of Fame induction ceremonies.
3. It provides you with the latest news and updates about the museum.
4. “Photospot Camera” function enables you to take a snapshot and merge it with our museum’s original character *Kyuto*’s frames to your image (examples shown right). The photo spots are hidden away somewhere in the museum but you will be able to find them as you explore the museum.



How to download the free Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Official App:

Visit Apple App Store for iOS device or Google Play store for Android device. Browse “Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum” to find the app and tap the icon to download. Alternatively, you may scan the QR codes shown right to download.



iOS

Android

How to access the videos and photos of the Baseball Hall of Famers using “AR Camera” function:

“AR Camera” function is only available within the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery. Tap “AR Camera” function to open. Hold up your device to the plaque until the app recognizes the image. Make sure you frame the plaque within the white-lined frame. As of March 2016, about 20-second long video is automatically played when you scan the plaque of 91 Hall of Famers who played professional baseball.

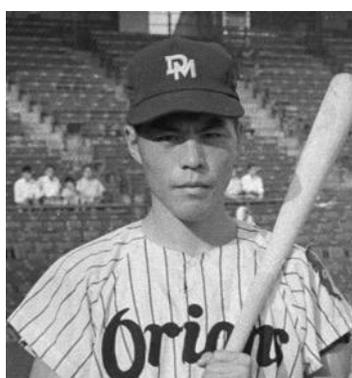
This is followed by their photos and textual information. For the remaining the Hall of Famers, photos are automatically displayed followed by textual information.

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Inductees Remembered (51) A Memory of my father Kihachi Enomoto

Yoshihide Enomoto (Son of the late Kihachi Enomoto, 2016 HOF)

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the BHF, for giving me this opportunity to write about my father. In fact, I have only a few memories of him, so I wrote this essay with my mother who, though advanced in age, shares many fond memories of him.



(Photo: BBM)

As you may already know, he played an active role with the Mainichi Orions (current Chiba Lotte Marines) in 1950s and '60s and was the first to be nicknamed a 'hit-making machine.' Behind the scenes, he would train very hard every day at home. Once he started his several-hours-long "batting practice" in the tatami-floored room, he was absolutely in utmost earnest. His serious attitude toward mastering *yakyu-do* kept even his family away. However, as soon as I heard his car coming into the garage, my younger brother and I would always come rushing to the door to welcome my father home from work. Actually, we wanted to see the prizes he received from the game. We were expecting something like a baseball board game. It was all too clear to him, but he always greeted us with a smile. He was a man with brawny arms, a nice dark tan and white teeth, and was our invincible mighty superhero.

My father was born into a poor farmer family. He joined professional baseball outside of the draft system with his strong desire to support his parents and brothers. He was named Rookie of the Year and spent his very first salary to rescue his family's house and farms that had almost fallen into someone's hands. He spent his entire baseball career striving for the perfect batting form, and that is why he was often described as " Kihachi Enomoto. Profession: baseball player. Hobby: everything about baseball." However, when it came to his family issues, he was such a gentle and caring father and husband, so as to put his family first and himself second all the time. During the off-season, he often took us for a trip in his favorite car. He always brought his favorite camera and took many pictures. My mother smiled wryly, telling me that most of the pictures were of his kids. My father devoted a lot of attention especially to my younger brother, and he would drag him out for driving for a change. He treasured his favorite car and camera and used them



(Photo: BBM)

for years. We still keep his camera as a fond token of remembrance.

He often said to us, “Try to buy a quality product and take good care of it for a long time.” He might have made it a policy as he grew up poor and had a really hard time.

I only remember the time later in his baseball career. However, when I attended the press conference announcing the 2016 Hall of Fame inductees at the BHF in January, I had opportunities to hear many episodes about my father from the people such as Isao Harimoto, who knew my father’s active days very well. Also, some of them came to shake hands with me and said with tears in their eyes, “I am very happy for you.” I was grateful to know that my father, who spent his life just striving to master his batting, was actually a distinguished batter and received much recognition from many individuals.

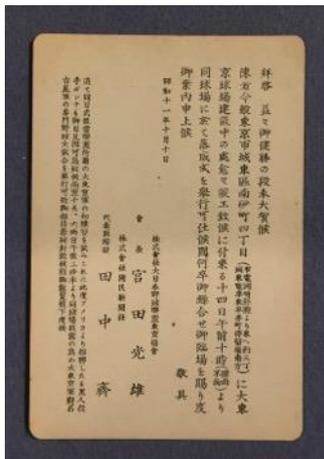
My father, the late Kihachi Enomoto, is now one of the Baseball Hall of Fame inductees. It is an honorable proof that his contribution to professional baseball is officially recognized, and our family is very grateful his name will be known to future generations.

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Rara avis (86) Invitation Card of Susaki Stadium Opening Ceremony
– Ballpark circumstances in 1930s

Takahiro Sekiguchi, curator

The Nippon Professional Baseball League (current NPB, Nippon Professional Baseball Organization) was founded in 1936. In their very first regular season, seven venues were used for the games, namely Totsuka Stadium (attached to Waseda University, Tokyo), Yamamoto (later Yagoto) Stadium (Nagoya), Narumi Stadium (Nagoya), Koshien Stadium (Kansai area), Takarazuka Stadium (Kansai area), Kami Igusa Stadium (Tokyo, opened in August 1936) and Susaki stadium (Tokyo, opened in Oct 1936).



Since there were no ballparks exclusive to professional baseball in the Tokyo area, both Kami Igusa and Susaki stadiums were constructed simultaneously and for that reason, perhaps, both stadiums were also known as “Tokyo Stadium.”

The picture shown here is the Invitation Card of the Susaki Stadium Opening Ceremony. It was the home of the Dai Tokyo baseball club. The team and Kokumin Shimbun, its parent company, leased the property which used to be a storage yard of the Tokyo Gas company. The construction was completed in only two months. The opening ceremony was held on October 14 and, according to the above-mentioned card, Dai Tokyo players were to do their first practice at the stadium after the ceremony, but the previous day’s rainfall washed it out.

Instead, Jimmy Bonna, a much publicized pitcher from the U.S., made his first pitching practice in front of the media. It seems, however, he did not perform well, for The NPBL Journal (November 1937) reported his release from the team. As Susaki Stadium was located near the sea, the games would often get cancelled as a result of seawater flooding the field during high tides. However, the name of Susaki Stadium remains in baseball history as the home to the legendary three-game playoff between the Giants and the Tigers in 1936.

The following year saw the openings of Nishinomiya Stadium in the Kansai area and Korakuen Stadium in the central part of Tokyo. Games began to be played mainly at Korakuen, Nishinomiya and Koshien stadiums*, while they ceased to be played at Kami Igusa Stadium in the then-suburbs of Tokyo and at the unfavorably located Susaki Stadium.

The Invitation Card of the Susaki Stadium Opening Ceremony is currently on display at the Special Exhibition: "Early History of Japanese Professional Baseball" (ends on May 29, at the temporary exhibition gallery of the BHFMM). The short footage depicting Game 3 of the 1936 playoff between the Giants and the Tigers at Susaki Stadium is especially on loan and shown in the gallery. The play of the legendary pitcher Eiji Sawamura (1959 HOF) is also depicted. We are looking forward to your visit to the BHFMM.



(Photo: A monument commemorating the former site of the Susaki Stadium)

*In those days, especially in the initial year, several teams would travel together from one place to another and play three or four games daily for several days. The Japanese franchise system was started later in 1952.

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March 4 Winner of the Best Shot of the Year Award announced

The temporary exhibition “News Photographs of Baseball 2015” (Jan 26 – Feb 28, 2016) displayed about 70 photos that capture dramatic scenes from the 2015 baseball season, professional and amateur, taken by photojournalists belonging to the Tokyo Press Photographers Association. Visitors to the exhibition took part in voting for their favorite photo, and Masahiko Ikeuchi of the Hochi Shimbun who presented the photo titled “Sakamoto’s Determined Headfirst Slide Into Home Plate” won the award by receiving 227 votes out of a total of 2,232 votes.

	Title	Organization/ Photographer	Votes
1	Sakamoto’s Determined Headfirst Slide Into Home Plate	Hochi Shimbun/ Masahiko Ikeuchi	227
2	Kuroda Back to Japan	Nikkan Sports / Meika Fujio	187
3	Masa Yamamoto The Last Mound	Jiji Press/ Mariko Ishizuka	103
4	Sake-spurting Celebrations of Hawks’ Victory	Tokyo Sports/ Keisuke Shoji	98
5	Despite Otani’s Outstanding Pitching...	Sports Nippon Newspapers/ Yuuki Ozaki	88
6	Shinnosuke Abe on the Road to Recovery With Shigeo Nagashima’s Advice	Nikkan Sports/ Shun Matsumoto	69
7	Okoye’s Diving Catch; Kanto Daiichi High School	Sports Nippon Newspapers/ Takashi Houjo	69
8	Yanagita’s Slam Broke the Scoreboard	Sports Nippon Newspapers/ Takeo Shinohara	62
9	“Piece Night Game” Commemorating 70th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing	Daily Sports/ Toshinari Idetsuki	55
10	Manager Kiyoshi Nakahata	Hochi Shimbun/ Jun Imanishi	51



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KAWA	DeNA
8 荒波	波崎
6 白崎	川谷
4 石川	谷手
9 梶井	手
3 井手	5
143 km	バルティリス
85 球	



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| 10 | | |

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Topics from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

January 2016 through April 2016

January 27, Akiko Shimura, WBSC Women’s World Cup captain visited the Museum (Photo:Left)
 February 5, Miami Marlins executives visited the Museum
 They are: Marlins President David Samson, Senior Vice President P.J. Loyello and Jeff Conine, a member of the World Series Champions in 1997 and 2003. (Photo:Middle)

February 20, Siena Saxophone and trumpet concert held in the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery (Photo:Right)



2016 Pre-season Events:

March 26 & 27, Bat-making demonstration
Twice on both days: 10:30~11:30, 12:00~13:00
Craftsman Takahiro Watanabe of Mizuno Technics demonstrated bat-making for 20 minutes, followed by an engaging Q&A session.



April 2, Talk by baseball professionals: umpires
The lecturers were Osamu Ino, former umpire-in-chief and now member of Baseball Rules Committee (Photo:Left), and Masato Tomoyose, incumbent umpire-in-chief (Photo:Right.) Contents included main duties for umpires and the new rule on collisions at home plate.



Invitation to Fan Appreciation Days:
Younger members (junior high school students and under) of each of the fan clubs of the 12 NPB teams are invited free to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum on the following days.

Saitama Seibu Lions	20 – 21 Mar	Hanshin Tigers	27 – 29 May
Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles	19 – 20 Apr	Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks	26 – 27 Jun
Yokohama DeNA Baystars	22 – 24 Apr	Yomiuri Giants	8 – 10 Jul
Hiroshima Toyo Carp	3 – 5 May	Chiba Lotte Marines	12 – 13 Jul
Orix Buffaloes	10 – 11 May	Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters	31 Aug – 1 Sep
Tokyo Yakult Swallows	13 – 15 May	Chunichi Dragons	2 – 4 Sep

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News from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

New member of the staff:

From April, Mami Hayashi assumed her position as co-curator. She graduated from the Graduate School of Humanities, Ibaraki University, in 2013, majoring in Modern Japanese History. From 2014 to 2016, she worked for the Katsushika Ward Office in Tokyo and compiled historical materials of the local area.



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Essays (63) The model for shortening game times

Tadahiro Jimbo, The Mainichi Newspaper, Director of the Players Selection Committee

Shortening game times is one of the efforts NPB has been addressing in recent years. Baseball has no time limit and, in my opinion, this has made baseball different from other sports. Also baseball often involves the manipulation of “Ma”, the mental and physical interval and rhythm between pitcher and batter, which has brought much fun to baseball. However, according to NPB, statistics show fast-paced sports are preferred by the younger generation, and the time commitment has become one of the negative factors of keeping young people away from baseball.

Last year, NPB established the Game Operation Committee. Members from NPB teams, umpires and Japan Professional Baseball Players Association regularly get together and discuss concrete plans to play the games at a faster pace. During the 2015 season, the average game time during the regular season was 3 hours and 13 minutes. Although it was decreased by four minutes from previous season, it is still far from their goal.

By the way, this topic reminds me of the famous game played on May 24, 1942 between Taiyo (current Yokohama DeNA Baystars) and Nagoya (current Chuichi Dragons) at Korakuen Stadium. It was the professional baseball record 28-inning marathon game which ended in a 4 - 4 tie. What surprises me is the game took only 3 hours and 47 minutes. I guess it would take more than nine hours if such a game was played today.

Pitchers Jiro Noguchi of Taiyo (1989 HOF, b.1920, d.2007) and Michio Nishizawa of Nagoya (1977 HOF, b.1921, d.1977) completed the 28 innings and threw 344 and 311 pitches respectively. It is unfortunate

Nishizawa died early, and I did not have a chance to see him. Instead, I got an opportunity to interview Noguchi and ask about this particular game.

“At that time the country was under military control, which inspired a trend in sports that games should be fought to the finish: there should not be undecided games. The authorities had a very black-and-white view of everything. That’s why we went all the way to the 28th inning until sunset.” In midsummer 2003, the 83-year-old Noguchi said quietly. “In those days games would finish incredibly fast. The speedy game play was one of the good parts of baseball”. It is completely the opposite from now. “Pitchers would rush to the mound and the outfielders would run quickly to their places. Don’t you think current players are receiving quite a few signs from the dugout? I think you can make the game faster by letting players make their own decisions.”

Players should try to reduce wasted motions in every activity and play games as briskly as possible. The teams should try to minimize signs from the dugout and encourage individual initiative. I think this is a perfect model for shortening game time.

There were many interesting stories I never knew before, as I only remember watching professional baseball on TV from the late 1970s. For example, one day before the marathon game, Noguchi pitched a one-hitter, having his no-hitter broken up with one out in the 9th inning. He said “I did not expect to take the mound the next day, so I got drunk on a pub crawl after the game.” Probably everyone else will think so.

“The very next day, however, it turned out I was the starter again. It did not surprise me much though, as the number of players was fewer in those days, and we did not know our position and batting order till we got to the stadium. But I did not expect it was going to be a 28-inning marathon game.” He continued, “I did not really feel tired when I was still in uniform after the game. I even felt as if I could make another couple of innings.” However, once he got back to his room, he totally lost his appetite and said, “I only had clam soup and went to sleep like a log.”

Noguchi ended the interview by saying, “When I was young, it was thought of as a normal thing to pitch for an entire game and even for an entire tournament. It may sound harsh, but by thinking how to get through it, you may make a certain kind of breakthrough.” Some may disregard this as a story of a man of past days. However, I believe his words still stand up throughout the ages.

◁Guide to the Baseball Hall of Fame and 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 more

Closed: Mondays except those

- 1) during the spring and summer school holidays,
- 2) that fall on National Holidays,
- 3) when a pro baseball game is held at Tokyo Dome.

N.B. In other words, from April to June, the museum will be closed on:
April 11, 18 and 25; May 9, 16, 23 and 30; June 6, 13, and 20.