



The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

Articles in NEWSLETTER, Vol.26, No.2 (Aug, 2016)

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

(The English version prepared by Mariko Inagaki)

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The Induction Ceremony for the 2016 Baseball Hall of Famers elected by the Players Selection Committee
Shinichi Hirose, President

The Induction Ceremony for the 2016 Hall of Famers, Masaki Saitoh, Kimiyasu Kudo and the late Kihachi Enomoto elected by the Players Selection Committee was held on Friday, July 15, 2016 at the Fukuoka Yafuoku! Dome prior to the first game of the 2-game All-Star Series.

Masaki Saitoh, who was elected in the Players Division, set the NPB record of 11 straight complete games. He has a brilliant career as an ace pitcher for the Yomiuri Giants, having earned 3 Sawamura Awards and 5 most-win titles (second in NPB). Kimiyasu Kudo, who was also elected in the Players Division, piled up 224 wins in 29-year baseball career (NPB tie record). He appeared in the Japan Series 14 times (tied with Sadaharu Oh), in which he won 11 titles and nicknamed as “championship contractor”.

The late Kihachi Enomoto, who was elected in the Experts Division, amassed 100 or more hits for 15 consecutive years starting from his rookie year and became the youngest to reach 2,000 hits at the age of 31 years old and 7 months. Nicknamed as “hit-making machine”, he made great contributions to the Mainichi Orions as a consistent batter amongst the Orion’s “Missile Lineup”.

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 dugouts. As the public address system called Saito, Kudo and Yoshihide Enomoto, son of the late Kihachi Enomoto, they walked into the infield near the pitcher’s plate in sync with the introduction of their playing days on the big screen. Katsuhiko Kumazaki, Chairman of Board of Directors at the BHFMM, awarded them with a replica of their plaques which were to be displayed on the wall of the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery. Then a bouquet presentation was made to them from Sadaharu Oh. Oh was the manager when Saitoh played for the Giants, he played baseball in the Waseda Business School as Enomoto did, and he is a current Chairman of the Board of Fukuoka Softbank Hawks where Kudo is currently managing.



Photo from left: Masaki Saitoh, Katsuhiko Kumazaki, Kimiyasu Kudo, Sadaharu Oh, Yoshihide Enomoto

After photo session, the three Hall of Famers made an acceptance speech. Saitoh: “I am grateful to all the people who have supported me.” Kudo: “I feel greatly honored to have been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, especially in front of a lot of baseball fans. I will devote much effort to train and develop young players into future Baseball Hall of Famers.” Yoshihide Enomoto: “I am very pleased for the recognition my father received. I firmly believe he is deeply glad to receive this honor and be celebrated by you all today.” The ceremony ended with huge round of applause from the spectators.

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Induction Ceremony for the 2016 Baseball Hall of Famers elected by the Special Selection Committee
Shinichi Hirose, President

The Induction Ceremony for the 2016 Hall of Famers, the late Takizo Matsumoto and Masatake Yamanaka elected by the Special Selection Committee was held on Saturday, May 28, 2016 prior to the game between the Waseda University and the Keio University at the Meiji Jingu Stadium, which is the mecca of student baseball.

Born in Hiroshima Prefecture in 1901, Matsumoto moved to U.S. with his family and spent his early days there. Upon his return to Japan, he was admitted to the Koryo Junior High School before entering the Meiji University where he accompanied the 1929 Meiji University baseball team’s world tour as its manager. After the WWII, he made an enormous contribution to the recovery of Japanese baseball including the National Invitational High School Baseball Tournament through negotiations with GHQ. He headed the Japanese executive committees during the San Francisco Seal’s goodwill tour of Japan, the first of its kind after the WWII, and the Nonprofessional Inter-hemisphere Series. In addition, when the Amateur Baseball Association was first set up in 1949, he assumed an advisory role and became its Deputy Chairman in 1955. By taking advantage of his English proficiency, he had dedicated himself to the resumption of baseball in the postwar period.

Yamanaka was born in Oita Prefecture in 1947. After entering the Hosei University, he played an active role for its baseball club from the spring onward and ended up with a great achievement by accumulating 48 wins, the Tokyo Big6 League record for most wins. Upon graduation, he joined the Sumitomo Metal Industries Baseball Club and participated in the Inter-City Baseball Championships for six consecutive years. In 1981, he became a manager and won the Inter-City Baseball Championship in 1982. At the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, he coached for the Team Japan to capture the Silver medal, and then managed it to the Bronze medal at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. In 1994, he became a manager of the Hosei University Baseball Club and won seven times in the Tokyo Big6 Baseball League and once in the National University Baseball Championship. Both as a player and manager, he has contributed greatly to the development of the amateur baseball.



Photo from left: Yuya Yanagi, Mr.&Mrs.Matsumoto, Katsuhiko Kumazaki, Mr.&Mrs.Yamanaka, Taiki Morikawa

The players and managers of the Waseda and the Keio lined up in front of their dugouts, and Manro Matsumoto, son of the late Takizo Matsumoto and Masatake Yamanaka walked into the infield near the pitcher’s plate while the big screen projected a visual bio of the Hall of Famers. Matsumoto and Yamanaka were awarded with a replica of their plaque from the Chairman Katsuhiko Kumazaki and bouquets were presented from Yuya Yanagi, captain of the Meiji Baseball Club to Matsumoto and from Taiki Morikawa, captain of the Hosei Baseball Club to Yamanaka. After photo session, Matsumoto made an acceptance speech for his father. “I feel most grateful that my father, who has been somewhat buried in history, was discovered and inducted to the Baseball Hall of Fame”. Yamanaka said, “What I have gained through the Tokyo Big6 Baseball League and the Meiji Jingu Stadium were the spirit of learning and friendship. Baseball taught me the value of learning. I will devote myself to the further development of baseball.”

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Inductees Remembered (52) A Memory of my father Takizo Matsumoto

Manro Matsumoto (Son of the late Takizo Matsumoto, 2016 HOF)



It has been 57 years since my father passed away, the more time passes, the fewer there are who have known him in his lifetime. Therefore, I am very grateful to receive this wonderful honor which gave my father, who has been somewhat buried in history, a chance to be discovered and recognized again. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those who have made this happen.

Soon after my father was born, he moved to U.S. with his mother and grew up in Fresno, California. From what I have heard, he was a smart boy and would always have top grades during his school days including at the Fresno High School where he was given the president of the student council. It was a time when strong prejudice against Japanese continued to exist within the country. Under the circumstances, a Japanese boy who represented and led the entire student body inspired the local Japanese Americans and encouraged them to have pride as Japanese.

When he returned to Japan, he first entered the 3rd grade at the Koryo Junior High School before entering the Meiji University to further develop his Japanese language skill. He joined the Meiji University baseball club and this became the catalyst that brought his career into the baseball world.

During his time at the Meiji University, there was a group of people who were called the “Big Three Eccentric Students” i.e., Masao Koga who would play guitar day and night, Takeo Miki who would engage in oratory much of the time, and Takizo Matsumoto who was a prominent English-speaking student.

He took part in, and won the Japan-U.S School English Debate Tournament. His English ability was much appreciated by the Meiji University thus he remained there as a professor candidate after graduation. When he was working as an assistant professor, he got an opportunity to study business administration at the Harvard Business School. This academic background later helped him a great deal in the resumption of baseball during the postwar period. He was also sent to the National University in Philippine during the WWII. The broad

connections he developed during that time later turned out to be a great help to him for the establishment of the Baseball Federation of Asia and the Asian Games.

At the end of the WWII, the Allied Powers were set up to supervise and rebuild Japan. From what I have heard, one of the members of the US Marine Corps who was in the first batch of troops, told people to seek my father out. A friend of my father who happened to learn about this advised him, saying “Get away from here or you are going to be arrested by GHQ for war crime.” My father, however, turned himself in to the authority and found that the Marine was actually a high school classmate who was eagerly looking forward to catching up with his old friend in Japan. Furthermore, there was a Harvard alumnus in the main body of GHQ which also gave my father a positive impact on negotiations with General MacArthur, SCAP.

In 1946, when the first postwar general election to the House of Representatives was held, Takeo Miki who later became a Prime Minister, suggested my father to go into politics. My father was elected to the House of Representatives and dedicated himself to Japan’s recovery from the war. He stood in his belief; “Japan to regain pride with a smile”, and part of his activities was to work towards the recovery of baseball in Japan. He set up the Parliamentary Association for the Development of Baseball and made efforts toward the requisition of the Meiji Jingu Stadium and the Korakuen Stadium from GHQ. He also contributed much to the invitations of American baseball teams to Japan as well as Japanese team’s oversea tours.

Baseball is certainly the part of his life. It is with much pleasure for him to have been given the most prestigious honor, the Baseball Hall of Fame. I cannot thank you enough for all of your great effort and support for us.

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2016 Summer Events at the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

Jul 21 to Aug 31, Baseball Study by Elementary and Junior High School Students

At the Library and the Temporary Exhibition Gallery.

History, equipment, stadiums, terminology and statistics of baseball will provide good topics for the independent study projects for elementary and junior high school students. Our staff will be available to assist them with accessing library material and introducing artifacts on display i.e. bats, gloves and jerseys to help them with their projects.



Jul 21 to Aug 31, Mini-mini Experiment Corner

Two times each day (14:00- and 15:00-, except event days) for about 20 minutes.

At the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery.



Photos from past events

Aug 6 & Aug 12, Talk: Summer Umpire School

14:00 - 16:00 at the Event Hall.

Instructors: Osamu Ino (Member of Baseball Rules Committee, former Executive Director of Umpiring), Masato Tomoyose (Executive Director of Umpiring), Natsuo Yamazaki (Member of Umpiring Technical Committee), Hitoshi Watarida (ibid), Takeshi Hirabayashi (ibid), and Takayasu Sakaemura (ibid).



Photo from past event

Aug 23 & Aug 24, Bat-Making Demonstration

11:00 - 12:00, 13:30 - 14:30 and 15:00 - 16:00

At the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery,

with cooperation by the Mizuno Corporation.

The craftsman will demonstrate the art of bat-making and also be ready to answer any questions to help students' independent study projects.



Photo from past event

Jul 15 to Sep 25, Special Exhibition "2016 Hall of Famers"

At the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery.

The exhibition features the three 2016 Hall of Famers elected by the Players Selection Committee: Masaki Saitoh, Kimiyasu Kudo and Kihachi Enomoto. Artifacts and photos related to the new inductees and their plaques are on display with their biographies and career records.



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Fans Appreciation Days

The BHFMM offers junior members of each of the 12 NPB Fan Clubs a free admission to the Museum on their Fan Appreciation Day (elementary and junior high school students only. Normal discounts apply for other club member categories). The Museum also offers an original postcard to the first 300 club members (any categories) who presented their club membership card at the reception. On most of these occasions, all visitors will have a unique opportunity to tour around the Museum with their club's official mascots. Other features include; the plaques of Hall of Famers related to their club are marked with ribbons; their club-related artifacts are especially on display; some films of Japan Series in which their club appeared are shown at the theater; easy access to their club-related materials at the Library, etc.

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



Photo from top left to lower right:
Eagles Baystars Carp
Swallows Tigers Marines
Giants Hawks

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Topics from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

May 2016 through July 2016

June 16, Presentation ceremony of the baseball autographed by Yukio Nishimura (1977 HOF).

The ball was autographed by Yukio Nishimura during the Kansai University Baseball Club's tour to Hawaii in 1936 and has long been kept by a local ball-boy. It was presented by Nishimura's eldest daughter, Dr. Joyce Sachiko Tsunoda to the Museum and currently on display at the Hall of Fame Gallery. Nishimura was the ace pitcher for the Kansai University and signed with the Osaka Tigers (current Hanshin Tigers) after graduation. He led the Tigers to clinch the pennants in 1937 and 1938.



July 1, A total of 38 members from the Hosei University Baseball Club directed by the manager Hisanori Aoki, visited the Museum. (Photo: left)

July 3, A total of 240 rookies of the Tokyo Big6 Baseball League visited the Museum after they attended a instruction seminar held at the Hosei University. (Photo: middle)

July 18, A group of American players who took part in the 40th edition of the USA-Japan International Collegiate Series visited the Museum. (Photo: right)



News from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum - Changes in the Staff:

Kenzo Takagi, Admin Manager, retired on May 31, 2016 after long years working for the BHF.

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Essays (64) Technology versus the Human Eyes

Yoshiki Goto, The Hochi Newspaper, Director of the Players Selection Committee

Let me touch on a quite unusual play which occurred during the game between the Yokohama Baystars and the Hanshin Tigers at the Sapporo Maruyama Stadium on June 6, 1998. In the top of the 1st inning with one out and runner on second base, a shot hit by Alonzo Powell of the Hanshin Tigers crushed the left-center fence and the ball was caught in a chain link. When Powell raced to third base, time was called out by umpire and he was given a ground rule double as defined in the baseball rule. The Tigers Manager Yoshio Yoshida was not happy with the call as he could not even believe the fact that the ball got stuck in fence. He argued with the umpires around the second base but was not convinced enough. So, he walked down towards the outfield to see for himself.

According to the witness Toshio Haru, an outfielder of the Baystars, Yoshida walked to the bleachers where occupied by the Tigers fans to ask them what really happened. A short time later, he came back to the dugout with a disheartened look. During the post-game talk, he commented as if it was not his concern anymore, “Fans also told me that the ball was indeed sunk into the fence. What I see does not necessarily match to reality at all, does it?” His action was very unusual that one will not come across every day. If I use Japanese trendy words, I could say “one-person replay review” just like “one-person karaoke” or “one-person Korean barbecue”(people who go there alone).

As the new rule regarding the home-plate collision went into effect from the 2016 season onwards to increase players’ safety at home plate, the video replay review was also expanded to close plays at home plate.

However, strict application of the new rule, which prohibits fielders to occupy the third base foul line, caused many controversial judgment calls, resulted in an increasing number of internal and external objections and inquiries. To deal with such circumstances, NPB announced the mid season implementation of the revised collision rule. The intended purpose of the collision rule was to reduce severe injuries at home plate in an effort to score, which could bring player's career to an end. However, the way in which the collision rule has been operated goes too far off the intended purpose. Also, I would argue that the biggest root cause of this confusion is the fact that the home plate plays became subject to video replay review.

The human eyes will never be able to compete with technology. For example, during the game between the Chiba Lotte Marines and the Saitama Seibu Lions at the QVC Marine Stadium on April 8, 2016, the umpire reversed his initial call to be safe after the video replay detected that the catcher actually failed to touch the runner at home plate. Also, during the game between the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters and the Hanshin Tigers at the Sapporo Dome on Jun 10, the "safe" call at home plate was reversed after the replay review. These cases did not relate to collision directly but they showed that the new rule could expose umpires' errors on safe-out calls at home plate. But is it really right to call "umpires' error" in which there was a close play, which can only be detected by technology?

In his book, "Professional baseball – the Facts Known only to Umpires"(Soshisha, 2004), Toshiyuki Tanaka, the former Central League Umpiring Manager gives an insight into the calls at first base. "In reality, human eyes cannot see both the runner's foot touching the bag and the ball hitting the baseman's mitt at the same time", "So in my case, I would have my eyes on runner's foot to see it touching the bag while listening to the popping sound of the ball hitting the mitt. This enabled me concentrate on watching runner's foot with my own eyes to catch the moment where his spike reaches the bag." Umpires are trained to keep their ears open to supplement human vision.

Taking an easy way out like instant replay review may take away their superhuman skill and pride in professionalism which would result in huge losses to the baseball world in future.

The umpire is expected to be perfect all the time. Any error attracts a barrage of criticism. It will never be an easy role but they keep working so hard day in, day out, coping with intensive pressures and sharpening their sensitivities. I believe that the value of their calls outstrips any perfect calls by technology. We should remember that it is not the technology with 100% accuracy but rather the tragicomic interpretation made by umpires that swings us from joy to sorrow.

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Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in the Future; Report from the Reviewing Committee

Shinichi Hirose, President

The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was opened in 1959 and was moved to the present site in 1988. Twenty-seven years have passed since then and we thought it was good time to clarify the current status and discuss issues of the Museum. Thus, the Internal Reviewing Committee was established in 2015 chaired by Kunio Shimoda, the then senior adviser to NPB. The Internal Committee conducted SWOT analysis as well as

survey by questionnaire to visitors, Hall of Famers and our Sustaining Members to study the current status of the Museum.

In January 2016, the Expert Panel chaired by Masayuki Handa, the Executive Director of the Japanese Association of Museums and vice-chaired by Yoshio Murayama, the Managing Director of the Orix Buffaloes, was established. The Expert Panel had held three meetings and drew up a report on the reviews, which was submitted to the Chairman Katsuhiko Kumazaki on May 16. Below is the Mission Statement approved by the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees in May and June respectively.

Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Mission Statement:

The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is devoted to enrich people's lives through the sport of baseball under the theme: "CONNECT", "PROMOTE" and "HONOR".

- We will enhance our function to CONNECT the past with the future.
- We will engage in activities to PROMOTE fun and interest in baseball especially to our future generations.
- We will further expand the Hall of Fame activities to HONOR the legends who have contributed to the development of baseball in Japan.

To achieve our mission, we will focus on improving our function as;

- A "keeper of knowledge" to encourage and take a leadership role in the research on history and culture of baseball.
- An "information provider" to disseminate information of history and culture of baseball by means of exhibitions and educational activities.
- A "hub of development" to promote fun and interest in baseball, especially to our future generations.
- A place to honor the legends who have contributed to the development of baseball in Japan.

The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum will engage a variety of activities to align with our mission. In the next issue, I will introduce some of the challenges raised by the report and agenda to be addressed in future.

List of members of the Expert Panel:

- Chair: Masayuki Handa (Executive Director of the Japanese Association of Museums)
Vice Chair: Yoshio Murayama (Managing Director of the Orix Buffaloes)
Member: Koichi Kabayama (Director of the Printing Museum)
Member: Akiko Shimura (Representative of Women's Team Japan)
Member: Kazuhiro Tanabe (Executive Board Members of the High School Baseball Federation)
Member: Tsutomu Nagaoka (Representative Director, President and COO of the Tokyo Dome)
Member: Megumi Maeda (Sports writer)

◁Guide to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum▷

The entrance is located to the right of Gate 21 of the 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;

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