



The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

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

(The English version prepared by Mariko Inagaki)

p.1 Report on Summer School Holidays Activities

Shinichi Hirose, President

During the summer school holidays, the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum hosted a range of popular events for the advancement of our mission, “PROMOTE” - engaging in activities to promote fun and interest in baseball especially to our future generations. This is one of the three main themes of the Museum’s mission; “CONNECT”, “PROMOTE” and “HONOR”.

The “Independent Study on Baseball” is a themed holiday program which is designed especially for elementary and junior high school students. About 540 school children came to get assistance with finding a topic and/or useful material for their independent study project. We also provided them with some tips and hands-on experience by conducting a series of presentations, including the “Mini-mini Experiment Corner”, (for 30 minutes twice a day) at the Temporary Exhibition Gallery. I was quite impressed to see children listening actively to the staff and jotting down notes throughout the presentations.

The “Let’s score a baseball game and enjoy baseball much more” was held on July 27(twice) and August 4 at the Event Hall. The program lecturer Shigeo Ishii, former chief scorer of the Central League, gave a basic lecture for those who have never scored a game before. We originally planned to hold only one with a maximum capacity of 40 person including guardians. However, due to the high volume of interest received, we decided to have extra sessions with the kind cooperation of Ishii. I believe that by trying to keep score while watching a baseball game on screen, children gained a greater understanding of, and enhanced their interest in baseball.



The “Summer Umpire School” has become increasingly popular as well. It was held by former NPB umpires on August 6 and 12 at the Event Hall. As the number of lecturers increased, the sessions provided even more powerful experiences to participants than before.



The “Glove Making” was held on August 22. It is a memorable workshop where a parent and a child work collaboratively to make their own unique glove. It was so popular that we attracted a large number of responses (more than double a normal year) from around the country.

The “Bat Making Demonstration” was held on August 23 and 24 three times each day. Each session enjoyed a large turnout of children including those who visited the Tokyo Dome to see the professional baseball game on the day. It gave visitors a rare glimpse at how baseball bats are created.

I believe that these activities during the summer school holidays proved to be a revealing experience in which visitors find more fun and interest in baseball. It also contributed to the fulfillment of the Museum’s mission. Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those who have contributed to the successful running of these activities in many different ways.

The Independent Study Awards

In my column in the previous issue (“Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in the Future; Report from the Reviewing Committee”), I maintained that promoting and advancing educational activities to be one of our primary focuses. Having consulted with several experts in the educational field, I am glad to announce that the awards for the baseball-themed independent study projects have been launched. The first winners of the Awards have already been announced and their works have been posted on our webpage. The details of the Awards will be explained in the next issue.

p.2 2016 Summer School Holidays Activities in Review (2)

From July 21 to August 31 (42 days), a series of annual activities “Independent Study on Baseball” took place at the Baseball Library, the Temporary Exhibition Gallery, the Event Hall and the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery. The Museum received 540 elementary and junior high school students, which set a new record in attendance (increased by 199 compared with the previous year). Prior to the events, we widely distributed posters covering schools in Bunkyo-ku and surrounding suburbs as well as baseball stadiums in the metropolitan area.

The diagram below shows their subjects of study according to their grade. A subtotal of 112 3rd graders accounted for 20.7% of the all participants (doubled since last year, i.e., 52). A subtotal of 460 3rd to 6th graders (112,120,125 and 103 respectively) accounted for 85.2 % of the overall participants, showing that they were the mainstream participants.



Temporary Exhibition Gallery

The most popular subject of study was baseball equipment (322, 59.6%), compared to the previous years 49%, it shows clearly the increase of interest in baseball equipment. The glove was particularly popular amongst the equipment, showing a dramatic increase since last year (increased by 34 to 113, by 10% to 21%).

Number of participants

Grade	Participant	%
Elementary 1	24	4.4%
Elementary 2	26	4.8%
Elementary 3	112	20.7%
Elementary 4	120	22.2%
Elementary 5	125	23.1%
Elementary 5	103	19.1%
Junior High 1	14	2.6%
Junior High 2	8	1.5%
Junior High 3	2	0.4%
Others	6	1.1%

Subject of study

Grade	History	Equipment					Breaking Ball	Ballpark	High School Baseball	Score	Others
		General	Ball	Glove	Bat	Uniform					
Elementary 1		3	3	5	8			1			4
Elementary 2	1			9	7		1			1	5
Elementary 3	30	6	17	24	5	2	2	5			17
Elementary 4	24	9	14	22	23		4	1	1	2	22
Elementary 5	18	3	28	20	31	4	7	3	2	2	14
Elementary 5	26	5	17	25	13	4	4	3			11
Junior High 1	4		1	3	1	1	1				2
Junior High 2		1	1	2			1				3
Junior High 3	2										
Others		1	1	3							
Total	105	28	82	113	88	11	20	13	3	5	78

Jul 21 to Aug 31, Mini-mini Experiment Corner

Two times per day (14:00- and 15:00-, except special event days) for about 30 minutes.
At the Temporary Exhibition Gallery.

Subjects:

1. “Secret of breaking balls” - A fundamental theorem of Bernoulli was explained using balloons and cardboards.
2. “Secret of uniforms” – Variations in design and materials were explained. Primary and junior high school students tried on Shohei Otani’s Samurai Japan uniform to feel its size and lightness.
3. “Secrets of gloves” – Comparison of replica gloves used in three different decades (1900s, 1930s and 2010s).
4. “Secrets of bats” - Rules on bats were explained. Bats used by Yuki Yanagita (SoftBank Hawks) and Tetsuto Yamada (Yakult Swallows) (both achieved Triple 3 in 2015) were presented to touch, measure, weigh and explore.



Tried on Otani’s big uniform



Examined the heaviness of Yamada’s bat



Measured Yanagita’s bat

p.3 2016 Summer School Holidays Activities in Review (Cont’d)

July 27 & Aug 4, Let’s Score a Baseball Game

10:30 -, 14:00 – (July 27), 14:00 – (Aug 4) at the Event Hall.

Instructor: Shigeo Ishii (Former chief scorer of the Central League).

A total of 131 participated, 70 of which were junior and high school students. After giving an introduction on the details of the Waseda format of scoring, participants learnt to track every pitch while watching a baseball game on screen. By getting lectured by a “real” scorer, participants would gain new insight into baseball.



Aug 6 & Aug 12, Summer Umpire School

14:30 - 16:00 at the Event Hall.

Instructors: Osamu Ino (Member of Baseball Rules Committee, former NPB Chief Umpire), Masato Tomoyose (NPB Chief Umpire), Natsuo Yamazaki (Member of NPB Umpire Technical Committee), Hitoshi Watarida (ibid), Takeshi Hirabayashi (ibid), and Takayasu Sakaemura (ibid). In cooperation with NPB.

They explained the history of umpires; the equipment used in a game and demonstrated how to call a game in action. After learning how the umpire calls, children also tried out calling balls, strikes etc. Many children listened actively to the lecturers, jotted down notes and took pictures throughout the program. It proved to be a revealing experience for children who have otherwise no opportunity to get in touch with “real” umpires.



Aug 22,

Glove Making

13:30 -, at the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery.
With cooperation by the Mizuno Corporation.

The 14 pairs of parent and child chosen from 209 pairs of applicants (more than double a normal year), participated in a child-oriented collaborative work of making their own one of a king glove. Under guidance of three craftsmen from Mizuno Corporation, participants spent two hours working on the last process of the glove making, i.e., lacing all the parts of the glove together and stitching. The session ended by taking photo with their freshly made glove.



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.
Craftsman Takahiro Watanabe from the Mizuno Technics explained the materials of wood bat and manufacturing process, and demonstrated the art of bat making. Several primary students were selected to try sanding the bat with paper. Watanabe responded to many different types of questions raised by students and other baseball fans.



p.4 Visit to the U.S.A.

Toshimasa Fudetani, Director, Department of Operations

Chief Curator Takahiro Sekiguchi and myself went to the U.S, visiting the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, several ballparks, museums and art galleries. We left Tokyo on September 18, spent two days in New York, two days in Cooperstown, one day in Miami, one day in Los Angeles, and then returned to Tokyo on September 25. It has been about two years since our staff members last visited to the U.S.

Visit to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

On the morning of September 20, we took the Amtrak to Albany and got to Cooperstown by a rented car. Due to a major train delay, we could only make it to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum around 4:00 pm. As we had only an hour before closing time, I briskly walked round to browse their exhibits.



The Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery

On the next morning, we met with Erik Strohl, Vice President, Exhibitions and Collections, Tom Shieber, Senior Curator, Jim Gates, Library Director, Sue MacKay, Director of Collections, and Mary Quinn, Director of Exhibits and Design to hear about their exhibitions and operations for about an hour. It was much to my surprise that they tailored the Babe Ruth's full-size mannequin in such a way as to depict his features and aura accurately.

After the meeting, Strohl gave us a private behind-the-scenes tour of their collection stores and other facilities including the Giamatti Research Center. The climate within the stores, especially for films and archival materials, were strictly controlled, and a great number of baseball equipment was well-organized in the right shelving and racking systems. It was simply a magnificent experience for me to learn the way they maintain such a large collection store in an appropriate manner.



Babe Ruth's jersey presented on the custom-made mannequin that was created to exactly match his measurement.

Afterwards, we had a pleasant meal with president Jeff Idelson, Strohl and Shieber. The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is far larger in size and rich in contents and provisions. However, there was a lot to learn from their best practices in many essential aspects of museum and library operations. We hope to continue to have a good relationship with them in the future.

p.5 Visit to the U.S.A. (Cont'd)

I spent all afternoon exploring the Museum including their "Whole New Ballgame" gallery. Located on the second floor, this newest installation was unveiled in November 2015. It highlights the history and topics of the baseball world from the 1970s onwards using a variety of objects and photos. Some of the iconic moments during that time can also be seen in four interactive displays. I found it to be a great example of taking



From left: Idelson, Shieber, Fudetani, Strohl, Sekiguchi

advantage of audio-visual aids that provide visitors with interactive learning experiences.

Obviously, our stay was too short to truly appreciate their outstanding exhibits. I hope to visit again and probably I should allow a minimum stay of two nights in Cooperstown to devote more time to exploring the Museum.

Visit to the Ballparks

We left Cooperstown at 4:30 am on September 22. We then flew from Albany International Airport to Miami via Charlotte and got to the Marlins Park around 4:00 pm. Peter J. Loyello, Senior Vice President, Communications & Broadcasting at Miami Marlins, kindly took us around the field. To our great and delightful surprise, a game-used Ichiro jersey from the game he reached 3,000 hits was donated to us through the good offices of Loyello and the Marlins. It was carefully put into our carry-on luggage all the way back to Tokyo and has been on display since September 27, the very next day of our return.



Loyello with Ichiro's jersey

During our stay in Miami, we were seeking an opportunity to express our gratitude to Ichiro for his long-term cooperation with us as he has accepted our requests for donation of his items several times up until now. With the kind support of the Marlins, we were able to meet Ichiro in person and hand him a certificate of appreciation in the dugout after his fielding practice. He received the Japanese-styled certificate with a smile.



Ichiro's receiving a certificate of appreciation

In addition to the Marlins Park, we saw the games at the Citi Field, home of the New York Mets, and the Dodger Stadium, home of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Yayoi Sato, Supervisor, Corporate Partnerships at Dodgers, took us on a tour around the Dodger Stadium. Although there were no games played at the Yankee Stadium, home of the New York Yankees, Brian Richards, Museum Curator gave us a private tour around the Stadium as well as the Yankees Museum.

We also got a chance to visit some other museums and art galleries as well. I will draw on this experience to help with the further development of our Museum in the future.



Special exhibit commemorating Ichiro's milestone at the Entrance Hall of the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

p.6 Inductees Remembered (53) Kyuen: Enduring Baseball Friendship

Written and translated by Dr. Joyce Sachiko Tsunoda
(Daughter of the late Yukio Nishimura, 1977 HOF)



My father, Nishimura Yukio, joined the Hanshin Tigers (then Osaka Tigers) immediately upon graduation from Kansai University in March 1936, and he promptly assumed the role as mainstay pitcher for the Tigers. He pitched effectively against the Giants' powerhouse pitching duo of Sawamura Eiji and Victor Starffin, and contributed to the Tiger's championship for two consecutive years. In later years, this feat earned him the reputation as the "First Generation Giant Killer" and he along with Sawamura who hailed from the same hometown, built the Golden Era of the Hanshin-Giants Rivalry.

In 1940, father left professional baseball and moved to Manchuria, then Japanese territory in northeastern China, where he joined a non-professional, industrial baseball team. However, in March of 1944, he was drafted into the Japanese Army, and sent to the Philippine battlefields where, in April, 1945, he ended his short but full 34 years of life. The War ended four months later, in August, 1945.

Last year, 2015, was the 70th anniversary of the end of the War, and it turned out to be a year of unexpected miracles for the Nishimura family. It started with an unexpected gift that I received at the 100th Anniversary Party of the Kansai University's Baseball Club, held in Osaka in January. It was a copy of an autograph book signed by the Kansai University Baseball Team during its second overseas baseball game tour in Hawaii in the summer of 1936. This was the first time ever for me to see my father's signature in English! He signed in bold and beautiful handwriting: [Nishimura Yukio, Pitcher of Kwansai University, 1936]. The autograph book had been signed by the entire team and given to a Nikkei youngster named Koide Saburou, who served as the Team Bat Boy.

I immediately began a search for Koide Saburou, and finally found him, a renowned physician-researcher, now retired and living in New York State.

When I contacted him by phone, he clearly remembered: "Ah! Nishimura Yukio. Great Pitcher!" He also remembered other members of the Kansai Team, one of whom was relief pitcher and first baseman Okamoto Toshiyuki. The mention of this name juggled my memories about a book that my mother had received from Japan sometime in the early 1970's. I rummaged through my late mother's mementos and found a worn out copy of "Hakkyu to Tomoni" ("Together with the White Ball"), an autobiography of Okamoto Toshiyuki. The last chapter titled "Kyuen" ("Enduring Baseball Friendship") chronicles little-known experiences shared by the two "country boys" as Kandai baseball teammates, their close "senpai-kouhai" ("senior-junior") friendship and their adventures together. Re-reading this chapter offered me valuable glimpses into my father's Kandai student days. There were also entertaining tales of episodes, on and off the baseball fields during the team's 1936 Hawaii Tour, their separate roads of life after graduation, then their unexpected encounter and poignant final

parting in Manchuria during the dark days of the war. I was deeply moved by the closeness of their friendship and felt the enduring bond even to this day.

Then, on the first day of August, 2015, a small package unexpectedly arrived at my home in Saitama, Japan. It was sent by Bishop Shugen Komagata, the Chief Priest of our family church in Hawaii. In the box were three old baseballs, soiled with red dirt. These balls turned out to be those used by the Kandai team during their game against the Oahu Sugar Company Team in July, 1936. [Kwansai Univ. 6 Oahu Sugar Co. 0] were words still visible on one of the balls, which also bore the signature, “Nishimura Yukio”, in Japanese. Although some of the signatures were fading, that of other Kandai players were still visible on the three balls.

According to Bishop Komagata, these balls had been brought to him by a member of his church, Douglas Koide, the younger brother of the Bat Boy Saburo (Sam) Koide. Hearing Bishop Komagata talk about my search for the Bat Boy, Douglas Koide remembered the three baseballs that his brother Saburo had brought home and placed on display in their living room. It seems as though these three balls “home-stayed” in Hawaii for the past 80 years, including the War years. Then, 70 years to the month and year after the War, these balls finally came home to Japan! I named these balls the “Homecoming Balls” (“Satogaeri Balls”).

I notified Kansai University, and with the enthusiastic help of Mr. Kida Katsuya of the Kansai University Baseball Club Management Office, the Homecoming Balls were welcomed back to their Alma Mater as “100th Year Kiseki (Miracle) of the Kandai Baseball Club”. The Balls were a featured item of the Kansai University Baseball Club’s 100th Anniversary Memorial Exhibit for the next nine months. In November, Kinukasa Kyouko, the older daughter of Okamoto Toshiyuki, and I visited Kansai University together. As we stood before the Homecoming Balls each of us mused about our fathers and their enduring bond of friendship built through baseball, and how the [Homecoming Balls] had now brought us together. The legacy of Kyuen, has now been passed on to us.

After the nine-month Kandai Exhibit, the Homecoming Balls were “inducted” into the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame Museum as part of its permanent exhibit. This honor was made possible through the kind cooperation of Mr. Hirose Shinichi, Museum Director and his hardworking staff.

The “induction” ceremony of the Homecoming Balls was held this past June 16, at the Baseball Hall of Fame Museum. With white-gloved hands I carefully placed the three balls, imbued with the spirits of my Father and his teammates, into the exhibit case in the Hall of Fame. My thoughts were about my father’s life and his death. He was reported missing in action in the Philippines and there were no remains. A single slip of paper with his name and date of death was all that my mother received as a “senshi” death notice. But now, these three signed baseballs are concrete evidence of his existence, as well as the proud remembrances of the best days of his life. The miracles of baseball!

Many Japanese professional baseball players gave their valuable lives to the War, leaving behind their dreams and contributions as athletes unfulfilled. My father was one of them. However, I do not mourn for him. Instead, I celebrate his life. I know that he lived his short life fully and boldly, rich with love and friendship. He has been and will always be part of my life, forever challenging me to “Play Ball!”

Earlier this year, at the Hall of Fame Museum, I was able to see my father actually pitching right before my eyes. This was the first time ever in my life to SEE him in motion! The miracles of “smart-phone application technology” and the thoughtful efforts of the Museum staff. Pitcher Nishimura Yukio’s presence is once more a moving reality.

Four years ago, at the start of the 2012 baseball season, I went to the Hanshin Tigers Stadium at Koshien and met Fujinami Shintarou, who had just been inducted as a Rookie Ace Pitcher. This special experience was made possible through the kindness of Mr. Keiichiro Yotsufuji, Senior Managing Director of Hanshin Tigers (currently President of the Hanshin Baseball Organization) and the skillful go-between efforts of Mr. Hiroshi Masui, a valued friend and fellow University of Hawaii alumni. Pitcher Fujinami’s Uniform Number 19 is the same as that of Pitcher Nishimura. I presented the “Young Tiger” with a copy of my father’s biography, “First Generation Giant Killer”(Author, Nakamura Hiroo, 1995), and challenged him to live up to the Uniform Number 19. I also reminded him to always appreciate and value the opportunity he has to ‘Play Ball’ in this period of peace.

As I reflect back over the past three years, I am overwhelmed with a sense of wonder and deep appreciation for the many miraculous experiences and opportunities that have come to me and my family. On behalf of the Nishimura family, I would like to thank all who have blessed us with the ever enduring friendship of baseball.

I would like to invite all baseball fans, especially the young people from Japan, Hawaii, and elsewhere, to come to the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum. Come learn and be inspired by those who have led the way. And when you come, please visit the [Homecoming Baseballs] and welcome them home.

May each of us live our lives to the fullest, remembering the motto of the Baseball Hall of Fame:

[Tsunageru (Connect)] [Hirogeru (Reach Out)] [Tataeru (Celebrate)]

p.7 Fans Appreciation Days

The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum offered junior members of each of the 12 NPB Fan Clubs free admission to the Museum on their Fan Appreciation Day (elementary and junior high school students only). Visitors had a unique opportunity to tour around the Museum with their club’s official mascots and the “Tamabe”, SAMURAI JAPAN official mascot. Fans also enjoyed some special displays and films exclusively for their clubs on this particular day. (The other ten clubs held before July 13 were reported in the previous issue.)



Left: Aug 30 to Sep 1
Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters day
Fighters' mascot B.B. visited the
Museum with Matabe.

Right: Sept 2 to 4
Chunichi Dragons day
Dragons' mascot Doala visited the
Museum with Matabe.

Topics from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum - Aug 2016 - Oct 2016:

Aug 17, Masaki Saitoh (2016 HOF) visited the Special Exhibition "2016 Hall of Famers".



Aug 20, Members of the Nagasone Strongs visited the Museum. The team won the 36th All-Japan Rubber Baseball McDonald's Tournament.

Sep 4, Family members of Kihachi Enomoto (2016 HOF) visited the Special Exhibition "2016 Hall of Famers".



News from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum – Exhibitions:

Oct 29 to Nov 6, Exhibition: The Independent Study Awards

Nov 10 to Dec 11, Exhibition: Japanese Baseball Posters in 2016

p.8 Essays (65) Carp Took a Step towards a New Chapter

Masatoshi Kimura, The Chugoku Newspaper, Director of the Players Selection Committee

After the memorable season ended with Hiroshima Toyo Carp winning their first Central League pennant in 25 years, I realized once again how difficult it can be to predict how each team will finish. I wonder how many experts including sportswriters, sportscasters and beat writers could accurately predict that Carp would win the league pennant this season. It came as no surprise to me that even our Carp beat writers here at Chugoku Newspaper were proved wrong, just as many others were. In the most optimistic situation, we would say that the "Carp has a chance to win if it turns into a dead heat." By any stretch of the imagination, we thought Carp would have no chance to win unless it became a free-for-all.

After all is said and done, Carp made it happen. Carp finished far ahead of the other teams with 89 wins (team record), 37 games over .500, and 17.5 games ahead of second-place Yomiuri Giants. What's more, the team had winning records against all five opponents in the Central League for the first time since 1986.

Before the start of the season, many projected that Carp's depth in pitching staff would be tested after the departure of ace Kenta Maeda. However, it turned out to be wildly wrong. Expectations for winning the league championship began building in June as Carp gradually increased their lead over the second-place

Giants. However, such expectations were considered to be a taboo in the world of newspapers and were treated with great caution. This situation did not change even after Carp climbed 20 games over .500 for the first time in 20 years.

Takahiro Arai reached 2,000 career hits in April and Hiroki Kuroda picked up his 200th combined career win in MLB and NPB in July. It was only the third time ever in the NPB history that two players achieved this feat for the same team in the same season. However, we were still skeptical due to the fact that the previous two teams did not win the league championship in that year.

My negative attitude was not just because of my own personality, but because of the traumatic experience Carp went through back in 1996, i.e., “Make Drama.”(The second-place Giants once stood 11.5 games far behind Carp but then they clinched a dramatic come-from-behind league championship.)

It was my second year as a Carp beat writer. Whenever I look at the scores, it still reminds me clearly of the games during the last few weeks of the season. Carp’s dramatic loss came as a huge disappointment to inside and outside of the team and led to the dark ages that lasted for decades. As we were painfully aware of the giant agony of baseball, we had blindly assumed that winning the pennant would not be so simple for Carp.

Hiroshima city’s mood was much like that as well. In particular, the longtime fans, who would go to the former Hiroshima Municipal Stadium (where still retained remnants of Showa era) to see games during the golden age of Carp back in 1970s to 1980s, tended to maintain a cautious outlook.

However, that was not the case for this season. The eight-year-old Mazda Zoom-Zoom Stadium Hiroshima saw a many dramatic games, as if the team was unleashing massive energy which had been suppressed for 25 years. At the end of August, for the first time in 25 years, Carp finally saw the magic number of 20 to win the Central League. Afterwards, they went on to sweep the rest of the games to clinch the pennant. It was a total surprise that Carp came from behind 45 times to win games during the season.

Carp was dominant in front of their home crowd, i.e., 49 wins, 20 losses and 1 tie. More than 2,100,000 fans including “Carp-girls”, a new generation of enthusiastic female supporters who are dressed in Carp gear, as well as a large group of parents and children and their grandparents visited the Mazda Zoom-Zoom Stadium to see the games. The skeptical emotion or defeatist air hanging around no longer existed. Such a positive vibe encouraged young players, who had never seen a magic number before, to play baseball free from tension. The new stadium challenged to the generation-old view on baseball and pushed Carp to take an open a new chapter.

Carp had been under financial pressures due to their self-support accounting system. However, their financial health has been rapidly turning around for the good. Carp is now a rich in young resources particularly with sound fielders up the middle, from catcher to shortstop and second baseman to center field. That said, some critics have stated that the team is ready to return to their golden age. I remember these same critics underestimating Carp with a lot of confidence before the season started. Having said that, I also find myself being so excited to see their upcoming 2017 season preview. Most probably, we will never get it right though.

◁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.