



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 Exhibition, World Baseball Classic

Shinichi Hirose, President

Having won all six games in the first two rounds of the 2017 World Baseball Classic (WBC), which was held at the Tokyo Dome beginning on March 7, Samurai Japan advanced to the semifinals in the U.S.

To cheer for Samurai Japan, the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum held a special exhibition. It outlined the history of past tournaments by displaying numerous pieces of equipment used by former distinguished players, as well as memorabilia that included both the 2006 and the 2009 WBC trophies and the winning balls. In further celebration, both 2006 and 2009 WBC digests were played in the baseball theater and the rest areas. Life-size cutouts of Yoshitomo Tsutsugo, Tomoyuki Sugano and Hayato Sakamoto were also on display in the Baseball Hall of Fame gallery, which provided our visitors with a first-hand experience of the players' physical sizes and great photo opportunity. In addition, all the winning balls of each Samurai Japan victory, during the 2017 WBC, were acquired right after each match and put on display in the entrance hall by the next day of each match.



Left: A set of Museum's original *Yakyu-Mamori* (charms for baseball) was presented to Seiya Suzuki.
Right: Display at the entrance hall.



On March 7, the museum held a talk by Yutaka Ohno (2013 HOF), who served pitching coach for team Japan during the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens and 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. His engaging talk saw a crowd of people who visited the museum prior to the first-round game opener at the Tokyo Dome.

As can be seen from the high TV ratings, although Samurai Japan lost a close game to the U.S., and was eliminated in the semifinals, the team played a number of great games involving tense situations, and showed people across the country the excitement of baseball.



Talk by Yutaka Ohno

p.2 Talk by Yutaka Ohno

In conjunction with the exhibition named ‘World Baseball Classic’, a special talk by Yutaka Ohno (2013 HOF) took place at the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum on March 7, on the day of the Pool B opener between Japan and Cuba. His talk included a commentary on what to look forward to during the match, a description of the differences between Japanese baseballs and the official baseball of the WBC, and a conclusion offering his prediction of the Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) season. The talk lasted about one hour and more than hundred visitors enjoyed his engaging talk.



Glove Making

April 3, 13:30 -, At the Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery. With cooperation by the Mizuno Corporation.

Ten pairs of parents and children participated in a child-oriented collaborative work of making their own one-of-a-kind glove. Under the guidance of craftsmen from Mizuno Corporation, participants worked on the last step of the glove-making process, i.e., lacing all the parts of the glove together and stitching. Glove making has been our hugely popular summer event for the museum. Due to the high volume of request to attend, it was decided to hold another session for the first time during the spring holiday.



Fans Appreciation Days

The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum offers junior members of each of the 12 NPB Fan Clubs free admission to the Museum on their Fan Appreciation Days (elementary and junior high school students only). All visitors also have a unique opportunity to enjoy special displays and films exclusively for their clubs during the Fans Appreciation Days.

Hanshin Tigers	21 – 23 Apr	Chiba Lotte Marines	16 – 18 Jun
Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles	25 – 26 Apr	Yokohama DeNA Baystars	1 – 2 Jul
Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters	12 – 14 May	Saitama Seibu Lions	3 – 4 Jul
Tokyo Yakult Swallows	16 – 18 May	Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks	31 Jul – 1 Aug
Hiroshima Toyo Carp	26 – 28 May	Chunichi Dragons	4 – 6 Aug
Orix Buffaloes	2 – 4 Jun	Yomiuri Giants	8 – 10 Aug

Led by Japan, the East Asian Games became a multi-sport tournament held twice in 1940 and 1942, following the collapse of the former Far Eastern Championship Games, which were held ten times between 1913 and 1934. The 1940 East Asian Games was held in June in Tokyo, Nara and Hyogo, where four teams from Japan, Manchukuo, Philippines, and Hawaii participated in the baseball competitions.

A total of twenty-five players from the Tokyo Big6 Baseball League, namely, eight from Meiji University, seven from Keio University, four from Rikkyo University, four from Waseda University and two from Hosei University, were selected for Team Japan. It reflected the result of the 1940 Tokyo Big6 Baseball League Spring Championship, which was held earlier that year and resulted in three university teams, i.e. Meiji, Keio and Rikkyo universities, finishing in a tie for first place. In that outcome, all the three teams demonstrated their sophisticated teamwork. Umeo Tanizawa, manager of Meiji University, managed the Team Japan. Isao Morita, manager of the Keio University, served as a deputy manager; Shigeo Kameda from Meiji University, served as a captain; and Toru Shoriki, deputy manager of Keio University – who would later become an owner of the Yomiuri Giants – also joined as an accountant.

Team Japan made it a clean sweep with a 4 – 0 win (Japan 4 – 3 Hawaii at Jingu stadium on June 6, Japan 5 – 3 Manchukuo at Jingu stadium on June 7, Japan 8 – 1 Philippines at Jingu stadium on June 8, and Japan 7 – 2 Hawaii at Koshien stadium on June 14).

The image shown here is a jersey which Riichi Kodama of Meiji University wore in the 1940 East Asian Games. Together with a pair of pants, as well as a cap and tie worn during the opening ceremony of the competitions, this jersey was donated to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum from Kodama in 1995. Both the jersey and the pants were made by the Ishii Kajimaya Company. The jersey features the felt letterings of ‘NIPPON’ across the chest, as well as an embroidered Japanese flag and a number ‘7’ on the left sleeve. However, there is no number on back, nor any signs of a number being removed. Presumably, Team Japan adopted jersey numbers only on their sleeves because the Tokyo Big6 Baseball League had not introduced jersey numbers on the back of team uniforms at that time (it was only introduced from the 1959 spring championship).



December of the following year (1941) saw the outbreak of the Pacific War. The Tokyo Big6 Baseball League was dissolved in 1943 and a number of student soldiers went to the war. The names of eight out of twenty-five players (indicated in blue), who participated in the 1940 East Asian Games, have been inscribed in the memorial cenotaph dedicated to the memory of those baseball players who never returned from war. The names of ten players, indicated in red, are those who later became professional players. Kodama joined the Chunichi Dragons in 1951 and played an active role in the Dragons’ victory in the 1954 Japan Series.

Hideo Fujimoto (also known as Hideo Nakagami) is only a player who was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame (in 1976) among the members of Team Japan in 1940 East Asian Games.

Position	Name and University
Pitcher	H. Sato (Hosei), J. Saigo (Rikkyo), K. Ishiguro (Waseda), M. Takagi (Keio), S. Takatsuka (Keio), H. Fujimoto (Meiji)
Catcher	T. Machida (Rikkyo), K. Ono (Waseda), S. Inoue (Keio), I. Matsui (Meiji)
1 st Base	K. Murakami (Hosei), S. Kato (Meiji), R. Kodama (Meiji)
2 nd Base	K. Miyazaki (Keio), S. Kameda (Meiji)
3 rd Base	M. Uno (Keio), T. Ase (Meiji)
Shortstop	T. Yuzuki (Rikkyo), E. Odate (Keio)
Left Field	E. Matsui (Waseda), H. Kato (Meiji)
Center Field	R. Asai (Waseda), T. Nakata (Keio)
Right Field	T. Tabe (Rikkyo), S. Ito (Meiji)

p. 4 Library Note Scorekeeping during the Meiji period

Taku Chinone, Librarian

Let me introduce some baseball scorekeeping methods during the Meiji period.

The box score was first invented by Henry Chadwick in 1863, nine years before Horace Wilson introduced baseball in Japan in 1872 (Meiji 5). Chadwick was inducted into the American Baseball Hall of Fame in 1938 and Wilson was inducted into the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame in 2003.

The *Outdoor Games*, a book on Western-style sports written in English and published in Japan in 1883 (Meiji 16), is said to be the earliest book that introduced baseball to Japan. It included the theory and rules of baseball, but yet scorekeeping was excluded.

The *Western Outdoor Games*, which is also a book on Western-style sports, but written in Japanese, was published in Japan in 1885 (edited by Yasuhiro Shimomura). Although baseball scorekeeping was not particularly explained, a word ‘recording secretary’ suggested the possibility of the game being documented by someone.

However, another book entitled *Outdoor Games*, written and edited by Gendo Tsuboi (in Japanese) and published one month after the *Western Outdoor Games*, displayed a table similar to a box score.

‘The numbers (one, two, three, etc.) next to the list of batters represent the batting order. When three outs are recorded, the current batters swap places and return to their previous positions, e.g., pitcher and catcher. On the other hand, the opposing side, e.g., the current pitcher and catcher, turn into batters and take a position at bat in turn, according to the batting order, until they make three outs.’

Baseball score in the *Outdoor Games* by G. Tsuboi
(Left page: White team, right page: Red team)

赤組	打性者名	一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	アウトノ縁由	廻轉總數
姓名	位置	誰	誰	誰	誰	誰	誰	誰	誰	誰		
一何誰	ケツチヤル	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	変取	20
二何誰	ビツヤル	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	変取	
三何誰	シムヤル	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	変取	
四何誰	第一ベース											
五何誰	第二ベース											
六何誰	第三ベース											
七何誰	アウトノ縁由											
八何誰	アウトノ縁由											
九何誰	アウトノ縁由											
各廻轉數		3	2	3	3	1	2	2	2	2		

Enlarged score of Red team

‘In addition, the table on the right is a record of the Red team’s at bat. The total number of making a circuit of the bases (or runs) is 20. So, if the White team, who has a turn at bat, makes a circuit of the bases more than 21 times (21 runs), the White team can win, whereas they will lose if they gain less than 20 runs. In the case when both teams achieve the same number of circuits, neither of them wins, therefore the Red team will have another turn at bat to attempt to make additional circuits of the bases (runs).’

Based on what Tsuboi explained in the *Outdoor Games*, the number ‘1’, written in the table under the first hitter, is the number of runs, meaning, this batter advanced all the bases and got back to home plate once. According to the table, in total, this batter collected three runs in his three times at bats. There are two blank columns in the third innings of the fifth and sixth batters. Presumably, they advanced bases but did not get to reach home plate, because the third outs were made by the seventh batter, and all batters had to switch to defense.

As mentioned, the White team has to make more than 20 runs to win. If they tie, then they will go into extra innings. Although this particular game did not seem to consist of nine innings, the nine-innings rule is explained on the next page. The authors might have referred to different books regarding the baseball rules and scorekeeping. There are still a lot of mysteries left for us to find out in baseball history during the Meiji period.

p.5 Inductees Remembered (55) New perspective on my father’s career in the baseball world

Takahiko Suzuki (second son of Mirei Suzuki, 2017 HOF)

One day in 2017, twenty-five years after my father’s passing, our family unexpectedly received news of him being inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. While handling a flurry of enquiries and interview requests, I



realized that I did not know that much about my father's career in the baseball world. How did he engage with baseball as a journalist and as a member of the Official Baseball Playing Rules Committee? To be honest, I had been hard-pressed to know how to answer the questions about Mirei Suzuki's character in the baseball world because, as his son, he was nothing more than my father.

Recently, I visited my father's house in Nerima ward in Tokyo and entered his study. His desk and chairs remain untouched and his favorite fountain pen is still left in a drawer. Dozens of books, magazines, scrapbooks and reporter notebooks are stuffed in his book storeroom. I flicked through his notes while dusting them off. I know his writing was known as chicken scratch. The words are indeed odd-shaped and sloped, yet still legible to me. His reporter notebooks are especially well-written. I think those notebooks could even become immediately publishable in a paper. His diaries, during business trips to the U.S., seem to be humorous writings, showing his excitement to his work out there. A vast number of English articles are attached to his scrapbooks of Major League Baseball and are filled with underlines and his notes in English.

It is interesting to note that the original handwriting often offers a lot of insight into a writer's thinking and situations of that time, just like an audio tape. From his writing, I could hear the breathing noise of my father in his 40s and 50s, which revealed the figure of my father in the baseball world, one that I have hardly seen before.

I started reading his article for the weekly baseball magazine, the *Shukan Baseball*. The article I picked looks like a serial article on baseball teams across the country. Numbers of baseball players and managers appear with their discussions about the history of their teams and their passion toward baseball. As I turned over the pages, I started feeling like I was reading a novel rather than a baseball article. His brushstroke revealed his precise characterization, psychological descriptions, and a richness in the narrative.

I suddenly recalled memory of a conversation I had with my father when I was in high school. My father said, 'I always wanted to be a novelist since I was younger.' When he said that, I saw a passion inside my father for the first time. I felt very happy to discover a new aspect of my father who had always been a literary youth. Indeed, I remember him reading wildly whenever he was off work and also watching films and dramas on TV while drinking whiskey at night. He particularly liked Western movies and suspense films such as *Combat!* and *Mission: Impossible*.

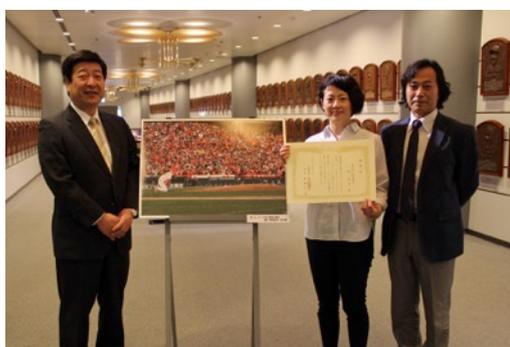
There were lots of books on his shelves, most of which were novels and histories. When he graduated from university after World War II, he briefly worked for the Kinema-Junposha, a film and magazine publishing company. He might have wanted to earn a living from a job that was his favorite passion. My elder brother once told me that my father would develop some idea about his novel in late life. He said that my father showed my brother some opening lines of his story.

My father did love baseball. His colleague in the press stand at Jingu Stadium and Koshien Stadium would often say, ‘there might be some days when ghosts failed to appear, but it is definitely not the case for Suzuki.’ He is a man of being at the ballpark all the time. He kept working on documenting the games and writing articles with a scorebook in his hand. ‘It is fulfilling’ – this was his answer to my question about how he found his work. At that time, he was in his late 50s and I was in the 3rd year of high school.

He was taken an illness and passed away at the age of 70. I wish he could have lived longer, especially considering his novel was left incomplete. However, it is absolutely certain that he lived a rewarding work life as a baseball journalist. I became more confident about his life in baseball after having traced his career path upon his induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame. I am sure that my father is smiling in heaven with the news of the Hall of Fame, no doubt with a proud but still a little bashful face.

p.6 Winner of the Best Shot of the Year Award announced

The temporary exhibition “News Photographs of Baseball 2016” (Dec 17, 2016 – Jan 29, 2017) displayed about 70 photos that captured dramatic scenes from the 2016 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 Mizuha Mori of the Jiji Press, who presented the photo titled ‘Hiroki Kuroda – Filled with emotion on his road to the last mound’, won the award by receiving 202 votes out of a total of 2,972 votes. Mori commented ‘This is my first award as a professional photographer. I will continuously strive to produce quality photographs.’



Left:
Award winning photo
taken by Mori

Right:
From left, president
Hirose, photographer
Mori and photo editor
Yamamoto

	Title	Organization/ Photographer	Votes
1	Hiroki Kuroda – Filled with emotion on his road to the last mound	Jiji Press/ Mizuha Mori	202
2	Towards the sunset	Hochi Shimbun/ Miyoko Tonsho	201
3	Ichiro – the 4,257th career hit	Nikkan Sports/ Satoshi Suga	169
4	League champion Hiroshima Carp – Kuroda and Arai sharing a Championship hug	Kyodo News/ Takahiko Kanbara	157
5	Nishikawa’s game-ending grand slam	Kyodo News/ Takahiko Kanbara	151
6	Saburo – Retirement ceremony	Hochi Shimbun/ Hiroshi Kawaguchi	122
7	Daisuke Miura – Tearful farewell to baseball	Mainichi Newspapers/ Toshiki Miyama	111
8	An ultimate two-way player	Sports Nippon/ Takeyasu Okada	102
9	Where has the ball gone?	Sports Nippon/ Hidetada Mishima	91
10	165 km/h	Sankei Sports/ Shigeo Takahashi	90

p.6 Visitors to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

On March 8, Jeff Idelson, president of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, and their photographer Jean Fruth visited the museum. They took a two-hour museum tour guided by Curator Takahiro Sekiguchi. From March 1 to March 10, Idelson came to visit Japan to document Pool B of the WBC and to explore the baseball culture in Japan. They have also made visits to the Mizuno bat factory, the Tokyo Little League Opening Ceremonies, the Koshien Stadium and the Museum of Hanshin Koshien



Stadium. Idelson shared the details of his experience and photographs in his blog.

<http://baseballhall.org/discover/baseball-in-land-of-the-rising-sun>

p.7 News from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

Changes in the staff:

In February, Curator Mami Hayashi left the museum.

In April, the Administration officer Shogo Yano and the Librarian Hikaru Morisawa joined the museum.

p.8 Essays (66) For Future ‘XX Generation’

Ryoji Yoshimura, The Asahi Shimbun, Director of the Players Selection Committee

Have you ever come across the term ‘Millennium generation’ in high school baseball? During the National Invitational High School Baseball Championship, I learned for the first time that the term refers to current 2nd year high school baseball players (born between April 2000 to March 2001), because most of them were born during the millennium. It is said that the ‘Millennium generation is a gold mine.’

Kotaro Kiyomiya, the 3rd year high schooler of the Waseda Business School, was the one who attracted the most public attention during the Championship. However, those in the Millennium generation also did particularly well during the Championship. Osaka Toin, who won the title by defeating Riseisha, had a heart-of-the-order consisting of 2nd year high school batters including Kyota Fujiwara, who hit two home runs including one lead-off homer (it was the first ever Championship where two local teams faced off in the final.) Even those teams who were eliminated in the regional tournaments have quite a few 2nd year high schoolers to watch and many professional baseball clubs are already excited about the entry draft in autumn of next year.

When you look at the so-called ‘XX generation’, the ‘KK generation’, the ‘Matsuzaka generation’ and the ‘Makun generation (or Handkerchief generation)’ are particularly well known in the baseball world. So, what types of factors were underlying the birth of these golden generations?

I was born in 1966, which means, in other words, I am one grade older than the ‘KK generation’. Although I am from Kyusyu, our family would watch the Giant’s live on TV every night. From my earliest recollections, I already played baseball with my neighbors. Sadaharu Oh was a hero of the day. Everyone would copy his iconic one-leg batting stance. I remember I jumped in delight with adults when Oh reached his 756th home run in 1977.

I think the baseball players in the ‘KK generation’ also wanted to be like Oh and had been taken with baseball, just like I was. I personally assume that their early childhood experience of the enthusiastic excitement over Oh’s home run world record had influence in the creation of ‘KK generation’.

What about those in the ‘Matsuzaka generation’ who were born in 1980? It was in 1985 when the PL Gakuen, with the so-called ‘KK duo’ – a combination of Kazuhiro Kiyohara and Masumi Kuwata were on board – won the National High School Baseball Championship at Koshien stadium. It was also 1980 when the Hanshin Tigers brought the “Tigers’ fever.” Moreover, both Randy Bass and Hiromitsu Ochiai collected the Triple Crown two years in a row from 1985 to 1986, and Ochiai became the first baseball player to earn one hundred million yen in Japan. With the nickname ‘New mankind’, Seibu Lions’ pitchers Kimiyasu Kudo and Hisanobu Watanabe led the golden age of the Lions in the second half of 1980. For those in the ‘Makun (Masahiro Tanaka) generation’ who were born in 1988, Ichiro and Hideo Nomo might have been imprinted in their mind. Moreover, 1994 saw Ichiro’s burst onto the baseball scene recording 210 hits during the season. Nomo crossed the ocean to pitch for the Major League Baseball in which he became a sensation with his unique windup delivery, the so-called ‘Tornado’.

Next up was the ‘Millennium generation.’ When they were still kindergarten pupils, Yuki Saito of the Waseda Business School played outstandingly in the 2006 National High School Baseball Championship. His use of a handkerchief to wipe his face during the game drew much public attention and created the ‘Handkerchief boom’. The year 2006 also saw another major event which impacted the ‘Millennium generation’ substantially, i.e. the WBC. Japan won the inaugural 2006 WBC by defeating Cuba in the final. The final game drew a 43.4% audience rating (throughout Kanto area, revealed by the Video Research Ltd.) Japan defended the title in the second WBC held in 2009, by beating South Korea in the final. Since their early age, the ‘Millennium generation’ has witnessed the excitement and enthusiasm of Japan’s two consecutive championships.

Baseball has seen a decline in number of players due to the low birth rate. In fact, player numbers in junior high school rubber-ball baseball has shown a steep decline. According to the Nippon Junior High School Physical Culture Association, the number of players had stood at around 300,000 until to 2009 but it has dramatically decreased to 180,000 in 2016. The current explanation is that the decrease is because people nowadays have less opportunity to find an open space available to get into playing baseball, and less time to devote to coaching, resulting in a shortage of coaches. In such circumstances, the Samurai Japan team

becomes a powerful motivator for kids to grow up with baseball. In the fourth edition of the WBC, Japan advanced to the semifinals by winning all six games in the first two rounds held at the Tokyo Dome. The tournament was full of great matches and I, as a journalist, also found a great deal of pleasure in baseball. Although Japan was eliminated in the semifinal round, failing to regain the title, Samurai Japan proved themselves to be a top-tier competitor at the WBC. Such a tournament, in which all the world comes to compete for a title, gained so much attention from people who normally have no conscious interest in the sport that it can inspire new fans and even new participants.

One of my friends from college told me in a delighted tone that her daughter in her 2nd year of junior high school became interested in baseball after watching the WBC. His daughter, who entered her rebellious phase, told him that ‘I don’t mind going to see professional baseball with you.’ I am sure he is not the only parent who met with this situation.

Being motivated by Samurai Japan’s outstanding performance, quite a few children might have started catching a ball or a ball game with their parents. What must be done by the baseball world is to devote much more effort to create and provide those children with a better environment so that they will be able to continue playing baseball in the future. I hold out much hope for them to form another new ‘XX generation’ and lead the baseball world in the future.

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.
- 3) when a pro baseball game is held at Tokyo Dome.

N.B. In other words, from May to June, the museum will be closed on:
May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 ; June 12, 19 and 26.