

# The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum



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

Articles in NEWSLETTER, Vol.28, No.2 (August, 2018)

p.1 The Induction Ceremony for the 2018 Baseball Hall of Famers  
elected by the Players Selection Committee

Shinichi Hirose, President



Photo from left: Hayato Sakamoto, Hideki Matsui, Atsushi Saito,  
Tomoaki Kanemoto, Yoshio Itoi, Tatsunori Hara, Tomoyuki Sugano

The Induction Ceremony for the 2018 Hall of Famers, Hideki Matsui, Tomoaki Kanemoto and Tatsunori Hara elected by the Players Selection Committee was held on July 13, 2018 at the Kyocera Dome Osaka prior to the first game of the 2-game All-Star .

Hideki Matsui, a slugger who represented the Heisei era and who was known by his nickname “Godzilla,” was elected in the Players Division. After joining the Yomiuri Giants as the first choice of the 1992 draft from Seiryō High School, he won

one batting title, three homerun titles and three RBI titles, and led his team to four league pennants and three Japan Series victories. In 2003 he signed with the New York Yankees, and

in 2009 he was named the World Series MVP. He hit 507 home runs combined between NPB and MLB, and was constantly played a key role on his teams throughout his career.

Current Hanshin Tigers manager Tomoaki Kanemoto, who was also elected in the Players Division, joined the Hiroshima Toyo Carp as the fourth choice in the 1991 draft. In 2000, he became the seventh player in NPB history to win the “triple-three” by hitting .315 with 30 homeruns and 30 steals. In 2003, he signed with the Hanshin Tigers and contributed to the team’s league pennant wins that year and in 2005, and was selected as MVP during the 2005 season. He played in every inning in 1,492 consecutive games played from 1999 to 2010, which exceeded the MLB record, and was given the nickname “*Tetsujin*” (Iron Man) for constantly serving as a key player of his team.

Tatsunori Hara, who was elected in the Experts Division, joined the Yomiuri Giants as the first choice of the 1980 draft after attending Tokaidai Sagami High School and Tokai University. In 1981 he helped the Giants win the league pennant and Japan Series victory, and took home the Rookie of the Year Award that same year. In 1983, he won the RBI title and MVP, leading his team to a league pennant. After retiring as player, he served as the manager of the Yomiuri Giants for 12 years, leading the team to seven league pennants and three Japan Series victories. In 2009, he led Samurai Japan to its second straight championship title at the 2nd World Baseball Classic tournament as manager.

With the players, managers and coaches of each team lined up in front of their respective benches, the stadium announcer introduced Matsui, Kanemoto and Hara as they entered the field while images of them appeared on the big screen. First, commemorative plaque replicas were presented to each of the inductees by Atsushi Saito,

Chairman at the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. Afterwards, a bouquet of flowers was presented to Matsui from Hayato Sakamoto of the Yomiuri Giants, to Kanemoto from Yoshio Itoi of the Hanshin Tigers and to Hara from Tomoyuki Sugano of the Yomiuri Giants.

During the greeting given after taking commemorative photos, Matsui expressed his words of gratitude toward Shigeo Nagashima, the lifetime honorary manager of the Yomiuri Giants who was Matsui's manager when he joined the Giants. He declared, "Without you sticking with me everyday for practice, I would not have been able to stand here today. I will continue to work hard for Japanese professional baseball." Next, Kanemoto went up to the podium, telling the crowd, "I want to continue conveying the joy and wonderfulness of baseball to children and help develop players that will be admired by many children." Finally, Hara, who was congratulated by his nephew Tomoyuki Sugano, stated, "I love baseball, and I started playing together with my father with a dream to one day become a professional baseball player. I'm sure my father is happy for me up in heaven. I want to continue doing everything I can for the development of professional baseball." Following the speeches, the three were showered with a loud applause from the full capacity crowd.

## p.2 2018 Summer vacation event information

### Baseball Study by Elementary students

Term: July 1~August 31

Venue: Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum library, event hall, etc.



Baseball offers many themes for summer vacation research projects of elementary students, including the history of the baseball, the equipment used during games and ballparks. So, we will be hosting the "Baseball Study by Elementary students" again this year to support elementary students for their summer vacation research projects. Various equipment such as gloves and bats will be exhibited at the event hall, and we will also be preparing books and magazines in the library to be used as references. We will also have staff members present on site to offer their support!

### Mini-mini Experimental Corner

Term: July 21 ~August 26 \*Excluding days with scheduled events.

Time: 14:00~, 15:00~ (30 minutes per session)

Venue: Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum event hall

The "Mini-mini Experimental Corner" will be held again this year with the help of the on-site staff members!



## Special summer vacation event

### What causes the ball to break?



Date and time: August 12 14:00~

(approx. 1 hour and 30 minutes per session)

Eligible participants: Elementary students who are interested in breaking balls (expecting students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade or higher)

Venue: Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum event hall

Speakers: Professor Shinji Sakurai from the Sports Science Department at Chukyo University

Why does the ball break? At this event, Professor Sakurai will be explaining the science behind the breaking ball in a way that is easy to understand for elementary students.

### Bat manufacturing demonstration

Date and time: August 21 and 22 11:00~, 13:30~, 15:00~

(approx. 1 hour per session)

Eligible participants: Elementary students who are interested in learning about baseball bats

Venue: Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum event hall

With cooperation by the Mizuno Corporation

We will be holding a bat manufacturing demonstration again this year!

Thanks to cooperation by Mizuno Co., Ltd., we will be holding a bat manufacturing demonstrations by a bat craftsman who will also be answering various questions regarding baseball bats. This event is recommended as a theme for summer vacation research projects.



### P3.

#### Special summer vacation lesson by the glove teacher

Date and time: August 23 13:30~, 15:00

(approx. 1 hour per session)

Eligible participants: Elementary students who are interested in learning about baseball gloves

Venue: Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum event hall

With cooperation by the Mizuno Corporation.

A Mizuno employee in charge of manufacturing globes will reveal the “secrets” of baseball globes in an easy to understand manner, including the configuration of gloves until they are completed, as well as their usage and maintenance methods.



\*All photos are from last year's event

Special Exhibition: 2018 Hall of Famers Hideki Matsui, Tomoaki Kanemoto and Tatsunori Hara, Masao Taki

Term: July 13~September 30

Venue: Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery

“Special Exhibition: 2018 Hall of Famers ” will be held to commemorate the Hall of Fame inductions of Hideki Matsui, Tomoaki Kanemoto, Tatsunori Hara and Masao Taki. The histories of the four inductees will be introduced through various materials and photographs.



The induction ceremony for Masao Taki is scheduled to take place in mid-August.

The plaque is scheduled to be exhibited after the Induction Ceremony.

### “3<sup>rd</sup> Independent Study Awards



We will be holding an independent study awards for elementary students whose independent study is based on the theme of baseball. Participation awards will be given to all applicants, so we look forward to your applications!

Last year’s award ceremony

### P4. Inductees Remembered(60)

#### Memories of my father

Fukiko Sakagami (Second daughter of 1976 BHFH Hideo Nakagami (Fujimoto))



It has already been 21 years since my father passed away in 1997. He was 80 years old at the time of his passing. During his last years, he became very close to my mother, and he helped take care of her when she was feeling ill.

The careers of baseball players vary depending on the player, but in my father’s case, his career was relatively short, and as a pitcher, his shoulder injuries forced him to retire from the game at an early stage. I was still a young girl at the time, so I don’t have clear memories of my father during his playing days. Thinking back about it now, this makes me very disappointing and sad. Others have often told me how impressive my father was as a baseball player, but it is difficult for me to imagine him playing due to his normally reserved personality.

Even though he was usually a very quiet man, he would sometimes share old memories out of the blue. For example, he used to tell me that the practices during his days at Shimonoseki Commercial High School were very primitive in the pre-war era, and his coaches often made the players carry the bases around with both hands for

hours at a time as a punishment. The practices were held until it got dark out and by the time he was so hungry that he would buy and eat food on his way home.

I don't recall hearing many stories about his time at Meiji University. However, my grandfather on my mother's side was a huge Giants fan, and I was told that he was thrilled that his daughter married my father. My mother was born and raised in Tokyo, but my father was initially very surprised when he moved to the city. After all, he was completely devoted to baseball from when he younger.

In 1950, after he joined the Yomiuri Giants, he became the first pitcher in NPB to throw a perfect game during a game held at Aomori City Baseball Stadium. Unfortunately, no videos exist of that game. I am told that only the box score from the game remains today. I was six years old at the time, so I don't have any recollection of the game. As the first pitcher in Japan to accomplish this feat, I would feel very proud to be his daughter when his name is mentioned whenever a pitcher throws a perfect game.

According to my mother, many of the players on the team were frustrated at the strict rules set by my father when he was the manager of the minor league team. He was always very hard on himself, and I'm sure that's what he expected from his own players.

After serving as a manager for the club baseball and as a professional baseball commentator at NTV, he and my mother moved to Los Angeles where he studied English while serving as a Fuji TV commentator for Major League games. Thanks to them, we were able to spend our summer holidays in Los Angeles with our family.

When he was the manager of the minor league team, he started playing golf with the recommendation of someone. He displayed his trademark passion for practice, improving his game until he was a 5-handicap player.

Influenced by my father, both my younger and older brother quit the baseball team during their school days and joined the golf club when they entered university. They became members of the Chiba Country Club as a family and became very devoted to golf.

In my memory, this was the era where my father was completely focused on golf. I started playing golf when I was able to take a rest from raising my children, and enjoyed playing rounds of golf with my father and brothers. Later in life, my daughter also joined the golf club at her school, and being able to play golf with three generations of my family was a very memorable moment for me. It's not common for three generations of the same family to be able to get together like that and play golf.

Today, my grandson plays baseball at his junior high school and is aiming to play in the National High School Baseball Tournament, but more than anything I'd glad that he has taken an interest in baseball and that he is very proud of his great-grandfather. Last year, I had the chance to visit the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum upon request from my grandson. Looking at the exhibited items, my grandson and I were able to reconfirm how great of a player my father was. It filled me with many great memories of my father that I had forgotten over the years.

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to everyone from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum for giving us this opportunity.

p5 Rara avis (83) \*Re-published

Kansen Hirose, designer of the 1934 Japan-U.S. Baseball Competition Poster

We will be introducing the re-published content of the (\*) underlined parts from this series (83) that was originally published in the October 2013 issue.



Let me introduce a famous poster promoting the 1934 Japan-U.S. baseball competition (shown down in the photo left) and a rare photo shown left here. The famous promotion poster is on display at our baseball museum and has been its centerpiece of the exhibits since the inauguration back in 1959. The poster is famous because it proved to be a big incentive to induce the reluctant Babe Ruth to come over to Japan in the fall of 1934. (Its details are written in Apocrypha of Japanese Pro Baseball ~ the path of the Tokyo Giants (1976) by Sotaro Suzuki, 1968 Hall of Famer.)



In November, 1972, Kansens Hirose, who had designed the poster, visited the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum which was then a detached building adjacent to the former Korakuen Stadium. He had two of his photos reproduced by the BHF, one of which is shown here in the left and testifies clearly a close relationship between Babe Ruth and the poster, and that between the designer and the said pair. The photo was taken in front of the former Imperial Hotel (aka Wright House) where the members of the American team stayed in 1934. The photo shows from left: Kansens Hirota, Sotaro Suzuki, Babe Ruth, Tsuneo Horiguchi, and (\*) anonym. The signature down left is of Hirose's.) Horiguchi is the famous "Piston Horiguchi," who was active in the boxing world in the pre- and post-war Japan. According to what Junji Ohno, the then director of the BHF, heard from Hirose, Horiguchi met Ruth as the representative of the only and popular pro sport in Japan.

(The current pro baseball in Japan started in 1936.)

The other photo shows Babe Ruth and Tsune Horiguchi, both in a fighting boxing posture, and Hirose in between them posing as a referee.

Kansens (or Ichiro) Hirose was born in August, 1898, at Ama, Oki-gun, Shimane Prefecture. At the age of 14, he went up to Tokyo and studied Japanese painting. After working for the Shusei Design until 1921, he set up the Nippon Design at Kyobashi, Tokyo, in 1930. He worked on many illustrations and posters, and exercised his talent in the new field of commercial art. In searching of how he came to design the famous promotion poster, I had a chance to talk with his descendants with kind cooperation of the library and board of education in Okinoshima, but regrettably I was not able to obtain any detailed information. His Nippon Design was located near Ginza-3-chome where the Yomiuri Shimbun, the sponsor of the 1934 Japan-U.S. competition, used to be, so it may be surmised that the two had some unknown connection between them.

Incidentally, the BHF has two promoting posters for games of the 1934 Japan-U.S. competition at Jingu Stadium and Koshien Stadium. Another one with a slightly different layout (other than the name of the stadium) for a game at Yokohama was recently discovered. Judging from the fact that the competition was held at 12 cities (Hakodate, Sendai, Toyama, Utsunomiya, Omiya, Tokyo, Yokohama, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Osaka, Kyoto, and Kokura), hitherto unknown posters for these venues and concomitant episodes will come up in the near future.



In June of this year, we received information from the son of the man pictured on the right side of the front row in the opinion column of our website. According to him, the man in the photo was Yoshio Kashiwabara, the younger brother of Kansens Hirose. If we receive any additional information, we will report it at a future date. The text is the exact same content that was published at the time and was written by Mariko Inagaki (maiden name Shinozuka) and the annotation section was written by Takahiro Sekiguchi.

P6. Topics from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (May-July 2018)

5/4 Talk panel session event hosted by Isao Shibata!



As part of the exhibition-related event of "Showa era, Heisei era and Shigeo Nagashima," an exhibition dedicated to commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the professional debut of "Mr. Baseball," a panel session event hosted by Isao Shibata (chairman of the Giants Old Boys (OB) Association) was held.

The talk panel featured behind-the-scenes stories about Shigeo Nagashima, such as his incredible memory and other unexpected sides of his personality.

5/18 Shigeo Nagashima's (1988 HOF) visit to the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame!



Shigeo Nagashima, the lifetime honorary manager of the Yomiuri Giants (1988 Hall of Fame inductee,) stopped by the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame and took a tour of the “Showa era, Heisei era and Shigeo Nagashima” exhibition that was held until May 20.

6/28~7/12 Newly-made “Crimson championship flag” exhibition

Coinciding with the current “High school baseball: 100<sup>th</sup> summer” special exhibition, the third-generation “crimson championship flag” that was newly made for the 100<sup>th</sup> National High School Baseball Tournament was exhibited during the aforementioned term with support from Asahi Shimbun Company and the High School Baseball Federation. This marked the first time the flag was displayed to the general public. The second-generation championship flag, which is held by Hanasaki Tokuharu High School (Saitama,) the winner of last year's summer tournament, was also exhibited from June 22 to July 5.



7/1 Tour held for rookies of the Tokyo Big6 Baseball League

After the “Tokyo Big6 Baseball League joint rookie workshop” held at Keio University, approximately 210 rookies of each team took a tour of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.



7/24 The “Two years until the 2020 Olympics! Masatake Yamanaka talk panel session” was held!



On July 24, exactly two years until the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, a talk panel session was held by Masatake Yamanaka, Baseball Federation of Japan president and Samurai Japan Strengthening Committee director (2016 Hall of Fame inductee.) He talked about his memories from the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, where he served as the manager for Japan, stories about current Samurai Japan manager Atsunori Inaba and their roadmap for 2020. Team day being held due to popular demand!

Team days for seven different teams were held between May and July.  
(Yokohama DeNA BayStars: 5/18~20, Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles and Orix Buffaloes: 5/24~25,  
Yomiuri Giants: 6/8~10, Tokyo Yakult Swallows: 6/22~24, Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks: 7/9~11,  
Chunichi Dragons: 7/27~29.)  
From August on, team days for the Hanshin Tigers: 8/7~9, Chiba Lotte Marines: 8/20~21,  
Hiroshima Toyo Carp: 8/28~30 are scheduled to be held.



7/9 Snapshot of the Softbank Hawks team day.  
The Hawks family and Tamabe visited BHF.M.

#### P7. “High school baseball: 100<sup>th</sup> summer” special exhibition

Term: May 29~September 30, 2018

The 100<sup>th</sup> National High School Baseball Tournament will be held in the summer of 2018. To commemorate the special event, a special exhibition is currently being held that traces the history of the tournament from the first tournament played in 1915 until the 100<sup>th</sup> tournament. A collection of uniforms of the schools from each prefecture, that have made the highest number of appearances in the tournament, including Chukyo University Senior High School from Aichi Prefecture (28 appearances,) are on display at the exhibition. Thanks to cooperation from the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters and Kotaro Kiyomiya, the bat and ball used to hit his very first homerun at Koshien Stadium in a game between Waseda Jitsugyo High School and Tokai University Kofu Senior High School (August 15, 2015) during the 97<sup>th</sup> National High School Baseball Tournament were added to the exhibition on July 23.



Tsubakuro, the “Iron Bird” of the mascot world

Director of the Players Selection Committee Noboru Matsuoka (Kyodo News)

With the end of the NPB All-Star Series, we have entered the second half of the season that will determine the fate of the pennant race. The players are the stars of the field, but they’re not the only ones who attract all the attention. One of them is Tsubakuro, the official mascot of the Tokyo Yakult Swallows. Beloved by fans for his mischievous and free-spirited personality, he ranks at the top of team goods sales. His personal blog, which is updated everyday, is constantly at the top of the popular rankings. His presence is undoubtedly something to be reckoned with.

Although his look is based on a swallow motif, his lovable body shape also closely resembles a penguin. He is best known for coming up with spontaneous jokes using only hiragana characters for his written communication, and has shown no hesitation to write about current affair topics such as celebrity scandals. During his contract renewal negotiations at the end of last year, he was witnessed spewing various complaints to his superiors, saying things like, “That’s not right,” “Do you not know how to act accordingly?” and “I’m gonna have the Totori police department investigate this!” as he cleverly incorporating keywords that caused sensational events during that year while demanding an increase in salary. You could tell his devotion to his craft as he prepared gags to incite laughter, such as wearing an expensive Hermes necktie even though he wasn’t wearing a shirt when sitting in on the negotiation process.

During the 2012 offseason, he became the “first mascot in history” to declare his free agency and received multiple offers from companies of a wide range of industries. In terms of popularity, he truly became the “team leader” of the offseason. When pitcher Yoshihisa Naruse joined the Swallows in 2014 from the Marines as a free agent, the Marines owner expressed interest in acquiring Tsubakuro as a compensation pick for his great communication skills for his unique “rule-breaking” plan to take the bird mascot instead of an actual player.

During the Christmas season, Tsubakuro joins forces with Doala, another popular mascot of the Chunichi Dragons, to host a dinner show. They’re both very unique presences, but there are sure to be people who doubt whether a dinner show can actually be hosted by two mascots. However, the two attracted fans with their creative talk panels and recitations, and last winter, 2,000 tickets for the Tokyo, Chiba, Nagoya and Fukuoka venues were sold out in only three minutes, regardless of the fact that each ticket cost 20,000 yen. I personally had the opportunity to experience the show thanks to an invite from an acquaintance. It was my very first dinner show so I don’t have anything to compare it with, but the laughter from the crowd didn’t stop throughout the whole show and the joyful and distinct environment was very impressionable.

When I was a student, I experienced working as an animal mascot at a company sports day as a one-day part-time job. I couldn’t imagine it looking at mascots from the outside, but it was a truly exhausting labor. You’re constantly sweating even in cold temperatures, and the heavy head portion causes a huge strain to the neck. I jumped at the offer due to its high hourly wage, but I clearly remember regretting it and telling myself, “I’ll never do that again.” In the past, there was a case of a female contract employee developing a disease that caused pain down her left arm after appearing in a parade wearing a character costume at Tokyo Disney Land and eventually receiving worker’s compensation for the injury.

Tsubakuro’s debut year traces back to 1994, and 2018 will mark his 25<sup>th</sup> year on the job. He has made consecutive appearances in every single game dating back to his first appearance, and in 2008 he made his 1,000<sup>th</sup> appearance. In May of this year, he passed 1,700 games. Tsubakuro wasn’t all that popular during his early years, and he doesn’t have any flashy moves like Doala, who is known for his backflips. There’s no doubt that it wasn’t a smooth path for him to get to where he is today. As the “Iron Man,” or rather, the “Iron Bird” of the mascot world, his next goal is to reach 2,000 appearances. I look forward to his sharp and witty written communication and his future accomplishments.

## Guide to the Baseball Museum

The entrance is located to the right of Gate 21 of Tokyo Dome.

Hours: 10:00— 18:00 (March through September)

10:00— 17:00 (October through February)

(Visitors are requested to enter at least 30 minutes prior to the closing time.)

Admission: ¥600 (*¥500)	Adults
¥400	High school and university students
¥200 (*¥150)	Elementary & Junior High School students
	(* Per person in a group of 20 or more)
¥400	Senior citizens aged 65 or over

Closed: Mondays except those 1) during the spring and summer vacations,  
2) that fall on National Holidays,  
3) when a pro baseball game is held at Tokyo Dome.