



## The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

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

Articles in NEWSLETTER, Vol.29, No.1 (April, 2019)

### P.1 Celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

Shiniichi Hirose, President

The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum will be celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 12. With approval from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology at the time, the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was opened adjacent to Korakuen Stadium in 1959 as a museum operated by all of Japanese baseball (including professional and amateur baseball). The museum was moved to its current location simultaneously with the opening of the Tokyo Dome in March 1988, and later it was approved as a public interest incorporated foundation by the Cabinet Office in April 2013. Approximately 40,000 collected items are stored and there are approximately 50,000 baseball-related books in the library. Also, including this year's inductees, Kazuyoshi Tatsunami, Hiroshi Gondoh and Haruo Wakimura, the number of players enshrined in the "Baseball Hall of Fame", which was established simultaneously with the museum, has been increased to 204.

At 111,989, the number of attendees from last year saw a significant increase of 20% compared to the previous year (increase of 18,839 attendees), which exceeded the annual target of 100,000 attendees. It was the first time in five years that the figure exceeded 110,000 attendees, and the total number of attendees since the museum was opened has reached 5,826,624.



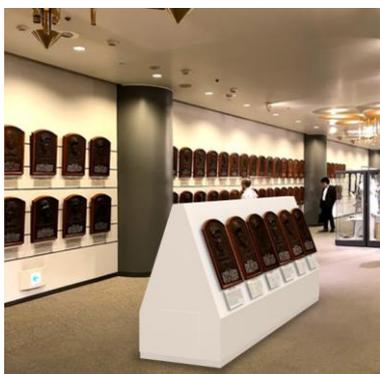
Shigeo Nagashima visiting the "Showa, Heisei and Shigeo Nagashima" exhibition

A factor in the significant increase of attendees of all ages was due to the critical acclaimed "Showa, Heisei and Shigeo Nagashima", a special exhibition that was opened in the spring commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the professional debut of Shigeo "Mr. Professional Baseball" Nagashima. Mr. Nagashima himself made a visit to the exhibition in May, and reminisced about the photos from his days as a member of the Yomiuri Giants. At the following "High School Baseball:100th Summer

Special Exhibition”, the uniforms of all participating teams of the summer tournament with the most appearances from each prefecture in Japan were collected and displayed, and was a great success full of local colors, confirming the deeply rooted popularity of high school baseball. Furthermore, the enhancement of the now annual summer vacation events and last-minute addition of a special exhibition of materials relating to Ichiro, who announced his retirement from the sport during the MLB season opener that was held in March of this year, led to the significant increase in attendees.

This year, as an exhibition that is suitable for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, an exhibition titled “What is the Baseball Hall of Fame?” is held from March 15 (Fri) to June 23 (Sun). Various topics about the “Baseball Hall of Fame”, including the mechanism of the system to honor the Hall of Famers, the hometown rankings of the 204 Hall of Fame inductees and the players’ alma matters is introduced in an easy-to-understand manner using rare materials collected from those who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. In addition, we plan on inviting Hall of Fame inductees throughout the year to host talk panel sessions. A talk panel session that was hosted by Hiroshi Gondoh, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in March of this year, was held as the first event. The talk panel session drew large crowds of fans, who flocked to the venue wearing their Yokohama BayStars uniforms.

In terms of facilities, we installed movable furniture during the offseason as an extension



measure of the relief sculpture display space of the cramped Baseball Hall of Fame in preparation for the future. By hosting various exhibitions and events, we aim to accomplish the challenges presented by the Renewal Investigative Commission, and we intend to continue making efforts to promote and spread the game of baseball through the museum’s mission themes of “connect”, “promote” and “honor”, so we look forwarding to your ongoing support and cooperation.

A conceptual drawing of the Baseball Hall of Fame after the installation of the movable furniture.

## P.2 2019 Opening events

### 3/9 Talk panel session with Hiroshi Gondoh

Interviewer: Kazuo Koguchi (Nippon Broadcasting System Show Up Nighter announcer)



To commemorate the start of the 2019 season, a talk panel session with Hiroshi Gondoh, who was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame this year, was held. We spoke with him about his days as the ace pitcher for the Chunichi Dragons, his managing days when he led the Yokohama BayStars to its first Japan Series title in 38 years and his outlook of the 2019 season.

### 3/29 “Spring Break Child and Parent Glove-making Class”

At the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, the “Spring Break Child and Parent Glove-making Class”, where children could work with their parents to make their own baseball gloves for rubber-ball baseball (baseball glove lacing) was held as an event to commemorate the start of the baseball season.



With cooperation from Mizuno Corporation and under the guidance of Shimpei Yamada of Mizuno, the participants spent approximately two hours to complete and bring home their “one-of-a-kind gloves”.

The next event is scheduled to take place during summer break. The application guide will be posted on the museum’s homepage at a later date.

3/30 “How to Score a Baseball Game NPB Style” class taught by an official scorer



NPB chief scorer Seiji Yamakawa was invited to host the “How to Score a Baseball Game NPB Style” class. After sharing his memories of Ichiro from the perspective of an official scorer and explaining the features of NPB-style scoring, he explained the scoring methods while showing actual game footage.

30 participants were initially invited, but following from last year (last December), a second series of invitations were sent out due to the popularity of the event. The participants shared their feelings of the event, stating that “it was easy to understand” and that “we could not wait to try it out in an actual game”.

### P.3 Inductees Remembered (63)

#### Remembering my Father

Yasuyuki Toyoda (Eldest son of 2006 Hall of Fame inductee Yasumitsu Toyoda)



My father was a very strict man. After my grandfather fell ill at an early age, he became a professional baseball player and supported his brothers and sister as a father figure. Therefore, I couldn’t understand my father’s strictness as an only son during my childhood day, and became a delinquent with no guts as a young man during my rebellious phase.

On the other hand, my mother was very gentle to me and I got spoiled by her kindness, which further escalated the feud between me and my father. Even when I faced problems when I was engaged in business as a dependent and felt like giving up, my father only gave me very strict advice. As a spoiled child, I rarely listened to what he said, and as a result I ran away from home and was disowned from my family.

Since going out in the world and creating my own family, I faced various family troubles and struggles and problems with work. At first I objected to my father’s way of thinking and acted on my own. However, my social life continued to not work out, and I realized that by remembering the times when my parents scolded me, I was able to lead an honest life. Later, my

exchanges with my parents resumed.

My mother was raised in a coal-mining household in Kyushu. Her family was well off but not without their own issues. She strongly disliked fish, and I used to think what a “spoiled princess” she was for being a picky eater. She also supported my father from behind the scenes after his retirement from baseball. She used her natural born talents to manage a restaurant in order to support my father.

My father received a great deal of gifts from his fans and supporters. Among them was seafood and fish sent from the suburbs. Standing in front of the packages of fresh fish, he would scream with a spiteful tone, “Who would send something like this! Are they sending it out of spite, knowing I hate seafood? You take them home!” In the back of my mind, I remember thinking about my father, “What a terrible thing so say about a sincere gift.”

Late in his life, I accompanied my father to his lectures and ceremonies in the suburbs. We often had a drink together at local taverns while we waited for our train to depart. At the tavern, my father would deliciously eat the local seafood dishes that I ordered. I asked him, “Dad! You eat fish? I thought you normally never ate fish?” However, my father would just smile at me and say, “I wonder why?” Looking back at it now, I think that he was being sympathetic towards my mother.

I also lived together with my father at my parent’s house in order to take care of him. He would often say, “Your mother was a treasure. I wouldn’t be where I am today if it wasn’t for her. Even when I’m no longer here, I want you to continue being dutiful to her.” As the level of care that my father required increased and it took more time to take care of him, he would say to me, “Thank you, but if you keep living and taking care of me you’re going to die of exhaustion. Just put me in a facility!” The following day, he fell and suffered a fractured bone walking down a flight of stairs, and was transferred to a nursing home. I believe that was his way of showing compassion towards me. My father was a type of person who lived life caring for others more than himself. Sometimes he would use harsh language, which would create enemies. Essentially, however, he was truly filled with love. And I believe that it was my mother who understood and supported him.

I currently reside in Hyogo Prefecture, where I manage an Indian restaurant with my Indian friends. I still face various problems every day. Each time, I remember my father’s message of treating in good faith, and the lessons that my mother taught me, and do my best. In the future I plan on bringing my mother to Hyogo Prefecture and take care of her just like I promised my father.

#### P.4 Rara avis (91)

##### Portraits of Matsutaro Shoriki and Hiroshi Hiraoka

The “Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum” will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 12, 2019 (Wed), and will simultaneously celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the “Baseball Hall of Fame”. The “Baseball Hall of Fame” is a system to honor those who have significantly contributed to the development of Japanese baseball and praise their achievements for eternity. 204 members, including 2019 inductees Kazuyoshi Tatsunami, Hiroshi Gondoh and Haruo Wakimura, are currently enshrined in the Hall of Fame.

On May 1, 1959 (Fri), the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Selection Committee selected nine Hall of Fame inductees, and relief sculptures were created for Yokio Aoi, Isoo Abe, Shin Hashido, Kiyoshi Oshikawa, Jiro Kuji, Eiji Sawamura and Michimaro Ono. Instead of relief sculptures, portraits of Matsutaro Shoriki and Hiroshi Hiraoka were drawn by artist Junpei Etoh.



As the president of Yomiuri Shimbun, Shoriki, was committed to hosting the Major League Baseball Japan All-Star Series, and in 1931 and 1934, he succeeded in inviting a team of Major League All-Stars to Japan. Primarily through the All-Japan Team that competed against the Major League All-Star Team in 1934, which included Babe Ruth, he helped establish the Great Japan Tokyo Baseball Club (predecessor of the Yomiuri Giants), and led the way for the foundation of professional baseball in Japan. In 1950, he achieved a two-league system consisting of the Central League and Pacific League.

Hiraoka became familiar with baseball during a study exchange program in the United States from 1871, and spread the baseball in Japan upon his return in 1876. After returning to Japan, he began working at the Shimbashi Factory of the Japan Railway Bureau and formed the first full-scale baseball team in Japan, the “Shimbashi Athletic Club”, within his bureau. It is also said that he was the first pitcher to throw a curveball in Japan.



Shoriki and Hiraoka’s achievements were honored as “the founder of Japan’s professional baseball organization” and as the “founder of Japanese baseball” respectively, and portraits of them were produced instead of relief sculptures. In the minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Selection Committee, it is written that “the oil paintings were dedicated as a special award to both parties as a symbol of their achievements.”

Their portraits have been displayed since the museum was opened, and in 1997, they were replaced by the relief sculptures that were produced like the rest of the honorees.

Since then, the portraits have been stored inside a warehouse, but they will be made open to the public for the first time in 22 years for the “What is the Baseball Hall of Fame?” exhibition to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum from March 15 (Fri) to June 23, 2019 (Sun). Please take this opportunity to see them at the museum.

About the collection of materials relating to the Heisei and Reiwa eras

In accordance with the change of the name of the era on May 1, we are planning on collecting professional baseball-related materials concerning the Heisei and Reiwa eras with cooperation from NPB and all 12 teams. We plan on disclosing them to the public sequentially as these materials are delivered to the museum.

Please view the museum’s homepage for details.

- The winning ball from the last game of the Heisei era (from three Pacific League Central League games on 4/29 and 4/30, respectively)
- The first ball from the first game of the Reiwa era (from three Pacific League and Central League games held on 5/1)
- Materials relating to the first homerun of the Reiwa era

## P.5 Library Note

### Changes of the Library Part 1

This year, the museum will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its establishment. So, we will be introducing the changes of the library in three separate parts. Today, we will introduce the



library and collection of books from when the museum was first opened.

The museum was opened in 1959, and the library has been around in a corner of the museum since the beginning. Based on the photos from the opening of the museum, there were around ten seats and a bookshelf along the entire side of the wall that contained a collection of books

displayed in rows. Looking at the reports from the first year of the museum's opening, the total number of books and magazines that were accepted throughout the year was approximately 5,300. Among them, there are many magazines such as "Yakyukai", "Baseball Magazine" and "Weekly Baseball" that are still available to read today.

"Yakyukai" was issued from 1911 to 1959, and conveyed information about the events that took place in the baseball world during the Meiji, Taisho and Showa eras. The magazine offered articles about the Summer Koshien High School Baseball Tournament, which began in 1915, the Spring Koshien High School Baseball Tournament, which began in 1924 and the Intercity Baseball Tournament, which began in 1927. Japanese professional baseball was launched in 1936, and articles and photos from the founding of the Nippon Professional Baseball League to the war-time and post-war eras can be viewed. You can learn about what professional baseball looked like at the time through in-game photos and photos of players from each team, including pitchers Eiji Sawamura (1959 Hall of Fame inductee) and Masaru Kageura (1965 Hall of Fame inductee).

The "Federation Secretariat News", which was published from the December 1939 issue took over from the "Bulletin of Nippon Professional Baseball League" (later renamed to the "Baseball Federation of Japan News"), which was issued by the Nippon Professional Baseball League and published information from the federation regarding player transactions and call-ups and returns from military service.

"Baseball Magazine", which was first published in 1946, was temporarily suspended, but resumed in 1977 and continues to be published today. Hiroshi Ohshita, who was known for his trademark blue bat, graced the cover of the magazine's inaugural issue. "Weekly Baseball" was launched in 1958, the same year that Shigeo Nagashima joined the Yomiuri Giants, and continues to be published today. Last year, the magazine celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Shigeo Nagashima and Tatsuro Hirooka, the third baseman and shortstop of the Yomiuri Giants of that year, were featured on the cover of the inaugural issue.

Kenzo Hirose (1973 Hall of Fame inductee), who served as the director at the time (current museum director), brought books that he had personally collected to the museum, and Eiichi Tao, a sports historian, sports material collector and manager of a sportsman hotel, donated several books relating to baseball. The book collection of Atsushi Kono (1960 Hall of Fame inductee), which was inherited by Ryuji Suzuki (1982 Hall of Fame inductee), was also donated to the museum. A vast collection of materials has been collected thanks to the support and cooperation of many people. In addition to the magazines that were introduced today, the library houses a wide range of materials that have become the cornerstone of the library, including records relating to university and amateur level baseball and previous Japan Series and All-Star games.

From these materials, you can learn about how baseball came over to Japan and about the history of baseball to this day. The materials that have been stored since the museum opened are typically open to the public, so please feel free to browse them during your next visit to the museum.

Librarian Akiko Ogawa

## P.6 Topics from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (January-April 2019)

1/29 “Jikkyou Powerful Pro Baseball 2018”

eSports tournament and presentation ceremony of related materials held!



In 2018, an eSports tournament co-sponsored by NPB and Konami Digital Entertainment was held with the game “Jikkyou Powerful Pro Baseball 2018”. In response to the huge success of the tournament and with the cooperation of the sponsors, autographed player uniforms and cards were donated to the museum. These items are scheduled to be displayed until the end of the 2019 season.

Photo from left to right: NPB General Planning Dept./General Manager Koichiro Takada, President Shinichi Hirose, Konami Digital Entertainment Co., Ltd. Division Director Production Division 3 Koji Kobayashi.

2/28 Visit by pitcher Ayuri Shimano!

Ayuri Shimano, the ace pitcher for the Oyodo Boys, winners of the 12<sup>th</sup> All-Japan Junior High School Baseball Tournament Giants Cup last year, graced us with a visit to the museum. Shimano’s game-worn uniform and glove are currently on display at the Youth Baseball section of the museum.



3/6 Announcement of the Baseball Press Photo Foundation’s “2018 Best Shot of the Year”!

1<sup>st</sup> place: “Ohtani Chasing After Ichiro”

Shot by Satoshi Suga of Nikkan Sports News



The voting results of the “Best Shot of the Year”, which was held at the “Baseball Press Photo Exhibition 2018” (from December 15, 2018 to March 3, 2019), were announced. With a record number of 5,836 total votes, “Ohtani chasing after Ichiro” shot by Satoshi Suga of Nikkan Sports News, received 404 votes to take the top spot.

3/22 Special exhibition “Thank You Ichiro” held



In response to Ichiro’s retirement announcement on March 21, the special exhibition titled “Thank You Ichiro” was held from the early evening on March 22. A total of nine uniforms that he wore during his time with the Orix BlueWave (currently renamed to Orix Buffaloes), Seattle Mariners, New York Yankees, Miami Marlins and WBC Japan national team, bats and cleats are currently on display at various areas within

the museum. The exhibition is scheduled to continue until mid-September.

## P.7 News from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

### Museum Staff Changes

(Newly appointed) Assistant director Masanobu Shoji



Born on September 20, 1963 in Tokyo  
Graduated from the School of Commerce, Waseda University in 1987  
Joined Korakuen Stadium Corporation (now Tokyo Dome Corporation) in the same year.  
Assigned to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum on April 1, 2019 after working at the Sales Department, Entertainment Business Department, Secretarial Department, Operation Control Department, Public Relations & Investor Relations Department.

(Newly appointed) Operations Department librarian Yohei Kokatsu

Born on September 10, 1990 in Chiba Prefecture

Graduated from the Department of Law, Rikkyo University in 2013

Started working at the museum's Operations Department from April 1, 2019 after working at the Chiba Prefectural Government Office and TRC Library Service Inc.



(Part-time employee)

Operations Department librarian Akiko Ogawa has become a part-time employee as of April 2019.

## P.8 Essays (74)

### The Perfect Memorial Year

Director of the Players Selection Committee

Hirotsugu Tominaga (The Nishinippon Shimbun Co., Ltd.)

To the person reading this, is it currently the Heisei era or Reiwa era? In either case, there is certainly a lot of excitement surrounding the “Heisei era’s last” and “Reiwa era’s first” events. The NPB and 12 teams will be donating the first and last balls of both eras to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. At any rate, the change of the era name due to the accession of the new Emperor is certainly a celebration. Riding this festive mood, I’d like to focus on “celebratory” baseball plays such as the balk, passed ball and runners getting caught stealing a base.

By the way, my turn to write this relay essay came at a crazy time. Because I drifted through life, I couldn't think of one deep story regarding the era name. As I thought deeper, a giant "?" mark about "what time is" came to mind. The length of a second, base 60 system, base 24 system, the 365-day international date line...I understand the logic behind them, but I don't understand the rationale. Eventually, using my head to research this is simply a waste of time.

As I was lamenting about this, I remembered that something very important had happened in my hometown of Fukuoka. The Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks began playing here in 1989, the first year of Heisei era. The team's parent company changed from Daiei to Softbank, but this year marks the "30<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the team relocated to Fukuoka". A giant uniform that extends 30 meters vertically and seven meters horizontally was raised on the outer wall of a Fukuoka City government office building from mid-March to the end of March. The commemorative uniform was designed with red as the base color instead of the familiar yellow color scheme. The name "WE = KYUSHU" was given to the uniform by the team.

The team continued its struggles for many years, but won its first league pennant and Japan Series championship in 1999, which was also the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the team relocated to Fukuoka. The mood of the fans, who had previously found it hard to say that the team was deeply rooted in the city of Fukuoka, completely changed, and since then the team continued to steadily permeate throughout all of Kyushu. To say that winning is the best way to gain fans seems a bit obvious, but today "WE = KYUSHU" perfectly symbolizes the mood of the city. On the other hand, the team achieved four Japan Series victories in the last five years of the Heisei era, but the excitement of the city is no longer the same as before, even when the team is victorious. Continuing to win and increasing the charm of the team. That seems to be the main challenge during the Reiwa era.

Last year, the Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the team was founded, and the players wore commemorative uniforms designed with a retro Nankai Hawks motif. This year, the team will be celebrating another anniversary for the second year in a row, but there's something that is stuck in the back of my mind. 11 years ago in 2008, the Nankai and Daiei Hawks uniforms were revived as a double commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the team was founded and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the team was relocated to Fukuoka. The uniforms contained commemorative logos that featured the numbers "70" and "20". Perhaps this was a mix of the "anniversary year" and "commemorative year".

In terms of the "commemorative year", this year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> year since the launch of the two-league system in 1950. In terms of a connection to the city of Fukuoka, this was also the year that the Nishitetsu Clippers (predecessor of the Seibu Lions) and Nishi Nippon Pirates joined the Pacific League and Central League, respectively. However the Nishi Nippon Pirates merged with the Nishitetsu Clippers after just one year. Even though the team placed in sixth place out of eight teams, they were 48 games behind the champions Shochiku Robins. The team

was also defeated in the first perfect game in the history of Japanese professional baseball. Because of the team's weaknesses, they faced financial difficulties, resulting in delayed and unpaid salaries. While it's a shame to admit, the parent company of that team was the Nishinippon Shimbun Co., Ltd, where I work. In the past, when I went to interview players from that era who were well over 80 years old, the first thing they said to me was, "I'm still owed the salary that I have yet to receive."

Even so, we continue to live without fully understanding who came up with the concept of time, but these accumulating "milestones" are something to be truly grateful for. In this day and age, I constantly find myself worrying about the future of the newspaper industry due to the reducing population and spread of AI. As someone who has lived his life without paying much attention to new trends, I may never have the chance to think about the past without the existence of milestones.

With the addition of the "change of the era name" to the "anniversary year" and "commemorative year", this has truly been a perfect memorial year. First, I'd like to start by reviewing my old interview notes. Oh, and also don't forget that this year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the opening of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

#### 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.