



## The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

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

Articles in NEWSLETTER, Vol.29, No.2 (August, 2019)

### P.1 The Induction Ceremony for the 2019 Baseball Hall of Famers elected by the Players Selection Committee

Masanobu Shoji, President

The awards ceremony for Kazuyoshi Tatsunami and Hiroshi Gondoh, who were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame by the Players Selection Committee, was held at Tokyo Dome on July 12 (Fri) prior to Game 1 of the Mynavi All-Star Series.

Tatsunami, who was selected by in the Players Division of the Players Selection Committee, joined the Chunichi Dragons from PL Gakuen High School in the first round of the 1987 NPB Draft. He played his entire 22-year career for the Dragons, with a total of 2,480 hits, 171 homeruns, 1,037 RBI, an all-time NPB double record of 487 doubles, and was a two-time Best Nine and five-time Golden Glove winner. He was a star player who contributed to the Dragons' golden age throughout the 2000s, leading the team to a league pennant in 2004 and 2006, and to a Japan Series victory in 2007.

Gondoh, who was elected in the Expert Division, joined the Chunichi Dragons in 1961 after playing at Tosu High School and Bridgestone Tire. He played a major role from his rookie season, winning titles in major pitching categories with 35 wins, 310 strikeouts and a 1.70 ERA, as well as being named the Rookie of the Year and the winner of the Sawamura Award. After injuring his shoulder due to excessive throwing, he converted to a fielder, but his playing career only lasted eight years. After retiring, he served as a coach and manager, and in 1998 he led the Yokohama BayStars to its first league pennant and Japan Series victory in 38 years as a manager, and also served as a pitching coach at the World Baseball Classic in 2017.

The players, managers and coaches from the Central League and Pacific League teams lined up in front of the bench, and both Tatsunami and Gondoh appeared after being introduced with on the large screen along with an announcement over the public address system. First, commemorative replicas were presented by Atsushi Saito, Chairman of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, followed by a bouquet of flowers presented to Tatsunami by fellow Chunichi Dragons player Shuhei Takahashi, and to Gondoh by Koichi Ogata, manager of the Hiroshima Toyo Carp, a fellow alumnus of his high

school baseball team.

Following the commemorative photo session, Tatsunami expressed his gratitude towards Senichi Hoshino, who played him from his rookie year, and delivered words of encouragement to the players participating in the All-Star game, stating, “You are all role models to children. Please continue to inspire them and help them achieve their dreams through your actions on the field.” Gondoh followed by speaking about his memories of competing against Shigeo Nagashima in his debut game, and added, “As an 80-year old man, today is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I thank all of my fans for their continued support.” Finally, a huge round of applause was given to the two recipients from the capacity crowd.



From left

Shuhei Takahashi, Kazuyoshi Tatsunami, Atsushi Saito, Hiroshi Gondoh and Koichi Ogata

## P.2 Independent Study on Baseball!

- Period: ~August 31 (Sat)
- Venue: The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum - Library and event hall

In baseball, there are many topics that can be independent study themes for elementary students, including the history of the sport, equipment and baseball fields. This year at the



Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, the “Independent Study on Baseball!”, which supports the independent studies of elementary students, is currently being held again.

A wide range of baseball equipment, which is a popular research theme, is exhibited at the event hall so that visitors can actually touch and view them in person. Various books and magazines that can be used as references for research are also prepared at the library.

If there is anything that you don’t understand or having trouble with while proceeding with your independent study, please feel free to ask one of the staff members!

The “Mini-mini Experimental Corner” will also be hosted by the museum’s staff again this year.

#### Mini-mini Experimental Corner

○Period: ~August 25 (Sun) \*Excluding days when other events are taking place.

○Time: 14:00~, 15:00~ (approximately 30 minutes for each session)

○Target: Elementary students

○Location: The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Event Hall

○Content:

14:00 session~ The secret of breaking balls/The secret of baseball gloves

15:00 session~ The secret of baseballs/The secret of baseball bats

Hosting of the “4<sup>th</sup> Independent Study with Baseball! Contest” decided!

The “4<sup>th</sup> Independent Study with Baseball! Contest”, which targets the independent studies for elementary students under the theme of baseball will be held.



«Overview of the “4<sup>th</sup> Independent Study with Baseball! Contest”»

☆Competition entry: Works relating to

baseball research. The entries may be works that have been submitted to schools.

☆Limited to original works by elementary students.

☆Please refrain from submitting handicraft works or drawings only.

☆Application period: ~September 30 (Mon)

(Valid with postmark on the day of the deadline or courier service reception mark)

☆Announcement: The winning works will be announced on the museum's homepage in November 2019 and exhibited in the museum.

## 2019 Baseball Hall of Fame Inductees Special Exhibition

The “2019 Baseball Hall of Fame Inductees Special Exhibition” is currently being held to commemorate the inductions of Kazuyoshi Tatsunami, Hiroshi Gondoh and Haruo Wakimura into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

The exhibition consists of materials and photographs relating to the three are displayed, as well as introductions of their respective careers.



The commendation ceremony of Haruo Wakimura is scheduled to take place at Koshien Stadium on August 15 (Thu). His commemorative replica is scheduled to be exhibited several days following the commendation ceremony.

○Term: ~September 29 (Sun)

○Venue: Baseball Hall of Fame Gallery inside the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

~Main exhibition materials~

Kazuyoshi Tatsunami: 2000<sup>th</sup> hit ball, Golden Glove Award trophy, etc.

Hiroshi Gondoh: Winning ball from his 35<sup>th</sup> win in 1961, Sawamura Award trophy, etc.

Haruo Wakimura: Japan High School Baseball Federation Achievement Award,  
research papers, etc.

### P.3 Inductees Remembered (64)

#### Ikuji Yamanouchi (1)

Ryoichi Yamanouchi (Eldest son of Ikuji Yamanouchi, 1985 Hall of Famer)



On April 12, 2018, the 300<sup>th</sup> memorial service of Sasuke, the first generation of the Yamanouchi family, was held at the family's *bodaiji* (a temple which, generation after generation, takes care of a family's dead) in Matsue. The Yamanouchi family during the Edo period ran the first shipping agency in Matsue in the Shirakata District, and had supposedly set aside a considerable amount of assets at the time. They eventually became a merchant family by trading paper, which was one of the products that they handled by

transport, and assumed the name of Sasuke Kamiya.

In subsequent years, he ran a kimono wholesale business until the store closed down due to the order for industrial adjustment during World War II.

Ikuji Yamanouchi was the 7<sup>th</sup> generation Sasuke, and succeeded to his name in 1936. By that time, he had already studied at the Faculty of Economics at Keio University and was looking abroad with his academics and baseball research, so he had no interest in running a business in the countryside. He left the business to his wife and head clerk and embarked on his own life. He led a life centered on his hobbies, which was unthinkable for ordinary people.

Looking at it from the perspective of a person holding a proper job, it was an extremely egocentric lifestyle, as he read books until the early morning and woke up at noon to start his day. As a result, I didn't have any memories of eating breakfast together with him. Anything he did, he started from the afternoon. He usually always went out during the afternoon and spent his days together with his friends who had the same hobbies as him. It's an embarrassing story, but as a result he was unaware of the news of the outbreak of the war on December 8, 1941, and he only later found out about it after a friend told him on his way to school.

He had many hobbies, including collecting insects, breeding goldfish and small birds, reading, playing the Nagauta shamisen, knitting, green tea and researching about baseball, which he began from his junior high school days in Matsue.

His interest in his hobbies continuously increased, and baseball was one of his

passions that remained throughout his life. After graduating from university, he returned to his hometown and worked hard to develop baseball in Matsue. He began working on the construction of a municipally- owned baseball stadium, and during the construction he was always present on the worksite acting like a site foreman, giving detailed instructions based on the baseball rulebook. Once the construction of the baseball stadium was completed, he invited the Keio University's baseball team to raise the interest of baseball among the local residents, and whenever there was a game, he sat next to the stadium announcer and taught baseball terminology while keeping records.

Ever since he was invited by the Japan Professional Baseball League in 1938, he devoted himself to baseball. Taking that opportunity, he changed the spelling of his name, which roughly translates as "a baseball player is only as good as his team" in Japanese. While his baseball life is well known, professional baseball during the war was still in its early developmental stage and there were very little spectators, which is beyond comparison to today. His first base as a scorekeeper was in Kansai, so he rented a room at Koubukan in front of the stadium in Nishinomiya, where the Hankyu Braves players regularly stayed. Naturally, he mostly worked without pay, and received money from his wife to make up for his living expenses.

As the war intensified, the players at the time played baseball while wearing field caps and made wooden airplanes at the stadium for labor mobilization, but baseball was cancelled, and one day while he was living in Matsue, three tall military policeman wielding heavy Japanese swords, instead of sabers, entered his home and took him to gendarmerie corps. Apparently he fell under suspicion after word came out that he had many English books in his home and that he was listening to shortwave radio. He was forced to spend a night before being allowed to return home the following day, but he received this kind of treatment during the era when baseball was condemned.

He was also a perfectionist when it came to his other hobbies.

His knitting skills were comparable to those of professionals, as he never let go of his knitting needle even while keeping score at baseball games. He knitted many sweaters and made everyone wear them.

He enjoyed reading the complete works of first edition books of authors such as Soseki Natsume, Ogai Mori and Kyoka Izumi. He mainly read detective novels whenever he left for professional baseball expeditions, and read books inside his bed until late at night. As a result, he was very strict about writing, and did everything possible to find the appropriate words when translating the revised baseball rulebook into Japanese each year.

(To be continued in the next issue)

#### P.4 Topics from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (May-July 2019)

##### ◆May 6: Panel session hosted by Masaki Saitoh

Former Yomiuri Giants pitcher Masaki Saitoh (2016 Baseball Hall of Famer) was invited to the Baseball Hall of Fame to host a panel session.

He spoke about his own baseball career, sharing stories about his 11 consecutive complete game wins, a Japanese record that he accomplished in 1989, his memories of the “October 8 showdown” in 1994, which was considered a “national

event”, as well as stories about his post-playing days as a coach for the Yomiuri, and manager of the Yomiuri Giants’ farm team and U-23 Samurai Japan team.



Right: Masaki Saitoh  
Left: Saburo Kudo, Interviewer

##### ◆May 11: Museum visit by Ayumi Sato!



Ayumi Sato, a pitcher for the Aichi Dione of the women's professional baseball league made a visit to the museum. Sato contributed to Team Japan’s sixth consecutive victory at the 8<sup>th</sup> WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup that was held in 2018 and was selected as the MVP for the third consecutive tournament. She presented the museum with an

autographed team photo that was taken after their championship victory.

◆June 5: Museum visit by five Hall of Famers!



A NPB special professional training lecture of the student baseball qualification restoration system was held at the Tokyo Dome Hotel. Prior to the lecture, the Hall of Famers who attended the lecture (Shigeru Sugishita, Katsuya Nomura, Yutaka Fukumoto, Tsuneo Horiuchi and Hiromitsu Kadota) visited the museum, and took part in a ceremony

Photo

(From left in back row)

Tsuneo Horiuchi, Yutaka Fukumoto,

(From left in the front row)

Hiromitsu Kadota, Shigeru Sugishita  
and Katsuya Nomura

to present the list of donations made to the museum.

◆June 8: Museum visit by Atsuki Taneichi (Chiba Lotte Marines)!



Atsuki Taneichi of the Chiba Lotte Marines made a visit to the museum.

Taneichi was the starting pitcher in the last game of the Heisei era on April 29 (Mon/Public holiday) of this year and achieved his first professional win. The winning ball from that game is currently on display at the museum as one of the last

winning balls of the Heisei era. He made a visit before his game at Tokyo Dome, where he was asked to autograph the ball.

◆June 12: 60th Anniversary of the opening of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

As a limited one-day plan to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the opening of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in 1959, the admission fee was set to 60 yen as a flat rate. A guided tour by the museum curators was also held twice from 11:00 and 14:00.



◆July 7: Museum tour held for rookie players of the Tokyo Big6 Baseball League!



A joint rookie workshop by the Tokyo Big6 Baseball League was conducted at Waseda University, and after the workshop, a tour of the Baseball Hall of Fame was held. All of the students enjoyed viewing the exhibitions affiliated with the “Big 6” Tokyo universities and toured the museum enthusiastically.

◆July: Museum visit by the members of the Osaka Gas, JR East Tohoku and JR East baseball clubs!

On July 9, the members of the Osaka Gas hardball baseball club, who will be participating in the 90<sup>th</sup> Intercity Baseball Tournament, visited and toured the museum.

Osaka Gas won the 89<sup>th</sup> Intercity Baseball Tournament that was held last year, and their uniforms and autographed square cards were displayed at the "Commemorative of the 90th Intercity Baseball Championship" exhibition (term ~ July 25).



Members of the JR East Tohoku and JR East baseball clubs also made a visit to the museum during the exhibition.

Osaka Gas



JR East



JR East Tohoku

◆July 12: Museum visit by Hiroshi Gondoh!

Hiroshi Gondoh made a visit to the museum prior to the 2019 Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony that was held before Game 1 of the “Mynavi All-Star Series 2019” at Tokyo Dome.



P.6 Library Note

Changes of the Library Part 2

I began working at the museum in 1978. At the time, the manager (current president) and other employees conducted their work in the library. One half of the reading table with a partition in the middle was used as a working space for employees, while the other half was used as a space for readers. The space was packed when there were just four people using it, and the number of annual visitors was less than 400 people.

The collection of books could not all fit in the library alone, so the books were arranged in the bookshelves and cabinets that were installed in the conference rooms, machine room and electric room located at the four corners of the museum. Large-sized materials such as original bound copies of Sports Hochi, etc. and infrequently used materials relating to mountaineering and explorations were stocked there.

From 1981, we began collecting all of the fan books, yearbooks and media guides of all 12 teams. In 1985, sparked by the “Introduction of Prefectural Japan High School Baseball Federation” that was published in a magazine, we sent requests to the baseball

federation that published stories on its history for material donations, and actively began collecting materials that were not for sale. From around 2008, we sent requests to various federations and began collecting pamphlets from the spring and fall league games for college baseball. These materials have become distinguished features of the library, and the collection list is published on the museum's homepage.

The visitors to the library range from general readers to people affiliated with teams, federations and associations. Junji Ono, who served as the manager at the time, was engaged in the baseball world, so people affiliated with baseball frequently visited the library. Amateur and professional players such as Den Yamada, who played for the Hankyu Braves (now the Orix Buffaloes) before the war, and infielder Binkei Izuchi and outfielder Kimiji Kawai, who both played at Waseda University during the Taisho period, frequently visited the library. Among them, Shigeru Chiba visited the library two to three times a week due to his involvement as the author of the "Uncle Raging Bull's Memory Talk" series that was published in the magazine "Weekly Baseball" from 1982. The theme of the series was "to put the spotlight on lesser-known players who possessed unique skills". Every week, he came to the library to find out if we had any information about a specific player. At the time, Mr. Ono would take out a notebook that he made on his own, and would tell Mr. Chiba which magazines contained information about a specific player and provided him with materials. Whenever Mr. Chiba came when Mr. Ono wasn't around, I always had an extremely difficult time because I could not satisfy his requests. At the time, there was no way to find out what information was written there among the many books and magazines that were arranged in the library. So, I thought about how I could utilize them more efficiently, and created a summary of the magazines so that I could quickly point out materials regarding various events and players of the baseball world.

Whenever Mr. Chiba visited the library, he always bought us his favorite snacks. We often listened to his talk about his playing days, different baseball players and events that took place in the baseball world while enjoying the snacks together. What was especially memorable was the championship game between Kumamoto Technical High School and Matsuyama Commercial High School at the 1996 Summer Koshien High School Summer Baseball Tournament. Mr. Chiba watched this game with Tetsuharu Kawakami, and I remember hearing a story about him, who screamed, "This is legendary!" at the moment of the "miraculous throw to the home plate" in the bottom of the 10<sup>th</sup> inning with one out and the bases loaded for Kumamoto Technical High School. The image of the two of them, who were considered to be rivals during their playing days, meeting up for the purpose of watching this game together and frantically

cheering on their respective alma maters, reaffirmed to me that they truly loved the sport of baseball.

Hidenosuke Shima was another person that would sometimes casually stop by and talk about his own playing and umpiring days. Listening to his stories, such as the time he took the field as an outfielder when he played for Nagoya Kinko at the Susaki Stadium and seawater started flooding in from behind him causing the entire field to get soaked in a blink of an eye, which I had only known about in print, were extremely valuable experiences for me.

Anyone is welcome to use the library. If you ever want to learn more or find an article about a specific player, we can respond to consultations, so we look forward to your visit to the library.

Librarian Akiko Ogawa

#### P.7 Rara avis (92)

Autographed bats of Tetsuharu Kawakami and Fumio Fujimura



Last year, a bat was donated by Yoshikazu Kitano, the son of Yoshiro Kitano, who served as the president of Victor Company of Japan. The bat, which featured autographs of various players from the 1950s, was given to Yoshikazu during his childhood days, who was known as a Yomiuri Giants fan, by singer and avid baseball fan

Katsuhiko Haida, who was signed to Victor Company of Japan, and had various baseball-related songs such as “Yakyu Kozou”, “Nankai Hawks’s song”, “Moeru Homerun Ou” and the official song of the baseball.

The bat features the autographs of Tetsuharu Kawakami(photo left), Takehiko Bessho, Yuko Minamimura(photo right), Tatsuro Hirooka, (who all played for the Yomiuri Giants), Fumio Fujimura (Osaka Tigers, photo center) and Mitsuo Uno (Kokutetsu Swallows), and due to the lineup of players, as well as the fact that Minamimura changed his name from “Fukashi” to “Yuko” in 1954, the bat is presumed to have

belonged to a player who took part in the 1954 All-Star Game.

In the 1954 All-Star Game, Shigeru Mizuhara (Yomiuri Giants) served as the manager of the Central League squad, and Kazuto Yamamoto (Nankai Hawks) served as the manager of the Pacific League squad. Game 1 of the series was played at Hankyu Nishinomiya Stadium on July 3, and the Pacific League beat the Central League by a score of 5-2. Fumio Fujimura, Kazuhiro Yamauchi (Mainichi Orions) and Futoshi Nakanishi (Nishitetsu Lions) all hit homeruns in this game. Game 2 of the series was played at Korakuen Stadium on July 4, and Yamauchi from the Pacific League hit a walk-off hit in the 10<sup>th</sup> inning to lead them to a 2-1 victory over the Central League. The 1954 All-Star Game came to an end with consecutive wins by the Pacific League.

This autographed bat brings back memories of the performances of the players who were active at the forefront of the baseball world at the time.

Curator Yuta Inoue

## P.8 Retirement Greeting

Former President Shinichi Hirose

On February 1, 2011, I took up the post of President of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum from Tokyo Dome Corporation on the same day as the start of spring training due to the sudden passing of President Hiroshi Sato. Until then, I only had experience working in the public sector, so I initially felt confused by the distinctive features of an incorporated foundation and the atmosphere of the museum. Shortly after, the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred on March 11. After confirming the safety of the visitors and exhibits, we secured water and food supplies from a nearby convenience store. Traffic was halted on that day and some of the employees were unable to return to their homes, so they ended up spending the night at the museum. Thanks to securing food quickly, I was relieved to hear that they were able to safely spend the night. While the damage caused by the earthquake disaster continued to expand, there were no abnormalities at the museum, other than the bats that slipped slightly out of place inside the display cases, and enabled us to strongly recognize the safety of the Tokyo Dome.



On April 1, 2013, the “Incorporated Foundation Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum” made a fresh start as the “Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Baseball Hall of

Fame and Museum”. The big mission assigned to me upon my arrival was acquiring accreditation of a “public interest incorporated foundation”, and we were placed in a difficult situation, with the acquisition period being the end of November 2013. This was an extremely important issue relating to the future of the museum, and was a major obstacle that I was faced with.

Because we did not have the funds to consult with a lawyer regarding the acquisition of accreditation, the countermeasure project team that was set up within the museum took the lead and handled the situation by conducting many interviews with the relevant government offices and participating in seminars to gather information. Ultimately, we created a huge amount of materials comparable to an old phone book, and applied for accreditation to the Cabinet Office. When we received the accreditation report from the Public Interest Corporation Commission of the Cabinet Office on November 2, 2012, I was truly happy and relieved to have fulfilled my mission. At the same time, I consulted with Chairman Ryoza Kato (at the time) and changed the name from “Sports” to “Hall of Fame”, which was the core business of the museum.

Next, I’d like to briefly touch on the topic of the Hall of Fame. During my tenure, a total of 33 members have been inducted into the Hall of Fame, including those elected by the Players Selection Committee and Special Selection Committee. Over the past 60 years, 204 members have been inducted into the Hall of Fame, so among them, I was able to be involved with approximately 20% of the Hall of Fame inductees. During that time, the awareness of the “Baseball Hall of Fame” has also increased.

I have many nostalgic memories with the Hall of Famers, and was able to have a great experience as the President of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. And more than anything, getting to know and talk to the superstars of the baseball world, including those inducted into the Hall of Fame, and everyone from various federations, teams and others associated with the baseball world has become an asset that I will treasure for the rest of my life. Henceforth, I will continue to support the museum from behind the scenes as an individual affiliate member.

I was able to successfully complete my term and step down from my role during this commemorative year in which the era name changed from Heisei to Reiwa, and on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the establishment of the museum thanks to the cooperation and support of everyone involved, and I would like to express my sincere appreciation. Thank you very much for your support over the years.

## Inaugural Address

President Masanobu Shoji

I was newly appointed as the President of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in June of this year. I feel very honored and motivated to have been given the important role of President on this commemorative year, which marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the establishment of the museum.



The other day, when a family member of a Hall of Famer visited the museum, I received many kind words, that “she considered this place a second home”. I would like the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum to be a place where the Hall of Famers, their family members, everyone involved with baseball and affiliate members can easily stop by at any time.

For baseball fans, I want to make it a place where they can deeply enjoy baseball, and for future baseball fans, a place where they can learn about the appeal of the sport.

I will do my best to make the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum an even more wonderful place while sharing the museum’s mission to “connect,” “promote” and “honor” with my fellow employees, so I kindly ask for the support and cooperation of everyone associated with baseball.

## 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.