



## The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

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

Articles in NEWSLETTER, Vol.30, No.2(September, 2020)

### P1. The Induction Ceremony Elected by the Players Selection Committee

MasanobuShoji, President

The induction ceremony for Koichi Tabuchi, who was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in the Expert Division of the Players Selection, was scheduled to be held prior to Game 1 of the All-Star Game at PayPay Dome in Fukuoka on July 19 (Sun). However, because the All-Star Game was canceled due to COVID-19, it was instead held at the Tokyo Dome Hotel on August 18 (Tue) with Tabuchi, Koji Yamamoto (2008 HOF), his friend since his days at Hosei University, Atsushi Saito, Chairman of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Tabuchi's family and members of the media in attendance.



Tabuchi was gifted a commemorative replica plaque from Chairman Saito.

Then, Yamamoto gave a congratulatory

speech and recalled memories from their first year in professional baseball before presenting him with a bouquet. Tabuchi then stated, "I've decided to give it

my all for the development of the baseball world with Koji, who came back after his fight against illness, in the name of Sen-chan (Senichi Hoshino, 2017 HOF) who passed away before fulfilling his life ambition." Finally, commemorative photos were taken with all of the attendees before the ceremony was concluded.



From left: Atsushi Saito, Koichi Tabuchi,  
Koji Yamamoto

## P2. The Induction Ceremony Elected by the Special Selection Committee

Masanobu Shoji, President

The Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony for the late Yukichi Maeda and Renzo Ishii, who were both elected by the Special Selection Committee, was held at the Meiji Jingu Stadium prior to the game between Keio University and Waseda University in the Tokyo Big6 Baseball League, which was postponed to August 15 (Sat) due to COVID-19.

Under the intense heat, Maeda's son Daisuke and Ishii's son Takuzo stood on the field where the induction ceremony took place in front of a crowd of around 3,000 fans. They were both presented with commemorative replica plaques from Atsushi Saito, Chairman of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, and both were also presented with bouquets by the captain of the Keio University Baseball Club and the vice-captain of the Waseda University Baseball Club. Daisuke commemorated his father by saying, "My father incorporated new techniques and ideas and created an environment where the players could develop in their own unique ways." Takuzo added, "I think that my father is delighted that his induction ceremony was held under the deep blue sky in such a fantastic place."



Second From left: Daisuke Maeda, Atsushi Saito, Takuzo Ishii

## P3. Inductees Remembered (68)



My father, the role model

Kazuo Nishizawa (Eldest son of 1977 HOF Michio Nishizawa)

Over 40 years have passed since my father was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. After retiring from my job, I was fortunate to have this chance to contribute. I wrote the following, which contains

the late wishes of my mother.

Since my father was five years old, he loved the game of baseball, which was taught to him by his older brother, and since then he spent a life purely dedicated to baseball. As you know, he was discovered by the late Atsushi Kono (1960 HOF) in 1936 when professional baseball was established, and threw himself into the world of professional baseball as a development player at the age of 14. He played as a pitcher before World War II and as a hitter after the war, and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1977 at the age of 55, but passed away at the end of that year at the young age of 56.

My father was always cheerful and fun, and he often told jokes at home and made our family laugh. When I was in elementary school, “baseball” was a sport that was admired by boys, but my father never encouraged me to play baseball. As far as I remember, I only played catch with my father once when I was in elementary school, and swung the bat with him while he was rehabilitating years later. Those were my only two baseball-related interactions I had with my father. “He greatly struggled, so he didn’t want his son to go through the same thing,” my mother told me. These words had the weight of my parents' feelings, who both survived together in the turbulent postwar era with baseball alone

When talking about my father, I have to mention his love for crucian carp fishing. During the offseason and even during the season, he loved going fishing while wearing his uniform prior to his games. At night, when I thought he was being quiet in his room, he would be focused on making bobbers. I’ll never forget his gentle smile whenever he took my fishing with him. He also loved animals more than anyone I knew. We always had pets in our house. To him, I believe that crucian carp fishing and pets were an important partner to him in order not to lose his spiritual happiness while trying to survive in the world of tough competition.

My father also loved to invite guests over, and our house was always very lively as we had guests over almost every day. He called many of his friends by their nicknames, like “Tsubo-yan!” (the late Michinori Tsubouchi, 1992 HOF), “Deka-chan!” (the late Satoshi Sugiyama) and “Morimichi!” (the late Morimichi Takagi, 2006 HOF), and sounds of laughter never stopped at our house. As a young child, I had no way of knowing who these people were, but they were all very friendly to me and it felt like we were one big family. Even now it’s as if everyone is still laughing in the next room. As in any society, people who continue to shine are not only competent at their work, but are also someone who is loved by everyone. My father was able to build on his achievements, which helped him get inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, thanks to the gift of being loved and supported by many people around him.

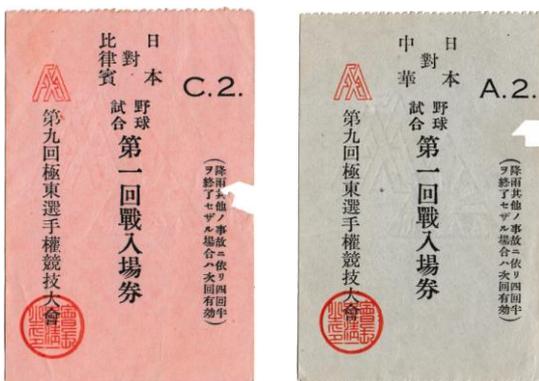
I think that the human qualities that my father possessed, including his peaceful nature, consideration towards others, his warm heart towards his family and his “spirit of harmony” that he preached to his teams, were what led him to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Perhaps because I lost my father when I was in a student, but I still look up to him to this day. My father, who always encouraged me by telling me, “Kazuo! Go at your own pace!”, and my mother was continued to support him, both live on in my heart to this day.

Today, we have established a commemorative room for my father, Michio Nishizawa, in Hirayama Hino-shi, Tokyo, which was the location of both my father and mother’s final abode, where we exhibit numerous memorabilia along with his fishing equipment, which were my father’s lifelong friends.

#### P4. Rara avis (94)

#### Admission tickets to the 9<sup>th</sup> Far Eastern Championship Games



Left: admission for tickets Japan vs. Philippines

Right: admission for tickets Japan vs. Republic of China

The Far Eastern Championship Games is a tournament that was held for the purpose of promoting the development of Japan, Republic of China and the Philippines through sports, and was held a total of tens times from 1913 to 1934 (the Dutch East Indies participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Far Eastern Championship Games). A wide range of events were held, including baseball, and scores were totaled by rank for each competition as each country competed

with their total scores. In the baseball competition during the 9<sup>th</sup> Far Eastern Championship Games hosted in Tokyo in 1930,

the second round round-robin matches were held against the Philippines and the Republic of China, and Japan won all four games to claim their second consecutive championship. The admission tickets in the photograph are from the “first round match between Japan and the Philippines” that was held at Jingu Stadium on May 25 and from the “first round match between Japan and the Republic of China” that was also held at Jingu Stadium on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

The first round match against the Philippines was played in the presence of Prince Takahito Sumi (later Prince Mikasa). In the game, Japan scored two runs in the first inning, and added another eight runs in the second inning. Pitcher Saburo Miyatake pitched a complete game and Japan eventually won by a score of 10-4.

On the following day, the first round match against the Republic of China was played in the presence of Prince Tsunenori Kaya. It was a matchup between teams that both defeated the Philippines, and in the game, Japan scored runs in every inning from the first inning to the seventh inning. Pitcher Tadashi Wakabayashi succeeded Seizo Ueno on the mound, and Japan achieved an overwhelming victory by a score of 21-3.

Later, Japan defeated the Republic of China and the Philippines in the second round by a score of 17-10 and 8-5, respectively. In the second round match against the Philippines, Japan trailed by a score of 1-5 after the 8<sup>th</sup> inning, but scored seven runs in the top of the 9<sup>th</sup> inning to claim a dramatic victory.

Throughout this tournament, Team Japan recorded 63 hits and 56 runs in a total of four games, and won the championship without losing a single game. Also, of the Japanese players and tournament officials who participated in this tournament, 16 of them have been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. The Far Eastern Championship Games were cancelled after the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the games due to the dispute between China and Japan over the problem of Manchukuo's participation in the tournament. Various items from the Far Eastern Championship Games, including the admission tickets to the 9<sup>th</sup> Far Eastern Championship Games, are displayed in the “History of Baseball” permanent exhibit section.

Yuta Inoue, Curator

#### P5. Library Note

“*Nippon Yakyu Bunken Kaidai*” (Annotated Bibliography of Japanese Baseball) and the collection of books in the library



The photo on the left is the “*Nippon Yakyu Bunken Kaidai*”, the 54-page, 22.7cm long and 15.1cm wide booklet that was edited by Saburo Saito and limited to 50 copies and published in 1939. In the “*Taiikusho Kaidai*” (The Bibliography of Various Sports and Physical Education” written by Iwasaburo Noguchi (published in April 25, 1953 by Fumaido Publishing) and “*Taiiku Supotusho Kaidai*” (The Bibliography of Various Sports and Physical Education) co-written and co-edited by Hideaki Kinoshita, Shuichi Nose and Kichiji Kimura (published in January 24, 1981 by Fumaido Publishing), this book is introduced as “a valuable piece of literature that explains the books of baseball collected by Mr. Saito over 15 years, and an extremely rare book that was limited to 50 copies and not for sale”, and is a very valuable material to learn about literature relating to baseball during the Meiji period and the Taisho period.

The content includes book titles, names of the authors, publication dates, publishers and simple annotations. In this booklet, several books not limited to baseball with genres such as general books, school histories and school song collections are introduced, but you can tell that it is a book that related to baseball once you read the annotations.

The editor Saburo Saito was a scholar of Takuboku Ishikawa, and worked at the museum when it was first opened. However, Mr. Saito's name cannot be found in the museum's reports, and because he passed away in February 1960, we do not know any details about him.

177 books are introduced in the "Annotated Bibliography of Japanese Baseball". Of them, we have 126 books, including some with different editions and publication years, can currently be found in the library. Unfortunately, we do not know which of the books were written by Saito, but there is no doubt that all of the books are valuable for those studying the history of baseball.

Akiko Ogawa, Librarian

■Changes to library opening hours

Wednesday/Friday: 13:00-14:30, 15:00-16:30 Sunday: 10:00-12:00, 14:00-16:00

\*An advanced booking is required to enter the library. Please make a reservation by phone by 17:00 of the previous day of your desired visiting date.

For details, please visit <https://bml.opac.jp/opac/top>.

P6. Topics from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (June to August, 2020)

6/17 "Best Shot of the Year 2019" awarded to Mr. Shimizu from the Hochi Shimbun.



Mr. Shimizu from the Hochi Shimbun, who shot the "Swallows Dream Game" photo that received 436 votes (highest total).

6/19 Exhibition of the baseball of the final out from the Yomiuri Giants' 6000<sup>th</sup> win.

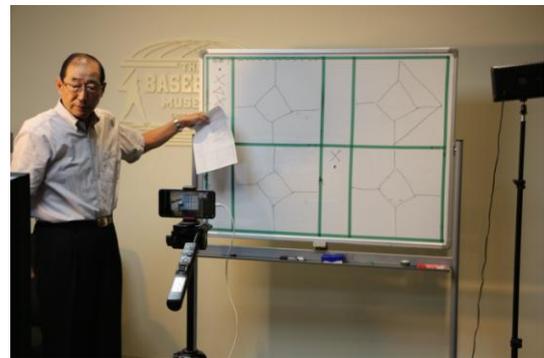


6/27 Former PL Gakuen manager Junji Nakamura visited the museum.



Mr. Nakamura placing his hands on the plaque of his former disciple Kazuyoshi Tatsunami, who was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2019.

8/2“Let’s Score a Baseball Game! Online” held  
Date and time: August 2 (Sun) 14:00-15:40  
Speaker: Shigeo Ishii (Former chief scorer of the Central League)



8/3“Summer Umpire School! Online” held  
Date: August 3 (Mon) 14:00-15:30



Speakers: NPB Executive Director of Umpiring Masato Tomoyose, Chief Umpire Technical Advisor Takeshi Hirabayashi, Umpire Technical Advisor Takayasu Sakaemura, Umpire Takuto Kawakami

Practical training of out/safe calls

8/7Memorial Exhibition of Junzo Sekine  
Session: August 7 (Fri) to November 1 (Sun)



## 8/22 Online Talk Event 2020 Baseball Rules Revisions

Date and time: August 22 (Sat) 11:00-12:00



Speaker: NPB Rules Committee Member  
Osamu Ino

## Exhibition

### Special Exhibition “Kazuto Tsuruoka and the Nankai Hawks”

Session: September 8 (Tue) to December 20 (Sun), 2020

Venue: Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Event Hall



Looking back at Tsuruoka’s achievements as a player and manager.

### Special exhibition “Baseball at Home”

Session: September 12 (Sat) to December 6 (Sun), 2020

Venue: Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Special Exhibition Room



61 baseball-themed items from the 1900s to today on display.

## Essay (77)

### Learn about baseball

Director of the Players Selection Committee Hiroki Natori (Hochi Shimbun)

My son proclaimed that he wanted to take the junior high-school entrance examination, and this became a major event for our family this spring. The entrance examination was originally scheduled prior to the effects of the coronavirus, but as a result, he was able to enter a junior high school with a strong baseball club that I had the opportunity to cover many times back when I was in charge of reporting on student baseball.

One day, I told my son, “It’s been a mess this year because of the coronavirus, but once you enter high school, you might be able to cheer on your classmates in the Alps seats of Koshien Stadium. How lucky of you,” and he replied with a gloomy expression, “That’s not true at all. Cheering for hours under the hot sun... You’ll just get all sweaty and tired.” I then responded, “You’ll be able to get on a bus and go to Koshien with everyone. That would be fun,” but that just made him more annoyed.

But he does have a point. Even though I work as a baseball reporter, we had never had played catch together. There is actually no place to do so. We had only gone to watch professional baseball games a handful of times as well. Perhaps, he doesn’t even know the rules of the baseball. There are hardly any live broadcasts on terrestrial television. It’s no wonder why he doesn’t have a real connection to baseball.

During my days working in the baseball department, I often told the new reporters whose assignment had been decided, “Learn about the history of the team that you are in charge of. Learn about what kind of managers and players they had. And learn about the histories and baseball careers of the current manager, coaches and staff, and whether they belong to that team. This will lead you to start loving that team, and it will help spark conversations. It will definitely become useful for your work.”

This is a story from over 30 years ago, but the reason why I was able to become friendly with Yutaka Sudo, who was the manager of the Taiyo Whales (currently DeNA), the first team that I was put in charge of as a rookie reporter, was thanks to our conversations about the foreign players who played with Sudo during his Mainichi Orions days.

During one of our chats during practice one day, Sudo told me, “In the mid-1950s, we had part-time players from the Occupation Army. We even had some in the Orions!” Without missing a beat, I replied, “Oh, you mean Leo Kiely!” “You know a lot for a young guy. Yeah, Kiely.” Several years later, I heard from Sudo that this interaction was what made him remember my existence.

Unlike when I entered the company, there were extremely few students who joined sports

newspapers with the desire of “wanting to become a baseball reporter.” During job interviews, I asked, “What do you want to do if you join Hochi?”, and the majority of students replied that they wanted to cover horse racing or the Olympics. That is why I advised the rookie reporters who were assigned to the baseball department, “If you have time, it would be a good idea to go to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and look through the various materials and books,” but I’m not sure how many of the reporters actually went...

Last year, a coach from a certain team who I had covered for many years during his playing days told me, “Mr. Natori, a young reporter from Hochi came to me and said, ‘I will be in charge of your team this year. I look forward to working with you’, and then asked me, “By the way, who are you?” In the old days I would have yelled at him. Maybe you haven’t been educating them correctly?”

Oh... He was smiling, but I had never felt that embarrassed before. Perhaps my guidance was totally useless. However, even if I sound annoying or fussy, I will continue to tell them, “learn about the history”.

By the way, my son finally began commuting to school from June, and he joined the brass band club. Hm? I wonder if he knows that the brass band club always performs in the stand when the baseball club has a game? Well, if he begins to feel a connection to baseball through his club activities, then all's well that ends well...

## News from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

### Obituary

2013 Hall of Fame inductee Kazuo Fukushima passed away on August 27.

We would like to offer our sincere condolences.

### Opening hours

For the time being

Weekdays: 13:00-17:00 (last admission 16:30)

Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays: 10:00-17:00 (last admission 16:30)

The museum will close at 18:00 on days when the Yomiuri Giants are playing at the Tokyo Dome (last admission 17:30)

\*Due to COVID-19, the opening hours may change or the museum may be temporarily closed, so please check the museum’s homepage for the opening dates and times.