

SABR Asian Baseball Committee Newsletter

Volume 3 Number 1 Summer 2005



Committee News

Membership

We are please to announce that the committee now has over 50 members.

Our annual committee meeting will be held during the National SABR Convention on Friday, August 5 at 10AM at the Holiday Inn in Toronto.

Jason Pan has agreed to take over as head on the Taiwanese baseball section. Jason has been covering baseball in Taiwan in both Taiwanese and English for many years and can help members with research questions on Taiwanese baseball.

HELP WANTED

We are looking for people to take charge of the Korean and Chinese baseball sections. Duties are limited to creating the appropriate page for the newsletters and being available to answer research questions by email. If you are interested in serving please contact Rob Fitts at asianbaseball@mindspring.com.

We are also looking for somebody to take over the Asian Baseball Committee website. If you have interest, please contact Rob Fitts at asianbaseball@mindspring.com.

Contact Information

Asian Committee Chair: Robert Fitts
Email: asianbaseball@mindspring.com
Telephone 212-828-6678
Committee web site: www.robsjapanesecards.com/asianbaseball.html

Committee Projects

New Head of 1934 Tour Project

I am thrilled to announce that Paul Hoffman is now in charge of the 1934 Major League tour of Asia project. Paul has a lot of good ideas and is ready to make this a exciting project. He will probably contact you separately, but if you would like to help out, please contact him directly.

Paul Hofmann
503 Brownwood Court
Bowling Green, OH 43402
Tel: 419-352-0627
E-mail: p_n_hofmann@hotmail.com

Foreigners in Asia

With the extensive help of Rod Nelson, I am putting together a list of all foreigners to play professionally in Asia. If you have information on foreigners in Taiwan, Korea, or China that you can share, please contact Rob Fitts at asianbaseball@mindspring.com

What's in This Issue

In this issue, I have added a new page. It's called "Focus on Committee Member X". It will feature one committee member each newsletter and hopefully help us to get to know each other. If you would liked to be featured in an up-coming newsletter please contact Rob Fitts at asianbaseball@mindspring.com

Japanese Baseball News



2005 Japan Hall of Fame Inductees

Choji Murata
Masaaki Mori
Masayori Shimura

New Meikyukai Members

Kimiyasu Kudoh
Kazuhiro Kiyohara (also new 500 HR club member)
Ichiro Suzuki
Atsuya Furuta
Hideo Nomo
Kenjiro Nomura

2005 Gaijin (as of June 2005)

SEIBU: ALEX CABRERA, JOSE FERNANDEZ, HSU MING-CHIE,
CHANG CHIH-CHIA, CHRIS WRIGHT

SOFTBANK: JULIO ZULETTA, LINDSAY GULIN, JOLBERT
CABRERA, TONY BATISTA, PEDRO FELICIANO, ANDERSON
GOMES

LOTTE: DAN SERAFINI, LEE SEUNG YEOP, MATT FRANCO,
BENNY AGBAYANI, VAL PASCUCCI

NIPPON HAM: FERNANDO SEGUIGNOL, SHERMAN
OBANDO, CARLOS MIRABAL, ERIC ALMONTE, BRANDON
KNIGHT, BRAD THOMAS, MICHAEL NAKAMURA

ORIX: JEREMY POWELL, KEVIN BIERNE, KAREEM GARCIA,
CLIFF BRUMBAUGH, JOSSE PARRA

RAKUTEN: GARY RATH, AARON MYETTE, DAMON MINOR,
LUIS LOPEZ, KEVIN HODGES, MATT SKMETTA, ANDY
TRACY

CHUNICHI: ALEX OCHOA, TYRONE WOODS, DOMINGO
GUZMAN, LUIS MARTINEZ, LUIS BROWN, CHRISTIAN BER-
ROA, CHEN WEI-YIN

YAKULT: ALEX RAMIREZ, SR., DICKEY GONZALEZ, ADAM
RIGGS, KENNY RAYBURN, RICK GUTTORMSON, ALEX
RAMIREX, JR.

YOMIURI: TUFFY RHODES, BRIAN SIKORSKI, DAN MICELI
(Released), GABE KAPLER, SCOTT MULLEN

HANSHIN: JEFF WILLIAMS, JAMIE BROWN, DARWIN CUBIL-
LAN, SHANE SPENCER, ANDY SHEETS, LIN WEI-JU

HIROSHIMA: GREG LAROCCA, JOHN BALE, MIKE ROMANO,
JUAN FELICIANO

YOKOHAMA: CEDRICK BOWERS, MARC KROON, KEVIN
WITT, MIKE HOLTZ

Thanks to Jim Allen and Gene Newman for providing this list

Contact Information

Chiba Lotte Marines
WBG Maribu West, 26th Floor
Nakase 2-6, Mihama-ku
Chiba, Chiba Ken 261-8587 Japan
Telephone: 043-297-2101

Chunichi Dragons
Chunichi Building 6F Sakae 4-1-1 Naka-ku,
Nagoya, 460-0008 Japan
Telephone: 052-261-8811

Fukuoka Yahoo Japan Dome
Hawks Town
Fukuoka, 810-8660, Japan
Telephone: 092-844-1189

Koshien Stadium
1-47 Koshien-cho,
Nishinomiya, Hyogo ken 663-8152, Japan
Phone: 0798-46-1515

Hiroshima Shimin Stadium
5-25 Moto-machi Naka-ku
Hiroshima 730-8508, Japan
Telephone: 082-221-2040

Nippon Fighters
1 Hitsujigaoka
Toyohira-ku Sapporo 062-8655, Japan
Telephone: 011-857-3939

Orix Buffaloes
3251-10 Midoridai
Suma-ku, Kobe-shi, Hyogo-ken 654-0163 Japan
Telephone: 078-795-1203

Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles
NAVIS Bldg, 5-12-55 Tsutsujigaoka,
Miyagino-ku, Sendai 983-0852 Japan
Telephone: 022-298-5300

Seibu Lions
2135 Kami-Yamaguchi
Tokorozawa-shi, Saitama-ken 359-1189, Japan
Telephone: 042-924-1155

Yakult Swallows
Shinbashi MCV Building 5F
5-13-5 Shimbashi, Minato-ku Tokyo 105-0004, Japan
Telephone: 03-5470-8915

Yokohama BayStars
Kannai Arai Building 7F 1-8 Onoue-cho,
Naka-ku, Yokohama, 231-0015 Japan
Telephone: 045-681-0811

Yomiuri Giants
Takehashi 3-3 Building
3-3 Kanda Nishiki-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 101-8462, Japan
Phone: 03-3295-7711

Korean Baseball News



Foreigners in Korea for 2005 (as of June 2005)

Hyundai Unicorns: Larry Sutton, Mickey Callaway
Samsung Lions: Martin Vargas, Luther Hackman
Doosan Bears: Matthew Randel, Chuck Smith
Kia Tigers: Daniel Rios, Michael Johnson
SK Wyverns: Jose Cabrera, Jesus Sanchez
LG Twins: Ruben Mateo,
Hanhwa Eagles: Jay Davis, Mark Smith
Lotte Giants: Robert Perez, Ryan Jackson

Korean Baseball News on the Web

Korean Times sports
<http://times.hankooki.com/sports/sports.htm>

Official site of Korean baseball
<http://www.koreabaseball.or.kr/>

Chat about Korean sports
valuable stats and data posted here
<http://kbo.hyperboards2.com/index.cgi?>

Club Information

Hyundai Unicorns

Club address: Hyundai Haesang Bldg, 9th floor,
1014 Kwonseon-dong, Kwonseon-ku,
Suwon, Kyungki-do, Korea (zip code: 441-390)
Tel./Fax : (031)226-9000 / (031)224-9107
Internet site : www.hd-unicorns.co.kr
Stadium Address:
775-1 Chowon-dong, Jangan-ku,
Suwon, Kyungki-do, Korea 440-200

Samsung Lions

Club address: 184-3, Sunhwari-jinliangmyun, Kyungsan,
Kyungsangbuk-do, Korea (zip code: 712-830)
Tel./Fax : (053)859-3114 / (053)859-3117
Internet site : www.samsunglions.com
Stadium Address:
6 Kosung-dong 3ga, Puk-ku, Daegu, Korea 702-073

Doosan Bears

Club address: Chamshil Baseball Stadium, 10 Chamshil 1-dong,
Songpa-ku, Seoul, Korea 138-221
Tel./Fax : (02)2240-1777 / (02)2240-1788
Internet site : www.doosanbears.com
Stadium Address:
10 Chamshil 1 -dong, Songpa-ku, Seoul, Korea 138-221

KIA Tigers

Club address: 266 Naebang-dong, Seo-ku, Gwangju, Korea 502-807
Tel./Fax : (062)370-1895 / (062) 525-5350
Internet site : www.kiatigers.co.kr
Stadium Address:
622 Im-dong, Puk-ku, Gwangju, Korea 500-010

SK Wyverns

Club address : 8 San, Moonhak-dong, Nam-ku, Incheon, Korea 402-070
Tel./Fax : (032)422-7949 / (032) 429-4565
Internet site : www.skwyverns.com
Stadium Address:
8 San, Moonhak-dong, Nam-ku, Incheon, Korea 402-070

LG Twins

Club address: Chamshil Baseball Stadium, 10 Chamshil 1- dong,
Songpa-ku, Seoul, Korea 138-221
Tel./Fax : (02)2005-5760~5 / (02)2005-5801
Internet site : www.lgtwins.com
Stadium Address:
10 Chamshil 1 -dong, Songpa-ku, Seoul, Korea 138-221

Hanhwa Eagles

Club address: 22-1 Yongjeon-dong, Dong-ku, Daejeon, Korea 300-200
Tel./Fax : (042)637-8200 / (042) 632-2929
Internet site : www.hanwhaeagles.co.kr
Stadium Address:
177 Pusa-dong, Jung-ku, Daejeon, Korea 301-030

Lotte Giants

Club address: 930 Sajik-dong, Dongrae-ku, Busan, Korea 607-120
Tel./Fax : (051)505-7422 / (051)506-0090
Internet site : www.giantsclub.com
Stadium Address:
930 Sajik-dong, Dongrae-ku, Busan, Korea 607-120

Taiwanese Baseball News



Foreigners in Taiwan for 2005 (as of June 2005)

Bulls

Jeffery Louis Andra - pitcher
Hector Ramirez - pitcher
Osvaldo Martinez – pitcher
Lenin Picota—pitcher

Whales

Emiliano Giron – pitcher
Dario Veras – pitcher
Rafael Garcia – pitcher
Nelson Castro – 2nd base
Bradley Purcell—pitcher

Bears

Walter Silva – pitcher
Jose Vargas – pitcher
Victor A Rodriguez – 3rd base
Cory Bailey – pitcher
Wade Travis—pitcher

Elephants

Harold Woodman – pitcher
Muto Jun-ichiro – pitcher
Nakagomi Shin – pitcher
Jonathan Hurst – pitcher

Lions

Narimoto Toshihide – pitcher
Michael Garcia – pitcher
Israel Alcantara – right field
Douglas Linton – pitcher
Jose Alberto—pitcher

Cobras

Enrique Ramirez - pitcher
Yamazaki Tomokazu - pitcher
Wilton Veras – 3rd Base
Sato Hideki – pitcher
Mario Encarnacion DH

Contact Information

Sinon Bulls Club
No. 23, 3 F, Mei-Tsuan West Road, Sec. 1
Taichung City, Taiwan
www.bulls.com.tw

President Lions Club
No. 301, Yen-Shin Chung-Cheng Road,
Yong Kang City, Tainan County, Taiwan
www.prolions.com.tw

Brother Elephants Club
No. 255, Nanjing East Road, Sec. 3
Taipei City, Taiwan
www.brothers.com.tw

Chinatrust Whales Club
No. 85, 2F, Ba-De Road, Sec. 4
Taipei City, Taiwan
www.whale.com.tw

Macoto Cobras Club
No. 2, 10 F - 1, Lane 258, Ruei-Kuang Road
Taipei City, Taiwan
www.macotocobras.com.tw

La New Bears Club
No. 222, 4 F, Da-Tong Road, Sec. 3
Hsi-Chih, Taipei County, Taiwan
www.lanew-bears.com.tw

Thanks to Gene Newman and Jason Pan for providing
this list

Book Shelf

Diamonds Around the Globe: The Encyclopedia of International Baseball by Peter C. Bjarkman (Greenwood Press) 607pp hardback, \$75

This thick and informative book features individual chapters on each country where baseball is a major sport. Unfortunately, it relates Taiwan and Korea to a single chapter entitled "Europe, Africa, and the Pacific Rim." The chapter on Japan contains a quick overview of the history of Japanese baseball, short biographies of eleven famous players, 16 pages of records and statistics, and a very short bibliography.

Diamonds Around the Globe is helpful for the researcher or fan who needs to look up a quick fact or wants a brief history of baseball outside of the United States. Unfortunately, it does not provide much depth about the history of the game in any country. At \$75, it should be limited to the shelves of researchers and libraries.

The Samurai Way of Baseball: The Impact of Ichiro and the New Wave from Japan by Robert Whiting (Warner Books), 336 pp, paperback \$14.95

The paperback version of *The Meaning of Ichiro* has been released with the uninspiring title *The Samurai Way of Baseball*. Robert Whiting's latest work is an update of his theory on the importance of Wa in Japanese baseball and the cultural differences between the American and Japanese games. See www.JapaneseBaseball.com and www.japanbaseballdaily.com for detailed reviews. This is an entertaining book and a must read for anybody interested in Asian baseball.

2005 Japan Pro Baseball Fan Handbook and Media Guide by Wayne Graczyk (order at www.JapanBall.com). 124 pp paperback 1,000 yen.

This season's version of Wayne Graczyk's guide is once again packed with rosters, statistics, schedules, features of this year's gaijin players, and other information. Unfortunately, the all-time guide roster has been dropped due to space constraints. I buy the "guide" every year and always enjoy it.

Remembering Japanese Baseball : An Oral History of the Game by Robert Fitts (Southern Illinois University Press), 233pp, paperback \$19.99

The first oral history of Japanese baseball available in English, the book features 25 narratives by former players. Fitts made an effort to include 4-5 narratives from each decade since World War 2. I think that this is a great book, but then again, I wrote it. For less partial reviews see www.JapaneseBaseball.com and www.japanbaseballdaily.com.

From Asahi to Zebras: Japanese American Baseball in San Jose, California by Ralph Pearce (The Japanese American Museum of San Jose). 132pp. Paperback \$15.00

Ralph Pearce's book on the San Jose Asahi will be available July 23 from the Japanese American Museum of San Jose's website www.jamsj.org. This is the first book written about a specific Japanese American team and covers the team's existence from 1913-1961. The book is 132 pages total with 41 photos and includes details of games against Meiji (twice), Waseda (twice), Keio, Kwansai and the Tokyo Giants (twice), a chapter detailing their trip to Japan and Korea in 1925, Nisei league play, their games in relocation camp and more.

Baseball Strategy Games

JAPAN VS TAIWAN ON YOUR TABLETOP?

Have you ever wondered how a regional series would turn out among either the league champs or all star teams from Japan, Taiwan and Korea? Or perhaps even including in the mix the same from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Nicaragua? And then throw in Germany for good measure? I do it all the time, right on my tabletop.

For Christmas 1941, I received the very first edition of a game then known as Ethan Allen All Star Baseball. It was produced anew every year through 1993 and after some years the name of the originator, then-major leaguer Ethan Allen, was dropped and has since been known as Cadaco All Star Baseball. Each edition of the game came with a set of player cards (we fans of the game call them "discs" because they are round) featuring the major league all stars from the previous season. Occasionally an additional set of old-time great players was included.

Some years ago I learned how to make the player discs. I was taught by an old friend of the originator. The friend just happens to be the younger brother of Pete Rose. But that's beside the point; just an interesting note. I am only a moderate fan of current American major league baseball. I love the really old players and teams where power was not so much a factor and teams had to work to "manufacture" runs.

In addition to focusing on those in my disc-making, because I spent so much of my adult life in Asia, I am a very big fan of baseball in Japan, Taiwan and Korea. Because Spanish was my first foreign language to learn (I have since learned Japanese, Chinese and Burmese), I have an interest in the game as it is played in the Latin American areas I mentioned earlier. I have made several disc sets for all of those areas. Now, because of World Cup 2003 and the 2004 Olympics, I have found stats for countries such as Germany, Italy, etc.

We fans of the game have a private on-line forum where we can exchange ideas about the game. Believe it or not, we now have over 200 members! Many, many of us are older guys who grew up with the game and still have a child-like enthusiasm for it. We have several different configurations of the disc-maker for free downloading, but you must have Excel installed on your computer.

The original game did not involve pitching, because it was designed for simple and very fast play. We have made many unofficial modifications to the game over the years, and I'm proud to have been a part of many of them. Those are discussed in detail on the forum. For any of you who may be interested, please contact me and I'll send you info on the forum and answer any questions you might have.

Gene Newman
608 Wilderness Road
Pelham, AL 35124
belinyoh@charter.net

Focus on Committee Member Jim Albright

Jim Albright has written extensively for Baseball-Guru.com on Japanese baseball. His statistically analysis have help MLB scouts, simulation game designers and players, as well as baseball fans. I've asked him to tell us a little about himself and his work for our first committee member profile.

Rob Fitts

I am a 40-something year old who has always been a sports fan who had a way with numbers. When Bill James published his books in the 1980's, I found a way to combine those aspects of my life. It was difficult to make progress until I got a computer, but once APBA released its electronic encyclopedia, I was off and running.

My interests turned to what I like to call the "forgotten leagues"—the Negro Leagues, Japan, and the 19th century. I bought Dan Johnson's Statistical Handbook on Japanese baseball. While it gives a great deal of information, it didn't provide coverage of players' entire careers, nor did it provide hitters' walk data. I learned of the existence of the 1998 Japanese baseball encyclopedia, and was eventually able to buy one.

Once I had the encyclopedia, I was able to use Johnson's book to help me understand the data in the encyclopedia, which was in Japanese, which I still am not able to read beyond a very few baseball terms. From that point, I was able to use the tools I had learned from Bill James' works to analyze all kinds of questions about Japanese baseball. The internet has provided a means to share the findings I have made to others who share my interests. My work on Japan can be found here: <http://baseballguru.com/jalbright/> I also participate at baseball-fever.com, and have collected some information for that group on Negro Leaguers and Japanese players at:

Clearly, almost all of my work has statistical analysis at its base. I've tried to supplement my analyses with other materials on Japanese baseball, notably Robert Whiting's books, Jim Allen's 1990's guides to Japanese baseball, Rob Fitts and Gary Engels' book on Japanese Superstars, and Oh's and Cromartie's autobiographies.

I've done a lot of work in the area of comparing Japanese ball and its players, especially its greats, to major league ball and players. Beyond that, I've ranked the great players of Japanese ball, ranked the greatest foreign players in Japanese ball, selected franchise and decade all-star teams, and ranked the greatest teams and pennant races. In essence, I've tried to create a knowledge base of Japanese baseball which matches or exceeds what an average American fan knows about the American game. On top of that, I've added a comparison of the Japanese and major leagues on many different levels.

One of my popular annual articles is doing major league equivalents of Japanese players who are free agents or posted, and players who are young stars to watch as possible future major leaguers.

My InfoLinks can be used to research individual players or managers, as they collect links to everything I've written for baseballguru for each such player or manager. Since I've discussed several hundred such people in my writings, it's a rather extensive resource.

I live on the southeastern Pennsylvania and have never been to Japan. In one way, it limits my perspective, to be sure, but in another, I am rather free of any hype or badmouthing that may be done about Japan's players. I am free to look at the record with an unbiased eye, and see what I can there.

I used to practice law, but found the life of a lawyer got in the way of my family life (I have a preschool son who is growing like a weed, but this is one weed I'm very happy to nurture) , so I am in the process of obtaining a teaching certificate.