

## THE MEANING OF ICHIRO

### NOTES AND SOURCES

WEBSITE EDITION (26,236 words)

In researching and writing this book I conducted over 100 interviews, traveled nearly 100,000 miles, read nearly 100 books and waded through countless newspaper and magazine articles. Specific sources for all the material in The Meaning of Ichiro and accompanying notes can be found here.

### CHAPTER 1: END NOTES

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Source material on Ichiro's life until high school includes an author interview with the subject, conducted Nov 7, 2002 in Tokyo, and the following books , all of which tell more or less the same story: *Ichiro to Watashi no 21-Nen* (My 21 Years with Ichiro) and *Musuko Ichiro* (My Son Ichiro) by Nobuyuki Suzuki, published by Niken Shobo, respectively in 1995 and 2001. *Ichiro Intabyu Attack the Pinnacle* and *Ichiro on Ichiro*, both with Narumi Komatsu, published by Shinchosha, in 2001 and 2002. *Ichiro-Tensai no Shinjitsu to Himitsu* (The Truth and Secrets About Ichiro). *Ichiro-ban Kisha Gurupu* (The Ichiro Reporters Group) Zenisu Puranningu, 2001, *Ichiro Magic*, by Jim Allen, Kodansha International, 2002 and *Ichiro no Nazo* (The Mystery of Ichiro) by Chimu 51 (Team 51). "A person does not live alone..." from *Musuko Ichiro* p. 52. "If the feet are healthy," from Ichiro NHK documentary, "*Ichiro. Dai-Rigu Gunzo*." January 1, 2002. "That kid of mine," from *Musuko Ichiro*, pps. 113-114. *Ichiro no nazo*, pps. 65-65. "Life or death drill" from *Musuko Ichiro*, p. 164-168.

The purpose of the "Life or Death" drill was two fold. One, was to give the boy the impression he was facing a world class fast ball pitcher. The other was to teach him to keep his hands

back and wait until the last possible instant, to prevent him from lunging at a pitch and thereby give him the option of hitting to the opposite field. The drill also built up wrist strength and developed mental concentration said the father.

“3:30 man” from *Ichiro Tensai* , pps. 177-180. “It bordered on hazing,” from author interview with Ichiro Suzuki in Tokyo, November 7, 2002. Airport Batting Center superintendents quote, from *Ichiro tensai* p. 140-141.

*Doryoku, konjo, nintai & chowa* from *Musuko Ichiro*, p. 154  
Ichiro’s 6<sup>th</sup> grade essay, excerpted from *Musuko Ichiro*, p. 102; it’s on permanent display in the Ichiro Museum in Nagoya.

*Kyojin no Hoshi*, was telecast from March 30, 1968 to September 18, 1971, for a total of 182 episodes. It was created by Ikki Kajiwara and Noboru Kawasaki, and produced by Tokyo Movie Shinsha. Kawasaki produced an 11 volume *Kyojin no Hoshi manga* series.

“It might have been fun for him,” Ichiro quote from author interview, November 7, 2002.

## MEIDEN

“Do whatever you want with my son,” *Musuko Ichiro*, p. 215. “The purpose of training,” Tobita quote from *Yakyu Kisha Jidai, Tobita Suishu Senshu*, Suishu Tobita, *Besuboru Magajin*, pps 19-38, “The hardest thing I’ve ever done...”, from *Ichiro no nazo*, p.90.

(...confessed he thought the mysterious looking figure) from NHK talk show with Masayuki Tamaki, *Meija Rigu Toku Steshion*, March 15, 2003 in Nagoya with Meiden and Ishikawa coaches. “Sometimes It got so cold...” Nobuyuki Suzuki quote from *Musuko Ichiro*, p.227. “Doesn’t your old man ever work...” from March 15, NHK discussion with Masayuki Tamaki, “...spaceman,” quote from *Ichiro tensai*, pps 161-163. “Alpha wave test,” *Ichiro tensai*.’ pps. 210-214.

Ichiro’s HS stats. .502: 269 hits in 536 official at-bats) in a total of 150 games. At Koshien, in his junior year, Ichiro

batted .625 (18-24). In the prefectural tournament, Ichiro went 18-25, for an average of .750.

#### THE BLUEWAVE

“You’ll never hit....” Doi appraisal of Ichiro described in *Ichiro Tensai*, pps 83-88. “always stayed after practice,” from *Ichiro Tensai*. pps, 165-167.

Voluntary training traditionally begins in the first week of January, “Joint Voluntary Training” in the presence of coaches, begins Jan. 15. There is nothing voluntary about it.

Ichiro finished his second stint on the farm with an average of .371, with eight homers in a total of 48 games. (One reason Ichiro was able to stick with his original batting form was the support of his farm team manager Kenichiro Kawamura, who, in fact, frequently argued with Doi over his demand for a change in Ichiro’s form. “You’re killing everything that’s good in him,” said Kawamura.” From *Ichiro Tensai*, pps 112-116.

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Similar remarks appeared in an interview with Les Carpenter of the *Seattle Times*, November 6, 2003, Kawamura said, “I found the center of his gravity was very strong. He makes a perfect triangle with his body, which makes a perfect center of gravity. His head always sits on the top of the triangle. He looks like he goes forward, but he doesn’t....It looked awkward, but when he hits the ball it becomes the perfect form.”

Ogi yakuza fashion description from *Ichiro no nazo*, p.106-107. “Drink hard but practice hard,” quotes and description of Ogi’s nocturnal and diurnal habits came from a longtime player Yoshiaki Kanemura, as related in an essay appearing on his website, [webmaster@y-kanemura.net](mailto:webmaster@y-kanemura.net), for *Kanemura Kikaku*. Ichiro’s name change described in *Ichiro no Nazo*, pps. 110-11, *Ichiro Tensai*, pps 171-174. Father stops

signing autographs in IF stands, from *Ichiro no Nazo*, p. 126, 127. and *Ichiro Tensai no Shinjitsu to Himitsu*, pps 175-176. "Hits 70% of strikes," *Ichiro Tensai* p.20

#### ABOUT THE NPB SCHEDULE.

The NPB schedule has varied over the years. The most common schedule has been 130 games, with occasional experiments with 135 and 140 games season. The P.L. briefly experimented with a 150 game sked in the early 60's. From 2001, both leagues moved to a 140 sked.

#### HIP HOP

"Hey Mother Fucker!", from *Ichiro no Nazo*, p. 27. "He's hot, he's hip..." from "That's Godzilla at Bat, by Jeffrey Bartholet, *Newsweek International*, July 15, 1996, appeared in domestic edition as "Zen and Now: Godzilla at the Bat." "I could hit .400" from *Ichiro Tensai*, p. 36-42 "I have actually only been playing professional baseball for three years," Ichiro quote from *Asahi Shimbun*, December 12, 1996. "He's wonderful..." remarks by Katsuya Nomura, reported in *Ichiro Tensai*, p 158.

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"...best player in NPB history." According to a poll conducted to determine Japan's All-Century baseball team, Ichiro was the fans favorite selection, leading all candidates including Shigeo Nagashima and Sadaharu Oh, with 587,426 votes. The lineup consisted of Atsuya Furuta at catcher, Oh at first base, Hiromitsu Ochiai at second, Nagashima at third, Kazuo Matsui at shortstop, Hideki Matsui, Isao Harimoto.and Ichiro, in the outfield. Yutaka Enatsu was the pitcher. (*Kyodo News*, October 19, 2000) Bobby Valentine remarks came in 1995 interview with author, November 7, 1995. During the 1996 tour of the MLB All-Stars, the players raved about Ichiro who had seven hits in eleven at bats, for a .636 average. "Absolutely great," said San Francisco's Dusty Baker, who was managing the team. (Author Interview September, 6, 2002, Pac Bell Park) After

Ichiro's guest visit to Seattle's camp, he said, "I thought it wasn't a dream," he said, "It wasn't unrealistic for me to think of playing at that level." Tom LaSorda recommendation from *Ichiro Tensai*, p. 72. However, Mike Hargrove would go down in history when, after a visit to Japan in 1998 as manager of an MLB All-Star team which won five and last two against NPB All-Stars, he said that Ichiro would NOT be able to earn a starting job in the majors. "Ichiro and Matsui (Hideki) can probably be role players...but I don't think they could play every day." He said that he and his coaching staff felt the only player who could step into an MLB lineup immediately was Seibu Lions shortstop Kazuo Matsui of the Seibu Lions. "I'm surprised how much better the American team is than the Japanese," he told the *Asahi Evening News*. ("Hargrove: Japanese players fail to make the grade," Harry F. Thompson, *AEN*, November 17, 1998)

"I was in a funk," Ichiro quote from *Ichiro on Ichiro*. "We cannot hand over our treasures so easily to the major leagues," quote by Yoshihiko Miyauchi reported in the *Daily Yomiuri*, September 20, 1999. "As long as I'm manager of this team," Ogi quote from *Ichiro Tensai*, p. 24. "Tell me again, Ichiro..." Dinner with Ogi, from *Ichiro Tensai*, pps 27-36. "He could see the seams..." from *Ichiro no Nazo*, pps 172-173. "You'll look like Brad Pitt," from *Ichiro no Nazo*, p.p.s 8-9. Leona Suzuki/Ichiro affair reported in *Sankei Shimbun*, October 23, 1997.

The revelations of the secret payoff was widely reported. They made the front page of the *Sankei Supotsu*, December 13, 2000. "*Ichiro Furon*", p. 1., On December 29, 2000 the Sankei reported that Ichiro was mulling a lawsuit against the woman for breach of contract, since she was promised in writing never to discuss their affair publicly. According to the report, he admitted to the relationship with the woman and to the payment he had made to end it, a customary act in Japan in such situations, so as to not interfere with his impending marriage. But he believed that it had been ended amicably

with the *tegirekin*. He insisted he had never known she was married.

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Running style changed, *Nazo*, p. 136-137. Ichiro himself said he was trying to copy Olympic sprint star Carl Lewis. (HBO Bob Costas Interivew, June 27, 2003).

## CHAPTER 2 END NOTES

“uniform too tight” from *Ichiro no Nazo*, pps 194-195.  
“one-two-three” herk-and-jerk” from author interview, November 7, 2002. “Don’t you know how to pull the ball?” Lou Pinella, NHK “Ichiro” documentary, January 1, 2002. “...swung and missed 6% of the time.” Ibid. IF hit statistics from appendix on “Ichiro on Ichiro” by Komatsu Narumi, *Shinchosha*, 2002. “Robbed on the way in from the airport.” Nobuyuki and his wife and stopped on the freeway to help an auto in distress, only to discover that thieves had laid a trap. “makes most Japanese men want to throw up” NHK documentary, “Ichiro Gunzo” January 1, 2002. “...best throw I’ve ever seen.” Terence Long interview, NHK, January 1, 2002. *Baseball America* survey published July 2001. “If you ask managers what they really want,” Lou Pinella quote in NHK Ichiro documentary, January 1, 2002. As was subsequent John Olerud quote. John McClaren interview, Jim Caple, ESPN.com March, 24, 2001. “This is what it would have been like had Princess Di played baseball,” Ibid. “100 million dollars,” “Ichiro, Sasaki pump cash into Seattle’s economy,” by Harumi Yamamoto, *Asahi Shimbun*, July 3, 2001. Also, see “Seattle Samurai lead Japan boom in major league baseball,” *Associated Press*, April 19, 2001 and “Major League Baseball booming in Asia,” *Reuters* May 19, 2001.

## A NOTE ABOUT TV RATINGS

With a few exceptions, all of the Seattle Mariners games were telecast on the NHK’s satellite channel system, which was established in the 80’s and was not as diffuse as the terrestrial

TV system used by most houses in Japan. NHK did not give out ratings, or even the number of households that had the new system installed. Thus, the impact of the Mariners telecasts was difficult to accurately gauge. However, the vast outdoor crowds that watched the games on Hi-Vision screens around Tokyo and Osaka and other major cities, and the slippage in the Giants ratings, were clear evidence that a dramatic change had occurred. According to Video Research, which took over the TV ratings from Japan Nielsen in 1982, a rating of one percentage point equaled 1.2 million viewers. Thus a 15% rating for a game meant that 18 million people watched it. 30% meant 36 million viewers. On October 31, 2003, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that there were only 4.41 million houses with Satellite TV in Japan, a country with a population of 127 million. The WSJ estimated that there were an average of 1.5 million viewers for a Satellite gamecast. In games occasionally shown on NHK General, their terrestrial network, ratings sometime reached 10%, or 12 million viewers, which was quite remarkable for an early morning telecast.

“...one feisty little sucker,” “Follow That Star” by Michael Kinsley, *The Sporting News*, March 19, 2001. The details of Ichiro’s taped encounter were detailed in *Ichiro Tensai*, pps. 47-52, in *Friday Magazine*, August 3, in the *Shukan Posuto*, August 5, 2001, in Mark Schrieber’s *Tokyo Confidential* column, “Ichiro caught off base” in the *Japan Times*, July 22, 2001, and the *Japan Today* website, August 30, 2001.

## AMERICAN HERO

“To see Ichiro hit is to be taken back almost a century...” Thomas Boswell quote from *Washington Post*, Oct 20. 2003. “...from zen archers...” from *Ichiro no Nazo*, pps 162-163. “Doesn’t look at pitcher” in on deck circle, from *Nazo*, pps. 158-159. “I get tired just looking at him,” Boone, Fuji TV interview, April 2002. “Theirs was the type of practice that made you wonder....” From author interview with Suzuki,

November 7, 2002. “I couldn’t understand how my teammates....” from NHK interview January 1, 2002.

Melvin, LaRussa remarks from Tony Attanasio author interview, February 11, 2003. According to Attanasio, “Ichiro told LaRussa, you’d be much better if you practiced like you should. LaRussa, almost fell out of his chair.”

*Chikara wa keizoku*, from *Ichiro Tensai*, pps 228 and 236, author interview, November 7, 2002. See *Ichiro Tensai*, p. 180-182 for father advice on keeping emotions under control. “I get nervous like everyone else,” from author interview November 7, 2002. “...”superiority” over America,” by Yuko Aotani, April 2, 2001, author interview. “Ichiro knows the *ku* or nothingness of zen,” Takeshi Umehara, *Asahi Shimbun*, May 3, 2002. “...he had told his agent Attanasio that he did not care how much money he made...” from author interview with Tony Attanasio, Feb 11, 2002. “I don’t like the word success...” from NHK interview, January 1, 2002, and author interview November 7, 2002. “I’m working toward my own inner goals,” quote from *Aichi Voice*, No. 8-1. “He’s a control freak...” author interview with Masayuki Tamaki, July 2, 2003. “He didn’t join us in our morning walk.” *Ichiro Tensai*. Pps. 159-160.

## SEATTLE

“I think I have narrowed the gap...” from author interview with Suzuki, November 7, 2002. “Microserfs” home to three of the world’s 10 richest men,” from “The Decline and Fall of Seattle” by Kim Murphy, *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, August 4, 2002; an incisive look at modern Seattle. With thanks to James Bailey. “Eccentric Kyoto aristocrat,” Ben Fulford, October 16, 2003. “lazy and illiterate,” remark made by Yoshio Sakurauchi, the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, January 1992. “draw a mushroom cloud” remark by Holling’s from *Mainichi Daily News*, March 7, 1992. “It’s a patriotic issue for me...” by Bill Giles, “The Mariners Catch A Tsunami,” *Business Week*, June 1, 2001. “70% of Americans queried



were opposed... & “not in the best interests of the US,” by Fay Vincent, “Mariners owners goes from villain to hero in Emerald City” Jon Herskovitz, *Reuters*, July 13, 2001. “...likable crab” Ben Fulford, October 16, 2003. “Out and out racism” remark by Donald Hellman, “The Mariners Catch A Tsunami,” *Business Week*, June 1, 2001. Also see “Seattle Says: “*Yamauchi-San Arigato*” A Conversation With the New Owner of the Seattle Mariners, by Marty Kuehnert, *Yomiuri Daily News*, August 2, 1992. Shawn Wong’s comments appeared in an article entitled “Racial Mojo” published in the *Seattle Times*, in May 19, 2002.

Japan did not exactly welcome foreign buyers into their baseball market either. In 2003, the American firm Ripplewood broached the idea of acquiring the Daiei Hawks, who, at the time were on the block, but was rebuffed by powerful Giants owner Tsuneo Watanabe, who did not want to grant a foreign “vulture” the right to run a Japanese baseball team. *Nikkei Marketing Journal*, September 18, 2003.

#### THE VIEW FROM JAPAN: MEMBERS OF THE WORLD

Shoriki’s quote and Rikidozan phenomenon description from *Tokyo Underworld*, pps 48-52, Pantheon, New York. 1999.TBS all-star game telecast described in *Yomiuri Daily News*, “Televiews” column, by William Penn, July 12, 2001. Matsui “*ichiryu-ja nai*” quote. See *Ichiro Tensai*, p.37, also see pps. 145-147. “I could hit .400,” from *Ichiro Tensai*, p. 40. “Drop in Giants rating,” see “Giants ticket sales strike out,” *Asahi Shimbun* June 24, 2001; “Yomiuri Giants’ days in sunshine are just about over,” by Yo Takatsuki, *Asahi Shimbun*, July 23, 2001; and “*Sagging TV ratings led to resignation*,” *Asahi Shimbun*, September 29-30, 2001. “Exodus of star players to majors taking toll on Japan Leagues,” *Asahi Shimbun*, February 12, 2002. “It’s a honor...” NPB commissioner quote from press interview, March 2001. “He makes me proud to be a Japanese,” Junichiro Koizumi, press interview, March 2001. “Japanese are excited...” Yuko Aotani, author interview, April 2001.

Masujima's remarks appeared in *Kokusai Koryu* (Japan Foundation Newsletter), Vol. XXIX. 1 October 2001.

#### ABOUT CHANGING ATTITUDES.

According to a survey conducted in the *Kokuminsei no Kenkyu*, published in March 1999 by the *Tokei Suri Kenkyujo* (The Institute of Statistical Mathematics), 33% of Japanese believed Japanese superior to Westerners in 1998. This compared with 53% in 1983 and 20% in 1953. (see. P. 140) 29% in 1988 would permit their children to marry foreigners, while 36% would not. In 1998, 40% supported the idea, while 29% did not. (See p.146)

#### MORE FACTS ABOUT ICHIRO

There have been 30 some books written about Ichiro in Japanese about Ichiro and not all of them are absolutely essential to mention. But in addition to those listed earlier, the following may be of some interest. *Ichiro ni manabu 'tensai' to iwareru ningen kyotsu-ten*, Mitsuo Kodama, Kawade Shobo Shinsha, 2001. *Musashi to Ichiro*, Eiyo Takaoka, Shogakkan, 2003. *Ichiro wa "tensai" de wa nai*. Masaru Ogawa, Kadokawa Shoten, 2002,. *Amerika ga Ichiro wo hyoka suru honto no no riyu*, Osamau Nagatani, Kirutaimu kommunikashon, 2002. *Ichiroizumu boku ga kangaeta koto kanjita kota to shinjiru koto*, Yuta Ishida, Shueisha, 2002.

Inside these 30 one can find such scintillating facts as follows: He has flat feet, all his wisdom teeth and he worries he is going bald (which is why fans never see him take off his hat, or change into his batting helmet on the field). When living alone he was a compulsive cleaner, he likes tropical fish and bonsai trees and can stare at them for hours. He talks a lot while out on the field, but seldom talks on the bench. He prefers batting leadoff to any other spot in the lineup. He seldom drinks because of an unusually low tolerance for alcohol. He showed up at the Orix victory celebration wearing windbreakers and goggles and still got drunk, just from the

beer and champagne in the air. He is unfailingly polite, a way, some people say, of keeping his distance from others. He sometimes has nightmares about being stabbed by a stranger or hit in the head with a metal plate. (*Ichiro no Nazo*, p.36) As a little boy he liked to torture frogs (*Ichiro no Nazo*, p 18), and lift up girls skirts. (*Nazo*, p.54) Friends say he has a terrible singing voice.

### CHAPTER 3 END NOTES

“I knew from talking to other Americans...”; Colborn’s remarks are from a series of author interviews conducted at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, July 26-29, 2002. Furthermore, in an article written for the *Washington Post* by Billy Witz, and appearing in the *International Herald Tribune* on June 22, 2002, Colborn was quoted as saying, “the Japanese want mechanical instruction. They get emotional stability from performing athletic movements, where we look at competing and putting your neck on the line as being very important. To Americans, if you’re relaxed and focused, your natural motion will come out. Sometimes you talk about mechanics during a game with an American pitcher and he gets confused.” Colborn’s summation of his Japan tour, “I went there to teach and wound up learning from them.” (author interview July 29, 2002)

Bill Shang’s article was entitled “Adaptation of Strength Training: A consideration of cultural differences in administering strength programs,” published in the *NSCA Journal*: pps 28-30, Volume 14, Issue 4, 1992. Issn: 0744-0049. Article ID: 10.1043/0744-0049.

### ABOUT THE EARLY HISTORY OF BB IN JAPAN

Baseball was a by-product of Japan’s all out effort to learn from the West. In its nascent years, baseball was considered less a “sport” than a kind of competition, like archery or shooting, where the object was to hit a target.

The first game ever played in Japan is believed to have been a contest held in September of that year between the crew of the US Battleship Colorado and foreign residents in Yokohama in September 1870. (*Mainichi Daily News*, Sunday, May 7, 2000, “Baseball History blasted into past” by Akio Nikaido, *Mainichi Shimbun*). The first game played by Japanese was said to have been organized by an American professor named Albert Bates at Kaitaku University in 1873. What was perhaps the first game ever played between Japanese and Americans was a pickup affair involving unequal sides of university students and visitors from the U.S. which took place in 1876. The first organized baseball team, with uniforms, was the Shimbashi Athletic Club Athletics, formed in 1878 by railway engineer Hiroshi Hiraoka, who had recently returned from a stay in Boston where he became an avid Red Sox fan. Hiraoka, according to some historical accounts, was the first person in Japan to throw a curve ball. (From: Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame)

There are any number of books describing the early development of Japanese baseball, including *Nihon-yakyu shi—Meiji hen*,” by Kyushi Yamato. Baseball Magazine Sha, Tokyo 1977. *Nihon yakyu shi—Taisho hen*,” by Kyushi Yamato, Baseball Magazine Sha, Tokyo 1977, *Nihon sports Bunka shi*,” Ki Kimura, Baseball Magazine Sha, Tokyo 1978. *Kindai Puro Supotsu no Reikishi Shakai Gakko*, Koichi Kiku, Uedo Shuppan Tokyo 1993, and *Hakkyu Taiheiyō wo Wataru*, Masaru Ikei, Chuko Shinsho, Tokyo, 1976.

(Author’s Note: Dr. Tamio Nakamura at Fukushima University, a specialist in the history of *kenjutsu/kendo*, stated his belief that the main reason *kenjutsu* fell into disfavor at the onset of the Meiji Era was its cost. The equipment needed to practice it cost the equivalent of a young teacher’s monthly salary at the time. Common people could simply not afford it. He points out that the martial art was taught at elite prep schools like Ichiko, where parents of the students had the money to pay for the required gear—mask, robe, gloves,

padding, pole. By the end of the Meiji Era, *Kenjutsu* was a required subject in Japanese schools, taught in the form of *Kendo*. (Interview with Kozo Abe for author February, 12, 2003.)

The Ichiko practice routine was described in the following manner by Suishu Tobita in *Tobita Suishu Senshu, Yakyu Kisha Jidai, Besuboru Magajin sha*, in 1960. Pps 30-31. “For their practice, there was no snow or hail...If it snowed, the team would clear the field...Then they started practice. And the word “ouch” was prohibited for the members of Ichiko during practice. For ordinary people, there was no doubt that they would express their pain by screaming, however in their (Ichiko’s) case, there was no word uttered. The pain was overcome. In case it wasn’t, the word *kayui* (it itches) was used...The balls were thrown against the cold chilly wind and occasionally their fingers were colored with blood, and the balls, being thrown left and right, were also covered with blood. This was the way of practice...Balls that hit their shins and feet felt like iron.”

For a brief history of Jigoro Kano, see *Modern Bujustu and Budo*, by Donn F. Draeger, pps 112-123, published by Weatherhill, New York and Tokyo, 1974, (On p. 113, Draeger writes, “Kano, however, regarded *jujutsu* as an object of national culture, a cultural asset worthy of the respect of the nation. He therefore resolved to restore *jujutsu* to his rightful place.” A victory by Kano’s Kodokan over the Tokyo police in a famous 1886 encounter between new and old schools of hand-to-hand fighting, cemented Kano’s reputation, and that of judo, and served as the inspiration for Akira Kurosawa’s film masterpiece, “*Sugata Sanshiro*.” Also, see, *The Father of Judo, A Biography of Jigoro Kano* by Brian Watson, Kodansha International. Jigoro Kano’s philosophy of judo training as an “ordeal” is described in “A History of the Kodokan,” Chapter 6, pps. 5-10. [www.bstkd.com/judoHistory](http://www.bstkd.com/judoHistory), University of Montana. Kodokan training method described in Chapter 7. pps 1-2.

*Yakyu*, the book written by Kanae Chuman was published in 1897 by *Maekawa Buneido Shuppan*. The invention of the term *Yakyu* by Kanae Chuman is described in the book “*Chuman Kanae Den*” by Mutsuo Kii. Published by *Baseball Magajin-sha*, Tokyo 1988. Jitsuo Aoi “1,000 swing drill” appears on page 76 of that book. Musashi Miyamoto’s “thousand day” quote appears on page 91 of his classic work, “*The Book of Five Rings*,” translated by William Scott Wilson, Kodansha International, Tokyo, 2002.

An Ichiko alumnus would later write this spirited summation of the philosophy of his school’s adopted and highly popular pastime. “Sports came from the West. In Ichiko baseball, we were playing sports, but we were also putting the spirit of Japan into it...*Yakyu* is a way to express the samurai spirit. To play baseball is to develop this spirit...Thus, our members were just like the warriors of old with their samurai spirit.” From: “*Yakyu Bushi*” , an article appearing in a commemorative work published by the Alumni Association of the first Higher School of Tokyo, February 28, 1903, entitled “*Yakyu Bushi Fukisoku Dai Ichi Koto Gakko Koyukai*.”

The *Ichiko* triumphs, no less significantly, also represented the first step in making baseball accessible to the masses. Up until that time, baseball had been a game played and watched by a relatively affluent and socially advanced elite. Early in the Meiji era, social inequities were still so pronounced that some families had to resort to selling off their daughters to the brothels of Yoshiwara just to put food on the table. For the average person, mingling with foreigners was out of the question. There were only a handful of senior high schools in Japan, and they were elite schools like *Ichiko*—far removed from the sweaty realities of the hoi polloi. But the *Ichiko* victories served to make baseball the number one sport in the nation’s middle schools as well, spreading out to all corners of the archipelago. They helped popularize terms like ‘*seishin yakyu*.’”

*Ichiko* won their first encounter with the American squad on May 23, 1896 in Yokohama by an astonishing score of 29-4, the first formal game between Japan and the U.S., according to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Japan. When the recently retired school principal Hiroji Kinoshita was telegraphed the news that day, he exhorted *Ichiko* to “demonstrate the true spirit of Japanese *Bushido*” by not boasting about their triumph. The victory was reported on page 1 of the *Hochi Shimbun*, May 25, 1896, and page 2 of the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, May 25, 1896. *Ichiko* went on to win two rematches later that year by scores of 35-9 and 22-6. See the encyclopedic collection of material that is *Ichiko*’s history entitled “*Koryoshi*”, pps, 799-810, published by the *Dai-Ichi Koto Gakko Kishukuryo*, September 10, 1930.

An account of *Ichiko*’s games versus the Americans appears in two installments of a series entitled, *Yakyu-bun-nan Shiwa*, by Saburo Saito, the first appearing in the *Yomiuri Supotsu* vol. 5, No. 8, July, 1952, pps 71-73, continued in the Vol. 6, no.9 edition of August 1952, pps, 64-66. A good general description of how *Ichiko* provided a catalyst in turning baseball into a martial art appears in Masaru Ikei’s book, *Hakkyu Taiheiyo wo Wataru*, Chuko Shinsho, Tokyo 1976. See pps 38-46 for an account of *Ichiko* victories over Yokohama in 1896 and their impact on the country as a whole. Also see “*Kindai Puro Supotsu*” no *Rekishi Shakiagaku*, by Koichi Kiku, Tokyo, Fumaido, 1993, pps. 88-122, as well as the chronological chart on pps. 52-53. Also see *Gekan Besuboru*, January 10, 2001 for a good summary of the development of *Ichiko* baseball. Moriyama’s practice routine was described in “*Yakyu Nenpo*,” published by *Mimatsu Shoten Nai Yakyu Nenpo Henshu-bu*, in 1912. Tokyo, pps. 309-317. The article was written by Suishu Tobita. Also see *Zuihitsu to Tsuiso*, Suishu Tobita, *Besuboru Magajin*, 1960. p.229. For another article dealing with Moriyama’s mound exploits, also written by Tobita, see *Undokai*, No. 47, April, 1912. Also *Yakyu Hyakunen*, by Kyushi Yamato, Jiji,, 1976. . A photograph of the brick wall

bearing the hole Moriyama put in it appears in *Nihon Supotsu Reikishi*, by Ki Kimura, Besuboru Magazine sha., 1978, p.103  
 An excellent description of Moriyama's Ichiko career, as well as the early years of baseball in Japan, appears in Chapter 4, Joseph Reaves fine book "*Taking in a Game: A History of Baseball in Asia*," published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2001. The *Yakyubuka* appears in *Schooldays in Imperial Japan*," p. 125, by Donald Roden, Berkeley: University of California Press 1980, which also features a thorough and fascinating history of Ichiko. An interesting, if incomplete, account of games between the Ichiko ball club and the Yokohama Country and Athletic Club nine, is on pps. 124-126. Ichiko baseball alumni published accounts of their experiences in a series entitled *Ichiko Yakyu Bushi* series, published in the turn of the century magazine *Undokai*. The spread of *Bushido Besuboru* to Waseda and Keio was described in *Kindai Puro Supotsu no Reikishi Shakai Gaku*, by Koichi Kiku, published by *Fumaido Shuppan*, Tokyo, 1993. p. 102

The Waseda trip to the U.S. is described in Masaru Ikei's book, *Hakkyu Taiheiyo wo Wataru*, Chuko Shinsho, Tokyo 1976., pps 46-51. Also see the article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 31, 1996, C-1, entitled "U.S.-Japanese Baseball History—It Happened in 1905. Also see *Kindai Puro Supotsu no Reikishi Shakai Gaku*, by Koichi Kiku, published by *Fumaido Shuppan*, Tokyo, 1993. p. 102, pps 100-122. Waseda pitcher Yasushi Kono, who started every game of the tour, earned the nickname "Iron Kono," and was occasionally greeted by cries of "On to St. Petersburg." Iso Abe, the leader of that Waseda contingent to the States, envisioned baseball as a peaceful substitute for war. He recommended modifying Ichiko's *bushido* approach and maintained that the Anglo-American concept of fair play could be applied as well. He added that it wasn't necessary to practice everyday all year to play one game. Needless to say, his imprecations were ignored. "superior to that of the U.S." from *Saikin Yakyu Gijutsu*,



written by Makoto Hashido and published by *Haku Bunkan*, Tokyo, 1905, p.5-7.

In Tokyo The Keio-Waseda rivalry grew so heated that, after opposing groups of supporters confronted each other on the streets of the city in the midst of a three-game series in 1906 authorities suspended matches between them for two decades.

## ABOUT BUSHIDO

The term “Bushido” means “way of the warrior” and refers to the code of the samurai in feudal Japan which stressed loyalty, duty, obligation and obedience and valued honor above life. It has been dismissed by some historians as an “invented tradition”, because it was essentially a warrior code that had been created in the 17<sup>th</sup> century after the major civil wars had been concluded and the samurai were no longer needed to fight in battle. Although the original idea developed during the Kamakura era, 1192-1333, the name Bushido was not used until the 16<sup>th</sup> century with the advent of the new peacetime era of the Tokugawa Shogunate. (1603-1867). Bushido something that master-less samurai used to market their skills as martial arts instructors, bodyguards and peacekeepers and was refined to incorporate Confucianist, Zen and Buddhist thought. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, it was made the basis of ethical training for the whole society, with the emperor replacing the feudal lord as an object of loyalty and sacrifice, and as such it played a role in the rise of Japanese nationalism and mustering popular support for wartime efforts to come. Embedded in its value system were piety, frugal living, loyalty, selflessness, kindness, honesty, learning, filial and ceremonial propriety and military skill. It was even said to parallel Anglo American concepts like chivalry and fair play in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Way of the Samurai received wide exposure abroad in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, after the publication of Inazo Nitobe’s English-language tome *Bushido*, which was an attempt

to introduce “traditional Japanese culture” to the West. Some critics characterized it as an overcooked myth given its overly rosy portrayal of old samurai as men of highest honor while ignoring the brutality and treachery they often practiced. “Professional killers” some historians have called them..

That said, however, the impact of *Bushido* on the Japanese culture and consciousness since the time of *The Book of Five Rings*, written in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, can hardly be dismissed. Generations of children have heard its core principles— dedication to self-perfection, submergence of ego, martial spirit, development of inner (spiritual) strength, courage— expounded by their fathers, teachers, coaches and, in adulthood, corporate bosses, right to the present day.

## BUSHIDO/MUSASHI

Musashi Miyamoto, the author of *The Book of Five Rings*, is not only an historical figure but a character of legend, a samurai who fought in the Battle of Sekigahara in 1597 as a 14-year old and went on to become a devotee of Zen and an invincible swordsman, proving his prowess in innumerable storied swordfights. The book, which has been read by millions down through the ages, records his life principles. Some examples:

“With the one, know the ten thousand...think without any dishonesty...Do not complain or feel bitterly about yourself or others...Forge yourself in the Way...Touch upon all the arts...Know the Ways of all occupations...Know the advantages and disadvantages of everything...Develop a discerning eye in all matters...Understand what cannot be seen by the eye...Pay attention to small things...Do not involve yourself with the impractical...The mind should not be distracted by the body, nor the body by the mind...The journey of a thousand *ri* begins with one step, so think without rushing.”

## SOME MORE HISTORY

The early history of the professional game is described in, *Nihon Yakyu shi, Showa-hen, Sono Ni*, by Kyushi Yamato, Baseball Magazine. 1977. The attack on Shoriki is described in *Hakkyu wa Taiheiyo wo Koeta*. Ruth's visit in 1934, Starfin's acquisition and Sawamura's 1-0 loss are described in pages 99-133. Also see Joseph Reave's *Taking In a Game*, University of Nebraska Press, 2001, pps 67-73. Two well known books about Starfin in Japanese are *Roshiya Kara Kita Esu*, by his daughter Natasha Starfin, published by PHP in 1993 and *Hakkyu ni Eiko to Yumei wo No sete*, again by his daughter Natasha, published by Baseball Magazine-sha also in 1993. Starfin had been reluctant to turn pro. His primary goal in life was to lead his high school team to Koshien Stadium and the national championship. Like many people in Japan at the time, fixated as they were on the amateur game, he considered playing baseball for money a rather suspect way to make a living. But then the Dai Nippon scouts suggested that their team's parent organization, the Yomiuri newspaper, might begin to take an interest in the private lives of Starfin's parents, who were living in Japan somewhat precariously on transit visas. Making things even more precarious was the fact that Starfin's father was in jail at the time, awaiting trial on a charge of involuntary manslaughter arising from the accidental death of a friend. Suddenly conscious of the possibility that unwelcome publicity from newspaper reports in one of Japan's largest dailies might well result in the family's expulsion from Japan, Starfin succumbed to the blackmail and turned pro, beginning a career that would see him win 300 games in the pros and compile a lifetime 2.09 ERA, before in an automobile accident in 1957. Sawamura, who had endeared himself to American fans on that 1935 Giants tour, with his habit of doffing his cap and bowing to the umpire, also turned pro to help pay his father's gambling debts. He was killed in WWII. The Giants existed to promote the *Yomiuri Shimbun* which, in turn, promoted the Giants and the general idea of professional

baseball. Although the *Asahi* continued to promote schoolboy baseball, primarily through Tobita's fervid columns which extolled the virtues of pure amateurs over the money-oriented pros, both papers enthusiastically covered both the amateur game and the professional campaigns. And both dailies kept increasing their circulations.

"Purify the baseball world," from *Yomiuri Shimbun*, January 1, 1936. The Director General's name was Tadao Hachioka. The Morinji Camp, including Fujimoto's remark "the purpose of camp is not to improve our fielding or our hitting but to hone our fighting spirit is described in detail in the *Tokyo Yomiuri Kyojin Gun 50-nen*, published by the Yomiuri Group in 1985, pps 191-195. It is described in even greater detail in *Nihon Yakyu-shi, Showa-hen Sono Ni*, by Kyushi Yamato, Baseball Magazine, Tokyo, 1977, pps. 261-270. (Fujimoto's remarks "smoke and drink too much" is on page 266). It was also described by Osamu Mihara in the book, *Kyojin gun to tomo ni*, Sakuhinsha, 1949, pps. 23-30.

Author's note: The "1,000 Fungo Drill" does not usually mean a player has to field a thousand ground balls. The idea is to make him dash to his left and to his right and then back again, chasing balls hit just out of his reach until he becomes exhausted. It is a spirit strengthening drill, not a conditioning one. In the Morinji Camp, such drills consisted usually of 200 balls per player, although Shiraishi was said to have been worked much longer. A similar drill—with fly balls—was used for outfielders. According to the New York Mets Kazuo Matsui, "There are a lot of my former teammates I know of who have done up to 700 or 800..." (January 16, 2003. Seibu Stadium).

"100 fly ball drill" described by Wally Yonamine in author interview November 15, 2002. Yonamine played under Mizuhara the entire decade of the 50's. Kamakami's *kanri yakyu* is described in *You Gotta Have Wa*, pps 74-75.

ABOUT MIHARA AND "GATTSU"

Osamu Mihara's managerial career was distinguished, from others of his era, by the fact that he never raised his hand in anger at his players. Some say this was because he served as a private in Japan's wartime Imperial army and had been routinely punched by his superiors. At any rate, he was fond of saying, "I can win without hitting my players." (According to one, perhaps overly confident player, "any of his coaches who tried corporal punishment would probably have been punched back ."). *Kon-Shu no Hon*, Saichi Maruyama, *Mainichi Shimbun*, November 24, 2002. He also had a strong dislike for base-by-base style of play, preferring the long ball instead. He recalled with special disgust a game with the Giants when he was their manager in the 1947-1950 era. Slugger Noboru Aota, batting #3 in the order, took it upon himself to sacrifice bunt with runners on second and third and no out. But Mihara did not mind abusing his pitchers, however. Lions Kazuhisa Inao (who won 42 games in 1961) appeared in six of the seven games of the 1958 Japan Series. In the 1958 pennant stretch, Mihara started Inao in 18 of the team's last 27 games and used him in relief in 7 others. Inao's career, not surprisingly, was over by the time he was 32, thanks to a damaged arm. See *Majitsushi-Mihara Osamu to Nishitetsu Lions*. Yasunori Tateishi, *Shogakkuan* 2002. And *Puro Yakyu Kiroku no Techo*, Isao Chiba, *Baseball Magazine*, 2001.

Yale anthropologist William Kelly, who has been studying Japanese baseball, argues that "guts" did not become "ideologically central" in pro baseball until the V-9 era of Kawakami and the Yomiuri Giants, 1965-1973. This would come as a surprise to Mr. Inao, as well as to Motoshi Fujita, who pitched 359 innings for Mizuhara and his Giants in 1959, and to Tadashi Sugiura who pitched all four games of the 1959 series against the Giants for the Nankai Hawks, coming off a season in which he won 38 games while pitching 371 innings. These individuals uncomplainingly pitched their arms out for their managers, relying on "guts" when the inevitable pain from so much wear and tear manifested itself in their

elbows and shoulders.. Their careers ended early, but as Hiroshi Gondo a pitcher who threw 429 innings in 1961 put it, “the code of Bushido was strong... Many times my fingers and arms hurt, but I could not refuse my manager’s request.” Inao, for his part, continued to speak of his great affection for Mihara long after his retirement, despite his teammate Yasumitsu Toyoda’s bitter complaints that Mihara shortened Inao’s career. “Heart is the important thing,” he said, “Younger players should pitch more.” (Toyoda Home page. Toyoda/Inazo interview. Sugiura often expressed similar sentiments despite his own career shortened due to arm injury.

Mr. Kelley’s comments on “guts” would, of course, also be news to the men who participated in the Morinji Camp.. (See “The Blood and Guts of Japanese Professional Baseball,” by William W. Kelly. Department of Anthropology. Yale University, [William.Kelly@yale.edu](mailto:William.Kelly@yale.edu) for the professor’s “ideologically central” and other such remarks contained therein.)

#### ABOUT TOBITA AND *SEISHIN YAKYU*

Shortly before his death in 1967, Tobita did an extensive interview with NHK in which he continued to cite the Ichiko approach as the foundation for all Japanese baseball. However, he also expressed his concern that modern baseball players were overdoing things in practice. “We were thought to have practiced hard in my era,” he said, “but watching these guys today at Waseda, it looks a lot tougher. Maybe I’m just getting old, but it seems more regimented.”

Concerned over a slump in the fortunes of his alma mater, he instigated the removal from power of yet another in a long line of Waseda managers noted for their Spartan training, Renzo Ishii, a.k.a. “Renzo the Ogre” and had him replaced with former Waseda star and one of the luminaries of amateur baseball, a witty, warm-hearted individualist, Tokichiro Ishii, who believed that “baseball should be fun.” Tokichiro’s first words as manager--“It’s too cold today. Let’s forget about

practice”—were revolutionary and went down in Waseda history. His idea of a manager’s duties was to encourage his players to make choices (including what position they played) and to bring out the best in their talents through mix of discipline and laughter. He ushered in a new golden era at the university, where the watchword was “take risks, realize the joy of the game, and get out of the meeting as soon as possible and go drink.” He is one of the few lifelong amateurs to be enshrined in the Japanese Hall of Fame.

Elsewhere, however, *seishin yakyu* continued to hold sway. At Meiji University, “*konjo, konjo*” was the watchword for three decades under manager Kiichiro Shimaoka. At Keio, there was a sign in the baseball clubhouse—“3000 swings in the morning; 3000 more in the afternoon. If you don’t do that, you can’t win”; it reminded players what their priorities were. Said Keio player Shozo Eto who later went on to coach and manage in the pros, “If you screwed up, they made you do *seiza*, sitting on your heels with a bat lodged behind your knees, under your thighs. There’s nothing more painful. I’d rather be beaten up any day.”

Draconian discipline eventually made its way back to Waseda as well. After his namesake departed and the school went through 15 losing seasons, Renzo Ishii returned to Waseda as manager in 1988 to win the championship of the Big Six, Tokyo’s top university league. All in all, Renzo’s mainstream approach made the baseball world more comfortable than Tokichiro’s iconoclasm: a *konjo* philosophy was easier to apply and did not require a patient affection for one’s athletes or an irrepressible sense of humor, traits not shared by everyone in the game. Baseball remained a taxing endeavor, which separated it from its American cousin.

Tobita’s NHK radio interview interview was recorded in August, 1962, five years before his death. The adventures of Tokichiro Ishii were related in the book “*Sekihaku san no Home Run*,” by Junji Tominaga, Chuhei Shuppan, Tokyo 2003. See pps 1-16, and 356-366. The latter segment contains a

description of Suishu Tobita. David Shapiro, a personal friend of Tokichiro, provided additional details. Izu “Hell Camp” described in *Sports Nippon*, July 25, 2003, p. 3. “Bashing the players this way...” from *Nikkan Sports*, November 2, 1996, at start of that year’s “Hell Camp” in Miyazaki. Ichiro Suzuki’s comments about *seishin yakyu* or *konjo*, as he referred to it, came in an author interview November 7, 2002.

#### KAZUHIRO AND SEISHIN YAKYU

Still another believer was Kazuhiro Kiyohara, the burly Giants hero who joined the team in 1997 after 11 years with the Seibu Lions. In the mid-90’s, Kiyohara, who was famous for his long line of girl friends and nighttime escapades, but also for his attitude of respect toward the game—he always bowed upon entering and leaving a park—experienced a series of injuries that affected his batting average and potentially threatened his career. In the Giants 25- day autumn camp in ’97, Kiyohara took what was perhaps a record 30,000 swings, which works out to about 1200 a day. (On hearing of this, New York Yankee manager Joe Torre remarked, “I don’t think I’ve never heard of a player swinging a bat 1000 times a day, let alone 30 days in a row.” Neither had his 2003 batting coach Rick Down.)

In the winter of 1999, coming off yet another disappointing season in which he was also accused (unjustly it turned out) by a magazine of associating with organized crime figures, Kiyohara shaved his head, donned the robes of a Buddhist monk and spent several wintry days, from 5:30 in the morning until midnight, chanting and meditating at a Buddhist temple in Kagoshima, interrupting his daylong spiritual practice only long enough to swing the bat. It was an effort, he said, to “regain the purity of his high school days.”

Kiyohara’s “30,000 swings” from *Nikkan Supotsu*, October 28, 1997. p.5. Torre and Down’s comments on Kiyohara came in author interviews, March 14, 2003 and April 29, 2003 respectively.



Kiyohara's schedule:

- 5:30 Wake up.
- 6:00 Ring Temple Bell. Clean Temple.
- 6:00 Radio Calisthenics; Vocal Training.
- 7:00 Supplicant Drills—Hands, Knees and Face to the Floor.
- 8:00 Breakfast.
- 10:00 Incense Burning, Chanting.
- 1:00 Reading Scriptures.
- 4:00 Lunch.
- 5:00 Shadow Swings.
- 8:00 Sermon by Chief Temple Priest.
- 12:00 Lights Out.

Kiyohara's sojourn to the Kagoshima zen temple was described on the front page of the *Tokyo Supotsu*, December 22, 1999. Gary Garland, author of the terrific '*japanese insider*' on *baseballguru.com* described the visit of Hanshin Tiger righthander Taiyo Fujita, "one of those ludicrous attempts at a spiritual toughening up that many Japanese players engage in year." Fujita spent on Friday in January 2003 camping under a freezing cold waterfall in Gifu Prefecture for 110 seconds. "I thought it would kill me," said the player, who was shaven bald and wore white garments that made him resemble a Buddhist monk doing "*omisogi*," a kind of cleansing rite. The account appeared in Garland's portion of the Baseball Guru.com web site, January 10, 2003.

For most, the quest for physical and mental perfection is a grueling one. Many starters throw hard on the sidelines everyday, in contrast to Americans who rest three or four days between starts. Sometimes they do more. In spring camp of 2003, Seibu's 22 year old pitching star Daisuke Matsuzaka

pitched 326 balls on one mind-blowing day. (Most American pitchers seldom throw over 130 pitches in a workout or a game, and make certain they properly rest their arms afterwards). Matsuzaka's spring camp efforts that year are described in detail in the February 14, 2003 issue of the *Nikkan Sports*. Colborn quote "1000 pitches in three days" from author interview August 28, 2003.

Author's note: Such hard work did make Japanese players, in some respects, more finished players than their major league counterparts. The position players struck out less, they made fewer errors, and, it has been argued, were better base stealers. Their pitchers possessed control that would turn many American hurlers green with envy. A 3-2 count in the U.S. often meant that a fast ball was coming. In Japan, it could be one of several breaking pitches. That's how much confidence the pitchers there had.

Not all of them were addicted to practice—Koji Uehara, the man who easily struck out Barry Bonds three times in that 2003 exhibition game—preferred American style workouts between starts. Unfortunately, too many paid a heavy price in shoulder and elbow damage and an aborted career. According to a survey conducted by this author in early 2004, 90% of the managers in the NPB in the postwar era are proponents of "*seishin yakyu*."

When asked about the 1,000 fungo drill, Kazuo Matsui, Seibu star who joined the New York Mets in 2004, replied thusly, "I've only done one or two hundred at a time. I don't think practicing when your tired is a good thing. But I know a lot of other players, including my teammates, who will go all the way to the seven or eight hundred level."

Guttman-Thompson book "Japanese Sports: A History" provides some interesting material inre the early development of baseball. But beware a book that gives you page upon page about *kemari*, an ancient "game" in which elegantly robed Heian courtiers stood in a circle and contrived to keep a gaily colored ball in the air by kicking it—an exercise akin to the

equally bold practice of strewing beans for expecting royal princesses (exalted above other forms of exertion) to be picked up as a way of maintaining muscle tone—but not even a brief introduction to the wildly popular Koshien High School Baseball tournament, a mecca for the sport even before there ever was a professional game, or a mention of the contributions made by Moriyama and Tobita who had such a big impact on the growth of *yakyu* in Japan. Granted this is an academic work, but given the theories this book espoused in this book—i.e. the “attraction of baseball is as a 'bittersweet comic drama of the dysfunctions of corporate life'”—one wonders if the authors had ever put down their research treatises and interviewed real-live ballplayers, fans and other flesh-and-blood on-the-scene participants. If they had, they would have at least understood that it was Nagashima the public most identified with, not Oh, as they erroneously suggest.

#### THE WA FACTOR

The ancient name of Japan, Yamato is made up of two Kanji, one for “large” and the other for “wa” Richie’s comment came in an author interview, October 28, 2001.

#### ABOUT FAN BEHAVIOR

Sebastian Moffet’s quote is from p. 77 of his *Japanese Rules: Why the Japanese needed football and how they got it*, Yellow Jersey Press, London, 2002.

Not everyone agrees with the idea the fans in Japan only let loose when they join the highly organized *oendan* or cheerleading groups. Yale anthropologist Kelly studied fan behavior at Koshien Stadium for a time in the mid-90’s and claimed this view of the fans “conforms too neatly to certain stereotypes about an alleged Japanese character of mindless collectivism (their “undividualism’ we might say”). He quotes a passage in the book “*You Gotta Have Wa*” which describes the Japanese fan in the *oendan* as shedding his usual “restraint”

and becoming a “veritable wildman, yelling and screaming nonstop for nine solid innings,” implying this author sees the fans as automatons.

He declares that, in Japan, in general, the “more numerous infield audience...by and large behaves rather like crowds at American ballparks,” and goes on to wax at great length about the “sociality” of the Hanshin bleacher fans, in a labored, article layered in social science terminology. (“*Sense and Sensibility at the Ballpark: What Fans Make of Professional Baseball in Modern Japan*,” available on the professor’s website [william.kelly@yale.edu](mailto:william.kelly@yale.edu). It also appeared as “An Anthropologist in the Bleachers,” *Japan Quarterly*, 1997.

While Kelly’s article appears well-researched, to suggest that there may be more going on in the grandstand than mindless groupthink or cathartic transformations from salary-man to screaming savage is hardly an epiphanous leap toward the understanding of the subject. And to argue that fan behavior away from the influence of organized *oendan* or cheering group sessions is no different than that of the fan in America is to dismiss the perception of individuals who have watched far more games in both Japan and the United States than Professor Kelly and who see something else entirely.

Ask Ichiro Suzuki, baseball player who spent 9 years in Japan and three in the U.S. as of this writing. Said Suzuki, “...I think Japanese fans, like the Japanese players, suppress their emotions too. They are very *otonashii* (quiet). You have the cheerleaders blowing trumpets and all. But when they’re not doing anything, the stadium is really quiet. American fans, by contrast, do their own thing—people stand up and dance. The fans get up and express themselves, they show their own individuality, just like the players. You get the feeling they are really enjoying themselves.” Asked why the Japanese fan is so quiet—was it courtesy or shyness?—he responded, “I think it’s shyness. When I’m sitting in the stands in Japan as a fan, I can really understand that feeling.” (Author Interview Nov 7, ‘02). Said Jim Colborn, another who had spent years in ballparks on

both sides of the Pacific, some as a coach, some as a scout. “Compared to the American fans, the Japanese in the infield stands are polite, orderly and reserved. They save their screaming for the *Oendan*. In the U.S., they have got to be participants.” (Interview Aug 29, 03). Wayne Grazczyk, baseball writer for the Japan Times for three decades and one of the world’s foremost experts on the game: “The Japanese are not as exhibitionistic as the Americans. A baseball crowd is a more formal situation in Japan. They’re not as boisterous or as innovative as the Americans. Even the vendors are monotonous. U.S. vendors are more showy. They’ll deliver the peanuts behind their back, or they’ll say, “You want some peanuts or what?” Everybody’s got a shtick. All in all, aside from the *oendan*, stadiums are a lot quieter in Japan.” (Author Interview, Nov 8, 2002)

Marty Kuehnert, another long time Japan based writer: “In America, when you’re quiet, you’re quiet. When you cheer, you cheer. You make noise. You really cut loose. Most Japanese fans are quiet in general. They keep things at arm’s length.” I took a U.S TV producer to Game #1 of the 2002 Japan Series. He couldn’t believe the people in the stands were so quiet. ‘Why don’t they get excited?’ he asked me.” In the spring of 2000, Kuehnert wrote, “...in this writer’s opinion, the 2000 MLB opener in Japan was a resounding success in so many ways. I have one gripe, however. I would like to ask Japanese fans to wake up and learn how to cheer properly. It seems that without trumpets, drums, flags and cheerleaders, Japanese fans do not know when and how to cheer. One of my frequent complaints about Japanese baseball is that it is too noisy, with the din of brash instruments and organized cheering sections being constantly loud throughout the game, regardless of the score or the dram, or lack of it, on the field... One sportswriter from New York described his impression of the *oendan*-less Tokyo Dome during the Mets and Cubs exhibition games with *Kyojin* on March 27/28 like being in a ‘library’ and the official MLB opening games on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, like being in a

“cemetery.” (MSN Japan. April 5, 2000) Kuehnert also interviewed an *oendan* leader who confessed that he did know what was happening on the field during the game because he was too busy leading cheers. It was only when he got home and watched a videotaped replay that he saw the game for the first time. (Author Interview Nov 15, 2003) MLB second baseman Jeff Kent, after a exhibition tour in Japan in November 2002 in which *oendan* were not in attendance, “ I was surprised at the atmosphere in the ballparks. My wife even noticed it. She said that everyone was just glued to their seats. There wasn’t anybody dancing or anything.” (Press interview, Nov 16, 2002)

Masa Oshima, interpreter and long time fan of the game in both countries: “Fans in Japan who sit in the infield seats are more reserved than the *oendan* fans, especially at Tokyo Dome for a Giants game, where you have more corporate or yuppie types, whereas the cheering section fans are less inhibited and more willing to make fools out of themselves...there is a ‘strength in numbers’ mentality.” (Oshima) I think that Japanese fans are more restrained and courteous. I mean, there’s no way an American would gladly give up a foul ball after they’ve gone through so much trouble to catch it. Can you imagine a Yankees fan in New York calmly giving up a foul ball to an usher, like the Japanese do? Also, I feel that you just don’t see many loud-mouths freely expressing their opinion to strangers nearby like you do in the U.S. You definitely don’t hear as much cussing and bitching in Japan like you do in the U.S. either. (Author Interview, October 20, 2002)

Seiyu Hosono Phd in Molecular Biology, Senior Research Scientist at Biotech, New Jersey, and longtime fan of Japanese and American baseball: “Americans are more participatory for sure. This is not only in baseball, but also true at a music concert, etc. For example, I live in NY and I can never become like some American fans when I go to Yankee Stadium or Shea. Even though I was educated in the American School and have lived in the United States for almost 29 years, I can never act

like an American.” *Japanese baseball.com*. Posted Oct. 15, 2002.

Ken Belson, NY times reporter and long time Japan resident: “There is a big difference between the IF stands fans in the U.S. and Japan. Watch a video highlights of people in the stands in the U.S., there are guys with beer bellies, doing dances, pumping fists. In Japan, they just sit there. In the OF, they just follow the leader. They don’t cheer defense. They only yell ON offense. U.S. fans are much more participatory. So it really is different. Osaka, however, is one exception. Fans are a lot more earthy there. Noisier. More vulgar.... (Author Interview, October 10, 2002)

Gareth “Torakichi” Swain, a New Zealand-born, Osaka-based translator and Hanshin Tiger fan: “I speak from the point of view of a semi-permanent resident of the right-field terraces of Koshien. While there are always exceptions, in general, the *gaiya* (OF) crowds are deafening, hyperactive, and often oblivious to the fact that our team is being thrashed, and the *naiya* (IF) are not as raucous (note I refrain from calling them ‘quiet’ or ‘subdued’ or whatever). I too have pondered this, and while I think it’d probably take a sociologist or shrink to give authoritative answers, I draw some parallels with baseball crowd behavior and that in other situations. The one that leaps to mind first is the ‘traffic light’ mentality, *aka-shingo, minna-ga watareba daijobu* (It’ll be OK to cross the road on a red signal if everyone crosses at the same time). While I’m sure that people in all areas of the ground want to sing the cheer songs and whack their little skittles, perhaps the fact that the *oendan*, armed with their trumpets and drums, are concentrated in the outfield stands means that only those in the cheap seats have the courage to do so.” *Japanese baseball.com*. Posted Oct. 15, 2002.

Said soccer expert and *Asian Wall Street Journal* reporter Sebastian Moffet, “Football crowds in most countries have a hard core of fans, usually behind the goal, and the tension gradually tapers off towards the edges and in the side stands.

In Japan, there was no gradual tapering. The hard core could make as much noise as any crowd in the world, and generally had a fantastic time. But a few rows away, the other side of an invisible line, shouting and singing became as embarrassing as it would be in a shopping center. These fans were purely spectators and remained silent apart from clapping along with the drumbeat or gingerly slapping their thighs with a plastic megaphone..” (see *Japanese Rules*, Yellow Jersey Press, London, 2002, pps. 78-79. Jim Allen, *Yomiuri* baseball columnist, has this take: “The Tigers fans at Koshien definitely do not fit the mold, with more spontaneous—albeit alcohol-fueled razzing everywhere around the park. People all around the stadium get into the action—including applauding their team’s good defensive plays far more than what is typical in most parts...Chiba Lotte Marines fans remind me of the European soccer\ model described above. People want to get close to the *oendan* because it’s so entertaining and the amount of cheering activity tapers off as you approach home plate.” (12/20/03 Author Interview).Kazuhiro Sasaki, Seattle Mariners baseball pitcher, on Safeco Field, “Here, the fans are really knowledgeable. They know when to cheer and when to shut up. It’s not mindless, frantic cheering the entire game.” (JT 12/17/2003)

I saw my first Japanese baseball games while stationed in Japan during 1962-65 with the U.S. military. I regularly attended games at Korakuen Stadium, Jingu and Kawasaki, among other parks. What struck me was how quiet it was. People sat quietly and politely, unlike the noisy freelance rooters—grinding hips and doing other showy dances, —that I was accustomed to back home in San Francisco, at Candlestick Park and in Los Angeles at Dodgers Stadium. At the time, there were no large organized *oendan*, yelling non-stop in scripted cheering, just small isolated groups here and there that periodically tried to generate some enthusiasm. One also noticed other small groups in the sparsely populated Jingu and Kawasaki outfields who, sitting along with drunks and



gangsters betting on the outcome especially noticeable in the latter park, behaved in sometimes rowdy fashion. (This, by the way, was in marked contrast to Korakuen, because the-then home of the Tokyo Giants was always filled to its capacity with well-behaved fans.). Of course, the assembled crowds I always sat with reacted to each pitch and each ball put in play. But in between, it was usually as quiet as a tomb, so quiet that the Commissioner of Japanese baseball once complainingly compared Japanese crowds to an audience at a violin concerto. There was the other end of the spectrum, to be sure. Fueled by losing streaks and sake there were the inevitable explosions, inevitably from the outfield. For descriptions of those incidents, readers can consult *The Chrysanthemum and the Bat* and *You Gotta Have Wa*.

It wasn't until several years later that the *oendan* became such a huge part of Japanese baseball games, starting with the Hiroshima Carp in the early 70's. First there was synchronized clapping in pockets around the park, with the odd flag-waving, whistle-blowing enthusiast standing up in the first row and attempting to lead them. Gradually, the outfield stands became the focus, home-team supporters in right, visitors in left, growing in size and complexity until they became the huge phenomenon they are today—so noisy that now the commissioner of the NPB has plead in vain for them to tone it down. Now, it seems, more and more individuals in the infield stands can be seen chanting and beating together miniature baseball bats along with the outfield *oendan*, especially at Koshien Stadium which seems to have grown collectively more and more noisy.”

(The Yomiuri cable channel in Japan runs tapes of old games so viewers can judge for themselves how things have changed.)

“Japanese players talk much less than Americans,” Kozo Abe comments in author interview February 11, 2000. Japanese astronomer Yutaka Hayano, who has lived in both the United States and Japan, added “The biggest difference is that

Americans like to argue a lot. In Japan, people don't like to state their opinions, either because they think it's bad manners or they don't like to put themselves on the spot. Silence is golden. That's the rule. That's the biggest thing Americans don't understand about Japan." Author interview, August 20, 2002.

"The Japanese love to sacrifice bunt." Shozo Eto author interview September 30, 2003.

Also brought rigidly into harmony was the style of play. Leon Lee who played, coached, scouted and managed in Japan for more than two decades, put it this way: "In America, everyone hits, fields and throws differently. Over there, when they are young, they all hit alike, with a few exceptions like Ichiro. They all look like carbon copies of each other because the coaches all teach the same form." Lee estimated that an American player will ignore a coach's signs 30% of the time, a Japanese never will.

Ochiai's "make them cry" quote from *Tokyo Chunichi Sports*, Nov 1, 2003. (Another great turnaround was that of Tsueno Horicuhi, a player famous for breaking curfews and disobeying coaches, a trait which had him constantly in hot water with team officials, became manager of the Giants for the 2004 season and prohibited drinking, golfing and staying out past 10 p.m. during the team's Kagoshima camp.) Karoshi statistics published annually by the Ministry of Labor in Japan. Miwata's suicide was reported in the *Asahi Shimbun and Nikkan Supotsu*, November 28, 1998, and is described in great detail in the book *Mei Sukautto wa Naze Shinda* ("Why The Famous Scout Died") by Mamoru Muguruma, Kodansha, 2002. (On the cover *obi*, Ichiro is quoted as saying, "If Miwata hadn't lived, I'd wouldn't be who I am." The court ruling on his work-related suicide was reported by the Associated Press on September 18, 1999. The # of suicides in Japan was reported in the magazine *Josei Seven* September 19, 2002.

ABOUT WA

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Some scholars question the use of concepts like *wa* to describe the Japanese. They argue that modern society in Japan is too varied and too dynamic, especially after exposure to the West, to be described as a “homogenous society that marches in lockstep,” to quote one historian. As Yale’s Gary D. Allinson puts it, the “static and superficial stereotypes of Japan, so common in the United States, today, stigmatize the Japanese people and jeopardize our understanding of Japan’s history.” Kyoto based writer Roger Pulvers speaks of the intersecting of cultures, not only from overseas to home but to the interaction and intertwining of differing cultures emanating from within Japan—from the unique traditions of Okinawa and the Korean-influence arts of Northern Kyushu to the pristine spirituality of northeast Honshu. ([www.homepage2.nifty.com/uesugi hayato](http://www.homepage2.nifty.com/uesugi_hayato)).

Others believe that there are trends in Japan that are distinct from other societies. Tama University president Gregory Clark talks of a continual emphasis on “tribal” values—gut feelings, direction human relations, instinctive groupism, familial styles of management, taboos, rules rather than principles, traditions and animistic legends rather than firm ideologies, and so on.” Said Tokyo-based business leader Glen Fukushima, of Harvard Law and Business Schools, and *Todai*, among a long list of other institutions of higher learning, “While I believe it’s harder now to define the Japanese national character as it applies to the Japanese, concepts as *shudanshugi* (groupism) and *wa* and deference to authority, are still relevant to Japan and set Japan apart from most other advanced industrial societies (i.e. North American and Europe) and even from many other Asian societies. However, I believe the concepts have relevance as tendencies in the society. That is, there may be a larger proportion of individuals in Japanese society than, in say, American society, who are affected by thinking or behavior related to these concepts, but that is not to deny that some Japanese people may be more ‘individualistic’ and ‘rebellious’ than some Americans.” Added

Keio University Professor Masaru Ikei , a specialist in international law and a noted baseball expert, “In Japan, standing up and insisting on your rights is not very popular. Japan is still a society of “wa’ or harmony.”

Some of these tendencies are documented in studies like “*Nihonjin no Kokuminsei no Kenkyu*” (A Study of the Japanese National Character) the public opinion polls conducted every five years by the *Tokei Suri Kenkyujo* (Institute for Statistical Mathematics), which regularly show that filial piety and social obligation outweigh respect for individual rights. “Filial piety and social obligations over respect for individual rights,” see. *Kokuminsei no Kenkyu Dai 10 Ji Zenkoku Kensa*” published by the *Tokei Suri Kenkyu Jo*, March 1999, p. 89. Professor Clark’s remarks can be found at: [gregoryclark.net](http://gregoryclark.net). Fukushima remarks made in author interview, October 13, 2003. In 2003, the *Asahi Shinbun* conducted its annual survey, in which pollees were asked to describe the character of the Japanese. 54% of the respondents chose the word “warmhearted,” 50% “diligent” “45%” “cooperative” and 41% “honest.” Lowest on the list came “original”(28%) and “independent” (31%) *Asahi Shimbun*, Friday, February 14, 2003.

“You shouldn’t worry about what other people think,” Nomo quote from author interview, October 19, 1998. “Compared to the American way, Japanese baseball is just like being in the army,” quote by Hiroshi Gondo from author interview for *Time-Asia* article “Batting Out Of Their League,” by Robert Whiting, April 30, 2001.

#### ABOUT HIDETOSHI NAKATA

One of the J-League’s best players and its most spectacular non-conformists was a midfielder named Hidetoshi Nakata, famous for his dyed hair, earring collection and anti-establishment attitude. He created a major controversy, upsetting ultra-nationalist groups, when he refused to sing along with the national anthem played before games. The

national anthem, he said, was “*dasai*” (uncool, boring)—it makes people feel down.” This was no small matter. A reporter for the liberal-leaning *Asahi Shimbun* had been shot and killed by an angry right winger in 1987, after his paper had criticized rightists. The mayor of Nagasaki was shot and almost killed in 1990 for suggesting Emperor Hirohito was responsible in part for the Pacific War. Nakata received threats of violence and soon required police protection wherever he went. The soccer hero, who had frequently expressed his desire to leave Japan and play at a higher level, was finally moved to sign with Perugia and relocate to Italy. He later moved on to AS Roma and finally Parma, establishing himself as a valuable player. He learned to speak English and Italian fluently, dressed in the latest avant garde designer fashions and became a favorite of the Italian sports media, which described him variously as a “new samurai”, a “young emperor” and, in what was perhaps the ultimate compliment, a player with the technique of a South American and the strength of a European. He gave a highly controversial interview with the *Asahi Shimbun* in which he blasted the conformist ways of his fellow countrymen.

“There are lots of people who only try to fit in with the people around them, but I think they won’t grow. The Japanese national character has a part which likes to be taken along with the flow of things. But, people need to put across their own feelings more clearly.”

After an initial wave of criticism at home, he became hugely popular in Japan, whose citizens basked vicariously in the recognition he received in the West. Youth in Japan admired him for what they considered his renegade approach to life. Hidetoshi Nakata material and quotes are from Sebastian Moffet’s book, *Japanese Rules*, Yellow Jersey Press, London, 2002, pps 191-192.

#### CHAPTER 4 END NOTES

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“I am the first Japanese to play in the major leagues,” Masanori Murakami, from NHK telecast of LA Dodgers-San Francisco Giants game May 3, 1995. Eiji Sawamura’s observations on life in America appeared in an article entitled “*Boku no Nayami*,” published in *Shinseinen*, January 1936. Walter O’Malley’s offer to buy Nagashima’s contract from Cappy Harada, July 1, 2003 and Masaru Madate, Executive Director of Baseball Operations, April 1995.

#### A NOTE ABOUT JAPANESE-AMERICAN ATHLETES IN THE U.S.

There were numerous teams of Japanese-American players on the West Coast in the early part of the century, ranging from Los Angeles to Vancouver, with names like the Stockton Yamatos and the San Jose Asahi’s. Because of racial discrimination at the time, these “issei” or first generation Japanese in America had no place to play so they built their own baseball grounds and formed their own leagues. The first such club was founded in San Francisco in 1902 and was called the Fuji club. For more on this subject (100 years worth more) read the fascinating book *Through a Diamond* by Kerry Yo Nakagawa, Rudi publishing, 2001. A Japanese Waseda graduate and student at Knox College in Gettysburgh, Illinois, named Goro Mikami and nicknamed “Jap Mikado” is said to have been the first Japanese to play professional baseball in the U.S. He played for a club known as the All-Nations, a barnstorming team that included Cubans, American Blacks, American Indians, a Hawaiian and a Filipino—decades before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier. He played exhibition games in 1914 and 1915 against teams in the short-lived Federal League (then recognized as a third major league). He was the subject of a 1997 book in Japanese by author Kazuo Seyama entitled *Jap Mikado no nazo*, by Bungei Shunju in 1996. Accounts of Murakami’s experiences in the United States, widely reported at the time, were taken from various wire service reports, (when the author was dividing his time between Japan and California), as well as the book, “*Tatta Hitori no Dai Reega*”, by Masanori

Murakami, Kobunsha, 1985, a lengthy article in the August 10, 2002 article in the monthly *Gekan Besuboru*, entitled “*Masahiro No Densestsu no Mei Senshu*,” the *The Chrysanthemum and the Bat*, pps 114-120 , which reproduced the Murakami matter from wire service, sports daily and Japan Times reports. Also helpful were author interviews with Tsuneo “Cappy” Harada, July 1, 2003 and Masanori Murakami September 23, 2003.

Jim Murray’s comments about Murakami were appeared in Murray’s column “No Mania Over Murakami,” published in the *Los Angeles Times*, September 26, 1995. Masaichi Kaneda’s negotiations with the San Francisco Giants were described in an interview with Tsuneo Harada, who was involved with them, on July 1, 2003. NPB Commissioner Yushi Uchimura’s account of the Murakami matter appears in the book “*Tatta Hitori no Dai Riga*” pps, 166-174.

The entry for Masanori Murakami in *BaseballLibrary.com*, written by Jane Charmin Aker, includes the line “...his U.S. career was cut short when the Japanese government, afraid that its country’s teams would be decimated should others follow Murakami’s path, demanded that he be returned.” No specific sources were cited, only a listing of a general bibliography) and *BaseballLibrary.com* did not reply to this author’s request for further details.

An article appearing in *BaseballGuru.com*, written by *Jim Albright/the Japanese insider*, “Why Haven’t We Had More Japanese Players in the Majors,” outlines an argument about a supposed U.S. boycott on Japanese talent, lasting decades, inspired by governmental pressure from Japan and the U.S. To wit: The Japanese wanted to protect their game. The U.S. government wanted Japanese cooperation for Vietnam as a staging area and threatened make life difficult for the MLB in their recruitment of Latin players and perhaps even push for an end to baseball exemption from antitrust laws.

A verbatim excerpt:: “...Eventually, the big guns got involved in the dispute, both on the side of the Hawks. The Japanese government sought Murakami’s return and

the U.S. State Department supported that request. The involvement of the State Department would seem to be the crucial event. The State Department of the time was not only interested in maintaining good relations with the Japanese for the sake of such good relations. Japan was also a vital staging area for the American war effort in Vietnam. The fact that the State Department weighed in on this issue would have been a major concern to Major League Baseball. The State Department could make things difficult for them with their Latin ballplayers, and might even push for an end to baseball's cherished exemption to the antitrust laws, it had won in the courts in the 1920's. However, baseball was well aware that their exemption could be undone by a simple piece of legislation. It seems that the majors decided that keeping Murakami would be more trouble than he was worth because of the State Department's opposition, because they and the San Francisco Giants essentially caved in and surrendered almost all their legal rights. The cave in came in the form of a face-saving agreement. Murakami would pitch for the Giants in 1965, and at the end of the season, he would be free to choose between staying with the Giants or return to Japan and the Hawks.

"It is certain that Murakami and his family experienced significant societal pressure in Japan for him to return to the Hawks after the 1965 season, given the fact his own government (emphasis Albright) had pushed for his return. That pressure plus the sweetener of a better financial offer from the Hawks than the Giants induced him to return to the Hawks, despite the fact that his 1965 major league record was reasonably successful.

"The State Department's involvement in the matter would also help explain why the majors failed to actively pursue any (emphasis Albright's) Japanese players for three decades, and only broke their stance after Hideo Nomo had become a free agent, freed himself from legal entanglements in Japan and traveled to America...."

However, again, no specific evidence or concrete sources were offered, only a general bibliography. The author declined



to provide any documentation or eyewitness evidence when asked. Albright's statistical studies and other articles on the game in Japan are generally very good and well worth reading for any serious student of the NPB game. But lacking any concrete evidence, this intriguing theory must remain in the realm of speculation. William Givens denial of government intervention came in an author E-mail interview, June 24, 2003. In it, he added, "I can not construct a plausible scenario in which any State Department official would, officially or unofficially, have any gone to Frick with such a proposition...Who could have spoken for the Japanese side? What would have been the Japanese quid pro quo? The links and leverages between MLB and the war in Vietnam are so remote that I can't make a plausible connection." The "It is unbelievable..." comment by FM's official Kenjiro Sasae came in an author E-mail interview Sep 10, 2003. Jeffrey Kingston, professor Japanese history at Temple University of Japan and author of several books on his specialty including *Japan In Transformation 1952-2000*, added, "I can't imagine the Japanese government successfully pressuring the U.S. about anything. Partly because the Japanese government is not very good at presenting its side, but mostly because of a lingering Occupation mentality in the U.S. government." (author interview, October 26, 2003). Uchimura's detailed account of the resolution of the problem, which mentioned nothing about government intervention, appeared in *Tatta Hitori no Dai-Riga*, pps 166-176. "The idea that there was a political motive of political pressure false," quote by Cappy Harada came in telephone interview with the author conducted July 22, 2003. "At the time, the Japanese Clubs were paying more money than we were." Buzzie Bavasi's remarks came in an author E-mail interview July 21, 2003, via Bob Bavasi. Murakami's denial of government intervention in the resolution of his case came in an author interview September 23, 2003. Also interviewed was MLB Commissioner's Office employee, Katy Feeny, daughter of the late Chub Feeny, who was the General Manager

of the SF Giants at the time. She is highly familiar with her father's activities and believes there was no government involvement. Interview for author by Warner Books Dan Ambrosio. July 2, 2003. This author was in Japan and the U.S. during the time of the Murakami brouhaha and subsequently waded through several years while researching "*The Chrysanthemum and the Bat*." Not once did I come across any mention of governmental involvement.

"Horse Face," from Cappy Harada author interview July 1, 2003. "Take a Hike" from author interview with Murakami, September 23, 2003. Murakami's discussion of the Nankai-SF bidding war and his eventual salary came in an interview on October, 13, for this author by Marty Kuehnert. His signing with Nankai was reported in an article entitled *Saenai Kao no Murakami*, (Grim-faced Murakami) *Sankei Supotsu*, December 15, 1965. The next day, Horace Stoneham returned the \$10,000 to Nankai, as payment for Murakami's services in 1965, or "one-year trade money" as an article in the *Sankei*, December 16, 1965 put it. "San Mateo Hotel blond stewardess" from Harada interview July 22, 2003. Also referenced were several newspaper articles about Uchimura when he was inducted into the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame. See *Sankei Shimbun*, January 28, 1983

#### ABOUT CAPPY HARADA

Tsuneo "Cappy" Harada was born in Santa Maria, California in 1921. An outstanding high school athlete, he was scouted by the St. Louis Cardinals, but was wounded in the Pacific Theater while working with US intelligence during WWII. He worked with the Occupation authorities of Japan and helped arrange many tours of U.S. teams to that country, hosting Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Munroe during their visit there. Later he went to work for the San Francisco Giants scouting and developing players. It was Harada who is credited with the signing of Murakami to SF, acting as a go-between for the two clubs as well as Murakami's handler in the U.S. He was general manager of the Lodi Crushers of the

California Class A League in the mid-60's, during which he became the first Nisei (second generation Japanese) to be a General Manager in the minors league. In 1966, he was chosen executive of the year. In 1979, he was appointed state athletic commissioner of the state of Washington, and, as of this writing, was enjoying his retirement in Palm Desert, California. Murakami's remarks that it was "less than \$30,000" came in an October 13, 2003 interview with Marty Kuehnert for the author. He also said that he was verbally guaranteed 3 one-year pacts by Nanaki, if he returned.

## INDENTURED SERVITUDE

The evolution of free agency was described in a series of author interviews with Marvin Miller and the fall and winter of 2001. A thorough account of the development of free agency can be found in *Lords of the Realm*, by John Elyar, Ballantine Books, New York 1995 and *Legal Bases, Baseball and the Law*, by Roger L. Abrams, Temple University, 1998.

"Although we hope to work for higher pay," remark by Kiyoshi Nakahata in impromptu televised press conference in December 1985. See "*You Gotta Have Wa*, p. 71. The remarks by Hiroshi Ogawa, then a player representative for the Fukuoka Daiei Hawks, appeared in Wayne Graczyk's column "Baseball Bullet-In", *Japan Times*, March 9, 1990. Estimates of Yomiuri Giants revenue from an author interview with veteran *Hochi Shimbun* reporter Isao Hirooka in July 2002." "...recognition value shut up to 90% nationwide," from author interview with Yoshihiko Miyauchi, April 1990. "A baseball team in Japan," quote from Yoichi Funabashi, *Asahi Shinbun*, June 9, 1995.

The rules about extra inning games have varied but as of this writing, they were limited to 12 innings in the Central League and 15 in the Pacific. The explanation some people have given for this is so that people can catch public transportation, which closes around midnight, home. However, these rules are also in effect for day games.

“Playing a 12-inning tie game...is considered competition at its finest in Japan, because nobody loses face, or the game” quote by Yoichi Funabashi, *Asahi Shimbun* , June 9, 1995. “No. Ties suit the Japanese national character,” from *Spa* interview, November 1989. “Golden goal,” from J. Allen interview, December 17, 2003.

## ABOUT ABRITRATION

The advent, in 1989, of a system of arbitration, was equally instructive. Whereas arbitration committees in the United States as negotiated by the union, included a neutral, independent, third party (a system that many big league owners complained was most responsible for the rise in MLB salaries), the newly established Japanese arbitration committee, by contrast, was comprised of the baseball commissioner and the presidents of the two professional leagues. In addition, the player requesting salary arbitration could not, under the NPB arbitration rules which forbade agents, employ an attorney during arguments. It was an arrangement about which the NPBPA remained conspicuously, but not surprisingly, acquiescent. The first player in NPB history to file for arbitration, at the end of the 1990 season, was the iconoclastic superstar Hiromitsu Ochiai, whose request for a 25% increase for leading the league in home runs. was, not unexpectedly, turned down. The subsequent arbitration report warned that potential imitators of Ochiai should take due caution, stressing that arbitration was not something to enter into lightly. “I don’t expect to have many more arbitration cases,” said then commissioner Ichiro Yoshikuni, “It’s not the Japanese way of doing things.” Subsequent applicants for arbitration could be counted on one hand...well, two hands. In the next dozen years, there were six applicants, two of whom actually won. In 1993, Yutaka Takagi was awarded a five million yen raise (approximately \$42,000) and in 2002, veteran Tsuyoshi Shimoyanagi, was awarded a raise of 2.5 million (approximately \$21,000) on his salary of 140 million yen

(\$1,166,000). Figures provided by NPB Commissioner's Office, June 24, 2003.

As longtime baseball columnist Kazuo Chujo put it, "Arbitrations are common occurrences in the United States. The problem in Japan is that only a heretic like Ochiai can file suit..." ("Is Baseball the Field of Dreams?" *Asahi Evening News*, March 24, 1991)

#### ABOUT FREE AGENCY

"unimaginable" Okada quote in IHT, January 1993 A form of free agency had been allowed, in which players had the option of changing teams at the 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> year plateau in their careers. It was arbitrarily removed in December 1964 with the inauguration of a draft system, instituted to curtail wild bidding on young amateur talent. "Watanabe didn't give a damn about the other teams," author interview with Shigeyoshi "Steve" in March 2001. "The behavior of people who belong to a welfare state," quote by baseball critic , author interview with Masayuki Tamaki, December 15, 1996. "publicly scolded his field manager Shigeo Nagashima for being seen at a dinner party talking to one," from *Nikkan Supotsu*, November 30, 1999. "If one of my players brings an agent into contract negotiations...then we'll cut his salary," Tsueno Watanabe quote from *Asahi Shimbun*, November 4, 2000 and *Tokyo Supotsu*, November 9, 2000. Another major NPB figure against agents was 400 game winner Masaichi Kaneda, who wrote in his *Shukan Posuto* Column of November 11, 2000, p. 190, "'I strongly oppose the use of an agent in salary contract negotiations. A player who can't negotiate and speak for himself is not a pro!'"

One of the five players who filed for free agency in 1993 was ace pitcher Hiromi Makihara, who was looking for a three-year deal. However, he obligingly withdrew his FA application along with his request for a multi-year contract, after a personal appeal by Giants manager Nagashima—who showed up at Makihara's front door with a bouquet of freshly cut roses

and his “personal promise” not to trade him for the next three seasons. Makihara, who was quoted as saying he was “deeply moved” by the “gesture of sincerity” from his famous manager, signed a one-year contract. (*Nikkan Supotsu*, November 22, 1993. Masayuki Tamaki interview, November 22, 1993. “bad influence” quote by Kimiyasu Kudo from Interview in *Shukan Bunshun*, December 1, 1994, pps 218-219, Manabu Kitabepu, a Carp ace eligible to file for free agency declined to do so, declaring simply, “I have an obligation to Hiroshima.” Quoted in *Asahi Shimbun*, September 28, 1993, p. 23.

In 2002, Kintetsu Buffaloes slugger Norihiro Nakamura declared free agency and experimented with the idea of going elsewhere, holding serious talks with the Hanshin Tigers as well as the New York Mets, but found himself uncomfortable with the strangeness of the new process. Nakamura and the Mets had nearly come to an agreement for a two year deal worth seven million dollars, but he backed out at the last minute, upset over a premature leak about contract in the U.S. media, before he had had a chance to convey his decision to Kintetsu and Hanshin.

“It may be the difference between the Japanese and American styles. But I first wanted to decline the offers (from Kintetsu and Hanshin) by following the Japanese way of *giri* and *ninjo* and then accept an offer from the Mets...This factor accounts for turning 180 degrees at the last minute.”

His wife was reportedly relieved at his decision to stay in Japan and remain with the Buffaloes, worried as she was about how she was going to raise three little girls in a big intimidating city like New York.

Nakamura summed his experience up by saying, “Japan is a world of *giri-ninjo*. America is a severe country where you can often say what you want to whomever you want. But I chose the way of *giri-ninjo*. That’s why things got so messed up. I don’t think I’ve hurt my image at all. I kept to my policy and things eventually worked out. But the Free Agency system is

really bothersome.” *Nikkan Supotsu*, February 14, 2002. Page 4.

#### A NOTE ABOUT ATTENDANCE FIGURES AND THE TOKYO DOME

All teams in Japan inflate their attendance reports, somewhat, but none as blatantly as the Tokyo Yomiuri Giants. The Tokyo Dome became the home of the Tokyo Giants when it was completed in 1987. The capacity of the Dome, according to stadium officials and Yomiuri executives, was 56,000, which was the attendance the Giants reported for every game they played there until the late 90’s when the figure was reduced to 55,000. This change reflected an actual reduction in the number of seats. However, an unauthorized count of the seats in the Dome in 1990, conducted by this author and published in the weekly magazine *Shukan Asahi*, revealed a total of only 42,761 seats, while a subsequent count of maximum standing room totaled some 3,000. The publication of this news had absolutely zero effect on subsequent attendance reports.

#### CHAPTER 5 END NOTES

The material on Nomo and Nomura came from a series of taped interviews with them in 1997-1998 as research for the book *Nidezuru Kuni No ‘Dore Yakyu*, written by the author and published by Bungei Shunju in 1999, and in paperback form as *The Challengers*, published by Kadokawa in 2002. “You belong in the MLB,” Randy Johnson quote from Randy Johnson interview, November 18, 1990, Tokyo. By twisting my body...” quote from author interview with Hideo Nomo, November 17, 1998. “Young man...with that windup...” from *Kindai Koko* coach, interview with Hideo Nomo, November 17, 2003. “Greatest pitcher he had ever seen, anywhere,” quote from Ted Simmons, in author interview with his former teammate Leron Lee, October 20, 1977. “It was clear what Suzuki was trying to do,” Lee Stevens quote July 2, 1994.

“It was clear what Suzuki was trying to do,” Lee Stevens quote from interview July 2, 1994. “The best way to cure a sore arm...” Hideo Nomo interview, November 17, 1998.

Note: The most Nomo ever threw in an NPB game was on July 1, 1994 versus the Seibu Lions when he threw 191, versus the Seibu Lions. He threw 86 strikes and 105 balls and pitched a complete game, winning 8-3, surrendering 16 walks, 5 hits, 3 earned runs and striking out 8. The second most pitches he threw was on October 14, 1993 versus the Chiba Lotte Mariners, when he threw 181 pitches. On June 12, versus Daiei, that same year, he pitched 180.

A study on the longevity of Japanese pitchers was done by the author for the *Shukan Asahi* magazine and appeared in the book *Besuboru Junki*, also by the author. *Asahi Shimbun*, 1991. It found that whereas 40% of all MLB pitchers were over the age of 30, only 26% of the NPB hurlers made it that far (among position players there was no difference between the NPB and the MLB). The lower figure for Japan was attributed to the constant wear and tear put on a pitcher arm in Japanese practice.

“Troublemaker...ingrate...” *Time Asia*, January 1995. “Don’t kick up sand with your feet,” from Hideo Nomo, November 17, 1998. “It’s my life,” from Hideo Nomo author interview, November 17, 1998. “The key to beating Nomo,” Haruki Ihara quote from *Time Asia*, January, 1995. Before signing with Los Angeles on February 13, 1995, Nomo had a tryout with the Seattle Mariners. Lou Pinella, then the Mariners manager, however, was not impressed. “With that windup,” he was quoted as saying, “he’ll never make it in the big leagues.” “It’s really hard to pick up the ball,” Barry Bonds quote, *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 3, 1995 “Savior” *Dai-Riga Sukutta*, *Nikkan Supotsu*, November 11, 1995. “a refreshing flutter...festival of Pacific Rim Goodwill,” Claire Smith, “Nomo’s biggest victories don’t show up in stat sheets,” *New York Times*, May 24, 1995. “25 Dream Pitches,” *Asahi Shimbun*, Evening edition, July 13, 1995. The strangest broadcast policy



was that of Tokyo's *Nippon Hoso*, an AM-radio station that carried Dodger games live when Nomo was pitching, but switching back to the studio for recorded music when the Dodgers were on offense. When Nomo left the game, *Nippon Hoso*'s broadcast ended. (Wayne Graczyk, *Japan Times* March 26, 1996). "yellow monkey..." Hideo Nomo author interview, November 17, 1998. "Each time a group of Japanese wearing Dodger caps..." from *Rafu Shimpu*, May 24, 1995. "There's an atmosphere of anti-Asian..." from *Rafu Shimpu*, May 24, 1995. Also "Americans hurl insults at Japanese Nomo fans," *Japan Times*, May 27, 1995

#### THE MEANING OF NOMO

"samurai culture" *New York Times* Op-Ed, July 15, 1995.

"The U.S. media can not get enough of ..." David Friedman, *Japan Times*, May 28, 1995 (reprinted from *LA Times*) "catharsis...disgust", *Asahi Shimbun*, June, 1995 *Nii zuru kuni...* p. 51. 1995 "America is a country that judges people on their talents," *Josei Jishin*, November 7, 1995, Tetsuko Kuroyanagi/ Hanae Mori *taidan*. "the country bumpkins of the world," Yasuharu Honda, *Views*, August 1995. "Nomo's back in town..." *Shukan Jitsuwa*, November 9, 1995. "Japanese think about money when it's too late," Nomo Interview, *Bart*, December 11, 1995. It was one of his most brutal interviews, in which he also said, "Japanese players can't reveal their true feelings to the public and that key policies are decided by top-echelon officials who persist in clinging to outdated customs..." He described autumn camp as "practice for the sake of practice....wouldn't it be more constructive to rest?" "Nomo will grow tired of U.S. baseball and start to miss Japan," *Asahi Shimbun*, June 1995.

Masanori Murakami was interviewed by the *Asahi Shimbun*, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1995, giving his opinion that, "If you asked 100 NPB players if they wanted to go to the big leagues, 30 of them would say yes. The only problem is what to do if they failed." "Feel the Ecstasy," "Stair to the King." Tamaki

Abe, in *Number*, August 17, 1996. "Tornado in USA. We Need Nomo," by Kyoko Umeda, in *Number* June 8, 1995. "Warrior" Jim Tracy quote from author interview, August 29, 1995. "Masanori Murakami preaches to Nomo," "He's going to be far far away from making the major leagues." This, according to *Sansupo*, March 8, 1995, Murakami had told reporters that he had three 3 pieces of advice to give to Nomo, which were 1) Learn English and don't depend on an interpreter, 2) If you get in a fight, use Japanese, 3) Don't be afraid to throw inside. The two men had a scheduled magazine *taidan* or joint interview planned for March the 8 in Vero Beach, in which Murakami had announced he was going to personally deliver that advice. However, once the proud Nomo became aware of Murakami's intended remarks and refused to make himself available when Murakami showed up at the Dodgers camp. Stunned at the rejection, Murakami, said he had one more piece of advice to add, "In order to succeed in the U.S., you've got to drop that hard-assed attitude. And you've got to be more open to the media." That effectively torpedoed any chance of a joint photo in the August ceremonies at Candlestick Park. *Sansupo* March 8, 1995. Said one sportswriter familiar with the situation. "I think Nomo felt Murakami had a big mouth and behaved like a big man as the first major leaguer in Japan. Nomo simply did not like Murakami's attitude." "They write about too many private things," author interview November 7, 1998. You never know how well a Japanese player is going to do in the American game..." Jim Colburn quote, August 26, 2002.

#### A NOTE ABOUT THE NOMO PERSONALITY

Nomo did have a lighter side and Detroit Tigers bullpen coach Ron Nedset, who became close to Nomo during the latter's stint with Detroit, got a rare view of it. As described in Jim Allen's *YDN* "Hot Corner" of April 24, 01, Nomo had called Nedset in the spring of 2001 and asked about the elbow surgery Nedset had had during the off-season, then added, in

English, “I hear they didn’t get everything done. They wanted to give you face surgery. You’re still ugly.” Allen quoted Nedset as saying, that Nomo “understands most everything that everyone says to him in English. If you are with him long enough, you can understand what he’s trying to say. I can understand right now anything he is trying to say.” When Allen asked why Nomo didn’t display this side of himself more, why he feels the need to keep an artificial language barrier, Nedset replied “A lot of it has to do with how once he’s at the park, he has to concentrate on his job.”

The Hot Corner column added that in Milwaukee, Nomo once secretly appeared in the popular Milwaukee pre-game sausage race, donning the Italian sausage costume, and won the race!

## CHAPTER 6 END NOTES

“I agree with what you say is wrong about Japanese baseball,” Katusya Nomura quote December 1, *Nikkan Supotsu*. March 21, 1995. Also see “Agent who took Nomo to majors,” by John DeBellis, *Asahi Evening News*, December 3, 1995.

## DARTH VADER

“...de facto”ban” Albright,. Ibid. Robin Berrington remarks via author E-mail interview August 1, 2003. Marvin Miller remarks via author E-mail interview June 30, 2003. Miwako Atarashi telephone interview, September 14, 2003. Don Nomura remarks via author interview July 27, 2003. Bobby Valentine remarks via author E-mail interview September Aug 3, 2003. Buzzy Bavasi remarks via author E-mail interview, July 21, 2003. With thanks to Bob Bavasi, Bavasi Sports Partners. Bill Veeck/Nagashima story from Cappy Harada, August 3, 2003. “If I had tried to go to the States to play,” Sadaharu Oh, November 2, 2003. *Nikkan Supotsu*. Some of the material about Don Nomura comes from a series of long interviews the author did with him from 1997 to 2003. Also interviewed several times were Jean Afterman then (1999)

an attorney with KDN, editor and Nomura friend Kiyondo Matsui, Ms. Ando of the Bungei Shunju, and a certain lawyer who must have remained unnamed.

One of the formative experiences of Nomura's life came when his stepfather Katsuya, seeing that his bride's son had rough edges that needed smoothing out, dispatched him to Kinki University High School in Osaka, with the senior Engel's permission, for summer and winter baseball camps. (Kinki was the baseball factory which would later reject Hideo Nomo). Under the name of Katsuaki Ito, Nomura was ensconced in the house of the team's manager, a disciplinarian named Yoshio Toyoda, who taught him how to speak, how to sit, how to act in front of people, how to say 'yes sir,' and 'no sir' and otherwise show respect for his elders. A stinging slap across the cheek followed any failure to follow protocol.

Kinki's summer workouts started at eight in the morning and finished at TEN in the evening, with a rigorous menu of exercises featured daily. On one oppressively hot August day, for example, a select group of players were required to perform a punishing series of running drills to demonstrate to the rest of the 150-200 member squad how physically and mentally tough one needed to be to play baseball. It consisted of 30 sprints from foul pole to foul pole, 30 sideline dashes, and then 30 minutes of catch—a "death cycle" that was repeated continuously for several hours until the players could no longer continue.

"It was horrible," said the guest trainee, who was one of the ones chosen to participate, "We were out there for a full 12 hours. I think that kind of practice is real dumb. I would never make anybody do that as a coach. But on the other hand, that coach helped me grow up. He taught me the importance of self-control."

The first Japanese to own a pro baseball franchise in North America was Nagayoshi Nakamura, in 1972-73, when he owned the Cal League Lodi Orions in 1972, renamed the Lodi Lions in 1973. American Marty Kuehnert ran the club for him, and then worked for him in Fukuoka in 1974 for the Taiheiyo Club Lions. Don Nomura was the SECOND Japanese to own a franchise in North America.

#### SHUWOZENEGGA/IRABU

The Irabu material came from the sources cited below as well as a two hour author interview with Irabu in November of 1996 at the Park Hyatt in Shinjuku, sessions with his agent Don Nomura, and an interview with San Diego Padres official Glenn Gessner in January 2000. An important document of reference was a declaration that Hideki Irabu dictated in February 1997 and had translated into English. In 17 pages, it described in detail his dealings with Lotte in his efforts to reach the major leagues as outlined in chapter 6. This chapter. It includes his description of the infamous secret letter he was required to sign, Shigemitsu's adventures with George Steinbrenner, and the trade to San Diego against his will. Irabu signed the document on February 13, 1997 and submitted it as evidence to the MLB Executive Council held shortly thereafter in San Diego. As a sworn affidavit, it subjected him to perjury charges if untrue. Since Lotte did not formally respond to it at the hearing, it was regarded as a truthful account of what actually happened. Also referenced was the Chiba Lotte Mariners/San Diego Padres Working Agreement. Nomura claims that a Lotte official made him a verbal promise as well, to get Irabu to the Yankees. This story that appears in this chapter combines elements of what originally appeared in the aforementioned book "*Nide Zuru Kuni...*" with substantial revisions and the addition of new material up through 2004.

"I was just stunned by his ability to keep up with a lot of hard work," from Jack Curry, "Stepfather says Irabu is the Son of an American," *The New York Times*, July 15, 1997.

“Irabu is the Nolan Ryan of Asia,” Valentine, April 1995.

The secret letter proffered to Irabu was the type of solution one often saw in harmony-conscious Japan with distinct facets in two different dimensions—surface and reality. The Japanese even had terms to describe them: *tatemae* and *honne*.

“I subject myself to your will,” Irabu had said rather dramatically, as he signed the secret letter. He revealed later that he and Nomura had been particularly persuaded by the team officials use of the word “sincerity” to describe his attitude toward the accord. Sincerity was a word that in Japanese meant everything and in this case, Irabu believed, imposed on the Marines a “very high duty and obligation.” (Later, when push came to shove, Lotte would refuse to confirm that such a deal had ever been made, but again, failed to refute Irabu’s account at the San Diego Executive Council hearing.)

To Shigemitsu, the Yankees refusal to accept his proposal was clear evidence that the Yankees were not demonstrating the all-important “sincerity” on their part. According to the Irabu affidavit, he added that of all the major league owners that he knew George Steinbrenner was the worst. He said that if Mr. Steinbrenner were sitting next to him he would turn his back on him.

“exclusive negotiating rights” Shigemitsu, *Asahi Shimbun*, 1/13/97. “It’s a slave trade,” Hideki Irabu remark, author interview, January 14, 1997. “This document shows he was willing to join any team...” Shigemitsu remark, *Asahi Shimbun*, February 3, 1997. “I wish he would stop being so self-centered.” *Kyodo News*, Takeo Shigemitsu, February 5, 1997. “Irabu said ready to file suit in bid for free agency,” Associated Press, February 14, 1997. “The Executive Council ruled...” “Padres Retain Exclusive Rights to Irabu,” *Asahi Evening News*, February 28, 1997. *Asahi Shimbun*, *Yukan*, February 28, 1997, p. 26.

“This player will never sign any contract with San Diego, ever,” Jean Afterman, *Examiner News Service*, March 1, 1997. author interview, May 1, 2003. She added her opinion with her typical brio about the decision of the Executive Council: “It’s legally, morally and ethically wrong, and that’s why nobody is surprised major league baseball made that decision.” (AP, March 1, 1997) “...gravely injured the Marines reputation,” Yugi Horimoto, AP, April 2, 1998. *Asahi Shimbun*, April 2, 1998. “Mr. Irabu is being kept against his will....” Don Nomura, AP, March 7, 1997.

Especially irritated by this remark was Chris Komai, a third-generation Japanese-American who was the public information officer for the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. He released the following statement: “Nomura has devalued the experience from World War II to make some point in a business negotiation. In doing that, he has defamed 120,000 people and their memory. For someone like me, whose family was taken away to camp, to hear somebody using this for a business ploy is just the height of disrespect. I’m appalled. Nomura is talking about a guy that’s got a future. Nobody’s telling him he can’t make a living. No one’s telling him that he’s got to sell his house and move. It’s obvious the comparison is taken totally out of complete ignorance.

“If Irabu had the name John Smith,” from Gene Orza author interview, January 25, 1998. Also see transcript of Orza’s argument before the Executive Council in San Diego February 27, 1997. Orza’s “blond hair and blue eyes” remarks were prompted by an off- the-cuff statement he’d overheard by an MLB team executive, to the effect that the flow of Asian players into the United States had to be “controlled.” Nomura also charged discrimination, noting that there were high school stars in America who were offered more money to sign than what San Diego had offered Hideki Irabu, a proven professional.

The Irabu/Nomura camp had been planning to sue on the grounds that the San Diego-Lotte trade and that Irabu's Lotte contract on which the trade had been based were both illegal under U.S. law. Orza and union chief Donald Fehr were more than ready to help. Orza even suggested that the union could file a class action suit on behalf of all Japanese players wishing to play in the U.S., believing an American judge would most likely rule in their favor and thereby make all Japanese players free agents—a result that would have a cataclysmic effect on the NPB.

MLB arbiter Peter Seitz had ruled reserve clauses of the type still in effect in Japan to be illegal and unconstitutional. It seemed likely that a U.S. court would rule Irabu's Lotte contract a violation of human rights. The question was, however, could the U.S. federal courts exercise jurisdiction over a foreign entity in defense of a foreign player's rights?

American Barry Axelrod, an attorney and sports agent who represented major league players in America thought they could: "My gut feeling would be to say yes. If a player is coming into the U.S. to engage in commercial enterprise, he should be protected. To not do so would be like telling Sony that they could sell their products in the United States, but only at K-mart....The Japanese-U.S. baseball agreement can be challenged, just as the military draft and other laws and contracts have been challenged in a court of law in the U.S."

## I-ROB-YOU

"goldfish shit..." Don Nomura, December 22, 1998.  
"grasshoppers," Don Nomura interview, *Shukan Bunshun*, July 24, 1998. "I-Rob-You" "Iraboo" see *Newsweek International*, October \_\_\_\_, 1998, and "Behind the Ballyhood Over Irabu," Clyde Haberman, *NY Times*, August 1, 1997. "It's all very embarrassing..." author interview, September 20, 1998.  
"...shame of Japan," Don Nomura author interview, December 22, 1998 "I've got 7 Hideki Irabu T-shirts," George Steinbrenner, September 1997, Philadelphia. Irabu's parentage



was revealed in an article in *The New York Times*, written by Jack Curry, July 15, 1997. entitled “Stepfather Says Irabu is the Son of an American.” AP ran a follow up July 17, 1997, entitled “Irabu played it safe on dad issue...” “...poring over anatomy book,” author interview Don Nomura, December 22, 1998. “fat, pussy toad...” The exact quote by George Steinbrenner, in Tampa, Florida, on the last day of spring training, April 1999, was “He looked like a fat, pussy toad out there, not covering first base. That’s not a Yankee.” It was prompted by Irabu’s failure to cover first on an infield grounder to the right side, two straight games. At the time, Irabu weighed 253 pounds. See *The New York Times*, April 1, 1999. Also, “The Sporting Life” *The New Yorker*, pps. 23-34. August 16, 1999. “When Irabu was on...” Mel Stottlemeyre, from Jean Afterman, May 1, 2003. “nut case,” Marty Kuehnert, April 2002, FCCJ. “He lacked psychological grounding,” May 1, 2003, Yankee Stadium. “...expensive presents...” *Yukan Fuji*, September 17, p.39 (PC) “Hideki has a really gentle nature,” Sennichi Hoshino, Feb 20, 2003. Irabu’s *Tokyo Supotsu* MVP award reported in article entitled “*Hon-shi ga Nintei Hanshin MVP Irabu*, appeared September 17, 2003, p.3. *The NY Times* article on Irabu was entitled “Japanese players bring lessons home.” Ken Belson, it was published September 18, 2003. “He’s back around people who speak Japanese,...” Masayuki Tamaki, July 2, 2003.

## SORIANO

Material about Alfonso Soriano’s career with Hiroshima came from several sources: newspaper clippings, several interviews with Don Nomura in 1999 and October 2002, QA sessions with Jean Afterman, April 22, 1999 and May 1, 2003 and related documents.. Referenced were the Kanai-Murray Letters, the *U.S.-Japan Player Agreement*, known as the (*Nichibeikan Senshuu Keiyaku ni Kansuru Kyotei* and the Japan Professional Code in its 1995-1999 incarnations. Annotation #7 to Article 97 of the JPC had unilaterally been expanded the

categories of inactive Japanese players referred to under Paragraph 5 of the JPC, the famous “Nomo Clause.” Annotation #7 dealt with the “Inactive List” which had now been expanded to include voluntary retired players—w/o formal notification to the MLB. Also see profile on Soriano by Dan Graziano—“Baseball Preview: Mapping Out a Career,” *The Star-Ledger*, March 30, 2003. Details of the Executive Council meeting in New York on Soriano’s fate came from several sources, including Gene Orza and Don Nomura as well as other individuals who requested anonymity.

The Hiroshima Carp never did file a suit against the New York Yankees, although they sued Don Nomura (see *Nikkan Sports*, December 7, 1995), unsuccessfully, as it turned out.

## POSTING SYSTEM

The Posting System was approved by the NPB and MLB November 5, 1998. Reported in the *Nikkan Sports*, November 5, 1998. It’s evolution was described in detail by its originator, Shigeyoshi Ino, GM of the Orix Blue Wave at the time, in an author interview, February 16, 2001.

“...it limits a players freedom of choice...” Gene Orza, February 15, 2001. “The player gets literally zero advantage...” Tony Attanasio, February 11, 2003. “Going to court...” Toru Matsubara, interview, January 17, 2001. “You can’t force...” Orza, Feb 15, 2001.

## CHAPTER 7 END NOTES

### ABOUT RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN MEMBERSHIP ON JAPANESE AND US TEAMS

It should be noted that the American professional baseball has its own restrictions, however light they might be. According to Jeff Pfeifer of the MLB, while there are no U.S. government restrictions for P-1 type visas, meaning those for Major League players with valid big league contracts, there are restrictions for the second type of visa used, H-2B, which is for Minor League players. Each year the MLB requests a certain

number of H-2B visas from the U.S. Labor Department, submitting a lengthy report regarding usage and request. Each year, the number varies but is close to 1300. In 2003, the total stood at 1350. Each club annually receives a different amount depending on their past usage and current requests. Numbers vary from club to club, from 35 to 45. Again, however, there is no limit on P-1 visas. (Jeff Pfeifer, MLB NY, via Jim Small MLB Tokyo, December 8, 2003.)

Also, according to the officials at the *Nyukoku-ka* (immigration office) of the *Homusho* (Ministry of Justice) there are no limits on foreign baseball player visas. If the Tokyo Giants decided they wanted to employ 70 *gaijin senshu* on their farm team and the NPB said okay, there is no law in Japan prohibiting it. Visas would be granted to all. The limit imposed of four players on each “varsity” is a policy of the NPB. (Author interview, Dec 8, 2003).

“Back in the Meiji Era... according to the *Asahi Shimbun*...” to end of paragraph. See “Pointing a nondiscriminatory finger...” Jane Singer, *Asahi Shimbun*, October 30, 2002. Also see *Nikkan Supotsu*, July 15, 1991. A survey conducted by *Japan Today*, October 5, 2003 found that 48,9% of respondents thought the Japanese words “gaijin” was racist or derogatory. 37.5% said “no.” 13.6% said I don’t know. “Kinugasa wasn’t really Japanese.” *Chrysanthemum and the Bat*, p. 203.

#### A NOTE ABOUT MINORITIES

Some observers like to paint the NPB as an equal opportunity employer that accepts people regardless of race, creed or color and criticize those who emphasize the “Japaneseness” of the game. They point out that there have been hundreds of North and South Americans that have played the game, as have ethnic Koreans, Chinese and men of mixed ancestry. “Let’s stop calling it the Japanese game,” you will hear, “and instead refer to it as the “Game in Japan.” It would be easier to agree with that those sentiments if the NPB reduced its restrictions on the number of foreign players

allowed per team to zero and at the same time removed the restrictions limiting the participation by foreigners in the All-Star games to three position players and one pitcher. Such restrictions have kept many a league leader in batting or other categories at home watching on TV.

It would also be easier to accept the theory that the NPB is one big melting pot if Korean players did not feel compelled to hide their identities for fear of social ostracism.

This writer personally knows of several players and coaches in Japan with Korean backgrounds who will talk about their ancestry privately but refuse to discuss it in public. I know of one lawsuit that resulted that when a player was identified by a teammate in a Japanese magazine as having Korean grandparents on one side of his family. The fact of the ancestry was not disputed. But its publication was. The magazine offered to run an apology which stated, "We're sorry so-and-so we identified you as being part Korean." The subject was so sensitive that the player's lawyer demanded the reference to Korean be taken out of the apology. Thus, the apology read simply, "We're sorry we identified you as we did."

"Oh was like a gaijin to me..." Warren Cromartie interview, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1990. "I'm sorry," Randy Bass author interview, October 31, 1985. "Of course the Yomiuri group doesn't want someone from another team..." Shigeru Chiba, author interview, November 22, 1990. "It was us against them" *New York Times*, September 15, 2001. "Bass's predicament is perfectly consistent..." "The High Price of Fixed Ideas," David Friedman, *LA Times*, reprinted in *J. Times*, May 28, 1995. "an unsightly reminder..." *New York Times*, Sep 15, 2001. "I felt bad because we couldn't win..." from "Oh disgraces the Japanese game, *Asahi Shimbun*, October 3, 2001. Dan Latham. Said Wakana to the *Daily Sports*, "Oh would probably say 'we shouldn't walk Rhodes,. But I think we should walk him because I doubt Oh wants to see Rhodes break the record in front of him." Reprinted in *NYTimes*, Howard French dispatch entitled U.S. Slugger Gets One Last Shot at Japan's Homer

Record.” October 5, 2001. “Back then, the game seemed like Japanese versus the U.S.”... *The NY Times*, September 15, 2001. “What they did was rude, “ *Asahi Shimbun*, Oct 3, 2001. “The decision to walk Rhodes...” *Nikkan Supotsu*, October 1, 2002. *Asahi Shimbun*, Oct 2, 2001. (French’s article drew the ire of the Foreign Ministry for daring to suggest there was prejudice in Japan.

French described his relationship in the following note to this author. His experiences were not remarkably different from that censor ship attempts experienced by previous Times Correspondents, or those from the Washington Post.

“I had a long running dysfunctional relationship with Gaimusho that began with soporific conversations and really good sushi, when I first arrived in town. The food got worse, along with conversation, until the food actually stopped as I began writing stories about discrimination in Japan.

I had my minder actually tell me over lunch that Americans were treated

deferentially in Japan and enjoyed the good life, so why was I bothering to write about the fortunes of Brazilian Japanese or Thai hostesses and the like. I gave him a long speech about discrimination, relating things from my own background as an African-American, and said that I didn't think discrimination under any guise was a good thing.

Things deteriorated to the point where the lunch invites stopped

altogether, and I was only getting calls from the guy to complain about

stories -- all kinds of stories, all the time. He called once to say that I had been wrong to say in one story that the sex industry was huge in Japan, and present in virtually every town in one form or another. I told him I didn't think this was much of a Gaimusho problem,

A few weeks later, I got a call from the same handler after I wrote my

Tuffy homerun story. He complained vociferously that absolutely no discrimination was involved and that Japanese sports were filled with foreigners. I told him that if he ever called me again to complain about something that had nothing to do with Gaimusho, I would write a story about how they have a surplus of officers in the foreign ministry, some of whom have nothing better to do than harass foreign reporters. Never heard from him again directly, although he did write a letter to the Times, which wasn't printed, and published something, which you can probably find pretty easily in a Google search, in some New York newsletter for Japanese living there, about my Japan-bashing.” (Howard French, E-mail interview, December 19, 2003)

This author had his own experience in that regard in 1985 when I wrote a piece for the *Bungei Shunju* about the closed nature of the Japanese Reporters (*Kisha*) Clubs., The FM, in the form of a Mr. Odano. conducted a three interrogation of yours truly on the very morning said magazine hit the stands. He refused to mention specific criticisms or errors of fact. He just wanted to know who I was and why I took it upon myself to write such an article. He even went so far as to investigate my wife's background, much to her discomfiture. She was working at the time in Geneva for the United Nations High Commission on Refugees when she received an inquiry from Japanese consulate about a wire they had received from the *Gaimusho* in Tokyo wanting to know more about who Robert Whiting is, married to one Machiko Kondo at the UNHCR. “What have you done?” she asked incredulously over the phone that evening. I had purposely not mentioned anything about my wife to my inquisitors at FM ground zero. It was a foolish of me to think that that would make a difference.

Rhodes 55<sup>th</sup> blast was the lead story on several late-night sports programs. See “Media give Tuffy his day in the sun.” D. Latham. *Asahi Shimbun*, September 26, 2001.

“...I still couldn’t shake his hand.” “Ex-Astro has resurrected career in Japan,” Michael Murphy, *The Houston Chronicle*. Feb 22, 2003

On September 14, 2003, Rhodes broke the all-time career mark for “gaijin” in Japan when he hit his 284<sup>th</sup> home run. The Kintetsu General Manager called him “the most beloved American in Osaka.” October 10, 2003, *Nikkan Supotsu*. “My pitchers shouldn’t think about the record,” Yomiuri Shimbun, October 3, 2002. “Oh didn’t want me to break the record.” Alex Cabrera interview, *Nikkan Supotsu.com*, October 6, 2003. “No pitcher wants to be the one to give up the record,” Isao Harimoto, Oct. 6, *Sande Moningu* Fuji-TV, 9 a.m. “Oh refuses to make a clean fight for the sake of an Individual record,” *Asahi Shimbun*, October 6, 2002. “I’m so sad if the rest of the world thinks this is...” AP. October 8, 2002. “From now on, they should put an asterisk,” J. Allen, *YDN*. October, 17, 2002. (Said Oh later, “...no one is thinking this is a foreigner or this is a Japanese. I don’t think its happening. It’s a shame, but it’s really a matter that Japanese players aren’t challenging to break these numbers. It’s rude to say that they are not going after batters because they are foreigners.” (Ibid. November 9, 2002.)

Author’s note: Carbrera did acknowledge the basic fairness of some of other teams toward as the season drew to a close. Although in his 4<sup>th</sup> to last game versus the Nippon Ham Fighters, he went 1-3 and saw mostly pitches outside the strike zone. “Ball, ball, ball. You can’t hit balls,” he complained to the *Asahi Shimbun News Service*, October 7, 2002. “I’m not mad at the pitchers,” he added, “It’s the coaches who are behind this.” In a game versus Orix, fans threw garbage on the field when Cabrera was intentionally walked in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning of a meaningless game. In his last game versus Chiba Lotte Marines, he was thrown a lot of power pitches, which he swung

mightily at and missed. As was Rhodes he was voted C.L. MVP.

## THE GAP

“the teamwork involved in baseball fits in....” Eric Talmadge, AP, April 28, 1991. “They ran a lot...” Bobby Rose interview, October 3, 1993. “They don’t enjoy the game.” Jeff Bradley, “Hardball is hard labor in Land of Rising Sun,” *New York Daily News*, July 4, 1993. “The way Japanese baseball has evolved...” Kota Ishijima, NYD July 4, 1993. Also author interview, May 1, 2003. “I like Japan,” Warren Cromartie, author interview, July 19, 1990. “...incredibly boring,” Phil Bradley, author interview, September 10, 1991. “They practice the game so much, “ NYD, July 4, 1993. “In 1992, we had this little left-handed pitcher,” Author interview, October 24, 1992 and NYD, July 4, 1993.

## PONKOTSU

“I’m really enjoying this...” Kevin Mitchell, author interview, April 1995. “Japanese are dirty...” *Nikkan Supotsu*, May 27, 1996, “4 oku yen no ponkotsu...” Friday, June 9, 1995. pps. 68-60

## DEVIL MAN

“second rate shit...” “I can’t wait to get out of here.” Ben Strauss interview, unpublished manuscript, August 25, 1999. Warren’s ball scuffing and digit extending episodes are described in the *Nikkan Sports*, June 30, 2000. “Warren’s ‘bird’ drives Higashio off his tree,” “The Hot Corner” by J. Allen, *YDN*, July 7, 2000

## DARREL MAY

“I was completely stunned,” Larry Parrish author interview October 27, 1989 “Nomura was one of the strangest mangers,” Marty Kuehnert, Sep 5, 1999. “May requested his release...” see “Tigers deny May’s bid for release,” by Ken



Marantz, August 7, 1999, *Yomiuri Daily News*. "On August 6, 1999, I officially asked..." May letter published verbatim in the front page story in the *Tokyo Supotsu* entitled "*Mei. Nomura Batto*" August 11, 1999. *May Yamero. Gocha gocha iu nara*" headlines on page 1 of *Nikkan Supotsu*, August 11, 1999. "If you don't want to play for this team..." *Nikkan Supotsu*, August 11, 1999. "Nomura should not be criticizing," *Nikkan Supotsu*, August 11, 1999. "A Giant gamble, come what May," Ken Marantz, YDN Baseball 2000 Preview. "...500,000 yen fine..." "*Mei, Kenka Tokyu*" *Supotsu Hochi*, June 8, 2000. "He sprayed spittle..." *Nikkan Supotsu*, March 8, 2001, *Tokyo Supotsu*, March 8, 2001.

#### DIMURO

"*Shiai no ato wa ikenai*," see *Nikkan Supotsu*, May 24, 1999, p. 3 and May 25, 1999. Also see, "Ueda hit with suspension, fine," *Japan Times*, May 25, 1999. And "PL boobs drop the ball again on the ump issue," On the Keen Edge, Marty Kuehnert, *The Japan Times*, May 30, 1999. "The umpire strikes out" by Robert Whiting. *U.S. News and World Report*, June 23, 1999, p.11.

#### CHAPTER 8 END NOTES

"The coach of the Japanese national team... was French" However, it should be noted that the coach of Japan's entry in the 2002 World Cup, Frenchman Philip Troussier, was extremely critical of Japanese style soccer and highly vocal in expressing his opinions in that regard. Thus, it came as no surprise, in some circles, that he was replaced by a man who had a much less negative view of the Japanese style game, a man with numerous business interests in Japan and was more concerned with harmonious relations than his predecessor.

The Joe Lutz story is told in more detail in *The Chrysanthemum and the Bat*, pps 206-209. The Blasingame-Hilton-Okada story is told in much greater detail in *You Gotta Have Wa*, pps. 143-159.

## VALENTINE'S DAY

Hirooka's initial appraisal of Valentine appears in *Number* magazine article, December, 7, 1995, pps. 90-99, entitled "*Chiba Lotte Marines no Shinjitsu*" by Yasuhisa Ebisawa. "If you don't like the coaches I give you..." B. Valentine author interview November 7, 1995. "When Hirooka told me I could run the club my own way," B. Valentine interview. November 7. 1995.

## CONFLICT

Spring training material from author interview with B. Valentine, November 7, 1995. And author interview with Shozo Eto, September 30, 2003. Camp described in Ebisawa article, December, 7, 1995, pps. 90-99, entitled "*Chiba Lotte Marines no Shinjitsu*" by Yasuhisa Ebisawa. (Valentine's schedule called for one hour of conditioning. One hour of fielding practice, which included work on relay plays, defensive shifts and relays. Then five minutes of batting for each player, among other drills.) "In the U.S." Valentine author interview, November 7, 1995. "If you increase practice time," *ibid.* "He's not aloof," from Ben Strauss, unpublished NPB MS, Mar 4, 2000. "He was something," *ibid.* "I like to wing it," Valentine author interview. Dec. 7; September 20, 2003. "...colossal waste of time" from Valentine, author interview, August 1, 2003. "There was this universal contempt," Valentine author interview, November 7, 1995. "Unfortunately...Nolan Ryan and Ruben Sierra" quote from *Newsweek International*, April May 22, 1995. "...miserable start" and assorted early season difficulties from aforementioned Valentine and Eto interviews and Ebisawa articles. Also *Meja de seiko suru tame no mittsu no joken* by Osamu Nagatani, *Number*, September 14, 1995 and *Chiba Lotte Marines, Nani ga Okotta?* By Kento Aoshima and Brad Lofton, *Number* magazine, November 9, 1995. "I think the Japanese like doing what they do..." Valentine author interview November 7, 1995. "It was embarrassing," November

6, 1995, FCCJ. Valentine's remarks on long-winded meetings came from the November 7, 1995 interview. So did his remarks on Takagi. The tendentious early May Eto-Valentine meeting about the lack of sacrifice bunts was reported in the aforementioned Ebisawa *Number* article and verified by Eto and Valentine, although both denied that Valentine kicked Eto out the manager's office, as the *Number* article reported.

#### ABOUT THE SACRIFICE BUNT

According to Harvard Statistician Carl Morris, expected runs for nobody out and a man on first is .907. Expected runs for one out and a man on second is .720. meaning that the sacrifice bunt, in effect, cost a team .187 runs. However, the sacrifice bunt could also increase one's chances of scoring a single run (as opposed to scoring no runs at all). Thus, in the late innings, if a team needs just one run to tie or win, it is still a smart play. See the article "*Managing with Markov*" by Alan Schwarz, Harvard Magazine, May-June 2002. With thanks to Seth Stevenson.

"I want to manage my own way..." June 20, *Nikkan Supotsu*, '95. The June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting was widely reported. See *Nikkan Supotsu*, June 21, 1995. Valentine's version was given to all reporters and repeated in the November 7, 1995 author interview. The Ebisawa *Number* article (12/7) described a different version of events. "I would have bunted..." Valentine author interview, July 29, 2002. "Excellent meeting..." *Nikkan Supotsu*, June 21, 1995. author interview November 7, 1995. "Under Valentine..." Hatsushiba's' remark appeared in November, 1995 *Number* article, *Chiba Lotte Marines ni Nani ga Okutta*, by Brad Lofton and Kenta Aoshima, pps. 92-97. The Hirooka camp's version of the team's first half success was described in the aforementioned 12/7 *Number* article.

The confrontations with Ejiri were described in the 12/7 *Number* article and the August 3, 2003 interview with Valentine. "We have input to give too..." Ebisawa, *Number*. "Suwatte," *Number*. 12/7 Valentine, August 3, 2003. "I

respect major league baseball,” *Number*, 12/7 Valentine August 3, 2003. “I felt bad about those incidents,” Valentine, August 3, 2003.

The mid-September confrontation was widely reported in the sports dailies and in the two aforementioned *Number* articles.. Valentine recounted it in the aforementioned author interviews. “I brought Valentine over and I’m not going to shame him,” from *Number* 12/7. “How could he do that?” *Number* 12/7. Eto 9/30/03. “The temperature is still in the 90’s.” Valentine, Nov 7, 1995. “If we have a full team workout...” Valentine, Nov 7, 1995. “You’re not in charge of personnel..” *Number* 12/7. & “I couldn’t understand it.” Valentine Nov 7, 1995. “You’re looking sloppy.” *Number* 12/7.

## THE RESOLUTION

Typical of the gushing press attention Valentine was getting was an article entitled “*Senshu ni wa jibun tachi wo shorisha toshite kangaesasete...*” (loosely, “I made them believe they could become winners,”) *Takarajima*, October 4, 1995. “If you want to continue.... What if it’s a tie?” Valentine Nov 7, 2003. “We could have won the pennant if we’d had a different manager,” *Nikkan Supotsu*, Oct 18, 1995. *Number* 12/7. “...philosophical differences...” *Nikkan Supotsu*, Oct. 18, 1995, and Nov 7, 1995. Hirooka added, “I brought him over here. I thought I had fully explained the differences, but apparently I hadn’t. We were finally able to do what we did from June on because of the hard work of the coaches.” Said Shigemitsu, “There was too big a difference in the philosophies of Hirooka and Shigemitsu. In order to win the championship next year and to build a team after that, I decided to let Valentine go.” Added an *Asahi Shinbun* editorial added, “...the organization imported the product from America, but the people running the show insisted on doing things Japanese style...One could have predicted conflict from the start....Nomo has done well in the Major leagues. It’s too bad the major league system can’t grow roots in Japan.” (*Asahi*

*Shimbun*, October 18, 1995). “Extra practice was needed...philosophical differences...” Hirooka/Shigemitsu press conference October 17, 1995, *Number*, 12/7 “emphasis on winning games...” “I can’t believe it,” author interview, Nov 7, 1995. “I loved playing for Bobby.” *Number* Nov 9. “He taught me how to enjoy the game.” *Number* Nov 9. “Hirooka wanted to be recognized,” anonymous, September 13, 2003. “...seek some answers,” author interview Nov 7, 1995. “...inept managing...we could have beaten third-place Seibu...There was no compromise...” Hirooka Nov 6, 1995 FUJI TV *Puro Yakyu Nyusu*” interview, reported *Tokyo Chunichi Supotsu*, Nov 7. “We were embarrassed to an extent...” Valentine Press Conference, FCCJ November 6, 1995. “I talked to at least one American player...” author interview, November 7, 1995. “Is that some kind of joke,” Valentine, author interview, Aug 3, 2003. An article in the *Shukan Posuto* entitled *Balentine wa Oendancho?* (Is Valentine nothing more than a cheerleader?) reported that Valentine’s signs were ‘so bad’ that coach Ejiri found it necessary to change them. “Japanese pitchers are so good,” *Number* 12/7. “There were a couple of times...” author interview, Aug 3, 2003.

As to the reasons for Valentine’s firing, Eto remarked, “Valentine did not understand the fundamental difference between the American and the Japanese character. American players know what they have to do and do it. Japanese players don’t. They wait to be told what to do. They’re happy when it rains. That’s why you have to push them to practice.” He added his belief that aside from the pitchers, only 30% of the players wanted Valentine to come back.” (9/30/2003)

A survey conducted by the *Nikkan Supotsu* and published in the September 29, 1995 edition of the paper found that 92.9% of Lotte fans favored the return of Valentine as Marines manager for 1996. He was so popular that more than 14,000 fans sent a petition to the front office urging Shigemitsu to change his mind about the firing.

Other articles summarizing the Valentine-Hirooka contretemps include *Shukan Bunshun*, November 2, 1995, pps. 201-203. *Shukan Asahi*, October 6, , pps. 29-31. November 24, 1995 pps 144-145.

Before leaving Japan on that final visit, Valentine had requested a meeting with Hirooka, and a chance to see the players one last time, but it was brushed aside by Takagi, who was now in charge of communications. By this time, feelings were so rancorous that the wall separating the two sides was impossible to breach, literally, as well as figuratively. As Takagi put it to the press, "If Valentine tries to come to the practice field, we'll lock the doors." (*Nikkan Supotsu*, November 7, 1995.)

## POSTSCRIPT

"...not universally liked." "the most hated man in baseball" See Ron Blum. *AP*. 10/14/02.

Tom House author interview was September 17, 2003. Added House, "Pitch totals and pitchers longevity correlate especially when there is no resistance training in the prepare cycle or active rest in the recovery cycle." "I had seen the movie 'Mr. Baseball,'" Bobby Valentine author interview November 7, 1995. "I really don't have a big awe of major league pitchers," Valentine author interview, November 7, 1995. "Ichiro Suzuki is the best 21-year-old...Take 90% of the pitchers...People don't believe me when I say this..." " Valentine author interview, November 7, 1995.

"There will be times," Trey Hillman, author interview, September 10, 2003. "I tried not to change too much, too soon..." Hillman, author interview September 10, 2003.

## CHAPTER 9 END NOTES

"When I watched Japanese professional baseball..." Tateo Shimizu, '*Ichiro tachi wa gaiko shigen*', *Asahi Shimbun*, April 10. 2002. "In American school textbooks...." *ibid*.

## THE AUTHOR

“The changeup is a great weapon...” Jim Colborn, author interview, August 29, 2003. “I decided I wanted to live there,” Shigetoshi Hasegawa, author interview, April 24, 2003, “Sure we wanted to keep him...” Steve Ino Interview, March 10, 2001. “It’s quite clear that Shigetoshi is no Nomo...” Terry Collins, in interview with Kozo Abe, April 1997. “This guy’s outstanding...” Collins in Abe interview, August 18, 1998. “Ogi has played a bigger role...” Tateo Shimizu, *Asahi Shimbun*, April 10, 2002. “just to get away from English-speaking people...” Hasegawa author interview, April 23, 2003. “I learned to speak English well enough...” *ibid.* “I’d gotten out of the business of handling...” Ed Kleven author interview, August 16, 2002. “Americans don’t do enough...” Hasegawa author interview, May 1, 2003. Hasegawa wrote six books including *Fukano wo Kano ni Suru Koto (Boku no meja rigu nikki)*, Gentosha Dec 2003. *Tekisha Seizon Meja e no Chosen*, Gentosha, Sep 2003. *Chansu ni Katsu Pinchi de Makenai Jibun Kanriyutsu*, Gentosha, Dec 2002. *Meja Rigu Pureyas Fairu 2001*, with *Ninomiya Seishun*, *Za Masada*, 2001.

## THE SALARYMAN

“It doesn’t matter what they think of you...” Don Nomura author interview, Feb 15, 1998. “This is just something I have to do...” October 31, 1998 press conference. November 1, 1997 *Nikkan Supotsu*, November 1, 1997. “Fine...if that’s what you really want.” Don Nomura author interview, Feb 15, 1998. “Masato...What are you wasting your time..” Don Nomura, Feb 15, 1998. “He’s the most reliable pitcher we’ve got,” Bobby Valentine, October 4, 1999. Also useful was the book “*Kishingeiki nihonjin dairiga*, by the Takarajima Editorial Staff, *Takarajima*, 2001.

## THE STONE SAMURAI

“I’ve always dreamed of playing in the majors...” October 6, 1997, *Nikkan Supotsu* interview, among several other examples. “Many times my fingers and arm hurt...” Hiroshi Gondo author interview, February 7, 1975. “Think for yourself...” Gondo, author interview for *Time-Asia*, March 15, 2001. “Amazing... *Shukan Asahi*, October 23, 1998. “Concern over his wife’s health...His rumored extramarital liaisons...” *Shukan Posuto*, May 23, 2002. Also see “Sasaki’s mysterious 24-hour homecoming,” *Japan Today*, ‘Shukan Post Watcher’, September 10, 2002. “This is an \$8 million closer...?” ‘*Sasaki ni kyoretsu hihan*’, *Tokyo Supotsu*, June 14, 2003 “What he did was amazing...” Fusakazu Hayano, author interview. August 18, 2002.

Also referenced was the book *Rokka Rumu Boku to Meja Riga Tachi no Eiko to Kutsujoku*, by Sasaki himself, Shodensha, March 2003; “In Seattle Kazuhiro Sasaki became a pitching sensation; in Japan he is a hero,” by Florangela Davis, *Seattle Times Pacific Northwest Magazine/Cover Story*, April 8, 2001. Also see “Sasaki talking the talk in Seattle” by Rob Small, *Japan Times*, July 27, 2000.

Among those in Seattle who provided information about Sasaki were Shigetoshi Hasegawa, Bill Farrell, Masayoshi Niiwa, Noriko Palmer and Megan Barrett. In Yokohama, his former Bay Stars associate Tadhiro Ushigome provided background as did his former manager Hiroshi Gondo. Sasaki had originally agreed to an interview with this author, who flew 5,000 miles to conduct it. But then he backed out on the day the scheduled Q&A session was to take place—with no explanation, or, for that matter, apology, forthcoming.

## THE UNKNOWN

The story of Ohka’s childhood, Bay Stars career and move to the U.S. was told by longtime Bay Stars official Tadahiro Ushigome. An article by Don Moscoe in *The Japan Times*,



August 31, 2000 ('Kudos to the Kinki Kids'), described the Ohka-sun Woo Kim contretemps. Also useful was biography, *Yakyu Sunya-de Dai Riga Ohka Tomokazu no Chosen*, written by Keiko Yamamori, *Besuto Serazu*. October 2002.

## THE SPACEMAN

Shinjo's autobiography, "*Dreaming Baby*" was published by *Kobunsha*, 2001. Shinjo Analects (*Shinjo Goroku*), *Shinjo Tsuyoshi Kenkyukai*, was published by *Kindaieiga-sha*, 2002. "Shinjo's behavior must be due to bad upbringing...", Taira Fujia, from Marty Kuehnert, "Shinjo Rising," *Newsday*, June 19, 2001. Kuehnert author interview June 28, 2003. "What are you thinking, you idiot?" Manjiro Takenaka, *Shukan Posuto*, April 12, 2001. "I want to test my abilities..." *ibid*. "What on earth..." Ichiro Suzuki, *Ichiro Tensai*, pps 42-47. "It was like two street cats..." Steve Eisenberg, July 13, 2002. "I'm not used to be asked everyday..." Dusty Baker author interview, September 6, 2002. Also "Shinjo-mania begins to wear thin..." David Picker, *The Japan Times*, April 28, 2002. "*le grande frankfurter*," Dave Wiggins, "Man About Sports", *Asahi Shimbun*, July 16, 2001. "Bring along a DVD player..." Shinjo author interview, September 5, 2002. Also referenced was *Shinjo ga '4-ban' wo utta riyu*, by Tak Kawamoto, *Asahi Shimbun-sha*, 2002.

## THE SOLIPSIIST

"I'm not that crazy about baseball," NHK Quiz Show, New Year's 2002. Osamu Nagatani, July 31, 2003. "I suspect his attitude is just a pose..." Abe Kozo, Feb 3, 2003. "...smoke 3 packs of cigarettes a day..." from *Shukan Shincho*, January 17, 2002. "incapable of managing himself..." '*Tairyo sasenai*' *Sankei Supotsu*, November 25, 1996. Sidebar on "Ishii & Uno" "It turned out to be a false hope." Said Jim Allen, "The Dodgers were also looking for another player to lure Japanese fans in the way Nomo had.. LA GM Dan Evans arrived in Tokyo for the Ishii signing ceremony and talked of trying to cash in on his

new star's popularity in Japan. Everyone thought, "What popularity?" (Dec 17, 2003) "I'm only interested in myself." NHK documentary, December 31, 2002. Ishii's screen saver was his a photograph of himself. "Try to come earilier..." Jim Colborn, author interview, August 26, 2002. "The letters and visits..."October 19, 2002. "When you redline your effort..." Colborn, author interview, August 26, 2002. Ishii also reneged on his promised interview with the author. Referenced was *Meja no Ryugi*, written by Ishii himself, *Shodensha*, March 2003.

## CHAPTER 10 END NOTES

"Japanese fans are finally standing up..." *Asahi Shimbun*, July 23, 2001. "Of all the players," Yusuke Kamata, author interview, April 29, 2003., New York. "Matsui reflected..." Mark Schreiber, author interview, Sep 21, 2003. "I have to do this..." Nov 1, 2002 press conference. *Imperial Hotel, Japan*. "...the first selfish act..." Nov 2, 2002, *The Nikkan Supotsu*. "...selling out Japan...sports patriotism..." *Nikkan Supotsu*, May 24, 2001. (Also see "selling out Japan," from Gary Garland, baseballguru.com Feb 12, 2002). "\$64 million, six-year offer..." from *Chosen Matsui Hideki Chosen*, by the *Matsui Hideki Tanto Kisha Guruppu* (Reporters In Charge of the Hideki Matsui Press Club) published by Line Books, Japan, 2002. p. 169.

## BIO

Much of the material on Matsui's early life came from the book *Chosen Matsui Hideki Chosen*, by the *Matsui Hideki Tanto Kisha Guruppu* (Reporters In Charge of the Hideki Matsui Press Club) published by Line Books, Japan, 2002, pps. 154-206. Other details of his childhood, his high school practice routine and his off-the-field activities, came from an interview with this author in Tampa, March 11, 2002. Also consulted were a number of newspaper articles, including a series in the *Nikkan Gendai*, which ran Jan 8-24, 2003 and which described Matsui's childhood and upbringing quite extensively. "You didn't feel as

though you had a real practice..." *Chosen*, p. 194. The Seiryō manager's tendency to slap his players is discussed at length in *Chosen*, pps 190-198. The game in which he was walked 5 times and the comments about his behavior appear in *Chosen Matsui*, pps. 198-207 "He was wonderful..." "He was magnificent..." "All students should learn..." *Chosen Matsui*, p. 202-203. "It was a valuable lesson for me," appears on p.204 of *Chosen*. Repeated in author interview.

"Players have to show respect for their equipment..." Ibid. 205. His manager added, "Think about it. Without a bat and a ball, you can't play baseball. For a ballplayer, the bat is the most important thing. What kind of behavior is it to slam it on the ground?" "Concentrate all your nerve endings..." *Chosen*, p. 141. Morning training sessions with Nagashima described in *Chosen*, pps. 129-144. "He got so he could sit on the fastball..." Nagashima, press interview, November 9, 1996. "Here is the best player in Japan..." Gary Nickels, "Godzilla battles monstrous expectations," Jack Etkin, *Rocky Mountain News*, February 25, 2003., "Team officials told me that I'm actually worth more than my salary..." *Asashi Shimbun*, December 12, 1996. Also Author interview, Tampa, March 11, 2003. "He liked to tell people..." Ibid. Also see '*Matsui to Nihon-jin*' *Mainichi Shimbun*, *Yukan*, Feb 5, 2003, interview with Shizuka Ijuin. Of his deportment, Matsui added, "I hold it in. Sure, sometimes I get upset, I get mad like everyone else. But there is nothing to be gained by complaining or being angry. Winning is the most important thing." Author interview, February 11, 2003. "I asked for this life..." author interview, Tampa, March 11, 2003. "I'm just an ordinary guy..." *ibid*. "Doesn't everybody do this?" "Matsui is very unpretentious..." Tashiro Gaku, author interview, Tampa, March 10, 2003.

#### A NOTE ABOUT THE GIANTS POPULARITY

The Giants television audience had actually been eroding for some time. From its high mark of 26.3% in 1982, it had slipped to an average of about 20% in the Japanese Video

Research ratings, thanks in part to the rise of soccer. In that time, the percentage of baseball viewers 19 years and under had plummeted more than 66%, making professional baseball a game watched largely by 50 year-old males. In 2000, five Giant games had still managed to make the list of the 30 most watched shows of the year, but once NHK began its daily satellite channel telecasts of the Seattle Mariners, the ratings of the Giants games slipped to an average of about 15% , falling to embarrassingly low single digits on a number of occasions. Of course, more people in toto watched the Giants TV casts because the team's games appeared on terrestrial TV while the NHK MLB casts were nearly all shown on NHK's paid satellite channels—a relatively new system which was owned by several million households in Japan and growing, but still far behind that for conventional television. (There was no official data about viewership of the NHK satellite system.)

Still, no longer could scalpers stand in front of the “no scalpers allowed” signs at the Tokyo Dome and sell tickets for ten times their printed value. Once considered platinum paper, by mid-2001 they were being sold at a discount. (For a time, Mariners caps and logos actually became more popular in Tokyo than those of the Giants).

All throughout 2002, speculation was rife as to what Matsui would do once he became eligible for free agency. It was the most eagerly anticipated event of the baseball year, and, of course, it was a particularly sensitive issue given the looming presence of Monsieur Watanabe, who now saw the free agent system he had done so much to install being used against him.

“We’ve got to rethink the whole system, including posting” said an obviously worried Watanabe, “It’s unfair to Japan.”

Particularly telling was the time in early 2002 when he invited the head of NHK to watch a game at the Dome with him and had reportedly told him, “It’s unforgivable what NHK is doing. You are telecasting too many MLB games!”

The *Tokyo Sports* of May 5, 2001 reported the existence of a “top-secret internal orders” by the management of Nippon Television corporation, affiliated with the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, to block out USMLB related news. The occasion was the highly anticipated May 1 encounter between Seattle and Boston in which Red Sox pitcher Hideo Nomo was scheduled to pitch. NTV evening news shows omitted any mention of the showdown while other news programs in the same time slots highlighted it—especially one in scene in which Nomo greeted his fellow countryman by with a 93 m.p.h. fastball in the ribs (an act no doubt designed to eliminate any thoughts Ichiro may have had of sympathetic treatment). The blackout order was denied by an NTV official but the absence of any mention of the Nomo-Ichiro encounter that evening remained unexplained.

## FREEDOM

“In my era...” *Chosen*, p. 45. “It’s sad he won’t be at stadiums in our country...” Koziumi, Kyodo News, Nov 2, 2002. “...he should go to the Yankees...” Watanabe, *Nikkan Supotsu*, Nov 2, 2002. “rental..” Details of the meetings between Yomiuri and New York were published in the sports dailies on a regular basis. The “Rental” request and the related quote by the “involved” official were also confirmed by a source who prefers to remain anonymous.

## YANKS

“Man, that dude will hit...” Sosa, *Chosen*, p. 41. “...will take the better part of a year...” *Chosen* p. 46. “..10-15 home runs” Bonds, Ken Marantz, “Major move Japanese slugger..” *Daily Yomiuri*, January 1, 2003. (Watanabe, who had now been hoisted on his own free agency petard, told reporters, he thought Matsui would hit 50 homers in the MLB given the terribly low level of pitching displayed by the San Francisco Giants and the Anaheim Angels in the 2002 World Series. “The big leagues have been corrupted by socialism,” he added.

“They’re going to lose teams. So why should Matsui go over there and save them?”) (*Supotsu Nippon*, Nov 2, 2002)

“I think Matsui will have a hard time,...” Asakawa, Feb 15, 2003. “He is so kind...” *International Herald Tribune*, Nov 4, 2002. The full Asakawa (Hay Group)quote:: “Debugging of Japaneseness is needed everywhere in this country. Politics, business, education and social lives or regular people. Even the way most Japanese walk on the street. They never pay serious attention to other walkers—only those people walking in the same group. Well, it takes time. Because any change happens slowly in this country? No, not that. It takes time because they are not aware that the Japaneseness is the main reason for the slump of this society.” “Debugging of Japaneseness is needed everywhere in this country. Politics, business, education and social lives or regular people. Even the way most Japanese walk on the street. They never pay serious attention to other walkers—only those people walking in the same group...Well, it takes time. Because any change happens slowly in this country? No, not that. It takes time because they are not aware that the Japaneseness is the main reason for the slump of this society.”

“tight little butt...” from “*Tegusune hiite Matsui wo machi ukeru dai rigu no naisho*” *Nikkan Gendai* November 6-9, 2002. It was part of the evening tabloid series on what Matsui would have to worry about in the U.S. In a breathless segment entitled “*Shawa rumu de wa oshiri sawarare, takushi ni noreba utensu ga otte kuru*” (Butt Touching in the Shower Room; Attacks by Drivers in Cabs), a *Gendai* writer quoted a Japanese player in the major leagues as saying “*Dono kyudan demo okama ga iru*” (There are gays on every major league team). In the shower there are players who come and touch your ass. At first, I thought it was a joke, but there was one guy who was serious. He was always looking at me. I felt he was going to attack me.” The one after that dealt with drug use in the MLB—stressing the widespread use of steroids and other pharmaceutical aids to build muscle strength and marijuana,

which star players smoked in their limousines or mixed it with peanut butter and brought it to the park to eat. The *Gendai* writers graciously noted that Matsui had, of course, never touched any illegal drugs, but added that he might be sorely tempted in such an environment, especially if he gets off to a bad start and suffers stress.

“It’s quite different here,” March 14, 2003. April 5, 2003. MLB.Com. Mark Feinsand. “You can see Hideki’s character in it.” NHK, April 16, 003. “great nationalistic pride...” press interview. April 29, 2003, Yankee Stadium. All in all, in that historic Seattle-New York series, the two men managed a total of seven insignificant singles. “This isn’t the man we signed on for,” *New York Post*, May 27, 2003, press interview, Yankee Stadium. “My heart is in a slump...” *Tokyo Supotsu*, May 16, 2003. p.2. “...just in case blond, western women were not to his liking..” *Nikkan Gendai*, Nov 6-9 2002.

“In Japan, Hideki only had to face...” author interview, April 29, 2003. “You’re not swinging aggressively enough...” June 5, 2003, Yankee Stadium. Michael Kay, YES. “Matsui’s RBI totals show him...” “Matsui good, but not All-Star caliber,” Sean McAdam, ESPN.Com, July 1, 2003. “After you see the day’s news on Matsui...” *Mainich Shimbun*, October 8, 2003. “He’s like a second baseman...” Michael Kay, YES, June, 2001, “...a lefthanded version of ....” Thomas Boswell, *Washington Post*, Oct 20, 2003. “He does everything well...” Joe Torre, press interview. Oct 4, 2003, Minneapolis. “That’s more emotion than...” Masayuki Tamaki, October \_\_\_\_, 2003. “A Classic Yankee!” *New York Post*, Oct 22, 2003. “35 homers” George Steinbrenner, October, “Sid Hartman: Matsui was key acquisition.” *Star Tribune*, , Oct 5, 2003. “The people from Japan don’t seem to give a damn...” anonymous. “Many players seem to think...” Kiyoko Morishita, Readers in Council, *Japan Times*, Sep 24, 2003. “Hideki absolutely reveled...” May 1, 2003, Yankee Stadium. “I’m a major leaguer now...” press interview, October 2003. Also *Dai-Riga: Matsui Hideki*, NHK, Dec 31, 2003.

## EPILOGUE END NOTES

### ICHIRO AGAIN

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“23 most lovable people on the globe,” from *People Magazine*, December 1, 2003. “Dad, you should really know your place,” from Hideki Matsui interview *Yukan Fuji*, September 24, 2003. “It’s as hot as two rats fucking inside a sock,” Ichiro interview with Bob Costas, HBO, 2003. (?)

“You can’t match the thrill...” Hideo Nomo, via Don Nomura November 16, 2002.

### LITTLE MATSUI

Author interview, January 16, 2004. “fanatic about training” Matsui interview with *Tokyo Shimbun*, October 1998. “two goals” Matsui interview, *Asahi Shimbun*, January 23, 2001. “three rules of life to follow” *Sankei Supotsu*, October 1998. “unable to master “Kazuo” from author interview with Dusty Baker, September 2, 2002. “Enter the Dragon” from “Matsui: total repertoire” by Masayoshi Niwa, ESPN.com, November 24, 2003. “You could watch him play...” Luke Cypher, November 10, 2003, Tokyo. “*kiribi*” *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, January 28, 2002. “Koji Akiyama’s advice, p. 91, Chapter 3, *Major Saishuu Heiki*,” by Kazuo Matsui, Futabasha, Tokyo 2003. “sea urchin blue” from “Here Comes Little Matsui,” by Franz Lidz, *Sports Illustrated*, December 1, 2003. “borrowing money recklessly,” “*Seibu Matsui Senshu no*



*Chichioya*", September 11, 2003, *Shukan Shincho*, pps 137-139. "Kazuo should go..." Machiko Kawamura, author interview, November 16, 2003.

#### LIVING IN AMERICA

"It's a great feeling to be responsible," Hideo Nomo, from Don Nomura, November 16, 2002. "It's easy to understand their reaction..." Hideki Matsui interview with *Hirohisa Miyawaki* of the *Yukan fuji*, August 2003. "hardly an evening went by in New York City" Hideki Matsui in "'Yankees 'Matsui Hideki' ga hajimete katatta 'boku no shiseisaktsu'" *Shukan Shincho*, September 11, 2003. pp. 53-54. "You fly into a city," Tsuyoshi Shinjo author interview, September 3, 2002, Pac Bell Park, San Francisco. "scary" Hideki Matsui interview with Hirohisa Miyawaki of *Yukan Fuji*, August, 2003, NYC. "unreasonable, offensive and demeaning..." from '\$4.3 million lawsuit alleges anti-Asian hostility in baseball office,' *Newsday.com*, October 16, 2003. See Jack Gallagher's excellent "Morioka vs. MLB," *Japan Times*, Jan 10, 2004. "These guys absolutely love the freedom..." from Masayoshi Niwa interview, November 21, 2003. "He never did anything like that back in Japan." Mrs. Shinjo, from *Shukan Posuto*, August 9, 2-001. "They really worry about security," Masayoshi Niwa author interview, December 6, 2003.

#### SHORAI/THE FUTURE

"four, five and more Japanese players on every MLB team" Ichiro Suzuki author interview, November 7, 2002. "Yutaro Tanaka flatly declared" from *Sports Illustrated*, Scorecard, September 6, 2003.

"Trials last forever..." Toru Watanabe, author interview, March 15, 2003.) Of adding one or more MLB teams in Japan, MLBPA attorney Gene Orza said in 2001, "It's something that we expect to look at seriously someday if we can solve travel problems."

“It makes me want to become a sports terrorist,” Masayuki Tamaki, author interview, September 10, 2003. “While players from the Dominican...” Shigetoshi Hasegawa author interview, May 1, 2003, Yankee Stadium. “It’s impossible,” author interview via Hiroko Tashiro for Time-Asia, April 29, 2001 edition.

In 2003, when the the American firm Ripplewood broached the idea of acquiring the Daiei Hawks, they were rebuffed by power Giants owner Tsuneo Watanabe, who did not want to grant a foreign “vulture” the right to run a Japanese baseball team. *Nikkei Marketing Journal*, September 18, 2003.

“The only thing I will miss about Japan is my dog.” Ichiro Suzuki, June, 2001 ESPN.com. “My wish in the long run,” Ichiro Suzuki/Shigeo Nagashima *taidan*, *Yomiuri Shimbun*, January 30, 2003. “1.5 million fans...” and other statistics from *The Wall Street Journal*, October 31, 2003. “Major League Baseball OK’s \$275m Deal in Japan.” “18 million viewers...” from Video Research. In the games occasionally shown on NHK General, its main terrestrial TV channel, the highest rating was 12% for Game 1 of the 2002 World Series. Matsui’s Opening Day game as a Yankee was telecast on NHK-G to an early morning rating of 10%. “The unity of their fans is amazing” Heizo Takenaka, September 23, *Asahi Shimbun*.

Uehara signed a one-year pact for nearly \$3 million. The reference by newly installed Giants general manager Hideaki Miyama, an NPB front office executive with, unsurprisingly, no baseball experience, to refer to attorney Uehara’s attorney, Kimihito Kato, as an “advisor”, to keep in line with the Yomiuri policy of not dealing with agents—or rather, “not being desirous of dealing with agents” as the 2003 revised edition of team policy had it. This in turn prompted a highly offended Miyama, to render a “statement of objection” to the team’s front office and an NPBPA official to call the Giant executives remarks “pathetic.”

“let Japanese players go to the States,” Tetsu Yamazaki interview by Hiroko Tashiro for author, Time-Asia, April 29,

2001 edition. “The 100 fungo drill makes more sense than the 1000 fungo drill,” Kazuo Matsui interview with Luke Cypher, *ESPN Magazine*, November 24, 2003. Published December 10, 2003.

END

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(Author’s Note: The term moral discipline, as is used in these books in regard to the martial arts, is used in the sense of developing self-control and spirit, and later, filial piety or respect for elders. It is *not* used in the sense of western ethics, of right and wrong as defined by Judaeo-Christian religion.)