

Asian Baseball Committee

asianbb.sabr.org

January 2012



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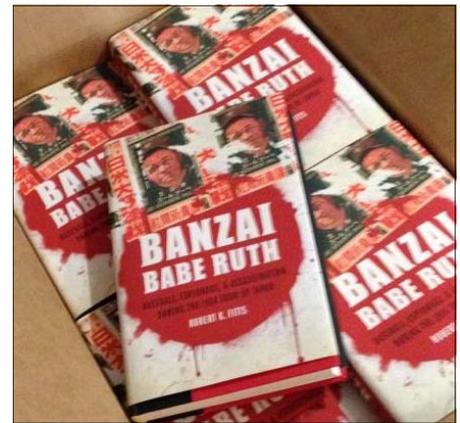
2012 NINE Conference Welcomes Asian Baseball Aficionados

Members and friends of the Asian Baseball Committee (ABC), the leadership of the ABC encourages you to attend the NINE conference in Tempe, Arizona: Wednesday, March 7 to Saturday, March 10, 2012.

The NINE Spring Training Conference is an annual event, hosted by

NINE: A Journal of Baseball History & Culture. The journal and the conference seek to promote the study of all historical aspects of baseball and center on the cultural implications of the game wherever in the world baseball is played.

This year's keynote speaker is Rob Fitts, Japanese Baseball historian, author, and former ABC committee chair. Fitts is leveraging the conference to launch his new book *Banzai Babe Ruth* (Nebraska, 2012) (above).



Others speaking at the conference is author and historian Bill Staples, Jr., current ABC committee chair.

In our recent ABC member survey (see related survey story on page three), many of you expressed an interest in attending an (continued on page four)



New ABC Website Features

Check out the updated [Asian Baseball Committee website](http://AsianBaseballCommittee.com)! It features a Timeline and brief History for baseball in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, China and Asian Baseball in the United States. Research categories include: 1) Books; 2) Websites; and 3) a Research Project Showcase. The site will continue to expand with new content and research over time. Send feedback and suggestions for improvement to Daigo Fujiwara at daigo@daigofujiwara.com.



The History of Japan's Posting Process

The following is a summary of ABC Co-Chair Daigo Fujiwara's blog on JapaneseBaseball.com. The Posting System was put in place in 1998 between Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) and Major League Baseball (MLB) after Japan's players Hideo Nomo and Alfonso Soriano left to play in MLB without compensation to NPB team, and Hideki Irabu's trade between the teams in two leagues didn't work out.

Since then, system was used 21 times. Not including three players that were claimed this year (Hiroyuki Nakajima, Yu Darvish and Norichika Aoki), 11 players were successfully transferred to MLB using the system.



Norichika Aoki (above) is among the most recent ballplayers from Japan accepting offers from MLB teams through the posting system. Visit Fujiwara's blog to see the list of 21 players who have posted since 1998.

<http://blog.japaneseballplayers.com/2011/12/history-of-posting-system/>

Research Highlights: sabr.org/asianbb

Players who played in both NPB and MLB



Did you know that over 740 individuals have played pro ball in both Japan and MLB?

The new SABR Asian website includes this list that was first provided by a SABR member Kevin Johnson (KJOK), and is now maintained by Daigo Fujiwara. [Check it out.](#) If you'd like to help fill the blanks and become editor of this document, please email Daigo at daigo@japaneseballplayers.com.

Chinese Baseball Timeline (1872-1996)



The following is a highlight from the [Chinese Baseball Timeline](#). Six months after Japan invaded Manchuria in 1932, two teams in the Pacific Coast League start opposing "Japanese" and "Chinese" pitchers in a game dubbed the "Sino-Japan War." The Japanese pitcher is Hawaiian-born Kenso Nushida, who started for the Sacramento Senators. The Chinese pitcher is Lee Gum Hong, a second-generation Chinese-American who starts for his hometown Oakland Oaks. Sacramento won 7-5.

Sweet 16: Orioles' Chen Inspired by Hideo Nomo

Taiwanese left-hander Chen Wei-yin (陳偉殷) officially signed with the Baltimore Orioles during a press conference in Taipei on Jan. 15, 2012.

Chen, who was the first Taiwanese player to play for Japanese professional baseball before signing with a U.S. Major



League team, spoke at the press conference wearing the Orioles No. 16 uniform and cap.

Chen said one of the reasons he chose No. 16 was because it was the number worn by Asian baseball

legend Hideo Nomo, the first Japanese major leaguer to make a big

impact in the world's highest level baseball league, he added.

Nomo's successful debut with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1995 is widely seen as having helped pave the way for the subsequent "wave" of Japanese and Asian players entering the MLB.

[See full article online.](#)

Asian Baseball Community Research Survey Results Summary

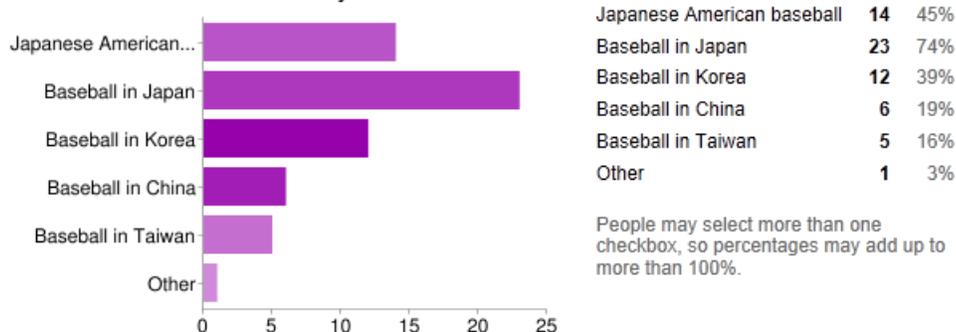
In late 2011 the Arizona Baseball Committee distributed a survey to better understand the preferences of current and potential members.

Over the course of two months, exactly 32 individuals completed the survey. While the statistical validity of the result could be stronger with more responses, the data provides some good insight into what ABC member want from the community. Here's a few highlights from the survey:

N = 32 responses

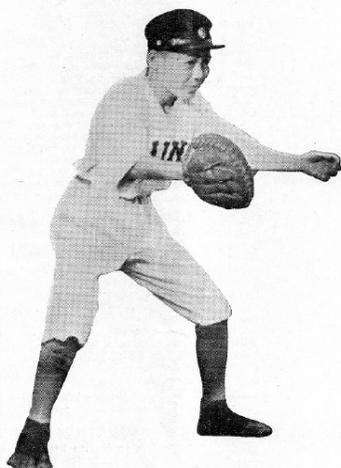
- 97% male
- 56% over the age 50
- 84% are SABR members

What areas of Asian baseball would you like to learn more about?



- 38% SABR members for 20+ years
- 63% have a primary interest in Japanese Baseball
- 45% want to learn more about Japanese-American Baseball
- 47% prefer a PDF newsletter

- 28% would attend an Asian Baseball conference
- Check out the full survey data at the end of this newsletter.



Research Highlight: “Young Japan Takes to Baseball”

“Wherever the children of Nippon went...they took two things with them, cherry blossoms and baseball.” In the June 22, 1927 issue of *The Outlook, An Illustrated Weekly of Current Life*, is a fascinating article by Adachi Kinnosuke that provides insight into how “Young Japan Takes to Baseball.”

The article details the Topknot Nine, the ball team made up entirely of the old-school Japanese wrestlers. Kinnosuke also shares the details of an little-known baseball game between Buddhists priests and Christian missionaries.

Check out the full *Outlook* article at the end of this newsletter.

Arizona Park Honors Japanese American Baseball

In December 2011 the Chandler, Arizona City Council approved the name change of West Chandler park to Nozomi Park. The name change will honor the 30,000 Japanese Americans interned in Arizona during WWII.

Nozomi is the Japanese word for "hope" and was inspired by the

game of baseball that was played behind barbed wire in the camps.

Ultimately the game gave an entire community a sense of hope and normalcy, making life bearable while being



unjustly incarcerated by their own country.

February 19, 2012, marks the 70th anniversary of the start of Japanese American internment in Arizona.

Learn more at: Nozomi-Park.com.

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"SABR is baseball's best-kept secret ... its benefits are many for the advanced fan, the aspiring professional, or simply those who cannot get enough good baseball talk and text."

- **John Thorn**, *Official Historian*, MLB



Asian Baseball Committee

asianbb.sabr.org

The goals of SABR's Asian Baseball Committee (ABC) are to:

- Research, preserve and share the long history of interaction between American and Asian baseball
- Foster a sense of community among those with a shared passion for Asian Baseball
- Introduce Asian baseball to the North American public
- Serve as a valuable resource for those seeking more information about Asian Baseball

It is our sincere hope that the information and activities offered by the Asian Baseball Committee will achieve the above goals.

If you are a current member of SABR and interested in joining the Asian Baseball Committee, you can do so by visiting the SABRnation community.

If you are not a member of SABR, you can still get involved as a member of the Asian Baseball Community on Facebook.

SABR Asian Baseball Committee

Bill Staples, Jr., Chair (email: billstaplesjr@gmail.com)

Daigo Fujiwara, Vice-Chair (email: daigo@daigofujiwara.com)

(cont') Asian Baseball @ 2012 NINE Conference

(continued from page one)

Asian Baseball conference. This is a ideal opportunity to add an Asian Baseball influence to an already great event and to network with our Asian Baseball peers.

Conference registration is \$205 and includes morning and evening sessions, two Cactus League games, and the Saturday evening banquet. SABR's Seymour Medal award for the best book of baseball history published last year will be presented during Saturday's banquet. On Wednesday evening, left-hander Ila Borders, who played four seasons of men's professional baseball, will lead off the conference.

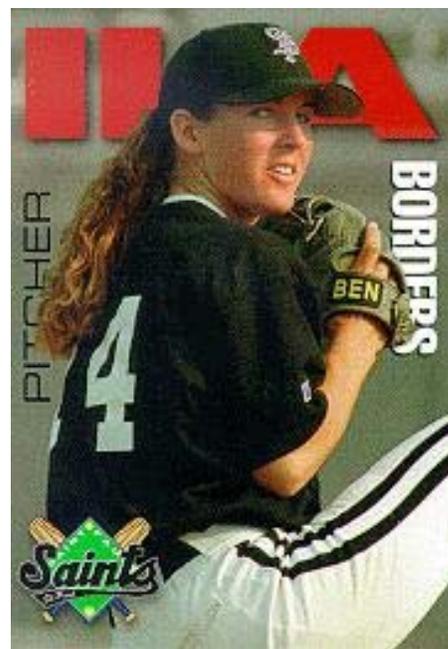
To learn more about conference registration and hotel reservations for the NINE conference, visit: <http://www.nineregistration.com>.



Saturday Evening at the Banquet: Keynote Speaker Robert K. Fitts (above)

Wednesday Evening at the Cy Seymour Session: A Conversation With Ila Borders (right)

Hope to see you in March 2012 in Tempe, Arizona!

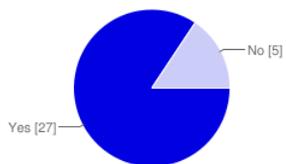


See the full NINE Conference agenda at the end of this newsletter.

32 [responses](#)

Summary [See complete responses](#)

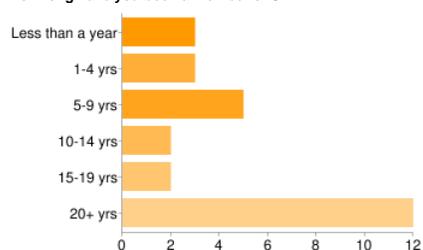
Are you a member of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR)?



Yes	27	84%
No	5	16%

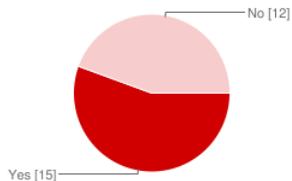
SABR Member

How long have you been a member of SABR?



Less than a year	3	9%
1-4 yrs	3	9%
5-9 yrs	5	16%
10-14 yrs	2	6%
15-19 yrs	2	6%
20+ yrs	12	38%

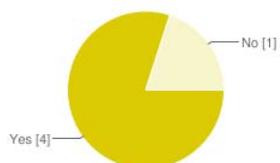
Are you a member of the Asian Baseball Committee?



Yes	15	47%
No	12	38%

Non-SABR member

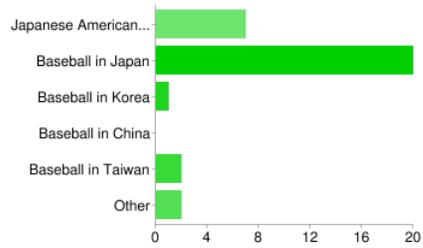
Did you know there is SABR Asian Baseball Committee?



Yes	4	13%
No	1	3%

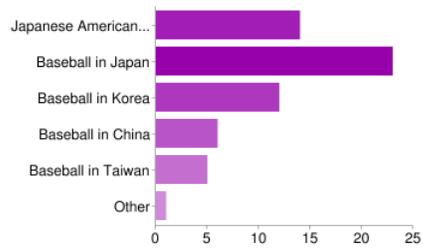
Areas of Interest

What is your primary area of interest in Asian Baseball?



Japanese American baseball	7	22%
Baseball in Japan	20	63%
Baseball in Korea	1	3%
Baseball in China	0	0%
Baseball in Taiwan	2	6%
Other	2	6%

What areas of Asian baseball would you like to learn more about?



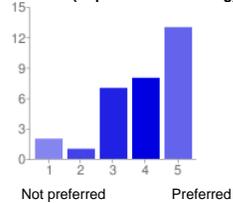
Japanese American baseball	14	45%
Baseball in Japan	23	74%
Baseball in Korea	12	39%
Baseball in China	6	19%
Baseball in Taiwan	5	16%
Other	1	3%

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

Communication Preferences

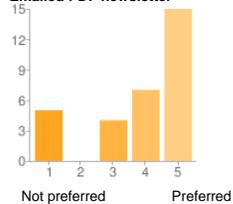
Rank your preference for the following methods of receiving information from the Asian Baseball Committee:

Web site (<http://asianbb.sabr.org>)



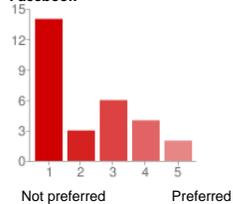
1 - Not preferred	2	6%
2	1	3%
3	7	22%
4	8	25%
5 - Preferred	13	41%

Emailed PDF newsletter

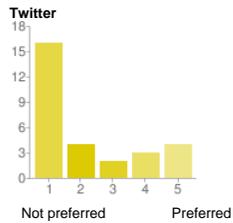


1 - Not preferred	5	16%
2	0	0%
3	4	13%
4	7	22%
5 - Preferred	15	47%

Facebook



1 - Not preferred	14	44%
2	3	9%
3	6	19%
4	4	13%
5 - Preferred	2	6%



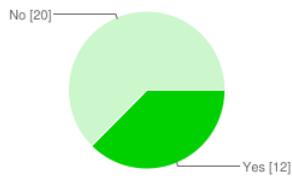
1 - Not preferred	16	50%
2	4	13%
3	2	6%
4	3	9%
5 - Preferred	4	13%

Additional comments on methods of receiving information from the ABC:

Also taking advantage of SABRNation? SABRNation mailing list I can't even operate a cell phone, so all forms of social media are out. E-mail must suffice. regular mail Also text message or email

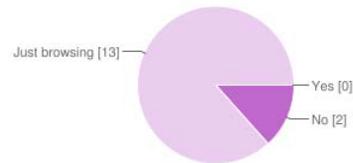
Asian Baseball Committee Website

Have you visited SABR Asian Baseball Committee website (asianbb.sabr.org)?



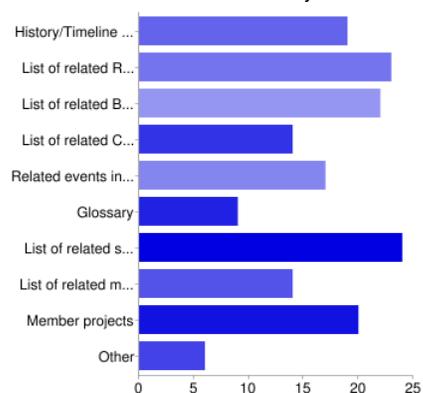
Yes	12	38%
No	20	63%

If yes, were you able to find the information you were seeking?



Yes	0	0%
No	2	6%
Just browsing	13	41%

What information would you like to see/expect to see in the website?



History/Timeline of baseball in Asian countries	19	59%
List of related Resources	23	72%
List of related Books	22	69%
List of related Communities	14	44%
Related events information	17	53%
Glossary	9	28%
List of related sites/links	24	75%
List of related media	14	44%
Member projects	20	63%
Other	6	19%

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

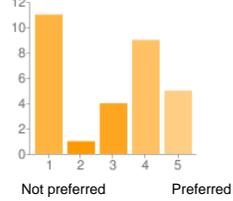
Please share any ideas to improve the SABR Asian Baseball Committee website.

more video versus text would expect to find list of related books in www.baseballindex.org Was there Asian baseball in America prior to WW Two?

Community Preferences

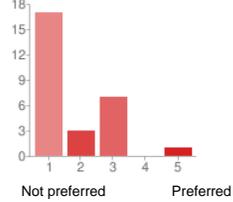
Rank your preference for the following methods of interacting with fellow members of the Asian Baseball Committee:

Social media (Facebook, etc.)



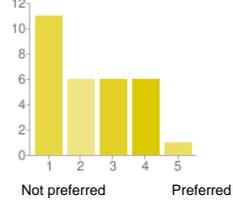
1 - Not preferred	11	34%
2	1	3%
3	4	13%
4	9	28%
5 - Preferred	5	16%

Conference calls



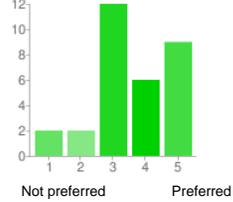
1 - Not preferred	17	53%
2	3	9%
3	7	22%
4	0	0%
5 - Preferred	1	3%

Webinars



1 - Not preferred	11	34%
2	6	19%
3	6	19%
4	6	19%
5 - Preferred	1	3%

An Asian Baseball annual conference



1 - Not preferred	2	6%
2	2	6%
3	12	38%
4	6	19%
5 - Preferred	9	28%

Other ideas for interacting with fellow members of the ABC:

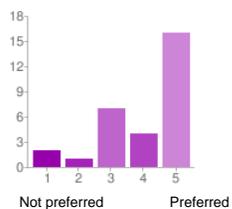
While good old e-mail is not the most fashionable method of communicating, it is still the one I am most comfortable with. I would be interested in quarterly virtual meetings via technology and one live meeting, 2-3 days. Blog A mailing list or online forum I have not joined the group, as I have just received word of it. I am not sure of how much interaction there will be in this group. I am interested in participating, as I have extensive experience in this area and have seen and scouted many games overseas. regular mail Twitter

Annual conference activities

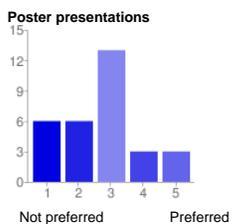
Please rank your preferences for possible activities at an annual conference.

Live presentations

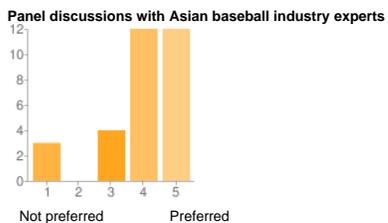
1 - Not preferred	2	6%
2	1	3%
3	7	22%
4	4	13%



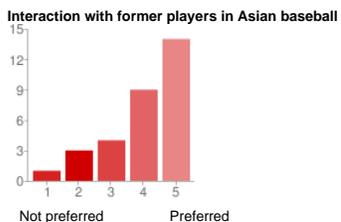
5 - Preferred **16** 50%



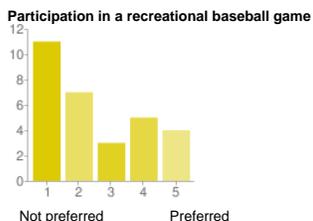
1 - Not preferred **6** 19%
 2 **6** 19%
 3 **13** 41%
 4 **3** 9%
 5 - Preferred **3** 9%



1 - Not preferred **3** 9%
 2 **0** 0%
 3 **4** 13%
 4 **12** 38%
 5 - Preferred **12** 38%



1 - Not preferred **1** 3%
 2 **3** 9%
 3 **4** 13%
 4 **9** 28%
 5 - Preferred **14** 44%



1 - Not preferred **11** 34%
 2 **7** 22%
 3 **3** 9%
 4 **5** 16%
 5 - Preferred **4** 13%

Other ideas for activities at an annual conference:

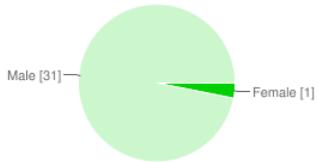
||| would be interested in meeting:- MLB players who played in Japan- Japanese players from Japan- Japanese players in the MLB- JA league & internment players |||

Please share any ideas or feedback that you think would make for a great Asian Baseball community.

I have been following Asian baseball extensively for the last 12 years or so, and have been to Japan on baseball business many times during that span.

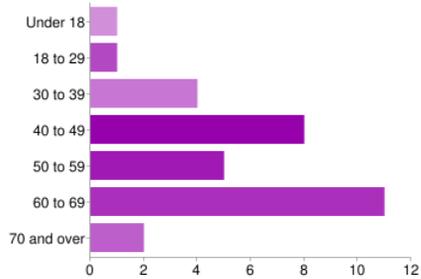
Tell us about yourself

Gender



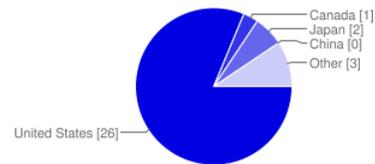
Female	1	3%
Male	31	97%

Age



Under 18	1	3%
18 to 29	1	3%
30 to 39	4	13%
40 to 49	8	25%
50 to 59	5	16%
60 to 69	11	34%
70 and over	2	6%

Country

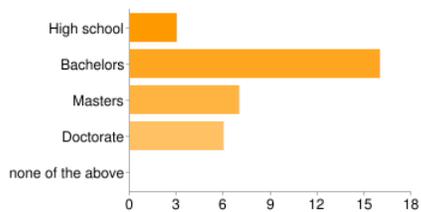


United States	26	81%
Canada	1	3%
Japan	2	6%
China	0	0%
Other	3	9%

Postal Code (ZIP code)

93704 2472 2400022 55014 650-0004 96821 33186 87196 35209 706-039 85226 19027 74011 2446 921 92117 55406 10128 92506 91011 21093 85018 13820 30309 98513 31030 43402 6424 91103

Education



High school	3	9%
Bachelors	16	50%
Masters	7	22%
Doctorate	6	19%
none of the above	0	0%

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The
Outlook

An Illustrated Weekly of Current Life

JUNE 22, 1927



Young Japan Takes to Baseball

By ADACHI KINOSUKE

The Topknot Nine

Japan Changes Her National Game from Wrestling to Baseball

By ADACHI KINNOSUKE

NIPPON is getting to be a fairly good-sized nation—more than 80,000,000 of us now. When a nation of more than 80,000,000 changes its national game, it's something of an event. When the change is from wrestling (old as our august ancestors' hallowed institution of burying a dozen faithful retainers alive with a dead lord to accompany him on his journey through the Shadow World) to baseball, it may claim the passing interest of our American friends.

And that, precisely, is what has happened in that Land of the Gods.

MORE than thirty years ago the writer was a prep. in a mission school in Tokyo called then Aoyama Eiwa Gakko, founded and supported by American Methodists. A young American instructor there used to present us once in a while with a real baseball "made in U. S. A." We used to celebrate the gift with imposing festal rites. The ball mania seized the college boys of Japan just about that time, and has been coming down the corridor of barking years like a good-sized avalanche ever since.

A few years ago, when I was back in Japan, I lost my way not far from that "Cradle of Nippon Culture" called Nara and found myself on the outskirts of a modest village. Suddenly a merry burst of yelling and shouting young voices came from the other side of a pine grove directly ahead of me. A wrestling match at a temple festival, I thought, and walked dreamily on in the amiable smile of the late April sunshine. But an instant later I pulled myself up sharply.

For to my astounded ears came the Japanese version of "Kill the umpire! Boil him in oil!" "Slide, Taro, slide!" and "Atta boy!" with all the thunderous ardor of which no American back lot has any reason to be ashamed. The Black Dragon Nine—I believe that was the modest name of the village school team—was in battle royal against the frenzied cohort of White Tiger braves. They were in a death grapple for the inter-village supremacy in the American Na-

tional pastime. I sunk down on a roadside rock; I felt a bit dizzy. The meaning of the thing struck me like another light "on the road to Damascus." Ball games were nothing new in Japan. In Tokyo the Waseda, the Keio, the Imperial, and other universities had been fighting for the well-known Six-University League championship for years. A ball game in Tokyo or Osaka was just a ball game—not a thing more. What I saw at the village near Nara is another thing—quite.

IT was the story—and in pretty vivid colors, too—of Nippon's change of her national game. And there they were, a couple of village primary schools yelling like Indians—little girls quite as shrill and emphatic as their brothers—and telling the story. They told of the passing of wrestling as our national sport and the coming of baseball to take its place. For a sight like this in an obscure mountain village in Japan, a brief quarter of a century back, would have been more than a mere miracle; it would have been entirely unthinkable. Far in the back counties of Tamba, along the sterile shores of the Nippon Sea, away from great centers of population, I saw the same thing. More—much more—the ball fever with our people was wider than Nippon proper. I saw Japanese school-children playing baseball in Seoul, the ancient capital city of Chosen, and in Mukden in Manchuria. Wherever the children of Nippon went I found they took two things along with them—cherry blossoms and baseball.

The baseball conquest of Nippon is quite as deep as it is wide. The story of Topknot Nine proves that.

TOPKNOT NINE came into existence nearly a decade ago, and in Tokyo. At the time it was quite the sport sensation of the Empire. Topknot Nine—because the ball team was made up entirely of the old-school Japanese wrestlers of more or less renown. Now professional wrestlers of Nippon are a race apart. They differ from the general run of us in their physical make-up; most of them weigh more than 250 pounds;

most of them are more than six feet tall; and they are perhaps the most consistently and persistently conservative folks among us. They insist on wearing the old topknots of their ancestors in this frenzied year of progress, 1927. They have flatly refused to see a plain fact that topknots were worn when our ancestors had a pair of swords at their girdles. Not only that; our wrestlers sported their topknots as a challenge and a jeer on all this new-fangled imported bunk sometimes called Occidental civilization. All that is precisely why and how the ball team Topknot Nine tells the story of the coming of a new national game with eloquence and significance above compare. When Tokyo saw these stubborn guardians of moss-back traditions cutting didoes over the diamond, it sat up and took considerable notice. For it knew very well that it was face to face with a sport miracle of the age.

IN the autumn of 1920 a number of American big league stars visited Japan. It just so happened that at the time there was quite a lively reaction on the part of Young Japan against all the tumultuous anti-Japanese propaganda agitations in the United States. College boys of Tokyo were then staging a number of mass-meetings at which anti-American fever ran rather high. But when the American baseball stars hove into sight our half-ripe manhood promptly forgot all about international politics. All such extravagant nonsense as a possibility of an American-Japanese war ceased to trouble their bubbling souls as by magic. At the Waseda University American big leaguers were entertained by old Marquis Okuma. They were literally mobbed on the University campus—not by anti-American fanatics, but by the sheer violence of flaming enthusiasm with which they were welcomed! There is a good deal more in this diplomacy through international sports than the old fossils in the chancelleries of the world have any idea of. No such tremendous crowd, not a fraction of any such burst of enthusiasm, ever greeted the return of our delegation



Cheer leading as well as baseball has made a successful passage of the Pacific

from the Paris Peace Conference or from the Washington Conference. Altogether it was an eloquent and complete testimony of the conquest of the American pastime.

After the Topknot Nine, one should be prepared for almost anything. One is not disappointed in that. Our theater folks have had their ball teams, and by the dozen and for many years. And what is really remarkable about it all is that those ball teams were not formed by their press agents for copy. The men of our army took to the sport with quite as much enthusiasm as our school-children. To-day all the vacant spaces about the barracks are alive with mirth and life, as are all the back lots in cities and villages after school hours.

The ball epidemic did not stop with the brute and unbeautiful sex in Japan. The geisha ladies suffered from a severe case of baseball fever. And that took place in the city of Osaka in the spring of 1922. Since then fair movie stars and those of other theatrical firmaments followed also. As for the young ladies of the Woman's University in Tokyo and a number of other female institutions of learning in the capital

city, they have had their ball teams for years.

But the half has never yet been told. Listen to the following:

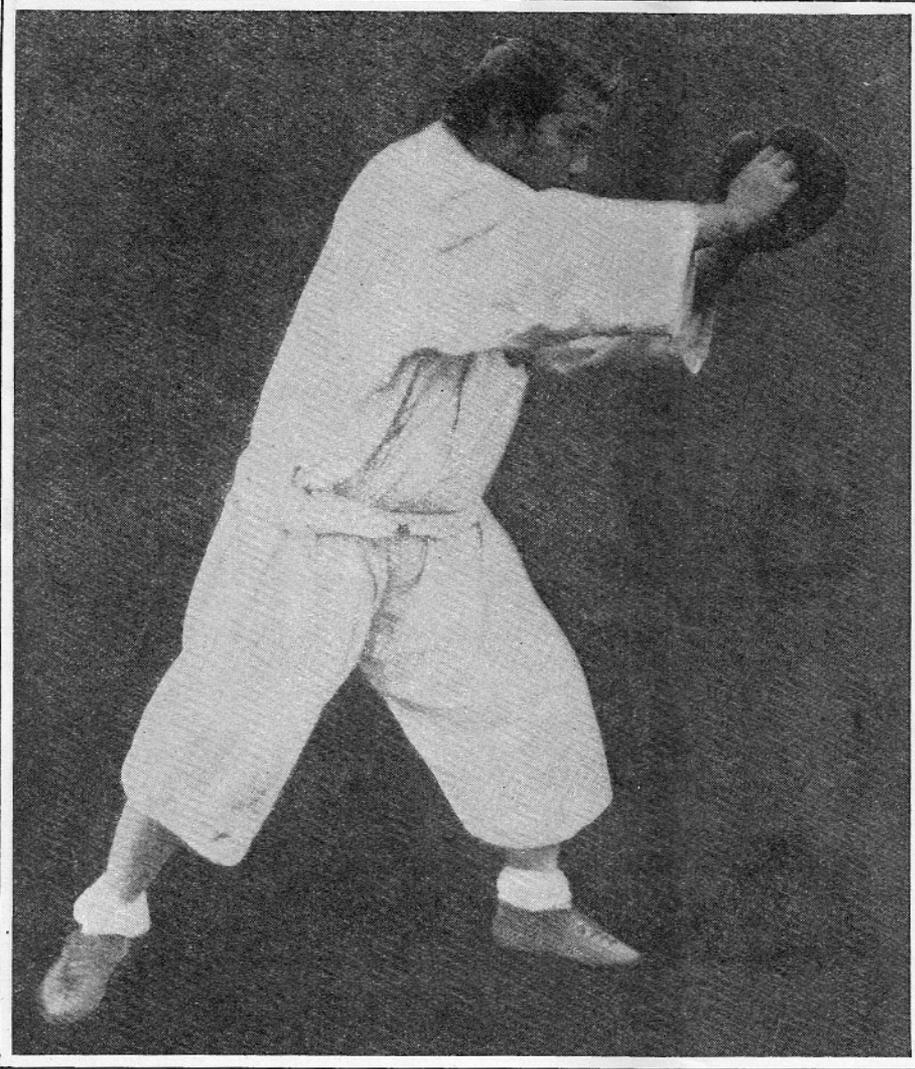
THE Rev. M. E. Hall, a missionary of the American Board, was stationed at Kyoto. Kyoto is the Mecca of Japanese Buddhists and the home of the great Higashi Hongan Temple—one of the two mother temples of the Shinshu sect of Buddhism. One day the American missionary was astounded to receive from the Abbot of the great Nishihongan Temple a challenge. It was the nature of the challenge which dumfounded the Rev. Mr. Hall. It was not a challenge to a public debate on the respective merits of the two great faiths of mankind. The challenge was for a game of baseball. The Buddhist priests of Higashi Honganji wished to play against the nine composed of the students and instructors of his Christian Bible class.

With a directness thoroughly American, the Rev. Mr. Hall took the challenge from the Abbot of the Higashi Hongan Temple and read it before his Bible class. There was an explosion of excitement which was not particularly

Christian—or Buddhistic, for that matter. That was the first time that a Christian Bible class was called upon to vision a lot of young Buddhist priests alive and up to date enough to challenge a combination of American and Japanese Christian ball players on the field of battle.

The challenge was promptly accepted. And there was nothing of the spirit of turning your left cheek to the enemy who smites you on your right about the acceptance—not the faintest shadow of it. Great and rich newspapers of the United States or their mighty Associated Press never spent so much as a nickel on a cable to report the game. It was an epochal event, all the same. It was the first time that the followers of gentle Gotama and of the lowly Nazarene fought for a decision in this manly sport—the first time perhaps in the history of the human race.

The game was played on the grounds of the Higashi Hongan Temple. A brief quarter of a century ago just a bare thought of staging a ball game on the hallowed grounds of Higashi Honganji would not only have been astounding to the pious imagination of the faithful of



Photograph from Adachi

First baseman of the Topknot Nine, a baseball team composed of professional wrestlers who cling to the traditional manner of dressing their hair

the Lord of Grace, but also utterly impossible. For the Abbot of Higashi Honganji to suggest such a thing as a match game of baseball between his young priests and Christians was a good deal more than preposterous. It would have proved about the shortest cut to an insane asylum for the holy Abbot.

THE eventful day came, and the Christian stalwarts marched through the great temple gate and on into the temple grounds. The sight that greeted them made most of them pinch themselves. They were not at all sure they were awake. What they saw was the Buddhist nine limbering up in a preliminary work-out. But that was not the thing which made their eyes impatient of their sockets. It was the sight of the holy Abbot. His Holiness was playing short-stop. Did somebody say, in a hasty, silly moment, that there is nothing new under the sun? The ball players of the Bible class did not need the assistance of a prophet to see the error of the old saying. For there was something

entirely and unspeakably new under the sun, right in front of their noses—playing short-stop.

The amazement of the Christians did not stop there. It kept right along as the game went on. Inning after inning came and went, and not a tally chalked up for either the Buddhists or the Christians. And for eight innings the faithful of the two world cults fought, raged, and chased like Indians for nothing more meritorious than a row of zeros. The onward-marching Christian warriors who had stepped into the holy grounds with a sunny idea of "eating 'em alive" could not understand it at all.

The frame was quite as remarkable as the picture:

The temple court of Higashi Honganji, where the ghosts of billions upon billions of whispered prayers of the faithful forever wander in the mellow echoes of its huge temple bell, was packed, and with the strangest ball fans the game had ever seen. They were the pious pilgrims gathered at the Buddhist Mecca from all the corners of the Em-

pire, bringing to the Lord of Grace their offerings of soft-murmured prayers a thousand times repeated. For centuries the temple court had been sacred to the pious imagination of Nippon—with no more jarring note to disturb its scented peace than the far chanting of Sutras. And now—the sight and sounds at that historic game were enough to stagger the whole Buddhist world.

I DID not see that game; I wish I had. It must have been a corker. The simple unadorned score tells the story with eloquence all its own—neither side put a single run across the home plate for eight weary innings! Excellent enough for a major league record. Then in the first half of the ninth something chilled the spines of the Christians and fired the hearts of the thousand Buddhist pilgrims: a young shaven-headed warrior raced across the plate—for the first tally of the game. And for a good many minutes the sun went completely out of the Christian sky. In the second half of that thrilling ninth the Christians came to bat. Young Hara, a son of the President of the Doshisha University, the greatest Christian university in Japan, founded by the famous Niishima, swung as for a star—and drove a clean one to center. Then Mr. Shiverly, an American professor at the Doshisha University, lined to right. And that put two Christians on Buddhistic bases—on second and third. Another batter rapped one squarely at his Holiness the Abbot playing short-stop. And in spite of mountains of merits which surely must be his, the perverse ball sped between his wide-planted feet into the outer darkness of evil *karma*. And victory came over the ancient hills of Kyoto—to the Christian force; for the two men on bases chased home: Christians 2; Buddhists 1.

IN October, last year, baseball achieved quite a social distinction in Nippon. The present reigning Emperor, Hirohito, who was then Prince Regent of the Empire, went out to the ball grounds of the Outer Garden of the famous Meiji Shrine to see one of the heated tussles in the Six-University League championship argument. The Prince liked the game—liked it so well that he donated a cup, the Regent's Cup. It is the Emperor's Cup now—no less. Henceforth and forever, therefore, the game is safe from silly noses turned up in jeer and derision at the "cheap rabble sport." And this act of the Emperor would carry the game a long way in the affection of the people as the new national game of Nippon.

The 19th Annual NINE Spring Training Conference

March 7-10, 2012

Fiesta Resort Conference Center

Tempe, Arizona

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

6:00-6:45 p.m. Registration

6:45-7:00 p.m. Welcome

7:00-8:15 p.m. THE CY SEYMOUR SESSION

Ila Borders, "A Conversation with Ila Borders"

Perry Barber, "Words and Music of the Diamond: Baseball in Song"

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

8:00-8:20 a.m. Coffee

8:20-8:30 a.m. Opening

8:30-9:50 a.m. THE PETER GAMMONS SESSION

Chair: Kevin Quinn

James R. Walker, Robert V. Bellamy, and Lawrence A Wenner, "Baseball, Cultural Citizenship, and Television"

Tanya Lovejoy, "'Was Anyone Out There Watching Last Night?' Why New England Sports Network (NESN) Needed Roger Clemens: Sports Media Ownership and the Televised Sports Text"

Roberta Newman, "The MLB Fan Cave: Pitching to the 'Bros' in Hyper-reality"

9:50-10:00 a.m. Coffee

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10:00-11:50 a.m. THE MARGARET GISOLO SESSION

Chair: Jean Hastings Ardell

Mark P. Parillo, "Softball and the Redefinition of Gender: What Material Culture Suggests"

Dan Drane and Colin Penuel, "You Can Change the Name but Can You Remove the Concept of Dixie from Dixie Youth Baseball"

Bill Ressler, "Culture and Diversity in the Minor League Clubhouse: An Organizational Communication Perspective"

Kat Williams, "Isabel 'Lefty' Alvarez: The Rascal of El Cerro"

1:00 p.m. Ballgame: Royals vs. Rockies

7:30-9:00 p.m. Roundtable Discussion: Baseball and Pedagogy—What Works and What Doesn't

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

8:30-9:50 a.m. THE HILDA CHESTER SESSION

Chair: Roberta Newman

Steve Gietschier, "Slugging and Snubbing: Hugh Casey, Ernest Hemingway, and Jackie Robinson—A Baseball Mystery"

Raymond Doswell, "19 for 31: Jackie Robinson Steals Home and History"

Andy McCue, "Barrio, Bulldozers and Baseball: The Clearing of Chavez Ravine"

9:50-10:00 a.m. Coffee

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10:00-11:50 a.m. THE BRANCH RICKEY SESSION

Chair: Lee Lowenfish

Samuel Gale, "It's a Press Victory': The Role of the African American Press in Desegregating Major League Baseball"

Mitchell Nathanson, "Race, Rickey, and 'All Deliberate Speed'"

Robert F. Garratt, "Horace Stoneham: The Neglected Pioneer"

John Sillito, "Building the Pirates of Tomorrow': Race, Mr. Rickey, and R. C. Stevens, 1952-55"

11:50 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Lunch (On Your Own)

1:30-3:00 p.m. THE EDD ROUSH SESSION

Chair: Jim Odenkirk

Charles Alexander, "Pete Rose and Ty Cobb: A Dichotomy, Not an Analogy"

Steve Steinberg, "The Day John McGraw Lost Control of His Team . . . and Quit"

Ed Edmonds, "Armando Marsans, the Major League's First Cuban Star, and His Federal League-National League Fight"

3:00-3:15 p.m. Break

3:15-4:45 p.m. THE CONNIE MACK SESSION

Chair: Geri Strecker

Kristin Anderson and Chris Kimball, "How (Not) to Build a Ballpark: Location, Finance, Construction, and the Courts in the 1880s"

Maureen Smith, "Constructing History and Heritage 21st-Century Style: Major League Baseball and Statues"

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Lee Lowenfish, "A Hall Grows in Lubbock"

4:45-5:00 p.m. Break

5:00-6:30 p.m. THE ICHIRO SUZUKI SESSION

Chair: Bill Ressler

Rebecca Alpert, "Bud Selig: The First Jewish Commissioner of Baseball"

Bill Staples Jr., "From Internment to Hope: Celebrating Japanese American Baseball in Arizona"

Steve Treder, "The Pioneer's Pioneer: Masanori Murakami"

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

8:30-9:50 a.m. THE BILL JAMES SESSION

Chair: Ed Edmonds

Paul Bursik, Kevin Quinn, and Keith Sherony, "Buckner, Bartman, Bobby Thomson: The Folklore and Fact of Pivotal Plays"

Roberto D. Sirvent, "Baseball, Civic Identity, and the Just Society"

Paul Brewer, "Sabermetrics and "The Age of Fracture"

9:50-10:00 a.m. Coffee

10:00-11:50 a.m. THE DIZZY DEAN SESSION

Chair: Trey Strecker

Scott D. Peterson, "'A Novelty in Baseball Literature': Ella Black and the 1890 Pre-Season"

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Stuart Shea, "Major League Baseball Broadcasters: Local Heroes at the Mike"

Willie Steele, "Poetic Players: Baseball Poetry from Within the Game"

Ron Briley, "The Eighth Wonder of the World: Houston's Astrodome as a Metaphor of Modernism and Alienation in Robert Altman's *Brewster McCloud* (1970)"

1:00 p.m. Ballgame: Reds vs. A's

6:30 p.m. THE BILL KIRWIN SESSION

The Society for American Baseball Research's Seymour Medal Award

Banquet

NINE Keynote Speaker: Robert K. Fitts