



San Diego-Yokohama Youth Baseball Exchange

August 2 - 12, 2007



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Acknowledgements

The Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana would like to express its gratitude to the many wonderful people and organizations who took time out of their extremely busy schedules to play important roles in this tremendously successful program.

We appreciate the efforts of the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS) staff, Sam Shepherd and Makiko Murotani, whose good work, prompt responses, and patience helped make the program run smoothly and efficiently. NAJAS financial support through the generosity of the Freeman Foundation and All Nippon Airlines was critically important to the success of the program and is also greatly appreciated.

Fifteen Yokohama families, five each representing the teams of Seya, Naka-Honmoku, and Yokohama-Izumi, opened their homes and hearts to the ten visiting players from San Diego. The host families made the experience valuable and memorable for everyone involved and we are very grateful to the host families for their time, positive energy, and caring attitudes.

Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer of the Embassy of the United States of America in Tokyo hosted over 30 participants for lunch at his residence. We are very grateful to Ambassador Schieffer for taking time out of his busy and important schedule to spend quality time with our group and talking about his baseball experiences and interests.

We offer our thanks to the Yokohama BayStars Baseball Club, especially You Miyauchi, who provided excellent guidance and instruction during the baseball clinics at the BayStars training ground and also arranged for the San Diego players to watch batting practice, meet BayStars players, and participate in a pre-game speed gun contest on the field.

Michele Anderson of the San Diego Padres provided Padres uniforms for the San Diego players and gifts for the host families. The Padres also provided baseballs autographed by Trevor Hoffman for Yokohama dignitaries. We look forward to working closely with the Padres as we prepare for the 2008 program here in San Diego.

The City of Yokohama, led by Deputy Mayor Kaneda, welcomed the San Diego group and presented the San Diego boys with gifts.

The U.S. Naval Support Facility Kamiseya provided the use of their baseball field and their dining room for a delicious buffet lunch on two separate occasions.

The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce and Industry (YCCI) provided us with the services of Kunihiko Nakada, who was responsible for many of the program arrangements and spent a great deal of his time with us as a guide and friend during our stay in Yokohama. We are also grateful to Mr. Yoshihiro Nishida, President of the Japan-America Society of Yokohama, for his leadership in bringing key people and important resources together.

MLB Japan's Hiroko Kato arranged for a wonderful day of taiko drumming, touring Tokyo, and an exciting Giants/Tigers game at the Tokyo Dome, all compliments of MLB Japan.

Many thanks to Shigenobu Sato of the Yokohama Convention & Visitors Bureau for all of his assistance throughout the program and to Masatoshi Kawaguchi of the Yokohama City Council for his hard work in successfully recruiting host families.

Finally, the Yokohama Country & Athletic Club (YC&AC), with the help of Tom Tyrrell and Buddy Ferrie, treated us to a wonderful dinner, beautiful polo shirts, and the use of their field.

Collaborating Organizations & Participants

Baseball-related Organizations

Yokohama BayStars
San Diego Padres
Major League Baseball Japan

Japan-America Societies

National Association of Japan-America Societies
Japan-America Society of Yokohama
Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana
The America-Japan Society, Inc.

Coaches (American)

John Edman
Mark Burdick
Dave Tuites

Baseball Players (San Diego)

Patrick Balthrop
Jonathan Brewster
CJ Burdick
Johnny Edman
Tommy Edman
Josh Hedtke
Nathan Huffman
Kendall Lindley
Trent Simmons
Kai Tuites

Host Families

Seya

Hosoi Family
Igarashi Family
Sakai Family
Sema Family
Ueno Family

Naka-Honmoku

Kojima Family
Mikami Family
Nakamura Family
Nonami Family
Yamamoto Family

Yokohama-Izumi

Honda Family
Muto Family
Suzuki Family
Takanobu Family
Yoshino Family



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Executive Summary

As one of the activities commemorating the 150th Anniversary of U.S.-Japan relations, NAJAS worked in cooperation with the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters to establish a two-week baseball camp for Japanese and American boys ages 13 to 15 to be held in Phoenix, Arizona in 2004. This inaugural program was used as a model for the San Diego-Yokohama Youth Baseball Exchange beginning in the summer of 2006 with support from the San Diego Padres and the Yokohama BayStars. The purpose of the exchange was to provide an intercultural experience for American and Japanese youths and to encourage them to learn more about each other and their respective cultures through the game of baseball.

In 2006, twelve Japanese baseball players along with two coaches and one interpreter were selected from Yokohama by the Yokohama BayStars. The selection criteria included baseball skills and an interest in intercultural experiences. Twelve American baseball players were selected from San Diego by the JSSDT. The JSSDT selected players with above average baseball ability from families that were willing to host the Japanese boys for eight days in San Diego and allow their sons to travel to Japan the following summer. The character of the San Diego players and their families was considered to be more important than mere baseball ability in order to ensure a positive home stay experience for the Yokohama players.

The Japanese players stayed in pairs with six host families for the entire duration of their stay in San Diego. Players and home stay families participated in nearly all of the program's activities together. Baseball clinics or games were held every morning (except Sunday) and an activity was held in either the afternoon or evening each day.

In 2007, 10 San Diego players, 2 coaches, and 2 JSSDT staff, most of whom participated in the 2006 program in San Diego, traveled to Yokohama. The players were hosted by 15 Japanese families, 5 each from the teams of Seya, Naka-Honmoku, and Yokohama-Izumi. Many of these families had sons who traveled to San Diego in 2006. The BayStars coordinated clinics and games and MLB Japan, the Yokohama Country & Athletic Club, and the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo assisted with other special events. The host families were very gracious and welcoming and the overall experience was extremely positive for the San Diego players. Indeed, many of their lives were changed in very positive ways through this experience.

Funding for the first two years of the program came from the Freeman Foundation and All Nippon Airways. In future years, the JSSDT will coordinate fundraising with the City of San Diego, the City of Yokohama, the San Diego Padres, the Yokohama BayStars, foundations and corporations, and individual donors to secure the necessary funding.

The first two-year cycle of this program has been a great success, with players from both countries making new friends and learning about each other's customs and lifestyles while competing in baseball, a sport so popular and important to the traditions and histories of both the United States and Japan. We look forward to continuing the successes of this important program in 2008 in San Diego.

Baseball Clinics

Baseball Clinics

August 4 and August 6, 2007 at the BayStars Training Ground in Yokohama, Japan

The Yokohama BayStars provided critically important assistance with clinics for the 50+ Japanese and 10 American players on two separate occasions at the BayStars training facility.

In all sessions, the Japanese and American players were mixed in groups according to their positions. This structure provided both parties with an opportunity to learn from each other and they quickly became friends.



Players warmed up, took batting practice, and participated in drills and competitions on the outfield grass.

There were typically 5-8 coaches present at each clinic or game for the 24 players, an average of 3-4 players per coach. Despite the language barrier, interpreters were able to provide translations as necessary, enabling the San Diego players to learn quickly. The clinics received very positive feedback from both players and coaches.

The host families shuttled players to and from the clinic locations each day. They truly took great care of their American guests. Although some interpretation was necessary, the international language of baseball frequently provided sufficient translations for the boys.

Home Stays

Home Stays

August 3-11, 2007 in Yokohama, Japan

When the group arrived in Yokohama, the host families welcomed the boys at the YCAT Bus Terminal at Yokohama Station. Families were well prepared with schedules and information about the coming week.



Host families lived in three different neighborhoods of Yokohama, Seya, Naka-Honmoku, and Izumi. The home stays were by far the most memorable experiences for both the Japanese and American players, as well as for the host families.



The program was extremely fortunate to have fifteen very committed host families who provided constant care for their American guests.



Each day, host families drove players to the baseball clinics/games. The busy schedule for the entire week required extraordinary commitment and tremendous energy on the part of the volunteer host families.



The most important outcome of this program was participants learning that language need not be a barrier to building close relationships with people from a different culture.

Special Events 1

Lunch with Ambassador Schieffer

August 7, 2007 at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo

Players from both countries were hosted by the Honorable J. Thomas Schieffer, United States Ambassador to Japan, at his residence on the grounds of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. The Ambassador told many interesting stories about his baseball past and love of the game over a delicious lunch of burgers and brats. After lunch, we toured the Toshiba Science Museum in Kawasaki.



MLB Japan Day

August 9, 2007 in Tokyo

Major League Baseball Japan treated the San Diego group to a fantastic day of taiko drumming, Tokyo touring, and a Tokyo Dome game between the archrival Yomiuri Giants and Hanshin Tigers. Players went out on the field during batting practice and spoke with American professional baseball players Damon Hollins and Jeremy Powell.



JASY / YC&AC Reception & Dinner

August 8, 2007

The Japan-America Society of Yokohama, in cooperation with related organizations, hosted over 100 participants and guests at the Yokohama Country & Athletic Club's beautiful facility immediately following a friendship game played on the YC&AC baseball field. Players were given polo shirts and enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner.



Hakkeijima Sea Paradise

August 10, 2006

Host families took their San Diego players to Hakkeijima Sea Paradise, an amusement park featuring rides and animal shows. This was a fine opportunity for players from both countries to put baseball aside for a day and get to know each other better while enjoying the park.



Special Events 2

BayStars vs. Dragons

August 4, 2007

BayStars vs. Tigers

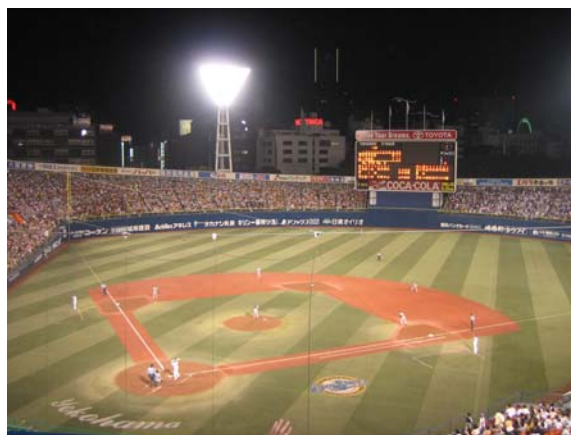
August 11, 2007



The Yokohama BayStars treated participants, including home stay families, to two games, one between the BayStars and Chunichi Dragons and the other between the BayStars and Hanshin Tigers.



Before the first game, San Diego players went on a tour of the stadium and went out onto the field for batting practice and a personal meeting with BayStars closer Mark Kroon. The San Diego players marveled at the enthusiasm of the Japanese fans throughout the games and got caught up in the spirit of the “ouendan,” even learning the tune and some of the words to the BayStars song.



The BayStars were victorious on both nights and we even got to watch Mark Kroon close out the Tigers game. The stadium has a relatively small seating capacity so we were in great seats behind home plate for both games.



Incident Report

There were no accidents, injuries, or illnesses. There were also no major problems with passports or airline tickets.



I - Program Format Summary

Program Title: San Diego-Yokohama Youth Baseball Exchange 2007

Program Timeframe: August 2 - August 12, 2007

Location: Yokohama, Japan

Participants: 54 Japanese boys, 13 to 15 years old (middle school) from 3 teams in Yokohama
10 American boys, 12 to 14 years old from San Diego
6 Japanese coaches from 3 teams in Yokohama
2 San Diego Coaches
15 host families in Yokohama
2 JSSDT staff

Collaborating Organizations: 15

Participation Fee: \$400 per San Diego player

Insurance: Multinational Underwriters, Atlas Travel Series Group Plan



08/03 (Fri)	07:30 12:55	Departure from Serra High School in San Diego Depart from LAX on ANA 0005
08/03 (Fri)	16:20 17:25 19:00 Evening	Arrive Narita Airport Travel by Airport Limousine Bus to YCAT Meet with Seya host families at YCAT Free Time with Host Families
08/04 (Sat)	09:00-12:00 Afternoon 15:50-21:00	Baseball Clinic at BayStars Training Ground Free Time with Host Families BayStars/Dragons Game (tour & speed gun contest)
08/05 (Sun)	09:00-12:00 12:30-13:30 Rest of Day	Friendship game with Seya at Kamiseya Lunch at U.S. Naval Support Facility Kamiseya Free Time with Host Families
08/06 (Mon)	09:30-10:00 10:30-11:00 11:00-11:30 12:30-15:00 16:00 Evening	Courtesy visit to City of Yokohama Deputy Mayor Kaneda Courtesy visit to President Nishida of the Japan-America Society of Yokohama Lunch at the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce and Industry Baseball Clinic at BayStars Training Ground Meet Naka-Honmoku Host Families Free Time with Host Families
08/07 (Tue)	Morning 12:30-14:00 15:00-16:00 Evening	Free Time with Host Families Lunch at the U.S. Embassy with Ambassador Schieffer Tour of the Toshiba Science Museum Free Time with Host Families
08/08 (Wed)	Morning 14:00-16:00 17:30-19:00	Free Time with Host Families Friendship Game at YC & AC Reception and Dinner at YC & AC
08/09 (Thu)	09:30-11:30 12:30-13:50 14:00-14:45 15:00-21:00 Evening	Taiko Drumming at National Olympics Youth Center Tempura Lunch in Asakusa Akihabara Sightseeing and Shopping Tokyo Dome Tour, Giants/Tigers Game Meet with Yokohama-Izumi Host Families
08/10 (Fri)	09:30-16:00 Evening	Hakkeijima Sea Paradise with Host Families Free Time with Host Families
08/11 (Sat)	09:00-12:00 12:30-13:30 15:50-21:00	Friendship Game with Izumi at Kamiseya Lunch at U.S. Naval Support Facility Kamiseya BayStars/Tigers Game
08/12 (Sun)	Morning 13:15 17:05 11:10 15:00	Free Time with Host Families Depart Yokohama by Airport Limousine Bus Depart Narita for LAX on ANA 0006 Arrive LAX Arrive Serra High School in San Diego by Charter Bus



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