

Delve Deeper into "Kokoyakyu: High School Baseball"

A film by Kenneth Eng

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Susan Conlon of the Princeton Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Kokoyakyu: High School Baseball" that premieres on July 4th, 2006 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

In Japan, baseball is not a pastime — it's a national obsession. And for many of the country's youth, the sport has become a rite of passage, epitomized by the national high school baseball tournament known simply as "Koshien." Four thousand teams enter, but only 49 are chosen to compete in the championship that grips the nation for two weeks every August. "Kokoyakyu: High School Baseball" follows two high school teams and their dedicated coaches as they go through the highs and lows of trying to make it onto the "sacred" dirt of Koshien stadium. Whether they win or lose, their quest becomes a life-changing experience that these Japanese youths will treasure forever.

ADULT NONFICTION

Brown, Bruce Eamon. *Teaching Character Through Sport: Developing a Positive Coaching Legacy*. Monterey, CA: Coaches Choice Books, 2003. Focuses on various ways to teach character through sport: redefinition of the word "athlete," sportsmanship, teaching themes/values, discussion of beliefs about character and sport, and more.

Fitts, Robert and Robert Whiting. *Remembering Japanese Baseball: An Oral History Of The Game*. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2005. Fitts chronicles the nation's distinctive version of the sport as recounted by twenty-five of its players.

Gall, John, et al. *Sayonara Home Run*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2006. Introduces fans to Japan's national pastime through the lens of the

country's baseball cards. The text traces the roots and cross-cultural history of the Japanese game, while illustrations showcase vintage cards.

Johnson, Daniel E. and Wally Yonamine. *Japanese Baseball: A Statistical Handbook*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co Inc, 2006. Presents basic statistical information and listings for every Japanese professional baseball season from 1936 through 1997.

Mastrich, Jim. *Really Winning: Using Sports to Develop Character and Integrity in Our Boys*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002. Guide on how to use sports to foster integrity and character in boys, and how to encourage athletes to develop compassion and empathy instead of arrogance.

Nakagawa, Kerry Yo. *Through a Diamond: 100 Years of Japanese American Baseball*. San Francisco, CA: Rudi Publishing, 2001. A study of the Japanese American experience through interviews, pictures and stories. Nakagawa portrays how baseball helped to sustain many Japanese during internment in World War II.

Oh, Sadaharu. *A Zen Way of Baseball*. New York: Vintage Books, 1985. An autobiography of a Japanese all-time home runner leader in baseball. This book includes significant insights on both Oh and Japanese baseball.

Whiting, Robert. *The Chrysanthemum and the Bat*. New York: Avon Books, 1976. A dated cultural look at Japanese baseball in the 1970s. Whiting illustrates the different and beautiful way Japan has transformed the American pastime.

Whiting, Robert. *The Meaning of Ichiro: The New Wave from Japan and the Transformation of Our National Pastime*. New York: Warner Books, 2004. A look at the export of baseball players from Japan (like Ichiro Suzuki) to the major leagues in the U.S. Whiting also examines American players and managers who have played in Japan, such as Bobby Valentine and Alfonso

Soriano.

Whiting, Robert. *You Gotta Have Wa*. New York: Vintage Books, 1990. American players, who have gone to Japan to play, identify "wa" as the essence of Japanese baseball. "Wa" refers to group harmony, or team unity.

ADULT FICTION

Hamill, Pete. *Tokyo Sketches: Short Stories*. Cary, NC: Kodansha America, Inc., 1992. A collection of short stories; "Running for Home" chronicles the experiences of a n African-American baseball player in Japan.

Kinsella, W.P. *Japanese Baseball and Other Stories*. Saskatoon, Canada: ThistleDown Press, 2000. Baseball is at the heart of this short story collection by acclaimed writer W.P. Kinsella, author of *Shoeless Joe*.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Gratz, Alan. *Samurai Shortstop*. New York: Dial Books, 2006. While obtaining a Western education at a prestigious Japanese boarding school in 1890, sixteen-year-old Toyo also receives traditional samurai training which has profound effects on both his baseball game and his relationship with his father.

Mochizuki, Ken. *Baseball Saved Us*. Cary, NC: Kodansha America, Inc., 1992. A picture book about a young Japanese-American boy's experience in a WWII internment camp in Idaho where internees build a baseball diamond that provides a playing ground and a diversion from the inhumanity of their situation.

VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES

"Bad News Bears Go to Japan." A film by John Berry. Paramount Pictures, 1978. (91 min.) Third film in the comedy series in which the American Little League team travels to Japan to compete with the best team.
www.amazon.com

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"Battlefield Baseball." (Jigoku Kōshien). A film by Yadaï Yamaguchi. Happinet Pictures, 2003. (87 min.) An adaptation of a Japanese manga by Gataro Man featured in the monthly *Shonen Jump* magazine, about a high school team player's reoccurring nightmare about competing against a team of zombies and how his fears confront reality on the playing field.

www.amazon.com

"Mr. Baseball." A film by Fred Schepisi. Universal Pictures, 1992. (108 min.) An American professional baseball player, late in his career, is traded to a team in Japan and faces an East/West culture clash both with the differences in baseball and society.

www.amazon.com

"Ningen no Tsubasa." (Wings of a Man). A film by Akihisa Okamoto, 1995. (135 min.)

Shinichi Ishimaru, ace pitcher for Japan's Nagoya Team from 1941 to 1943, died as a kamikaze pilot in May 1945 at the age of 22. This film covers Shinichi's life from 1940 as a high school student in Saga Prefecture.

"Year of the Bull." A film by Todd Lubin. Urban Works Studio, 2003. (84 min.) Taurean Charles, a high-school football player, struggles to get out of the inner city and into a Division I collegiate program, while also battling standardized tests, societal pressure and family conflict.

www.amazon.com

WEB SITES

P.O.V.'s "Kokoyakyu: High School Baseball" Web site
www.pbs.org/pov/pov2006/kokoyakyu/

Includes an interview with the filmmaker, resources, special features and more.

Official Kokoyakyu Film Web site
www.projectilearts.org/kokoyakyu/high_school_baseball.html

Includes video updates, photos, filmmaker's weblog and more.

JAPAN

Association of Teachers of Japanese
www.colorado.edu/ealld/atj

An international, non-profit, non-political organization of scholars, teachers, and students of Japanese language, literature and linguistics. Dedicated to deepening knowledge and appreciation of Japan and its culture.

Irasshai, Georgia Public Broadcasting

www.peachstar.org/irasshai

Georgia Public Broadcasting's *Japanese Language and Culture Distance Learning Course* allows students, teachers and visitors to voyage to Japan through the Web. The "Launch Pad" includes a list of dozens of major topics and subtopics with links to sites and material related to the various topics.

Japan Forum

www.tjf.or.jp/eng/index/indexe.htm

Japan Forum is an organization focused on the promotion of cultural exchange and mutual understanding among people of different cultures, specifically in Japanese language education in elementary and secondary schools. It offers information on the daily lives of Japanese children, lesson plans, curriculum guidelines, teaching materials and news on Japanese language education.

Japan Information Network

<http://jin.jcic.or.jp>

Maintained by the Japan Center for Intercultural Communications (JCIC), this site offers statistics, regional information and links to other sites in Japan.

Japan Society, Inc.

www.japansociety.org

The Japan Society is an American institution that promotes understanding between the United States and Japan. In addition to sponsoring numerous cultural and educational events in New York, the Society has an extensive library and educational resources that can be bought or borrowed.

JGuide: Stanford Guide to Japanese Information Resources

<http://jguide.stanford.edu>

Portal for sites about Japan.

Media Production Group (MPG)
www.aems.uiuc.edu/HTML/AEM/Svidguides.las

In 1991 the Media Production Group (MPG) was formed as a collaborative vehicle to produce a series of television programs and video teaching materials on Japan in cooperation with the National Institute of Multimedia Education in Chiba, Japan.

National Clearinghouse for U.S. - Japan Studies

www.indiana.edu/~japan

This clearinghouse at Indiana University has an on-line database featuring abstracts of print materials, artifact kits, videos and software that are useful to those interested in teaching about Japan, especially at the K-12 level.

National Clearinghouse for U.S. - Japan Studies, Japan Digests

www.indiana.edu/~japan/Digests/index.htm

This clearinghouse at Indiana University has an on-line database of *Japan Digest*.

Ohio State Site for Teaching (and Learning) About Japan
www.csuohio.edu/history/japan/index.html

Includes several pages of links to sites related to topics of interest to students and teachers (e.g., arts, food, places, popular culture, theater, etc.). Connected to this site is a visual introduction to Japan, featuring 77 photo images of places, people and a set of fifteen woodblock prints.

The Sadako Film Project

www.sadako.com

A project of Informed Democracy, a non-profit educational organization that produces media for young audiences, including *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* and *How to Fold a Paper Crane*. Offers information about the videos, the story of Sadako, instructions for folding a paper crane and related educational resources.

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Wellesley College Library

www.wellesley.edu/Library/Research/japanese.html

Research resources for Japanese language and literature.

Midnight Eye

www.midnighteye.com

The latest and best in Japanese cinema.

BASEBALL IN JAPAN

Baseball Guru

<http://baseballguru.com/bbjp1.html>

Has articles and resources on baseball in Japan.

Baseball Japan: A Guide to Japanese Baseball

www.japanball.com/baseballjapan.htm

Has daily news, scores, standings, stats, directories and baseball tour and travel information.

History of All-Star Series in Japan

http://mlb.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/mlb/events/japan_series/history.jsp

MLB site with articles on Major League tours of Japan, history of baseball in Japan, home run kings, videos, facts and figures, multimedia and more.

Japanese Baseball.com

www.japanesebaseball.com

Dedicated to the discussion of professional baseball (Pro Yakyu) in Japan.

Japanorama

www.japanorama.com/baseball.html

An overview of baseball in Japan including ballparks, glossary of terms and identification of differences between baseball played in Japan and the U.S.

Jim Allen's Baseball Page

www2.gol.com/users/jallen/jimball.html

A resource for baseball fans in general and Japanese baseball fans in particular.