



Home Run News

World Children's Baseball Fair Newsletter

a non-profit organization



Happy Holidays!

**Message from
WCBF
N. America
Founding
Director,
Akiko Agishi**

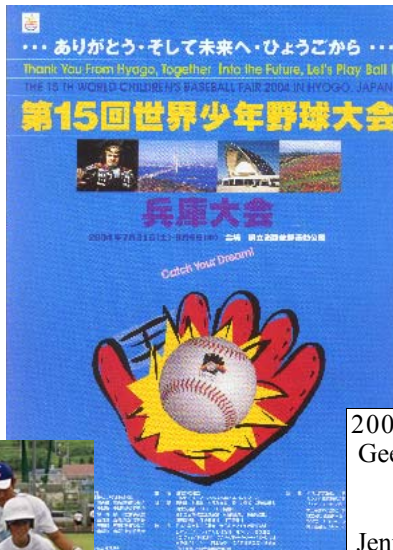
Season's Greetings! I'm so pleased to report to you that the 15th Anniversary WCBF Summer Week Event was successfully held in August 2004 in Hyogo Prefecture in Japan. It's been an extreme honor to have worked with so many wonderful, talented, and dedicated people all these years. We all share a common goal - promoting friendship and peace among children of the world through baseball clinics and fun activities. My

sincere thanks to everyone, and to Mr. Sadaharu Oh and Mr. Hank Aaron, without whom none of this would have been possible. Mr. Oh was able to attend the WCBF event this year which was a wonderful thrill for everyone involved.

Participants from previous WCBF events are growing up and making their way in the world. One of our dreams came true this summer at the 2004 Athens Olympics - one of our 1992 WCBF participants, Brent Tamburrino, was a member of the Australian Olympic Baseball team and he won a silver medal. I also learned

that Tim Cantu, who attended 1994 WCBF, is playing minor league baseball with the St. Louis Cardinals. As other participants move towards their life goals, I hope their memories of WCBF and the international cooperation it fosters will impact their views in a positive way.

I truly believe that we should continue our efforts to help our children make the dream of world peace come true. I wish you all the best of health and happiness for 2005. - Akiko Agishi



2004 WCBF Participants from the USA:
Geena Bonilla, South San Francisco CA
Alexander Barnes, Norwich NY
Collyn Green, Plano TX
Jennifer Dobbs (Chp), Redwood City CA

Where are they now?



Brett Tamburrino, left, with Darrin Van Tassell, IBAF technical commissioner (and former IBAF Head Coach for WCBF) at the 2004 Athens Olympics. Brett was a member of the Australian Olympic team and he won a silver medal for baseball! Brett started playing baseball at age 11 at WCBF 1992 in Mito City, Japan.

Tim Cantu is currently in the St. Louis Cardinals minor league organization with the New Jersey Cardinals. Tim attended WCBF 1994 in Morioka, Japan.



Sadaharu Oh will stay with the Hawks as manager - now the Softbank Hawks - and will also become General Manager of the team.

Hank Aaron was honored by the Braves April 8th 2004, commemorating the 30th anniversary of his 715th home run.



CONGRATULATIONS to you all!



WCBF 2004 Participating Countries (19 countries total):

Australia, Cameroon, Canada, People's Republic of China, Costa Rica, Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Saipan, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, United Kingdom, USA, Japan.

WCBF 2004 Program Schedule:

- 7/29 Participants arrive. Registration & orientation.
- 7/30 Distribution of equipment & uniforms. Welcome party at the Westin Hotel Awaji.
- 7/31 Opening Ceremony & photo session at Awaji-Sano Sports and Recreation Park. Baseball Clinic #1. Exchange game. Attend local summer festival with children from Kobe.
- 8/1 Baseball Clinic #2. Exchange game. See fireworks with children from Sumoto.
- 8/2 Baseball Clinic #3. Exchange game. Attend Japanese Traditional Drum Show with Tsuna children.
- 8/3 Baseball Clinic #4. Exchange game. Attend Awaji Ningyo Joruri Puppet Theatre with children from Nandan.
- 8/4 Baseball Clinic #5. Exchange game. Visit Akashi Kaikyo Bridge with Awaji children. Visit Nojima Fault Preservation (earthquake museum) with children from Hokudan. Goodwill Party & VIP Banquet.
- 8/5 Baseball Clinic #6. Closing Ceremony.
- 8/6 Children depart for home.



WCBF 2004 HYOGO

COACHES CORNER

The 15th anniversary of the World Children's Baseball Fair was so smooth the week seemed like a couple of days. The planning and execution was conducted excellently and tastefully as always. I would like to thank everyone for their support and dedication to the WCBF, whether it was their 1st year or 15th year of involvement. It takes all of us to make this special event happen and be successful. On behalf of the IBAF coaches, we thank you for a tremendous event. Unfortunately this year's event had to be divided between three locations and this took away from the close feelings. But we recognize the hard work by all the organizers, staff, sponsors, and volunteers. **THANK YOU!!**
-George Santiago, 2004 WCBF Head Coach



Report from Chris Wilhelm

Canada Chaperon WCBF 2004



Now in its 15th year, the WCBF's stated goal is to foster global understanding among various cultures through the playing of baseball. The Canadian boys certainly achieved this goal. They slept in a room with 15 Japanese boys, and despite language barriers, strong friendships were formed. Also in their dorm were children from Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Indonesia. Nightly games of tag, watching Japanese baseball on television, swimming at the dorm water park, and playing ball together every morning quickly eliminated cultural differences and cemented friendships. Upon leaving, tears were shed and email addresses exchanged. It is certain that many of these global friendships will last a lifetime.

The five boys also experienced many aspects of Japanese culture. They slept on the floor on futons in the Japanese style and ate with chopsticks. They even sampled some authentic Japanese cuisine such as sushi and takoyaki (fried octopus). They attended numerous cultural events including traditional puppetry and drum presentations, a street festival, and an incredible fireworks display. Special highlights were an afternoon at a Japanese amusement park, and visiting a museum memorializing the 6000 victims of the 1995 earthquake. For Brian, Brady, Jarrod, Tommy and Trevor, it was an experience that will never be forgotten.



2004 WCBF Hyogo IBAF Coaches List

- George Santiago, Head Coach, USA
- Greg Kosloff, Sub Head Coach, USA
- Angel Bonilla, USA
- Ila Borders, USA
- Jorge Gabriel Cosio, Cuba
- Mitsuru Onishi, Japan
- Minoru Shimizu, Japan
- Kazuihiro Taira, Japan
- Mike Valcke, Canada
- Tom Valcke, Canada



DIAMOND CLUB Membership Application & Renewal:
Please check our website at: www.wcbf.org and click on the link to "Diamond Club".

KIDS CORNER

- I enjoyed sliding the most because you got cooled off and it was different to the other clinics at the fair. I learnt that there is no lift to stardom - you have to take it one step at a time. Michelle Tallon, age 11, Australia
- I will never forget the yell which the IBAF coaches told us. "It's a great day for baseball, the sun is shining, the birds are singing, and the bats are jumping in the racks, let's go get them!" Bintang Sugito, age 11, Indonesia
- I used to be scared of the ball. But the clinic taught me to try an overcome my fear of getting hit by the ball. Raina Tatingfong, age 11, Guam
- Thank you for all the hard work that you did in creating this year's WCBF.



I enjoyed it very much and feel honoured to have participated. I take pride in telling all my friends at school what a great time I had at the Fair! I really enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the Japanese culture and meeting kids from all over Japan. It was also fantastic meeting kids from all over the world. And special thanks for the generous gift of new baseball equipment. I can't wait to use in the coming season here in New Zealand. Thank you! Pete McDonough, age 11, New Zealand

After I went to Japan, I learned to play baseball a lot better than I could before the trip. I also learned to get along better with my friends. Alex Barnes, age 11, USA

- Dear Sadaharu Oh, How are you? It has been a month since WCBF. I've been practicing baseball according to what you taught me. I enjoyed the 9 days with new friends. If there is another opportunity like this, I would like to take part in it. Thank you very much. I will keep precious memories and baseball supplies you gave us long. Yuhta Betsui, age 10, Japan



THANK YOU

WCBF gives a heartfelt THANKS to all our generous donors & supporters (\$100 & over):

- Hank Aaron
- Akiko Agishi
- Creative Enterprise Intl., Inc.
- Phyl Green
- Major League Baseball
- Sadaharu Oh
- Mario & Karen Ontiveros
- Craig Prengler
- Shimokochi / Reeves
- Richard Yamauchi

EDITOR'S NOTE

The 2005 WCBF summer week event is tentatively set for July 28-August 5, 2004 in Gunma Prefecture, in the Kanto region of Japan. The capital is Maebashi City. WCBF-North America hopes to hold the annual summer event in the USA or in Latin America in the near future. George Santiago, Sary Benzvi and all the WCBF Board members and IBAF coaches are working hard on this! If you can recommend any sponsors, or have any host city suggestions, please call us at WCBF-N.A. HQ at (323) 969-9410 (new number) or by Email at creatent@aol.com. Also we'd love to hear "Where are they now?" news about former WCBF participants! - LK



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