



# Home Run News

World Children's Baseball Fair Newsletter

a non-profit organization



## Happy Holidays!



### Message from WCBF North America Founding Director, Akiko Agishi

Season's Greetings! The 17th WCBF was held in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan!! For me, it was a dream come true.... celebrating the summer event week in my hometown, Sapporo. This year's theme was "Homeruns for Friendship, from Hokkaido to the World".

Host cities, with Sapporo, included Ebetsu, Eniwa, Kita Hiroshima and 170 boys and girls from 18 countries and regions learned baseball techniques from the wonderful coaches of the IBAF. All the hardworking staff, volunteers and coaches made this event another success. The 16 hour train ride by Hokuto, specially chartered for the WCBF children, was an awesome surprise and fun for all. The weather in Hokkaido was cool and the baseball clinic site at Moere Numa Park was huge

and beautiful with Osamu Noguchi's great design. We are so proud and thankful for everyone involved, keeping WCBF going for such a long time — 17 years!! I hope the participants will keep in touch with their new friends across the globe, and will spread the message of peace in the world. - Akiko, 2006



From left, Ms. Harumi Takahashi (Governor of Hokkaido), Akiko, and Mr. Oh)



### 2006 WCBF USA Participants

- Corey Bonilla (N. Valley Stream NY)
- Jake Castagnero (Apex NC)
- Kyle Peco (Raleigh NC)
- Kate Harris (Blue Bell PA)
- Sarah Kovach (New Carlisle IN)
- Jeffrey Lye (Chp) (Raleigh NC)

### EDITOR'S NOTE

We're delighted to let you know that the host city for the 2007 WCBF Summer event has just been decided: San Juan, Puerto Rico! Please check our website for the formal announcement and updates. If you can help with sponsorship or support, please contact WCBF-N.A. HQ at (323) 969-9410 or by Email at [creatent@aol.com](mailto:creatent@aol.com).

**NEWS!** Sadaharu Oh was honored on Nov 7th when he was named the winner of the 2006 Matsutaro Shoriki Award for bringing the inaugural World Baseball Classic championship to Japan in March. It was the fourth time Oh has received the award. After a leave of absence since June when he had his stomach removed due to cancer, Mr. Oh will return to the Fukuoka Softbank Hawks for the 2007 season, his 13th season managing the club. Our sincere best wishes to Mr. Oh!!



**Chris Snelling**, Australia (WCBF 1993), with the MLB Seattle Mariners. Snelling had his first multi-home run game on Aug. 29, hitting two solo home runs off Angels pitcher Jered Weaver. Snelling had an eight-game hit streak in August. He hit his first Major League triple on Aug. 19 against the Angels.

Several other WCBF participants from Australia have had baseball success as well, including **Peter Moylan** (WCBF 1990) who had his pitching debut with the Atlanta Braves in April after being signed by the Braves until they saw him throw a couple of those fastballs against Venezuela on March 9 in the World Baseball Classic.



THE 17TH WORLD CHILDREN'S BASEBALL FAIR 2006 IN HOKKAIDO, JAPAN  
 Homage for Friendship, from Hokkaido to the World  
**第17回世界少年野球大会**  
**北海道大会**  
 北海道から世界へ 飛ばせ友情のホームラン  
 平成18年7月27日(土)～8月4日(日)  
 開会式: 開会式 札幌市東区東1条  
 会場: 札幌市東区東1条  
 主催: WCBF-N.A. 協賛: 北海道野球連盟

Just before the start of the 2006 WCBF Summer Event Week, we received the sudden and sad news of the death of Aldo Notari, President of the International Baseball Federation. His great love for baseball was combined with a thorough technical understanding. He was committed to promoting the development of international Baseball. The entire WCBF family, along with the International Baseball community, the Olympic family, and legions of Baseball fans join in offering their condolences to Aldo Notari's family and loved ones.



As I'm sure you're all aware, Coach Rod Dedeaux passed away on January 5th at age 91. We will always remember him as the most positive and understanding person with his great big heart. He was always encouraging to everyone around him. All of us at the WCBF are going to miss him very much. He will be remembered forever with great love and respect. We have been honored to know him.

## 2006 WCBF SAPPORO, HOKKAIDO, JAPAN



**COACHES  
CORNER**

It is hard to explain to someone who was not there how an eleven day event can change your life. But the WCBF does just that. For eleven days we are a family; focused on the beauty of children and dedicated to their development.

As an IBAF coach, I have the opportunity to meet hardworking WCBF staff, generous sponsors, and committed baseball leaders. Co-Founder of the WCBF, Dr. Akiko Agishi, is a hero of mine; her vision of international exchange and friendship through baseball inspires me to become a better coach, leader, and person.

Everyday in Hokkaido, I saw the differences that the WCBF made in the lives of the children. While playing baseball, participating children made friends with others from around the world. These children are our future leaders, and with memories of their WCBF friendships, they will lead our world to a better place of peace and friendship. The eleven days of the WCBF, does not only change the lives of its participants, but also the landscape for global harmony.

- Justine Siegal, IBAF Coach / WCBF 2006



**KIDS  
CORNER**

**Corey Bonilla, age 10 (USA)**

It was a pleasure to participate in the 17th Annual World Children Baseball Fair in Hokkaido, Japan. I was one of five participants from the U.S.A. We flew with our easy going chaperone Jeff Lye from New York to Tokyo (13 hours). After spending the night at the hotel at Narita we took a 16 hour train ride to Sapporo. We were issued baseball equipments, such as gloves, bats, spikes and uniforms. During the WCBF I met kids from many different countries around the world. There were children from every continent except Antarctica - from Africa to Australia. It was kind of amazing how even though we did not always speak the same languages we still managed to learn and play together. The love of baseball was our common bond. Playing the games brought us closer together.



Every morning we would have baseball clinics from 9.00 am to 11.30 am then we were separated into two teams and we played a game until noon. At the baseball clinics we learned the basics of baseball. We were taught bunting, pitching, hitting, double plays, game situations, base running, throwing, receiving, sliding and a few other topics. The coaches were all very knowledgeable and very patient with us. Mr. George Santiago was the head coach. The other coaches were Greg, Jorge, Rene, Yoshi Uchikawa, Koji Sato, Shoji Saito, Mike, Justine was the only female coach. My dad Angel was also a coach. I know how proud he is of being able to say that he that he has taught every child that has ever attended the WCBF. After the clinics we attended cultural events - Maruyama Zoo, Okurayama Ski Jump Stadium, the Hokkai Naruko Festival, the Historical Village of Hokkaido, Eniwadake Drum, Science Expo '06, Nanazu Dance, the Sapporo Dome, we made and flew kites. Don't forget the Welcome Party, Fireworks night (which unfortunately I fell asleep on) and the Goodwill party where all the participants gathered to say goodbye before departing. My favorite event was watching the karate exercises and their many different moves. This was a great learning experience that no one can take away from me and I would like to thank Dr. Akiko Agishi and the WCBF for inviting me. I am very sorry that Mr. Oh was not able to attend since I was looking forward to meeting him. I hope he is feeling better. Sincerely, Corey Bonilla #3872

**WCBF 2006 Program Schedule:**

- 7/27 Participants arrive. Registration & orientation.
- 7/28 Distribution of equipment & uniforms. Welcome party at Hotel Lifort Sapporo.
- 7/29 Opening Ceremony & photo session at Sapporo Asabu Baseball Ground. Baseball Clinic #1. Exchange game #1. Exchange event: Visit Sapporo Maruyama Zoo and Okurayama Ski Jump Stadium.
- 7/30 Baseball Clinic #2. Exchange game #2. Exchange event: Visit Ebetsu City Gymnasium and field trip to the Historical Village of Hokkaido.
- 7/31 Baseball Clinic #3. Exchange game #3. Exchange event: Eniwadake Drums with local kids and field trip to the Science Expo '06.
- 8/1 Baseball Clinic #4. Exchange game #4. Exchange event: Nanazu Dance with Kita Hiroshima kids and field trip to Sapporo Dome.
- 8/2 Baseball Clinic #5. Exchange game #5. Exchange event: Make and fly kites with local kids at Moere Numa Park Baseball Stadium and trip to Track & Field Stadium. Goodwill Party
- 8/3 Baseball Clinic #6. Closing Ceremony.
- 8/4 Participants depart for home.



**2006 WCBF Sapporo**

**IBAF Coaches List**

- George Santiago, Head Coach, USA
- Greg Kosloff, Sub Head Coach, USA
- Angel Bonilla, USA
- Jorge Cosio, Cuba
- Oswaldo Rivera, Puerto Rico
- Koji Sato, Japan
- Shoji Saito, Japan
- Justine Siegal, USA
- Yoshihisa Uchikawa, Japan
- Mike Valcke, Canada



**DIAMOND CLUB**  
Membership Application & Renewal:  
Please check our website at:  
<[www.wcbf.org](http://www.wcbf.org)>

**THANK YOU**  
WCBF gives a heartfelt THANKS to all our generous donors & supporters :

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Mr. Choji Murata (WCBF Spokesperson) & USA Children with Mamoru Shimokochi and Akiko.



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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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