



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! We had another successful WCBF Summer week, in Maebashi, Gunma Pref, Japan. The USA sent five children & a chaperon, and this year the USA team was honored with an award from the IBAF coaches, "One of the Best Five Teams" in recognition of their high level of participation, hustle,

teamwork, and enthusiasm during the baseball clinics. With the help of all our generous sponsors, volunteers, participants and patrons, the Summer Event Week went smoothly and was enjoyed by all. We greatly appreciate your support and assistance for the WCBF 2005 event, which was our 16th Anniversary!

We are sincerely hoping to bring the WCBF summer event back to USA in 2007. As of now, both Paul Seiler, USA baseball and Barry Mitsch, 2005 USA chaperon &

Vice-President of The Pyramid Resource Group, Inc. are seeking the possibility of hosting WCBF in Cary, North Carolina to coincide with the opening of their new baseball stadium (which will be the new USA Baseball National Training Center). George Santiago, head coach of IBAF for WCBF is also seeking the possibility for San Juan, Puerto Rico to be the WCBF host city.

We sincerely hope either one will become reality for 2007, and we will all work together. Thank you for your continuous support and friendship to WCBF. - AA

Where are they now?

We had a WCBF participant in 1991 (Chiba), **Frederich Cepeda Cruz**, from Cuba. Is this the same person, **Frederich Cepeda**, who is now playing for the Cuba national team, winning Gold at both the 2004 Olympics and the 2005 IBA XXXVI Baseball World Cup? He's the right age...

In 1990, **Vicki Uwland** of Australia was a participant. Must be the same Vicki Uwland currently on the ALPG (Australian Ladies Professional Golf) Tour. She's played in 34 events since turning pro in 2002/2003.

Chris Snelling, Australia (WCBF 1993) is currently a member of the Seattle Mariners! Fukuoka Softbank Hawks Manager

Sadaharu Oh will head Japan's baseball team in the World Baseball Classic (WBC), Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) officials said. "I agreed to become manager of the team because Japan's entire baseball world has offered to fully support it. I'd like to form the best possible team in a bid to win the WBC," Oh, 65, told a news conference held on Oct 10, 2005.

CONGRATULATIONS to you all!



2005 WCBF Participants from the USA:

- Eric Berger - Raleigh NC
- Lindsay Cork - Statesboro GA
- Teddy Minaya - HarringtonPark NJ
- Hank Mitsch - Cary NC
- Jessica Nemerovski - San Francisco CA
- Barry Mitsch (Chp)- Cary NC

We are thrilled to announce that the **2006 WCBF summer week is set for July 27-August 4, 2006 in the cities of Sapporo, Eniwa and Ebetsu** in the beautiful prefecture of **Hokkaido**. The island features a diversity of breathtaking mountain scenes and beautiful landscapes.

If you can recommend any sponsors for future events, or have any host city suggestions, please call us at WCBF-N.A. HQ at (323) 969-9410 or by Email at <creatent@aol.com>. Also we'd love to hear "Where are they now?" news about former WCBF participants! - LK



WCBF 2005 MAEBASHI, GUNMA

What beautiful country we visited for the 2005 WCBF. Once again the WCBF did a wonderful job in ensuring this year's Fair to one of the best ever. The trip to the mountain top to the children's home took my breath. Truly one of the most beautiful sights this side of heaven.



Although very hot on most days the weather was perfect for baseball. The clinics this year were again taught by some of the best coaches in the world. I feel very honored and thankful to be a member of the IBAF coaching staff. The opportunity to share baseball and life lessons with children from all over the world gives me so much joy and happiness. Although I struggled with health issues, this year the Fair was the best medicine I have ever received. The highlight of my trip was my one on one meeting with the greatest home run king of all time, Mr. Oh. We shared thoughts, laughter and hugs. Mr. Oh is truly a hero of mine. I thank Mr. Oh, Mr. Aaron, and Dr. Akiko Agishi for having the courage and fortitude 16 years ago to initiate this program to help promote world peace and happiness through baseball. Their continued support along with the tireless efforts of the WCBF Staff has proven that through baseball, all can be achieved. I know that because of the WCBF I'm a much wiser person. Thank you WCBF. May God bless all of you always! - **Greg Kosloff, 2005 WCBF Sub Head Coach**



The WCBF children are my greatest memories in Maebashi. Although we all spoke different languages, the language of baseball brought us together. With 20 different countries represented, it is amazing to see how much we are all alike rather than different. In the end, the smiles on everyone's faces, including the children, volunteers, staff, and coaches proved the success of WCBF 2005. Below is my favorite picture at the WCBF. - **Justine Siegal, 2005 WCBF Coach & Womens Baseball League**



2005 WCBF Gunma IBAF Coaches List

- George Santiago, Head Coach, USA
- Greg Kosloff, Sub Head Coach, USA
- Kenji Akune, Japan
- Angel Bonilla, USA
- Fidel Breijo, Cuba
- Jorge Gabriel Cosio, Cuba
- Andre Lachance, Canada
- Justine Siegal, USA
- Shoji Saito, Japan
- Mike Valcke, Canada



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● My time at the WCBF was a very good experience. It was a once in a lifetime chance and it was. My favorite part about it was making friends with kids from around the world. The flight to Japan was long but it was worth it. Once I got there I was like "Wow I never thought I would make it here". The opening ceremony was good, but I was still homesick and then we went to a drumming place where we got to do the drums that was when I started to have fun. Then the next day when we went to a festival, I had a lot of good food and even got some gifts. The next day was the best day for baseball it wasn't that hot and I hit a home run, after that we went to a water park and had a great time at the waterslides. The day after that we got to see a Japanese supermarket and a dollar store. We also had a good will party and I ate 5 slices of pizza. The last day was very sad we played games all day and had a goodbye ceremony, then we woke up at 6 in the morning to leave and said goodbye to all our friends. We took a ten hour flight home and was happy to be home. That was my experience at wcbf and I will never forget it and will always be grateful for the opportunity of a lifetime. - **Teddy Minaya, age 11, USA**



● Hello I am the Hong Kong participant of the 2005 Gunma WCBF. I learn a lot of things about baseball and meet children of the same age from different countries. Thank you to my caretaker Nancy who takes care of me and my team. It is a fantastic and unforgettable experience for me. I can learn the skills of baseball and understand the culture of Japan. If there is a chance I will come back to visit Japan and Gunma Prefecture again. - **Francis Yeung, age 10, Hong Kong**



THANK YOU

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

- Hank Aaron, Akiko Agishi, Creative Enterprise Intl. Inc., Major League Baseball, Sadaharu Oh, Mario & Karen Ontiveros, Shimokochi / Reeves, Richard Yamauchi, 2001 Frankel Family Trust, Lee Berger, Capital Radio Network, Naomi Cohen, Fail Safe Construction, Linda Jacobson, David & Lisa Koch, Omar & Rachel Minaya, Kenneth Nemerovski, John&Barbie Nemerovski, Michael Parker, Plonsker Financial Management Consulting, Pyramid Resource Group Inc., Fay Prolman, Sourceone, Inc., Curtis & Laura Steinke, Harold Zlot

WCBF 2005 Program Schedule:

- 7/28 Participants arrive. Regstrn & orientation.
- 7/29 Distribution of equipment & uniforms. Welcome party at the Tokyu Inn.
- 7/30 Opening Ceremony & photo session at Maebashi Athletic Park. Baseball Clinic #1. Exchange game #1. Japanese drums and dance with children from Miyagi.
- 7/31 Baseball Clinic #2. Exchange game #2. Attend Ogo Gion Festival with Ogo children.
- 8/1 Baseball Clinic #3. Exchange game #3. With Maebashi children, swimming at Rokku pool & camp fire in Akagi.
- 8/2 Baseball Clinic #4. Exchange game #4. Visit Kasukawa Park and Spa with local children.
- 8/3 Baseball Clinic #5. Exchange game #5. Goodwill Party & VIP Banquet at Maebashi Terrsa.
- 8/4 Baseball Clinic #6. Closing Ceremony.
- 8/5 Participants depart for home.



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