

The 1940 Keio University Baseball Tour of Hawaii

By Gary Bedingfield



In this issue:

Release of a new book—*Aloha and Sayonara*—the story of the 1940 Keio University baseball team

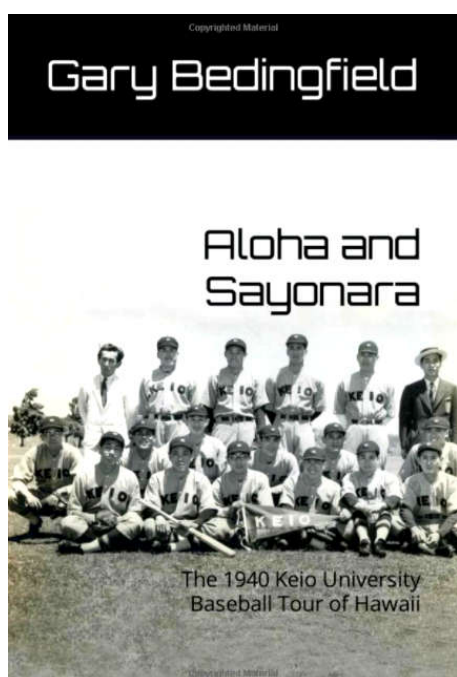
The 1940 Keio University Baseball Tour of Hawaii

Welcome to the latest edition of the Baseball in Wartime Newsletter. While researching *Baseball in Hawaii During World War II*, I came across many Hawaii-related side stories. Some were included in the book when it was released in 2021, while others I chose to hold in reserve and tell the full story once I was in a better position to do so. The story of the 1940 Keio University baseball team tour of Hawaii was one such story that needed to be told in its entirety. It's a story that spans far beyond the summer of 1940, with links to early 20th century Japanese touring teams, tragedy and death on the battlefields of World War II, and into the early years of post-war professional Japanese baseball.

What follows is an adapted version of a 39-page booklet that is available on amazon. The amazon version includes 25 photos, line scores of all games, and a list of Japanese baseball teams that visited Hawaii prior to WWII. But, more importantly, it tells of the tragedy and triumph faced by the players on their return to Japan. It has been produced at cost price and is available in all regions.

This newsletter and the full booklet would not have been possible without the help of numerous people along the way. Special thanks goes to Mr. Kai Fujii of the Keio Baseball Club, who has answered my continuous questions throughout the process and helped with locating photographs of the 1940 team. Thanks also to Associate Professor Takeyuki Tokura at the Fukuzawa Memorial Center for Modern Japanese Studies, Keio University, for reviewing my manuscript and granting permission to use photographs from the collection. Special thanks also go to my friend, Mr. Yoichi Nagata, whose knowledge of baseball in his homeland of Japan, never ceases to amaze me.

Gary Bedingfield
Ayrshire, Scotland
April 2022



Aloha and Sayonara

The 1940 Keio University Baseball Tour of Hawaii

47 pages

25 photographs

Batting and pitching statistics

Line scores of all games

What became of the players upon their return

List of pre-WWII Japanese teams to visit Hawaii

...and much more.

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ISBN 979-8433812383

This newsletter features an adapted version of *Aloha and Sayonara* that is available from amazon

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The 1940 Keio University baseball team. Back row, left to right: Professor Ishimaru (Faculty Representative), Tamotsu Kusumoto, Mitsuo Uno, Tatsuji Nezu, Coach Isamu Morita and Toru Shoriki (Student Representative). Middle row: Masao Takagi, Takeo Nakata, Keiji Narita, Giichiro Shiraki, Kaneyoshi Kakei and Tsuyoshi Iwamoto. Front row: Ichiro Matsumori, Eiroku Odate, Shinichiro Inoue, Seiji Takatsuka, Haruo Nagara and Kaname Miyazaki. (From the collection of Fukuzawa Memorial Center for Modern Japanese Studies, Keio University).

The 1940 Keio University Baseball Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Shinichiro "Silent" Inoue	C	22	Yonago
Tsuyoshi "Waialua" Iwamoto	1B	24	Oahu, Hawaii
Kaneyoshi "Kane" Kakei	OF	24	Nagoya
Tamotsu "Cappy" Kusumoto	RF/Captain	26	Akashi
Ichiro "Mats" Matsumori	C	21	Himeji
Kaname "Flash" Miyazaki	2B	24	Saga City
Haruo "Jay" Nagara	2B	21	Gifu
Takeo "25-inning" Nakata	CF	25	Akashi
Keiji "KG" Narita	P	21	Yonago
Tatsuji "Fleety" Nezu	LF	23	Fukuroi
Eiroku "Surefoot" Odate	SS	23	Narumi
Giichiro "Outcorner" Shiraki	P	20	Tokyo
Masao "Specs" Takagi	P	22	Kyoto
Seiji "Lefty" Takatsuka	P	23	Kakegawa
Mitsuo "Slugger" Uno	3B	23	Nagoya
Isamu Morita	Coach	33	Kyoto
Professor Shigeharu Ishimaru	Faculty Representative	38	Tokyo
Toru Shoriki	Student Manager	21	Tokyo

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When the 17,000-ton NYK ocean liner *Tatuta Maru* left Yokohama bound for Honolulu on June 29, 1940, among the 753 passengers on board were two baseball teams. The Asahis of the Hawaii League were returning from their less-than-successful participation in the East Asian Games, while the Keio University team - co-champions of the Tokyo Big Six Collegiate Baseball League - were heading for a 12-game exhibition series against Hawaii League teams on Oahu and Hilo Senior Baseball League teams on the island of Hawaii.

The Asahis, made up of players of Japanese ancestry, had represented Hawaii in the East Asian Games in Japan, a multi-sport event (as well as baseball there was basketball, soccer, field hockey, track and field, tennis, boxing, wrestling, cycling, volleyball, table tennis, handball and yacht racing) that replaced the 1940 Tokyo Olympics which was canceled following the German invasion of Poland in September 1939. The four-team series saw the Asahis defeated by Japan, 4-3, and by the Philippines, 4-2, before losing a 1-0 heartbreaker to Manchukuo (a part of northeast China that was at the time Japan's puppet nation). The Japanese entrant in the East Asian Games, which won the event without defeat, was a college all-star team and seven of the Keio University players traveling to the Hawaiian Islands had been on that team.

Keio University, one of the most prestigious private universities in Japan and established in 1858, has a long history with baseball. It fielded one of the first teams in Japan in 1888 and was part of the three-university league (Keio, Waseda and Meiji) that started in 1914. By 1921, the league had become the Big Five (Hosei joined in 1917, and Rikkyo in 1921) and with the admittance of Tokyo Imperial University in 1925, the league became the Tokyo Big Six. Until the growth of the Japanese professional league after World War II, college baseball was the number one game in town, but from the fall of 1906 thru 1925, Keio and Waseda didn't play each other even though they were in the same league. During a 1906 game, their cheering groups had overheated, and the game was canceled. Nevertheless, the Waseda-Keio rivalry continues to this day. Known as *Sokei-sen*, the annual Waseda-Keio game is much like the Harvard-Yale football rivalry.

The *Tatuta Maru* was a luxurious Japanese-built ship that had been making transatlantic crossings since 1930. The passenger areas were of the highest quality with polished woods, stained glass skylights, fine dining rooms, lounges, a library and a swimming pool. By the time she steamed past Diamond Head with many of the passengers on deck getting their first glimpse of Honolulu, the players of both teams had become good friends.

The Keio traveling party consisted of 15 players, a coach, a faculty representative and a student manager. Among the Keio players was first baseman Tsuyoshi Iwamoto who, unlike his teammates, spoke in a half-Hawaiian, half-American dialect and didn't need a visitor's visa because he was an American citizen born on Oahu. His parents, Umeju and Tsugu, had come to the Hawaiian Islands in the early 1900s and worked on the sugar plantation at Waialua on the northern shore of Oahu. Like most Island children of Japanese parentage, Tsuyoshi's birth in 1916 had been registered with the Japanese government, providing him dual-nationality. He had attended elementary school and Leilehua High School in Waialua, before heading to Japan to attend middle school in 1934. He went on to prep school and entered Tokyo's Keio University in March 1940, taking over at first base from recently graduated Shigeya Iijima. Iijima had been part of a spectacular Keio quartet of players that had been dubbed "the million-dollar infield." Although Iijima had graduated and would play pro

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baseball after the war, fellow million-dollar infielders Kaname Miyazaki (second base), Mitsuo Uno (third base) and Eiroku Odate (shortstop) were making the trip to Hawaii.

In 1908, Keio University had been the first Japanese university to play baseball in the Hawaiian Islands, and Keio teams had made three further visits although not since 1928. Japanese touring teams, sometimes on the way to the mainland United States, always received a warm welcome, especially among the Island's large community of first-generation Japanese (Issei) and those born on the Islands to Japanese parents (Nisei), like Iwamoto.

Japanese workers and their families began arriving in Hawaii in the 1860s, because the growing need for labor to work the sugarcane and pineapple plantations had to be sourced from overseas. The Islands were littered with plantations that became notorious for low pay, long work hours and substandard living conditions, but that didn't stop the Japanese government signing an immigration agreement with Hawaii in 1885, and during the following nine years, nearly 30,000 Japanese arrived. This influx of workers created a population that by 1930, was 38 percent of Japanese descent, and the *Saikin Hawaii annai*, a guidebook published in Hawaii for newly arrived Japanese, described the Islands as "a Japanese village in the middle of the Pacific."

But all was not peace and harmony between Japan and the United States. During the 1930s, the United States had grown extremely wary of the continually growing threat of Japanese expansionism. Since 1931 - when the Japanese invaded Manchuria - China and Japan had been in conflict. By 1937, Japanese desires to secure access to raw material reserves, food and labor, had escalated to the full-blown and extremely brutal Second Sino-Japanese War. In response to Japanese territorial gains and a breakdown in communication between the two countries, President Franklin D. Roosevelt increased military presence in Hawaii and moved the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet from California to a new home - Pearl Harbor - just two months before the arrival of the Keio University team.

Honolulu in 1940, was a bustling city with a population of over 250,000, and now more than ever its sidewalks were crowded with men in military uniform strolling among the swaying palm trees, lei vendors, souvenir hawkers and newsboys. At that time, a military posting to Hawaii was nothing to complain about because of the glamor and allure of life in the Islands. Although it was an important strategic outpost, it was also a popular destination for a vacation with visitors enjoying a relaxed and blissful time with a wonderful climate, beautiful scenery, pristine beaches and hospitable people. There was surfing and bathing at Waikiki Beach, along with fishing, movies and dancing at the waterfront hotels like the Royal Hawaiian and the Moana.

The *Tatuta Maru* was a day late in departing from Yokohama, which meant the eight-day voyage would have the Keio team arriving on the same day as their first scheduled game, rather than the day before. Docking at Pier 8 in Honolulu on Sunday morning July 7, 1940, with the front page of the *Honolulu Advertiser* echoing U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Tausigg's warning for the United States to "arm for Pacific War," the team had time for a quick workout and to try and get rid of their sea legs at the University of Hawaii's ballfield before heading to Honolulu Stadium (affectionately known as Termite Palace) to face the Hawaii League's Navy team. Represented by Submarine Squadron Four of the United States Navy at Pearl Harbor, the Navy team had played in the Hawaii League since 1932, and

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three members of the 1940 squad - second baseman Jim Bertero, outfielder Karl Fastnacht and pitcher George "Nig" Henry - had played for the 1935 Hawaii League championship Navy team.

With 5,506 enthusiastic fans in attendance, Consul General Kiichiro Gunji of the Japanese Consulate, with Honolulu Mayor Charles S. Crane as his batterymate, fired a few strikes past the flailing bat of Koichi Iida of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, before the two teams took to the field. Despite a promising start, the sailors struggled to get to grips with the round-house curves of right-hander Masao Takagi and were beaten, 9-4. Takagi, professor-looking in his circular, dark-rimmed glasses, had been a rival of the great Eiji Sawamura during his school days pitching at Heian. He'd helped the team to the National Middle School Baseball Championship final in 1933 and entered Keio in 1936. Navy pitcher Nig Henry kept the Keio hitters to a single run for five innings, but the Japanese bats came alive in the sixth as they shook off the effects of their 3,400-mile voyage, producing four runs to take a 5-2 lead. Shortstop Eiroku Odate then blasted a 2-run homer into the stands in the seventh and a further two Keio runs in the eighth clinched the game. "I was so tired I almost keeled over," commented one of the Keio players after the game, in reference to having spent over a week at sea and playing a ball game just hours after arriving.

Gift-giving has long been woven into Japanese culture and among the many gifts that Keio University baseball coach Isamu Morita brought with him was a six-piece Arita ware tea set for an ever-popular major league ballplayer – Mickey Cochrane. In 1931, Cochrane had been part of a major league excursion to Japan along with fellow future hall of famers Lefty Grove, Lou Gehrig and Al Simmons, and had developed long-lasting friendships with many of the Japanese players and fans. The Nippu Jiji – a dual-language Japanese newspaper in Honolulu and sponsor of the Keio University visit - was entrusted with the tea set's safe transit to Cochrane in Detroit.

The Keio players – using as their base the Kobayashi Hotel in Honolulu on Beretania Street opposite Aala Park - spent the first week visiting many of Oahu's tourist attractions and returned to the baseball field on Saturday July 13, with a triumphant 12-1 victory over the Hawaiians, sending George Perkins to the showers in the second inning and being equally unfair in their treatment of replacements Henry Brum and Jay Rawlins. Giichiro Shiraki, a handsome, hard-throwing 20-year-old right-hander who had pitched middle school baseball at Keio Shoko before entering Keio University, dominated the locals with his fastball and allowed just five hits, although the game was marred by the beaming of Keio's catcher, Ichiro Matsumori, who was taken to the Japanese Hospital on Kuakini Street in Honolulu with suspected concussion (he suffered numbness in his right arm and leg but made a full recovery and was discharged five days later). The following day, perhaps partly due to concern over their injured teammate, the Keios suffered a surprising 7-1 defeat at the hands of the All-Chinese. The game drew the best crowd of the series with 8,400 paid guests passing through the turnstiles at Honolulu Stadium to see Eddie Kaulukukui (one of five brothers at the heart of Oahu baseball during the 1930s to 1950s) hold the visitors to three hits, despite walking 10.

The next game, their first under floodlights, was on Thursday July 18, bouncing back from their recent loss by thumping the Hawaii League-leading Wanderers, 7-1, and knocking Herbert "Buster" North, who had pitched professional baseball for Nagoya in Japan in 1936, out of the game in the first inning. Masao Takagi won his second game of the series scattering 10 hits, while local boy, Tsuyoshi Iwamoto, homered in the second inning and Kaname Miyazaki thrilled the crowd by stealing home in the eighth.

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On Saturday July 20, the Keios beat their transatlantic shipmates, the Asahis, 5-3, despite the local team scoring three runs in the first inning. After Keio starter Keiji Narita gave up the Asahi's fifth hit in the second inning, coach Morita ushered in left-hander Seiji Takatsuka, who promptly hurled no-hit ball for the rest of the game. The game was followed by a luau (traditional Hawaiian party) hosted by the Asahis at Lalani Hawaiian Village in Waikiki. The evening featured traditional Hawaiian food, including poi (a purple pudding-like dish made from the root of the taro plant) and manapua (steamed dumplings), with entertainment from local musicians and hula dancers.

The next day the Keios outplayed the Braves with an 8-0 victory. Giichiro Shiraki scattered five hits in the game while Herbert Spinola of the Braves was battered for six runs before being replaced in the sixth by Len Kasparovitch, who would pitch in the minors and Japan after the war. Before the game, Umeju Iwamoto, father of Keio first baseman Tsuyoshi Iwamoto, presented to coach Morita a goodwill trophy. With his proud father in the stands, Iwamoto hit his second home run of the series.



*Masao Takagi (left) with Professor Ishimaru in Hawaii
(From the collection of Fukuzawa Memorial Center for Modern Japanese
Studies, Keio University).*

Around this time, rumors had been spreading across the Islands that the Keio University trip was more a business trip than to play baseball, insinuating the players would be returning home to Japan with their pockets stuffed with American dollars from gate receipts. "We're not here to make money," Professor Shigeharu Ishimaru, faculty representative, explained to the Nippu Jiji newspaper. "We came mainly for two reasons - to play baseball and to see your beautiful islands. There is absolutely no truth attached to any of the wild rumors that Keio is to take a cut of the gate receipts...we have to be awfully careful not to defile our amateur standing."

The Keio players made a sight-seeing tour around Oahu on Monday July 22, with lunch at the Castle House in Laie, a glass bottom boat ride and a visit to the sugar plantation in Waialua. Two days later, as a reminder of the continued tension between Japan and America, two Japanese "aliens" were arrested for taking photos at Pier 27 in Honolulu. The two men – Takeo Isoshima and Haruki Fujikawa – were arrested by police and investigated by FBI agents before being released later the same day.

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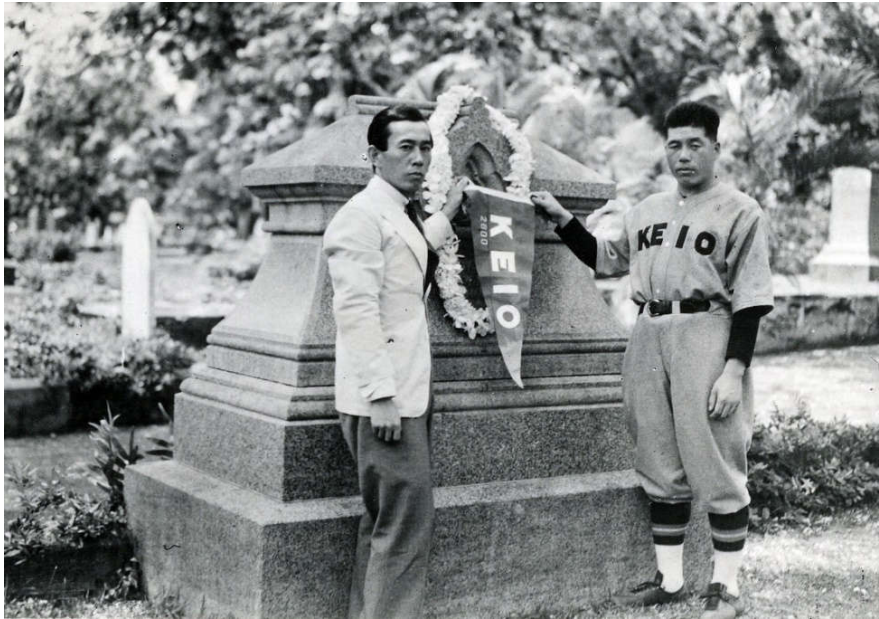
On Thursday July 25, the Keios suffered their second defeat of the tour in a 2-1 loss to the Wanderers. Johnny Kerr, who had pitched briefly for the Pacific Coast League San Francisco Seals in 1936, allowed just two hits, struck out 11 and tripled before scoring what proved to be the winning run in the seventh. But the game ended in what the press described as a “near riot,” when Keio baserunner, Haruo Nagara, a former National Middle School Baseball Championship winner with Gifu Commercial School, was caught in a rundown and made the final out trying to scramble back to first base on what looked to many like a balk by Kerr.

On Sunday July 28, Keio University completed their Hawaii League series and avenged their earlier defeat to the All-Chinese with a 5-0 win in the second meeting of the two teams. Shiraki was on top form allowing just two hits (one in the first and one in the ninth), walking one, striking out nine and allowing no base runner beyond second base. He was proving to be one of the finest pitchers to ever visit the Islands from Japan, despite Takagi and Takatsuka having been the team’s recognized aces. It had been hoped former Negro League pitcher Ted Shaw would throw for the All-Chinese. Shaw had previously visited Japan and the Waseda University team had faced him on their visit to the Islands in 1938, returning to their homeland singing his praises. Unfortunately, Shaw was sidelined with a leg injury from a Hawaii League game earlier in the week and it was Eddie Kaulukukui - who had beaten the Keios two weeks earlier - who suffered the loss. After the game, the Keios spent the evening as guests at the Japanese Consulate on Nuuanu Avenue in Honolulu, hosted by Consul General Gunji and his wife, Otomi. Gunji had arrived in Honolulu in March 1940, saying that, “Hawaii, here in the middle of the Pacific, halfway between Japan and the United States mainland, is a good meeting ground on which these nations can be brought to a better understanding.” However, what Gunji was keen to get a better understanding about was the fleet of the United States Navy. Gunji had been requested by the Japanese Foreign Office to send regular reports on the movements of the Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor. And he didn’t have to look far to find that information as the two local newspapers – the *Advertiser* and *Star-Bulletin* - obligingly detailed all the daily comings and goings of U.S. Navy vessels. Gunji sent this information in code to Tokyo by commercial telegraph. What was public information in Hawaii became highly classified when it reached Japan. Gunji didn’t stay long in Hawaii. He was back in Tokyo by September 1940, claiming that the “Japanese in Hawaii are all determined to undergo great sacrifices for Japan during the present uneasy condition of relations” between the United States and Japan. Gunji was replaced by Otojiro Okuda who, in turn, was replaced in March 1941 by Nagao Kita. Arriving with Kita as vice-consul was Tadashi Morimura. But Morimura was in fact a Japanese naval intelligence officer named Takeo Yoshikawa, who operated as a spy in Honolulu, providing detailed reports on U.S. Navy movements and the exact layout of Pearl Harbor. However, Yoshikawa’s view of the local Japanese population differed drastically from that of Gunji. Yoshikawa later said, “Those men of influence and character who might have assisted me in my secret mission were unanimously uncooperative.”

The Keios had completed their series against Hawaii League teams with an impressive 6-2 record in front of over 30,000 fans. Their next port of call was the Big Island - Hawaii. But before leaving Oahu they visited the grave of Alexander Cartwright in Honolulu. A hall of famer, one of the founding members of the New York Knickerbockers Base Ball Club and contributor to the rules of modern baseball, Cartwright had moved to the Islands in 1849 and remained until his death in 1892. Cartwright’s tombstone had become a sight of pilgrimage for baseball fans and the Keios placed a lei

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(flower garland) and left a Keio University pennant, which was later presented to the Cartwright family.



July 29, 1940.
Professor Ishimaru
and Coach Morita
at the grave of
Alexander
Cartwright which is
located at Oahu
Cemetery in
Honolulu. The
pennant they are
holding was later
presented to the
Cartwright family.
*(From the collection
of Fukuzawa
Memorial Center for
Modern Japanese
Studies, Keio
University)*

Bound for the island of Hawaii, the Keios left Oahu on the late-afternoon Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company's SS Hualalai, on Tuesday July 30. The 200-mile journey gave the team time to reflect on their performance so far. Shiraki had been exceptional, pitching three complete games and doing relief work in two others, allowing a total of just one run. Shortstop Eiroku Odate and second baseman Mitsuo Uno (former Wakayama Middle School infielder who had competed in the National Middle School Baseball Championships on four occasions) had been the team's consistent hitters, Iwamoto had hit two home runs and bespectacled catcher Shinichiro Inoue – who had played middle school baseball at Yonago Middle School, where he was batterymate to Hideo Shimizu who played 11 years of professional baseball - had proven to be the best Japanese defensive backstop the Islands had seen. The journey also gave them time to look over the prizes they'd received for their performance during the Hawaii League series. Among the prize winners were Shiraki, who was given an U.S. made Gruen watch and leather jacket for being named MVP; Tatsuji Nezu, former middle school outfielder with Shimada Commercial School, who received a Japanese made Seikosha watch as batting champion (Nezu went on to lead the Tokyo Big Six in hitting in the fall of 1940); Odate, who was awarded a radio for the most RBIs; Inoue, who received a watch and pen set for his outstanding defensive work as a catcher; Iwamoto, who received woolen items and a pen for being the home run champ. Takeo Nakata – whose school career included a 2-1 win over Sawamura, receipt of the Excellent Player Award at the 1933 National Middle School Baseball Championships and a 25-inning win over Chukyo Commercial School (which might explain why he was an outfielder by the time he got to Keio) - got a pair of shoes for stealing the most bases and Kusumoto – who was a middle school teammate of Nakata and earned the Excellent Player Award in 1932 - was given a watch for his leadership skills.

The Keios arrived for a three-game weekend series against Hilo Senior Baseball League teams on Wednesday July 31 and were immediately paraded through the streets of Hilo before dropping off their luggage at the Okino Hotel on Kamehameha Avenue (the hotel was destroyed in the 1946 tsunami). While local newspapers told of how the British government had no fears that Japan would aggravate the Anglo-Japanese tension to the point of war, the Keios visited the Kilauea volcano as

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well as the Rainbow Falls and 'Akaka Falls. Coach Morita also had an opportunity to meet Yoshiro Koshimoto, younger brother of the late Hisashi Koshimoto, former Keio coach. "While in my school days, [Koshimoto] did much for me," said coach Morita, who was a pitcher at Keio from 1926 to 1931. Born at Papaikou, Hawaii, Hisashi had gone to Japan to attend school in 1905 and went on to play third base at Keio University from 1914 to 1917. Additionally, in 1916, he coached Keio Futsubu School and won the Japanese middle school championship. Hisashi coached Keio University from 1925 to 1934, winning seven championships and bringing them over to Hawaii in 1928. Author of three books on baseball and known as the "Japanese John McGraw," Hisashi died in 1935, aged just 40. He was inducted in the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame in 1967 (one of three Hawaiians who have been inducted).

On Saturday August 3 at Hilo's Hoolulu Park (now the site of Francis Wong Stadium), with the game broadcast on KHBC Radio, the Keios defeated the Waiakea Pirates, 7-2. Left-hander Takatsuka was in fine form giving up two hits and a run in the first inning, but then keeping the Pirates hitless until the ninth. Inoue, the diminutive catcher, thrilled the crowd with two pinpoint throws to nail runners at second. Among the 2,500 fans that had gathered at Hoolulu Park from all parts of the island, were the officers and cadets of the Taisei Maru, a Japanese training ship from Tokyo Nautical College which had recently arrived in Hilo.

Sunday August 4, became "Shiraki Day" when he put in stellar performances in both games – beating the Crescent Turks in the day's opener and shutting down the Japanese Athletic Club All-Stars in a nifty relief performance in the night cap. In front of 3,500 fans – the biggest crowd at Hoolulu Park in years - Shiraki, the tall right-hander, outdueled Lefty Perreira and held the Turks to just three hits with 11 strike outs. He faced just 29 batters, retired the Turks in order the first six innings and got the better of them, 1-0, with shortstop Eiroku Odate driving in the winning run in the bottom of the ninth. In the afternoon game against the Japanese Athletic Club, Shiraki entered the game in the bottom of the ninth. With Takagi clinging to a 2-1 lead with one out and two runners aboard, Shiraki struck out both batters he faced to end the game.

On Monday morning, August 5, the Keios - loaded with gifts and prizes that included a wristwatch given to third baseman Mitsuo Uno as MVP and an electric razor given to second baseman Kaname Miyazaki as batting champ - flew back to Honolulu on the Inter-Island Airways' Sikorsky S-43 Baby Clipper flying boat. They were no doubt amused by the observations of sportswriter Ray Yuen in that morning's issue of the *Hilo Tribune-Herald*, who described the pitching as "tighter than Aunt Susie's corset," and praised the pinpoint accuracy of the "little back-stopper Inoue, who made the thousands who attended the game wonder what he had in that short arm of his."

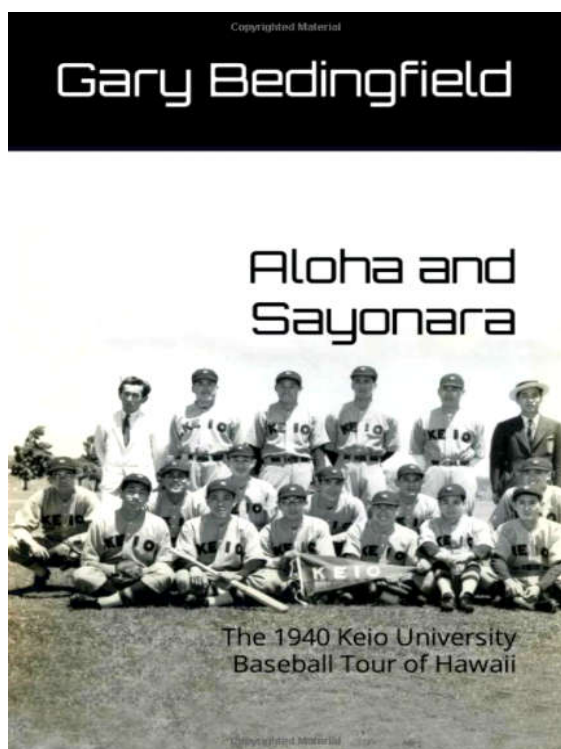
Their final game of the tour, on the afternoon of Monday August 5, was a special event dedicated to local boy Tsuyoshi Iwamoto, the quiet and reserved Keio University first baseman. It was played in his hometown of Waialua on Oahu with his family in attendance, including his sister Miyuki, brothers Susumu and Isami, and one-year-old nephew Toshio. The local community bestowed gifts on the Keio players and especially their local hero, while Tsuyoshi's father, Umeju, presented his own gifts to all the team members. The Keios went on to beat the Waialua Japanese team, 3-0, and a banquet was then held at the Waialua YBA (Young Buddhist Association) hall, to mark the end of the Keio's visit.

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The Keios had won 10 of 12 games with Nezu leading the hitting with a .364 batting average. Shiraki had won four games and allowed just a single run in 43 innings, while Takatsuka had three wins and Takagi had two. In total, the tour had grossed \$15,177, of which the Hawaii League received \$3,500, while the Nippu Jiji got \$5,894 to put towards the costs of sponsoring the team's accommodation, transportation and entertainment.

Three days later, carrying boxes of gifts given them by the adoring fans of the Islands, it was said the Keio players "sobbed like babes" when they boarded the ocean liner Kamakura Maru for the journey home to Japan. One of the last photos of the team on Oahu shows the players adorned with leis with the iconic Aloha Tower in the background, and a promise to return for another baseball tour in 1942. Perhaps touched by the kindness and generosity of the people of Oahu, and a renewed love for his place of birth, Tsuyoshi Iwamoto, expatriated himself as a Japanese national during his time on the Islands. During a period of worsening tension between the two nations, he returned to a rapidly-changing Japan as a fully-fledged American.

Read Aloha and Sayonara to find out what happened after the team returned to Japan!



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During the summer of 1940, in contrast to the downwardly spiraling political relationship between Japan and the United States, the Keio University baseball team traveled from Tokyo to the Hawaiian Islands. *Aloha and Sayonara* tells the story of the last Japanese baseball team to visit the Hawaiian Islands – a tradition that dated back to 1908 - before the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor. With game-by-game, and almost day-by-day coverage, this is a never-before-told insight into the lives of 15 young Japanese college students who came to play baseball, the game they loved, and were soon to be in deadly conflict with their new-found friends. *Aloha and Sayonara* explores their early years, their time in Hawaii and then follows the young players' journey back to Japan. For some, the journey continues to post-war professional baseball. For others it ends on the battlefields of the Pacific islands. Brought to you by the author of *Baseball in Hawaii During World War II*, this is the first complete account of the 1940 Keio University baseball tour of Hawaii. Featuring photographs that haven't been seen for over 80 years, *Aloha and Sayonara* takes you back to the summer of 1940, when baseball was the number one game in town.

Baseball in Hawaii During World War II

Gary Bedingfield



Baseball in Hawaii During World War II is the first in-depth look at the wartime exploits of over 150 major leaguers and countless minor league players who found themselves stationed in the Hawaiian Islands between 1941 and 1945. With the inclusion of 150 biographies and over 80 photographs the book details every victory and every tragedy of wartime baseball in the paradise of the Pacific. Produced in a chronological order, the book first delves into the history of baseball in the Islands and how varied ethnicities shaped the structure and development of the game. Starting with 1941, the book then takes a year-by-year in-depth look at the war, Hawaii and baseball as played by civilians and servicemen.

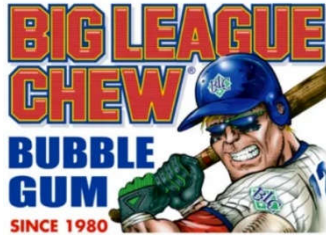
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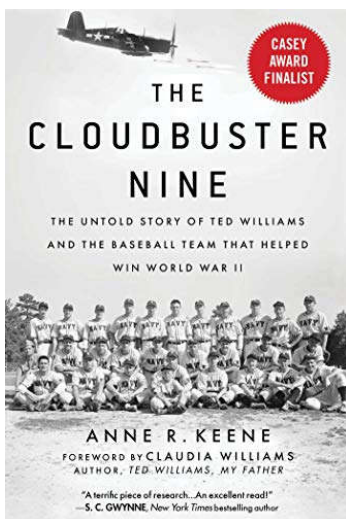


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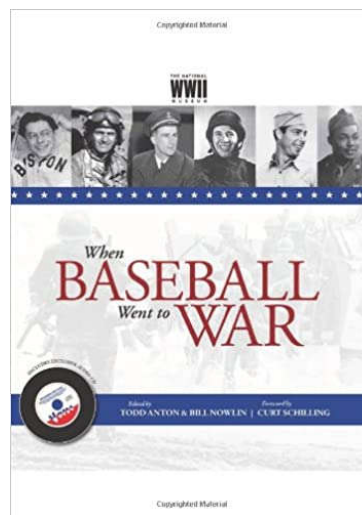
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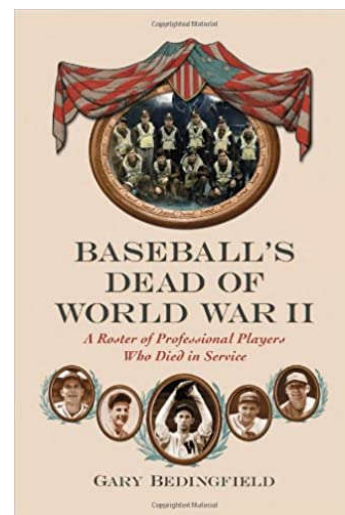
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