Pursuing the American (Baseball) Dream

The Samurai Bears, the first all Japanese professional baseball team, make history while players pursue dreams of a major league baseball career.

By CAROLINE AYOAGI
Executive Editor

The melodic sounds of the Japanese national anthem can be heard playing in the background as the Japanese baseball players get ready to take their positions on the grassy field. A quick glance around the stadium reveals loyal fans cheering.

Yuichii Nomura hustles for a headfirst slide into home plate.

An Extraordinary Life Outside of Picture Frames

Yuki Llewellyn is the little girl in the famous evacuation photo. Now she's hoping to bring a part of her life into focus by returning to Manzanar for the first time.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

In her childhood mind's eye, Manzanar looks like an abstract painting where images, colors and sensations blend together without borders. Her memories of a place called "home" in the early part of her life are fuzzy at best, but Yuki Llewellyn's face may be one of the best reminders of the World War II evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans.

She is the little girl in the photo with the pageboy haircut, sitting amidst duffel bags and suitcases with a half eaten apple in her right hand and a purse in her left. The emotions drawn across her face are a mix of fear, confusion and sadness. Yuki (or Yuki as she likes to be called) was three years old when photographer Clem Albers immortalized her image in history - she is now 66.

"It just seems kind of ironic that my claim to fame is from an accidental photo taken at a time of great stress to adults," said Yuki by telephone from her Champaign, Illinois home. "It's a part of my life that I've had to embrace."

"The best part about that photo is that it's anonymous," said Yuki Llewellyn. "It doesn't need to be a child. It's so much more powerful that way."

WWII Veteran Ben Kuroki to Receive Distinguished Service Medal

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

LINCOLN, Neb.—A farm boy from Nebraska who has the distinction of being the only Japanese American known to have flown over Japan during World War II is in line for a rare military honor.

Ben Kuroki, the son of Japanese immigrants who raised him on a Nebraska farm, has been approved by the military to receive the Distinguished Service Medal, the third highest of the U.S. Army's decorations.

A banquet in his honor was held recently in Lincoln, and on Saturday he received a honorary doctor of letters degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

W. Don Nelson, the Nebraska director for U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson, said that after several years of providing documentation and filling out forms, the award had been approved by the military.

Kuroki manned bomber guns in 58 missions in four different air force groups over Europe, North Africa and Japan during the war, the only known American to have done so. That includes the famed attack on Ploesti, Romania, that claimed the lives of 310 Americans. He was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak-leaf clusters before receiving an honorable discharge.

There's no doubt he deserves the Distinguished Service Medal, said John R. Doyle, a Lincoln attorney and highly decorated WWII veteran.

"It's just phenomenal he went on that many missions. He was amazing," Doyle said. "And fighting prejudice all the way, that was remarkable."

Kuroki, who now lives in Camarillo, Calif., said he feels humbled by the efforts of so many Nebraskans who have worked to see him awarded with the medal.

"Most importantly, I feel that it gives credence to the word 'democracy,' and it's Americanism at its very best," he said. "I feel that more so than any personal glory it gives to me."

Kuroki was born in Gothenburg, Neb., in 1917, one of 10 children of Shosuke and Naka Kuroki, Japanese immigrants who later raised their family along with potatoes and beets near Hershey.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Kuroki's father urged him and his brother to volunteer for service. After being turned down by recruiting officials in North Platte, the
LHEWELLYN (Continued from page 1) 

Most of the memories Yuki does have of growing up in the barracks and most facts of Manzanar are reinforced and performed with the scenes of mock hunting and opening houses, a tradition which she and her mother, Mikiko, shared. "They are not unhappy memories," said Yuki. "I was a child."

As a young girl, she remembers a trip to the cinema—a makeshift venue in the mess hall with a few rows of chairs and a white bed sheet acting as the silver screen. Her mom had arranged for a few extra tickets in honor of every member's evacuation except what her mother has told her. "She daydreams there and don't move. Here's an apple!" Yuki recalled with a laugh. The discoveries she makes about Manzanar and cannot understand why her daughter wants to revisit the events that left her very little about. Like many other young internees, Yuki feels a need to fill in the blank spaces where her memory left off. Until now.

"I want you to know what I have remembered. I want to bring some closure to the past."

They are not unhappy memories."

Yuki was born in Los Angeles in 1939. Prior to her, she was sitting on a suitcase eating an apple. "I was a child."

LHEWELLYN (Continued from page 1) 

For Yuki, the post-war years were accentuated with life's little byproducts and legacy of the Japanese American community. "They are not unhappy memories," said Yuki. Her personal story helped students understand that the Asian American Studies department to be "I don't have endless days ahead of me; I better do it now." When I can."

TATEISHI (Continued from page 1) 

had a pretty good sense of what the age spread would be in the JACL. We thought we could create a group of people for them."

If we've come a long way, it's because of all the hard battles fought and won by the Nisei. In today's world, those color lines no longer exist. It's not simply a matter of saying they're still there. We just can't see them as well, or they've morphed into different shapes. The JACL is a multicultural organization in many instances, as witnessed by a growing anti-Arab sentiment in this land.

What the difference is today in the world, we know we can assume our place as equals and we're ready to challenge those who would deny us our rights. Not only do we know we have equal rights, we have them. And therein lies the challenge for us as a civil rights organization. The year 2000 is the year of the new century, the year we can see the Nisei and the JACL.

No one cared enough to give us our rights. We had to fight for them. We had to fight for them for every one. And that's the passion of this organization, to ensure the rights of all.

It's a noble cause and certainly one worth supporting and fighting for.

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Workers Celebrate Decade of Freedom After Sweatshop Bust

By LAURA WIDNES
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES—Ten years after she was freed from a suburban sweatshop prison, Ninth Janknagk still shudders as she recalls seeing shredded plastic bagging locked behind its razor-wire fence, sewing for 16 hours a day without seeing the sun or moon. In all, authorities stormed the apartment complex where Janknagk and some 70 other Thai immigrants slept six to 10 to a room, in El Monte, a working class suburb east of Los Angeles.

Their slave treatment shocked Americans and sparked lawsuits, a Smithsonian exhibit. It inspired that they can do anything and safety abuses in the garment industry.

"I never thought it would be that dramatic," said Jake Nakag, 47, a business man at the Asian Pacific Missions University and author of "Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy." "We are locked together now...we are close like family." —Nanthana Janknagk, former El Monte sweatshop worker

The case brought dramatic attention and professional achievement. "I thought it was big," said Suzanya Chuan, 44, who runs two restaurants with her husband Win, another former worker. "People, customers, see me and say 'El Monte, El Monte.' They remember." The workers won more than $54 million in lawsuit settlements against firms such as Mervyn's, Montgomery Ward & Co. and B.U.M. International for which they allegedly made clothes through subcontracts. The companies admitted to wrongdoing and said they had no knowledge of the conditions. After sharing money with Latino workers at another site run by the same employer, each Thai worker pocketed between $10,000 and $30,000, depending on their time at the complex.

"We are locked together now," Janknagk said. "We are close like a family." Meanwhile, Congress has approved the granting of visas for immigrant victims of human trafficking and made it easier for investigators to get search warrants targeting suspected sweatshops.

In California, to the largest segment of the U.S. garment industry, manufacturers must now guarantee subcontractors pay workers fairly. El Monte was one of several high-profile sweatshop cases a decade ago. The negative publicity resulted in about $4.8 million in back pay to 6,722 employees, most of it for overtime, according to the Department of Labor. That was less than half of what was paid in 2000. In California, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently signed a new push to enforce state labor laws, saying he would add 62 new positions.

Janknagk said things are better at her sewing job now that she has a green card. But she still sees many Thai workers paid less than minimum wage. "They accept whatever the owners pay. They don't talk about what happened when the inspection comes."
acknowledged · to · the Black Panthers.  

He had been on the force less than a year when he was gunned down on Aug. 20, 1970. The killing was the third targeting of an officer in the San Francisco Bay area within a two-month span. Police are still looking for a third suspect they say served as a lookout during the ambush and is believed to be out of the country.

Waffle House Operator Reaches Settlement

RICHMOND, Va. — Waffle House restaurants settled four civil rights law­ suits filed by customers who said they were racially discriminated and treated rudely. The settlement requires Northlake Foods Inc. to enact compliance pro­ grams to ensure Waffle House customers are treated equally. Other terms of the settlement have not been released.

The suits were filed against Waffle House restaurants in Hopewell, Fredericksburg and Chesapeake, Va., on behalf of nine black, one Hispanic and two Asian American plaintiffs. They allege that they were denied service or subjected to discriminatory treatment when they tried to eat at the restaurants.

More than 15 similar lawsuits are pending against Waffle House and other fast-food chains in four other states.

Nisei Veterans Center Gets $1.5 Million

KAHULUI, Hawaii — The Nisei Veterans Memorial Center on Maui has received $1.5 million in state grant money to help cover the cost of completing its adult day care building. Gov. Linda Lingle released the funds during a groundbreaking ceremony recently.

The center’s corporation was formed in 1991. Last September, organizers began construction on an intergenerational center that will serve as a memo­ rial to honor Japanese American veterans who fought in World War II, including the sons of the famed 100th Infantry Battalions, 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Utahns Dialogue in Diverse Languages

SALT LAKE CITY — Although English is still the predominate language used in Salt Lake County households, roughly 16 percent are speaking in other tongues while at home.

Data collected in 2000 by the Modern Language Association shows the ethnic makeup of the county changing. The data was compared by zip code and found that six in 10 people speak Spanish, German, Russian, Arabic and Vietnamese.

About 25 percent of Salt Lake City’s population speaks a language other than English at home.

BOMBINGS

(Continued from page 1)

result of the atom bomb,” said Hanami. “After I found out then I thought, ‘Why didn’t they know? Why hasn’t she shared this with me?’ Now it is obvious to me that this was the most terrible, traumatic, and unimaginable thing that could hap­ pen to anybody.”

Eager to understand this part of his mother’s life that had remained hidden for decades, Hanami remembers trying to have conversa­ tions about the bombings with his mother but only receiving informa­ tional responses that were on a need-to-know basis. It wasn’t until he shared his art with his mother that she opened up about her experi­ ence.

“When my mom and I talked I asked her why she really felt that way. I didn’t want to talk about it because it made her feel very emo­ tional,” said Hanami. “Creating these art pieces, provoked by imagination, created an environment that sparked insightful conversations and critical thoughts from an emotional level.”

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, Hanami’s art installation titled “Fat Man Little Boy” accompanied by a special program centered on the theme of peace was held at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles Aug. 9.

“The program was an oppor­ tunity to reflect on the events that hap­ pened 60 years ago which continues to be relevant today and to share messages of peace and hope within the community,” said John Guzman, public programs specialist at JANM.

The atomic bombs dropped on Aug. 6, 1945 and Aug. 9, 1945, by the U.S. military took an estimated 220,000 lives. The number of peo­ ple to later develop cancer and other life threatening ailments from radia­ tion are still unknown.

Hanami’s multimedia installation “Fat Man Little Boy” is named after the Little Boy bomb that was dropped from a B-29 Superfortress on Hiroshima and the Fat Man bomb dropped on Nagasaki. Hanami’s multimedia installation led visitors into the chilling exploration of atomic weaponry and into his personal story.

“I think the piece itself is really about a dialogue between a mother and a child or a lack of,” said Hanami. “It’s really a personal piece and I hope people use this to open conversations in their own families. Everyone’s life is so rich with expe­ riences that it is a tragedy to have ‘missed the stories from one’s own family legacy.”

Scattered along the corridor of Hanami’s art piece were colored photos of the Droshohita Melanogaster Fruit Fly that were used to test genetic effects of radia­ tion. The most pronounced exhibit was a morbid collection of atoms with sound of planes flying above and a toy replica of a B-29 bomber placed under a strong light that projected the toy into an eerie almost life size shadow.

“If we imagine a piece of art on the whole story from the perspective of a child to an adult,” said Hanami. “The shadow is more impermanent than the real and present threat. The shadow is more impermanent than the real and present threat. The shadow is more impermanent than the real and present threat.”

The project was an effort to understand not only the atomic bomb but the evolution of peace and the character.

Park Awarded Chicago Tribune Prize for Young Adult Fiction

Linda Sue Park has been named the recipient of the 2005 Chicago Tribune Prize for Young Adult Fiction for her novel, “P. B. and the Mulberry, which weaves the story of a seventh-grader with the author’s conversations with the character.

Park will receive her award at the Chicago Humanities Festival this fall. The Chicago Tribune will also publish the winner in its books sec­ tion.

Park won the 2002 Newbery Medal for “A Single Shard,” a novel about an orphaned potter’s apprentice in 12th century Korea.

Sasaki-Hill Named JACL’s Associate Dean

Debele Sasaki-Hill is the new associate dean of clinical affairs at Touro University College of Pharmacy located on Mare Island on the San Francisco Bay. Sasaki-Hill received her degree in pharmacy at the University of the Pacific. She has worked at restaurants in Austria and Washington.

JACL Gets Recognized for Diversity

Gardena High School Athletic Director Ed Kamiyama was named one of the recipients of the 2005 Akikorai Memorial Awards. Ed’s wife Sue Wada Kamiyama, a former Bell High School athletic director, will also be honored posthumously. She died of cancer last year.

The Maratana Kamaboko Company will also be an award recipient. The company was a prominent sponsor of JACL sports. The awards were formed in honor of Aki Korai, the post-war publisher of the Rafu Shimpo and founder of the Nisei Athletic Union (NAU), and given to individuals who exhibit it a devotion to JACL community services.

The awards will be given out at the NAU Reunion Sept. 17 at Los Angeles’ Japanese American National Museum.

Scientist, Teacher Wins Blue Planet Prize

Dr. Gordon Hiroshi Sato was won one of the two Blue Planet Prizes for developing a new man­ grove plan­ ning technolo­ gy in East­ Asia. Sato gradu­ ated from Man­ narsar High School in 1944 and enlisted in the U.S. Army. He obtained a Ph.D. degree at the California Institute of Technology in Biophysics and taught at the University of California, San Diego for over a decade.

Each year, two Blue Planet Prizes are awarded to individuals or organiza­ tions that make outstanding achievements in scientific research and its applications to solve global environmental problems.

The awards ceremony will be held Oct. 19 at the Tokyo Kaitan. The commemorative lectures by the prize recipients will be held at the United Nations University in Shibuya Ward, Tokyo the next day.

Blue Cross of California

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To learn more about the Blue Cross plan and how to become a member, please call the JACL Health Trust at 1-877-949-4675.
Community Gathering to Preserve Historic Little Tokyo

Preserving the legacy of Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo will be at the heart of conversation at an upcoming conference. “Ties That Bind 3,” the third gathering convened to discuss the future of the Japanese American community will focus on Little Tokyo, which has recently been threatened by the rapid influx of new development.

"Little Tokyo, the historical cultural nexus of the largest JA community in America is facing a critical juncture of survival," said Bill Watanabe, conference chair and executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation. "We must maintain this historic neighborhood so that rich cultural history, heritage and connections are kept alive for future generations to enjoy."

The conference will be a forum for researchers and community members interested in preservation issues to discuss and develop strategies for neighborhood revitalization, heritage education and policy changes to promote and preserve the legacy of the few remaining Japantowns in the United States.

Dr. Anthea Hartig, western regional director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation will keynote the event along with Linda Dishman, executive director of the Los Angeles Conservancy. Afternoon workshops will provide opportunity for participants to discuss specific strategies for Little Tokyo preservation and revitalization.

There is a general registration fee of $30 and $15 for students, which includes lunch and materials. Two levels of sponsorship are also available: "Preservation Pioneers" at $200 and "Preservation Supporters" at $100.

For more information, visit http://ties.janet.org or call Tiffany Katayama at 213/473-3022.

Buddhist Temples Hold Obon Memorial Service for Departed Japanese Students

The New York Buddhist Church, Seabrook (N.J.) and Ekoji (Va.) Buddhist Temples held an Obon memorial service at Willow Grove Cemetery in New Brunswick, N.J. recently. A portion of the cemetery holds the gravesites of seven Japanese-born Rutgers College students, and the daughter of a Japanese diplomat, who died between 1870 and 1886.

This is the 21st year the three temples have gathered for the Obon service, which is preceded by a cemetery clean-up and washing of the headstones by members of the New York Buddhist Church. Each of the temples also has an annual Obon festival, with dancing and taiko performances.

PSWD Trust Fund Donates to Local Nisei H.S. Diploma Project

Gerald Kato, program director for the JACL Pacific Southwest District presented a check for $2,000 to Sadako Sogioka for the California Nisei High School Diploma Project. The money will be used to offset some of the expenses to pay for the graduation ceremony planned for Nisei who were denied graduation because of wartime evacuation from their homes. The graduation ceremony is set for Aug. 21 at Los Angeles Trade Tech. Other committee members are: (l-r) Harold Murakawa, Min Tono, Warren Furutani, Toshi Itō, John Saito and Tad Kowata.

JACL Health Benefits Administrators Celebrate 40th Anniversary

This year marks 40 years of partnership between the JACL Health Benefits Administrators and Blue Shield of California. Pictured are the board of trustees: (Top row, left to right): Gerald Takehara, vice chairman; Gus Barlas, consultant; Dr. Richard Ikeda; Douglas Urita; Dr. Jim Yamaguchi; Stephen Divizich, administrator; Dr. Leroy Morishita; Jim Oshima; (Seated, left to right): Betty Oka, John Yasumoto, chairman; Kikuo Nakahara, treasurer; and Shig Naito. Not pictured: Kevin Nagata and Lee Trucker Esq., legal counsel.
JACL Chapters Continue to Give to Accomplished Youth

By Pacific Citizen Staff

JACL chapters from across the country continue to give generous scholarships to their youth members.

At the recent Berkeley chapter annual awards luncheon six graduating high school students received scholarships for their scholastic and community achievements. The recipients are: Cory T. Hiraga of Albany High School, Christina K. Hirokata of Piedmont High School, Rya K. Inada of College Park High School, Derek T. Morishita of Bishop O’Dowd High School, Jennifer M. Monrachi of College Prep School and Adam Ohashi of Bishop O’Dowd High School.

The South Bay chapter recently held its annual Kiichi Egashira Memorial Scholarship awarding scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $2,000 each. The recipients are: Nicole Adachi of Narbonne High School, Allison Fujii of Palos Verdes High School, Derek Kuwahara of South Bay JACL Kiichi Egashira Memorial Scholarship, Phillip Ozaki (Noboru Honda Memorial Scholarship), and Scott Sakoda (Mas Nakagawa Memorial Scholarship). The Sequoia chapter presented $4,500 in scholarships and awards to four community college students and three high school graduates. Rabiah Khalid and Andre Nguyen were the two recipients from De Anza College in Cupertino; Justine Morey and Dane Sakino of San Mateo High School and Dane Sakino of Cupertino High School were the two high school scholarship recipients.

The Greater Los Angeles Singles chapter recently awarded two deserving high school graduates from single-parent homes with the Hana Uso Shepard Memorial Scholarship. A check for $1,000 each was presented to Marisa Kimura from Narbonne High School and Aimi Takahashi from Pioneer High School.

The Chicago chapter recently held its 48th annual scholarship luncheon awarding six high school graduates with awards that ranged from $1,000 to $2,000 each. The recipients are: Alaina Morin (Harry Haro Mankichi Memorial Scholarship), Alan Moy, (Dr. George Matsumoto Memorial Scholarship), Kazuo Nagamura (Nisei Ambassadors Drum Corps Trust Fund Scholarship), Stephanie Nishida (Mary Sakai Memorial Scholarship), Phillip Ozaki (Noboru Honda Memorial Scholarship), and Scott Sakoda (Miss Nishigawa Memorial Scholarship).

The Diablo Valley chapter also held their annual scholarship luncheon recently where recognition was given to five scholarship recipients. The Diablo Valley chapter scholarship was awarded to Brandon Endo who will be attending Berkeley. The George S. Fujisaka Memorial Scholarship was presented to Minh Nguyen who has completed her AA degree in Contra Costa and is transferring to Berkeley. The Dr. Yoshie Togasaki Scholarship was awarded to Daniella C. Poy-Wing who is entering the Samuel Merritt Bachelor Program in nursing. The recipients of the Dr. Yoshie Togasaki special award are Ezechine A. Wachuku, who will be attending UC Berkeley, and Ken Russell Coelho who is currently attending UC Berkeley.

BERKELEY SCHOLARS—2005 JACL Scholarship recipients (l-r) Jennifer Morichi, Adam Ohashi, Rya Inada, Cory Hiraga, Christina Hirokata and Derek Morishita.

New Initiative Protects Immigrant Rights

A new initiative will help defend immigrants against local and state enforcement of immigration laws.

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) launched the new initiative to protect immigrants’ rights through community education and outreach, advocacy and legal representation. A new legal rights pamphlet for immigrants and their families is also available on the organization’s Web site.

Recent examples include the passage of the Real ID Act by Congress, which requires states to take immigration laws into account when they issue driver’s licenses.

As a result of these policies, immigrants are deterred from accessing city and state services and cooperating with government agencies for fear of immigration consequences.

The civil rights group said the lack of trust would lead to unsafe communities.

Organizations that would like to schedule a “Know your rights” training, conduct outreach or refer individuals in need of legal representation should contact AALDEF at 212-966-9912. Visit www.aaldef.org for more information.

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HOCKEY
Kariya Sees New Rules, Nashville as Perfect Fit for Himself
By TEREESA M. WALKER
NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Take a quiz: How do you like the new NHL rule that adds a 20-second timeout to end ties and the chance for two-line passes.
Mix that with a speedy, hardworking forward who missed 51 games in 2003-04 because of a leg injury and who said Aug. 8 it was an easy decision to pick the Nashville Predators as his new home?
The Predators introduced Kariya at a news conference after announcing Aug. 5 that they had signed the 33-year-old free agent to a four-year, $24 million, two-year contract. Kariya said this season is a perfect fit.
"I think all the rules change really benefit this club. It's a team based on speed and work ethic and the goaltending, I think all those changes that come into play are only going to benefit Nashville," Kariya said.
"And that's one of the reasons why I chose here.
Kariya heard from more than half the teams in the NHL during free agency, having passed by Kariya's agent in the hallway off his worst season as a pro in his one season with Colorado. He scored 30 points in 51 games in 2003-04 because of injuries. He had been just one of many stars with the Avalanche, and Kariya said he welcomed the opportunity to be the top player on and off the ice.
FOOTBALL
Arizona Cardinals Cut Chang
PRESCOTT, Ariz.—The Arizona Cardinals cut six-time Pro Bowl linebacker Tim Chang on Monday and three players Aug. 8 and acquired a pair of tight ends to bolster a position of need.
Chang was released by the club with $2.5 million guaranteed on his contract.
"He was undersized by today's standards for the position at 6-foot-1," Arizona Cardinals coach Dennis Green said Aug. 8.
Left tackle Mike Robinson, who rushed for 2,015 yards and 14 touchdowns in two years with Division I-AA Northern Arizona, was another rookie free agent.
Crompton and Curry were second-year Cardinals veterans. Crompton started all 32 games he was eligible for through the end of his third season with the Cardinals.
Kariya sees no comparison with his first NHL team, the Anaheim Mighty Ducks, which he helped lead to the Stanley Cup franchise in the 2003-04 season. He is among 30 NHL veteran players and champions now on a team with only six seasons of history.
"We had the playoff team that took Detroit to six games last year. It's simi­lar," Kariya said. "We have a franchise club in a different schedule, a different timeline.
"That was our plan."
Kariya said the Predators started with the building of a platform through the draft, and owner Craig Leipold helped negotiate the new labor deal that includes the NHL's first salary cap at $39 million and is very friendly to small market teams such as Nashville.
Leipold was being as hand­led in the way this is being handled at the news conference, and he said it helped him pick the Predators to reach this point. But he said he believes the team has finally have some­thing really special to offer.
"This is a team that's going to be a lot of fun to watch. We've built this team based on the new rules, a fast team that is going to be a win­ning team," Leipold said.
General manager David Poile said it was easy to sign Kariya thanks to the level playing field brought by the new labor agreement. He sees Kariya as the type of player with his 705 career points to fit on his roster perfectly, and he said the new Predators must realize they are really in a competitive era.
"It makes a great statement for a small market like Nashville to be put on the map," Poile said. "It's a team full of players that have played in the NHL with teams that have been around forever.
"I think that with a speedy, hard­working player like Kariya we have a chance to compete in the Central Division."
Kariya was named to the American League All-Star team in 2001, when he set a Mariners record with 45 saves.
Kariya was named to the American League All-Star team in 2001, when he set a Mariners record with 45 saves. His 129 saves over four seas­ons are a Seattle team record.
Sasaki left the Mariners in January 2004 to rest his career in Japan but was never able to regain the form that once made him one of the top closers in baseball. He has a career record of 43-38 with 252 saves in Japan and 7-16 with the Mariners.
Marc Kromm has replaced him as the BayStars' closer and has posted 17 saves this season.
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Japanese Heritage in Transition

The Second Japanese Canadian history. Art historian and author Harry K. Honda discusses the key events in Japanese Canadian heritage from the 19th to the 20th century.

Before the war, Japanese Canadians had to leave Canada. Many joined the US military and helped the Allies win the war.

After the war, many Japanese Canadians returned to Canada. However, they faced discrimination and were not welcome back.


Synopsis

"Japanese Heritage in Transition" by Harry K. Honda

The book traces the history of Japanese Canadians from the 19th century to the present day. It covers key events such as the internment during World War II and the challenges faced by Japanese Canadians during the post-war period.

Honda's research is based on interviews with survivors and extensive archival research. The book provides a comprehensive view of the experiences of Japanese Canadians and their contributions to Canadian society.

New Report Highlights Problems Faced by APA Voters

APA Voters, according to the Department of Justice, will expire in 2007. The report revealed many polling places did not make interpreters and bilingual poll workers accessible to voters as required by the Senate of APA Act, now in its 40th year.

Another problem was the number of APA voters. Among other results, the report revealed that in 2004, 39% of APA voters did not have a bilingual poll worker. The report recommends improving the training of poll workers and increasing the recruitment of bilingual poll workers.

Kuroki (Continued from page 1)

brothers were able to enlist in Grand Island, 150 miles to the east.

Kuroki carried his way onto a bomber crew and flew missions that took him all over the world, including Japan.

Kuroki's Japanese ancestry, he was initially rejected when he asked to serve on a B-29 bomber that was to be used in the Pacific. But after repeated requests and a review of Kuroki's stellar service record, he was accepted into the war.

Kuroki has been speaking out against racial intolerance for more than 60 years. He is a deeply respected, but there are still problems," Kuroki said. "And there probably will be as long as there are humans."

Have a story idea?

Send it to the Pacific Citizen: pacific@aol.com
Cesar Montano
Inserting Filipino pride in Hollywood's version of history.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Cesar Montano waited almost three years for the moment he could see himself as a national hero — albeit on celluloid.


The film's release was delayed for a few years reportedly because of sensitivity with the current Iraq War. But Montano said it's an important story to tell.

"It takes one good story to come up with a great hero," he said by phone from Manila.

And perhaps the timing is right. Many Filipino WWII veterans who fought under the American flag are still fighting for benefits equal to those given to their American brethren.

It was a role Montano took seriously. He read the book "Ghost Soldiers" by Hampton Sides, on which the movie was based and traded stories with Pajota's real-life family members. He spent five months in Queensland, Australia for the shoot and endured boot camp along with the rest of the cast.

Although he acknowledges that the wartime themes (violence and racial slurs) are probably unsavory on the world's palate, it's a piece of history that needs to be recognized. But mostly, Montano feels so lucky to play a dignified Asian war hero in his Hollywood debut.

Pacific Citizen: How did you get the part?
Cesar Montano: Many other Filipino actors were also auditioning for the role, but I was shooting a film down in the province (Montano is also a director and producer). I wasn't paying attention to the local news, so my agent had to go out of her way to go on location and tell me there is an ongoing audition and that I've got to come to Manila. I was busy filming and directing. I couldn't leave the project. But I did! There was no harm in trying! I left the province, left the shoot and went to Manila and that was it. I was the last one to audition.

PC: Is it true you signed a three-picture deal with Miramax?
CM: I signed a three-movie contract with Miramax. 'The Great Raid' was one of them and now I have another two. I am going to L.A. in two weeks to get an agent in the U.S. I am so excited! It's a dream come true. All I want is to do more films [in the Philippines] and bring it to international film festivals. Like the Cannes Film Festival. Getting this role is an extra bonus to me.

PC: What other kind of research did you do to play Pajota?
CM: I went to Cebu (where the POW camp during the war) three hours from Manila to meet Pajota's family. I met one of Pajota's daughters in Sydney. I was standing there talking to my friend at a restaurant bar and I heard someone talking to my back. 'So you are doing the part of Colonel Pajota?' I said, 'Colonel? You mean captain?' And she said Pajota became a colonel before he died. She knew because she was his daughter. I was so excited! I said, 'The book didn't say that!'

PC: How much pressure is it to portray a national hero?
CM: Here in the Philippines, we have a lot of heroes. Captain Pajota is not as celebrated as the others. But it's an honor to play a national hero.

PC: Are you disappointed you had to wait three years for this movie to be released?
CM: I was doing local projects to keep busy. People kept asking when the Hollywood movie was coming out and I was getting straight to video and I would say, 'They spent a lot of money on it. They're waiting for the perfect time to release it.'

PC: Is this the perfect time though? With the war in Iraq ongoing and the anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings?
CM: For most people across the world, I know it's a very sad story. It's a war and we don't like to remember it, but we owe it to the young generation to share the lessons with them. The younger generation don't care what happened during WWII — they are losing their identity and movies like these are doing [their parts] to fill the emptiness.

PC: You're a huge star in the Philippines, what makes you want to make the leap to Hollywood?
CM: I'm a big fan of the great Hollywood movies. Who would never dream of working with Al Pacino? Honestly I dream of working with them. So it happened — I got one small part. I had to move on to see if this small opening could open a door.

Q&A
Enomoto, Takahiro, 89, Whittier, June 24; survived by wife, Fusako; son, Yoichi (Sue); 2 gc.; brothers-in-law, Taeo Sekiya and Saburo Kato; father, Takeo Sekiya.

Hino, Hiroko, 88, Whittier, July 3; survived by husband, Harry; daughter, Vicki (Stuart) Cooper; step-children, Torei (John) Jojola; 1 gc.; 2 step-gcs.; and siblings, Koko and Kiyoko.

Fujitaka, Hideo, 77, Silt Lake City, Utah, June 20; survived by husband, George; son, Michael; brothers, Ted and Bob (Grace) Shiosaki; and sister, Hideko.

Higashi, Masako, 83, S. San Gabriel, June 25; survived by sons, Ben (Margie), David (Christine) and Eddie (Eleanor); daughter, Jeannie (Steve) Gekker; 9 gc.; brothers, Hideo, Tadashi and Taro (Keiko); and sister-in-law, Tomiko.

In MEMORIAM

Kara Kondo, Yakima County Community Leader, Passes

Yakima County community leader Kara Matsuhashi Kondo of Terrace Heights, Wash., passed away unexpectedly on July 31. She was 89.

Kondo leaves behind a legacy of civic service as well as her 40-year involvement as an active member in various local organizations, including the Yakima Valley County League of Women Voters, a founding member of the Yakima Valley Human Rights Planning Board, and program director of the Heritage University.

Kondo, however, is most known for her 25 years of service on the Yakima Urban Area Regional Planning Commission and was considered an authority on water quality issues. She also served on several Washington statewide advisory committees on water issues.

“Serves the community.

Kondo lived a very rich life,” said June 25; survived by wife, Fusako; sons, Michael and Tadashi and son-in-law, David Shiosaki; and sister-in-law, Hideko.

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and draw a lot of fans—we wanted to bring a global impact to the genre of baseball that only our fans can see,” said Amit Patel, general manager of the newly formed Golden Baseball League. “We wanted to distinguish our league.”

The Samurai Bears are the first all-Japanese professional baseball team to ever play regularly in the United States. One of eight teams in the Golden Baseball League which covers California and Arizona, the Samurai Bears made their debut May 26 with a roster of 24 Japanese and Japanese American players.

There is a wide range of experience amongst the players—some have played in the Japanese major leagues and the U.S. minor leagues while other players have come straight from the collegiate level in Japan and the U.S. In addition to introducing the Japanese style of baseball play to an American audience, the general goal of the league is to be a stepping stone for players to move on to the major leagues both here and in Japan.

“This is the first all-Japanese team that only our fans can distinguish our league.”

leagues and the U.S. minor leagues since 1958. “We wanted to bring a global aspect to the genre of baseball play to an American audience, the general goal of the league is to be a stepping stone for players to move on to the major leagues both here and in Japan.

“The Samurai Bears are the first all Japanese team

“I finished the season at the end of the season with a high note recently with wins over the Fullerton Flyers in a double header. Although they are still in last place in the Arizona Division with an overall record of 26-45, team members see their first season in the Golden Baseball League as a success.”

“At the beginning of the season, we were 24 separate baseball players but through the season we became one family,” said Neri. “Now we can go back to Japan and

spread information and knowledge about U.S. baseball.”

“We’re now a part of history,” said Warren Cromartie, manager of the Samurai Bears and long time all-star player in the Japanese major leagues. “We’re getting better—the players made a name for themselves.”

He added, “It was a challenge for some of the guys, a little overwhelming at times. But these guys didn’t complain. They came over and withstood it. We’re like a group of guys from Japan.”

The Golden Baseball League is currently averaging about 1,600 fans per game and is likely to reach a high number of Japanese and JAs at games. “The league will have a loyal contingent of fans in Fullerton and Long Beach. Although he admits there is nothing currently in the works, he hopes to find a city where there is a good deal of local support from the community.

In a few weeks time the Samurai Bears’ inaugural season will come to an end with a final game in Mexico against the Yuma Scorpions Aug. 30, where the league will continue its quest to become a global entity. In the meantime, the Samurai Bears players are hopeful their one-year experience in the Golden Baseball League will lead to a major league baseball career.

“In the best case scenario I’ll be picked up by a major league team in Japan,” said Mitsumori. “If not, I’d love to play here again.”

The Samurai Bears currently do not have a home base, but they have a loyal contingent of fans in Fullerton and Long Beach.

The traveling has definitely taken a toll on the team and was vividly illustrated in the team’s dismal 1 and 12 record at the beginning of the season. In addition to living out of a suitcase for days on end, the Japanese players have had to adjust to a new diet, new culture and to a new level of professional play that many of the players are not accustomed to.

But with changes in the team roster and the addition of new players, I’m learning a lot and it’s exciting. The league and the players have definitely learned a lot,” said Wesley Yazzie, 28, a Samurai Bears left-handed pitcher from Palo Alto, Calif. who is half Japanese.

With more than 70 games now under their belt, the Samurai Bears ended the day on a high note recently with wins over the Fullerton Flyers in a double header. Although they are still in last place in the Arizona Division with an overall record of 26-45, team members see their first season in the Golden Baseball League as a success.

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Former major league and Japanese Baseball star Warren Cromartie (second from left) gives his players a pre-game pep talk.