

A great baseball player,
Mr Eiji Sawamura,

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1年 | 上田 乃輝

Do you know Mr. Eiji Sawamura? He was born in Ise. He graduated from Meirin elementary school which I graduated from and played for Yomiuri Giants for five years. Soon after he started his career as a professional baseball player, he had a game against the American team including Babe Ruth. Although other pitchers were totally defeated, Sawamura lost only 1 point. He made the first no-hitter in the history of professional baseball in Japan. Later he threw no-hit games twice more. This is the highest record in Japan,



Statue of Eiji Sawamura

While he was playing for Giants, he did military service several times. During the military service, he got injured. In 1944, he was fired from Giants. In the same year he died at the age of 27 off the coast of Yakushima island on the way to Philippines.

In 1947, Giants made the uniform number 14 the first retired number in honor of his great achievement. This means no other player on Giants will ever wear number 14. Now everyone knows Masahiro Tanaka and Yu Darvish. They both got Sawamura Award which is given to the best pitcher in a year. This award is named for him, so we can say

Eiji Sawamura was a great baseball player.

Another famous baseball player from Kosei elementary school in Ise was Yukio Nishimura who played for Tigers. Every year Meirin and Kosei baseball teams have a game not to forget these two great baseball players. Since I belonged to Meirin baseball team, I have played in this game.

I was glad to have had such a special opportunity.

There are statues of Sawamura and Nishimura in front of Kuratayama baseball park. When it was renewed the exhibition game was held by Giants and Tigers. All players from Giants wore 14, which was Sawamura's retired number and all players from Tigers wore 19, which used to be Nishimura's number. I went to see this game,

That was amazing, I have never seen a game like this.

I want everyone to know there was a great baseball player from Ise. He is a legend and his name stands out in the baseball history,

I'm so proud of him.



Meirin and Kosei Baseball teams

(テーマを選んだ理由)

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