You Gotta Have Wa

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an important element in japanese baseball is wa group harmony embodied in the proverb the nail that sticks up shall be hammered down but what if the nail is a visiting american player here s a look at japanese baseball as seen by baffled americans

a hilarious informative and riveting account of japanese baseball and the cultural clashes that ensued when americans began playing there professionally in japan baseball is a way of life it is a philosophy it is besuboru its most important element is wa group harmony embodied in the proverb the nail that sticks up shall be hammered down in this witty and incisive book robert whiting gives us a close up look at besuboru s teams obsessive ritualism and history as seen through the eyes of american players who found the japanese approach rigorous pregame practices the tolerance for tie games injured pitchers encouraged to pitch through the pain completely baffling with vivid accounts of east meeting west involving babe ruth ichiro suzuki bobby valentine japanese home run king sadaharu oh and many others this lively and completely unique book is an utter gem and baseball classic

from the author of tokyo junkie the definitive book on japanese baseball and one of the best written sports books ever san francisco chronicle one might expect the sport of baseball in japan to be a culture clash a collision of american individualism with the japanese focus on wa or harmony instead it has turned into a winning symbiosis imported american sluggers some past their primes have found new life in the east and have given credibility to the japanese game a succession of japanese stars like hideo nomo left their teams to find success in the us major leagues enabling mlb international to make hundreds of millions of dollars selling tv and licensing rights to its games in japan while philosophical differences remain you gotta have wa guides you through the strange and fascinating world of besuboru or baseball with a history of the game in japan and an overview of the japanese leagues and their rules this book follows the careers of players and managers who influenced the game in the east and vice versa including babe ruth ichiro suzuki bobby

valentine and sadaharu oh the japanese homerun king whether you are a yankees or a red sox fan a sports or an enthusiast of japanese culture simply sit back and enjoy the wonderful stories in you gotta have wa one of the most unusual baseball books of the season the new york times a wonderfully entertaining look at baseball and wa time a terrific fast paced account of japanese baseball chicago tribune a funny look at baseball in japan that is as much a work of cultural anthropology as a sports book playboy

in taking in a game joseph a reaves examines the development of baseball in korea the philippines mainland china and taiwan as well as the more widely known story of baseball in japan in this entertaining and informed account reaves covers everything from baseball in qing dynasty china in the nineteenth century to the 2000 sydney olympics bronze medal match between japan and korea reaves guides the reader through a history of asian baseball the cultures that surround it and the future of what has become a great asian game

in this first synthetic comprehensive survey of japanese sports in english the authors are attentive to the complex and fascinating interaction of traditional and modern elements in the course of tracing the emergence and development of sumo the martial arts and other traditional sports from their origins to the present they demonstrate that some cherished ancient traditions were in fact invented less than a century ago they also register their skepticism about the use of the samurai tradition to explain japan s success in sports special attention is given to meiji era japan s frequently ambivalent adoption and adaptation of european and american sports a particularly telling example of japan s love hate relationship with the west the book goes on the describe the history of physical education in the school system the emergence of amateur and professional leagues the involvement of business and the media in sports promotion and japan s participation in the olympics japanese sports trivia quiz openli japan s first professional baseball team was founded in 1921 when were

the central and pacific leagues established a 1930 b 1940 c 1950 d 1960 openli oh sadaharu hit 51 home runs in 1973 and 49 in 1974 how many did he hit in his lifetime a 597 b 602 c 755 d 868 openli sugiura tadashi pitched 42 games for the nankai hawks in 1959 and won 38 how many games did he pitch and win against the yomiuri giants in the japan series that same year a 1 b 2 c 3 d 4 openli the first japanese radio broadcast of an entire sports event occurred at the national middle school baseball tournament at koshien stadium in 1927 with a ministry of communication censor standing by since the script couldn t be approved in advance the national middle school tournament was suspended in 1941 when was it resumed a 1945 b 1946 c 1947 d 1948 openli in 1791 shogun tokugawa ienari observed a new ring entering ceremony similar to that now performed by yokozuna when did the sumo association officially recognize the rank of yokozuna a 1789 b 1890 c 1909 d 1951 openli which famous sumo rikishi won 69 successive bouts over the course of 7 tournaments the longest winning streak ever recorded a futabayama sadaji b wakanohana kanji c taiho koki d chiyonofuji mitsugu openli when the first karate dojo was established in okinawa in 1889 the characters for karate were written chinese hand when were they first written empty hand a 1889 b 1922 c 1929 d 1935 openli only one major school of aikido holds competitive tournaments when did the name aikido first appear on the list of government sanctioned martial arts a 1883 b 1890 c 1931 d 1942 openli in 1951 tanaka shigeki became the first japanese runner to win the boston marathon when was the first fukuoka marathon held a 1927 b 1937 c 1947 d 1957 openli at the infamous 1936 nazi olympics in berlin japanese athletes won gold medals in track and field swimming and diving in what event did a korean win the gold for japan a marathon b triple jump c pole vault d 1500 m freestyle answers 1 c the pacific league was the expansion league 2 d japanese ballparks are shorter than u s parks but the season is also shorter 3 d his arm never recovered from that year 4 b 5 c the rank yokozuna first appeared on the banzuke ratings in 1890 and the first solo ring entering ceremonies by wrestlers

wearing the yokozuna rope was in 1789 6 a 7 c by members of keio s karate club who were impressed by a zen priest of the rinzai sect 8 d its founder ueshiba morihei was born in 1883 9 c the year after the first footrace around lake biwa 10 a

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founded in 1945 the foreign correspondents club of japan has been a haven for working journalists this collection of their own accounts allows a behind the scenes look at how these journalists including pulitzer prize recipients covered asia during this dramatic era

do you sometimes feel that your office isn t a place of business but a madhouse in disguise is risk taking so discouraged that mediocrity becomes the order of the day if all this sounds familiar your company may well be embarked on a trip to abilene now jerry harvey once again rocks the business world in this new book he offers a series of insightful and often uproaringly funny meditations on

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