

Sadaharu Oh

Chairman of the Board / Fukuoka SoftBank HAWKS Corp.

Chairman / World Children's Baseball Foundation

Honorary Advisor to Commissioner / Nippon Professional Baseball

Executive Board Member

/ Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games

Sadaharu Oh (born May 20th, 1940, Tokyo, Japan) started his professional baseball career at the Tokyo Yomiuri Giants in the Japanese Central League in 1959, after graduating from Waseda Jitsugyo High School. Oh developed a distinctive batting stance, known as the flamingo, and led the league in home runs for 15 times. He also won the Japanese Central League's batting Triple Crown in two consecutive years. (1973 and 1974) On September 3rd, 1977 Oh hit the 756th home run of his career, breaking Hank Aaron's professional record for career home runs. He finished with a career total of 868.

Oh managed the Tokyo Giants and the Fukuoka Daiei Hawks (later the Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks), and led the Hawks to three Pacific League pennants and two Japan Series titles. In 2006, Oh managed the Japan national baseball team, winning the championship in the inaugural World Baseball Classic.

In addition to his professional career, Oh established the World Children's Baseball Fair (WCBF) with Hank Aaron in 1990, to encourage sharing and development of baseball around the world as well as creating goodwill and friendship among world's children. The Fair has been held annually since then and the 28th WCBF will be held in Japan this summer.