

Japanese Professional Sports Players Displaying Their Abilities on a World Stage



At the US Major League Baseball, not a few Japanese players left great results. Ichiro of the Seattle Mariners, in particular, broke the Major League record of 257 hits a year with his 262 hits, the first time in 84 years. Also, Hideki Matsui contributed to the team both by his fielding and batting.



A lot of Japanese players take on the challenges of football on a world stage. The photo on the left shows Hidetoshi Nakata, playing in Italian Serie A. The photo in the middle shows Shunsuke Nakamura of Reggina. The photo on the right shows Shinji Ono of Feyenoord of the Dutch League.



Ai Sugiyama, the top tennis player in Japan, was ranked No. 1 in doubles from September to November 2003 after winning the French Open and Wimbledon Open in 2003.



Isao Aoki, admitted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2004, started participating in overseas golf tournaments on a full scale in the latter half of the 1970s.