

# The Alameda Taiiku Kai (ATK) baseball club 1931



Translation:  
**Welcome Hiroshima Technical High School Baseball Tournament**  
 sponsored by Hiroshima Kenjin-kai  
 (Prefecture Association)  
 at Alameda City

市グメラ了放合証迎歡團球野業高島廣  
 確立志有人縣島廣東灣

ALAMEDA  
**Japanese**  
**American**  
 PROJECT

Aug. 12, 1931  
 By M. Ozeki

## The Alameda Taiiku Kai baseball club

"The roots of the ATK baseball team go back to 1913, when a team was founded by a group of Issei ("E-say") who brought their love of baseball from Japan," according to Kerry Yo Nakagawa.

"Harry Kono (see photo) helped form and sponsor the ATK some 6-10 years after the 1906 Earthquake," said his son, Gary Kono.

These players eventually formed the nucleus of the Alameda Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) Baseball Club in 1916, *Alameda Taiiku* translates to "Alameda Athletic Club."

Soon after, the Alameda Buddhist Temple Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) baseball team changed its name to the Alameda Taiiku Kai (ATK) baseball club, in order to include

both Methodist and Buddhist Japanese Americans.

ATK games were played on weekends against other Japanese American and top flight semi-pro teams. It served both as a recreational and social gathering place for the Japanese community.

ATK games were played on weekends (usually Sundays) against other Japanese Americans, top flight semi-pros and teams from Japan. Games served both as a recreational and social gathering place for the Japanese community.

The all-dirt field, at Clement and Oak Streets, was bordered by the Baxter Lumber Company, where telephone poles were treated and stored, and batters would hit toward the ocean estuary, toward Oakland.

The Japanese built and cared for the

field and also constructed the grandstands.

The ATK team would pay expenses by passing the hat and by various fundraisers. Tad Hayashi noted that the large Japanese community extending from Foley Street to Walnut and from Santa Clara Avenue to the estuary. They supported the team by filling the stands for each game.

Every spring the men would go down to the field to cut down the weeds. Hayashi recalled that when he was 5 or 6 years old, his father would play catch with him everyday.

Hayashi would play on the Alameda High School team during the week, play American Legion ball on Saturdays and play for the ATK team on Sundays.

Former ATK player Shug Madokoro recalled that the first team wore a big

letter "A" on its uniform. "The ATK came later," stated Madokoro. "I guess we were just called the Alameda ball club then."

By the late 1930s, ATK games had been moved to Lincoln Park, as their old field was being relegated for other uses. When Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941, baseball games stopped.

"In the wartime hysteria, some Alameda Issei spread false rumors that Harry Kono must be a spy for the FBI as he was progressive in his thinking," Gary Kono said. "He was the first non-Caucasian in the Elk's Club."

In 1942, the Alameda Japanese were relocated to internment/incarceration camps after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. The order ended their freedoms in America without due process.

**Sources:**  
 The *Alameda Museum Quarterly* • Issue Number 2, April 2020

Hoover Institution, *Hoji Shinbun Digital Collection*

Kerry Yo Nakagawa, *Nisei ("Nee-say")\*\* Baseball Research Project*

Bill Staples, Jr., *Society for American Baseball Research in Arizona & the Nisei Baseball Research Project*

Gary Kono  
 Arlene Keiko Nobusada  
 Kent Takeda  
 John Towata, Jr.  
 Photograph by Mataichi Ozeki

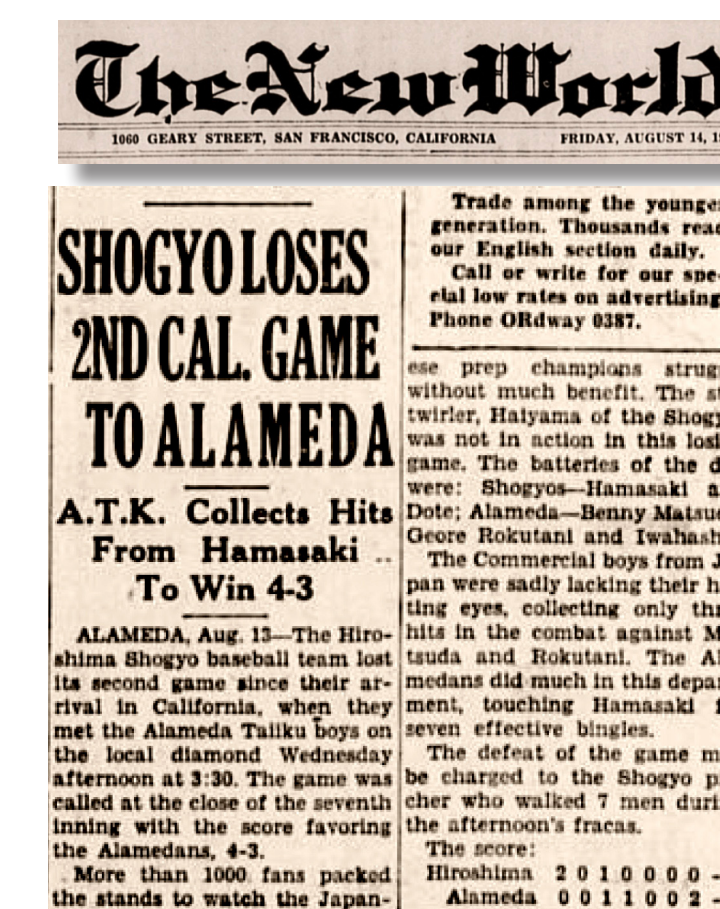
*\*Issei: the first generation of Japanese to immigrate to America. Harry Kono was one of them.*

*\*\*Nisei: second generation Japanese in America, they are the sons/daughters of the Issei.*

*The story behind this August 12, 1931 photo:*

## SHOGYO LOSES 2ND CAL. GAME TO ALAMEDA

*A.T.K. Collects Hits From Hamasaki To Win 4-3*



ALAMEDA, Aug. 13—The Hiroshima Shogyo baseball team lost its second game since their arrival in California, when they met the Alameda Taiiku boys on the local diamond Wednesday afternoon at 3:30.

The game was called at the close of the seventh

inning with the score favoring the Alamedans, 4-3. More than 1000 fans packed the stands to watch the Japanese prep champions struggle without much benefit.

The star twirler, Haiyama of the Shogyos was not in action this losing game. The batters of the day

were: Shogyos: Hamasaki and Dote; Alameda-Benny Matsuda, George Rokutani and Iwahashi.

The Commercial boys from Japan were sadly lacking their hitting eyes, collecting only three hits in the combat against Matsuda and Rokutani. The Alamedans did much

in this department, touching Hamasaki for seven effective bingles.

The defeat of the game be charged to the Shogyo pitcher who walked 7 men during the afternoon fracas.



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Field is located at Clement and Oak Streets in Alameda, CA.