



My Drift

Title: Shohei Ohtani

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SHOTIME

Shohei Ohtani (Japanese: 大谷 翔平; born July 5, 1994) is a Japanese professional baseball designated hitter and pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers of Major League Baseball (MLB). Nicknamed "Shotime", he has previously played in MLB for the Los Angeles Angels and in Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) for the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters. Because of his elite contributions as a hitter and as a pitcher, a rarity as a two-way player, Ohtani's prime seasons have been considered among the greatest in baseball history, with some comparing them favorably to the early career of Babe Ruth.

Considered early on as an elite two-way player, Ohtani was the first pick of the Fighters in the 2012 NPB draft. He played for the Fighters from 2013 through 2017 as a pitcher and an outfielder and won the 2016 Japan Series with them. The Fighters released Ohtani to MLB after the 2017 season, and he signed with the Angels, soon winning the 2018 American League (AL) Rookie of the Year Award.



Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters

Following an injury-plagued 2019 and 2020, Ohtani hit 46 home runs and struck out 156 batters in route to winning his first AL Most Valuable Player Award (MVP) in 2021, a statistically unprecedented two-way season that saw him bestowed with the Commissioner's Historic Achievement Award. In 2022, he became the first player in the modern era to qualify for both the hitting and pitching leaderboards in one season, finishing third in the AL with 219 strikeouts.



Angels 2018



Angels 2019



Angels 2020-2023

Ohtani won his second AL MVP in 2023, leading the AL with 44 home runs while recording 10 wins as a pitcher. He was the first player to win multiple unanimous MVPs and the first Japanese-born player to win a league home run title.



Move to the Dodgers

Ohtani was a free agent at the end of the 2023 season, and his decision about where to play next attracted round-the-clock press coverage. In the end he signed a 10-year, \$700 million contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers, the largest payday in sports history up to that time. On the day of Ohtani's debut with the Dodgers, reports broke that his long-time interpreter and friend, Ipe Mizuhara, had incurred massive gambling debts and used Ohtani's money to pay an illegal bookmaker. Mizuhara was immediately fired from the Dodgers, and Ohtani said the transfers had been made without his knowledge. Mizuhara eventually pleaded guilty to fraud charges, and Ohtani's innocence in the matter was affirmed by MLB.



2024

Despite that rocky start on his new team, Ohtani submitted another all-time performance in the 2024 season. Taking the year off from pitching as he recovered from elbow surgery allowed Ohtani to put all his energies into offense. On August 23 he became only the sixth player in MLB history to hit 40 home runs and steal 40 bases during a season. Less than a month later, on September 19, Ohtani achieved a feat that had never been accomplished: a 50-50 season. He ended the 2024 regular season with 54 home runs and 59 stolen bases. The Dodgers won their division, marking Ohtani's first trip to the postseason in his MLB career. He notched 3 home runs and 10 RBIs across the NL Division Series and Championship Series, and the Dodgers faced the New York Yankees in the World Series. Ohtani had a quiet series, amassing just three hits, but the Dodgers won in five games. In November 2024 Ohtani was unanimously selected as the NL MVP, the first full-time designated hitter to win the award.

2025

Ohtani started his second year with the Dodgers as the designated hitter on March 18 against the Chicago Cubs in Tokyo, as part of the MLB Tokyo Series 2025, batting 2 for 5 with a double in his first game playing in Japan as a Major Leaguer. On May 30, against the Yankees, he tied the Dodgers record for home runs in a month with 15. In that same game, Ohtani and Aaron Judge became the first reigning MVPs ever to each hit a home run in the first inning of the same game. Ohtani was named the NL Player of the Month in May 2025, after hitting .398 with 15 home runs on the month. On June 15, Ohtani hit two home runs against the San Francisco Giants, the second being the 250th home run of his career. Ohtani made his first pitching appearance as a Dodger, and first since August 2023, on June 16 against the Padres, pitching one inning while allowing one run on two hits.

On June 26, Ohtani was announced as a starting designated hitter for the NL in the All-Star Game, having received the second most votes behind Judge. Ohtani topped the National League and was second in the big leagues with 3.97 million votes, becoming the first designated hitter to start in five straight All-Star Games. On July 20, Ohtani hit his 34th home run of the season against the Milwaukee Brewers, joining Babe Ruth, Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa, and Aaron Judge as the only players to hit at least 34 homers in their team's first 100 games three or more times in their career. On July 23, Ohtani homered in the first inning against the Minnesota Twins, tying a franchise record by homering in his fifth straight game. On August 6, Ohtani recorded his 1,000th career hit when he hit a two-run home run off Cardinals pitcher Matthew Liberatore in the third inning. He became the third Japanese-born player to reach 1,000 hits in the Majors, joining Ichiro Suzuki (3,089) and Hideki Matsui (1,253). Ohtani also became the fourth active member of the Dodgers to achieve the feat, joining Freddie Freeman, Mookie Betts, and Teoscar Hernández.



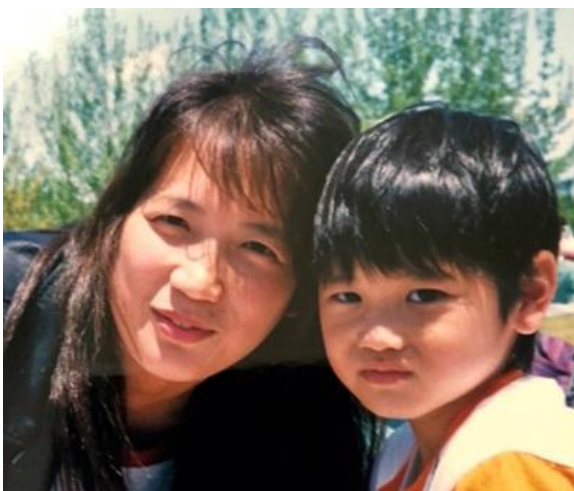
Ohtani Hits 43rd Home Run

As I write this paragraph on 12 Aug 2025, I'm listening to the Dodgers versus the Angels game on the radio. It was a very exciting game that was tied at 5 to 5 going into the 9th inning. Ohtani comes to the plate and hits a "Rocket" ball 404 feet into the right field stands for his 43rd home run of the season and his fourth consecutive game with a home run. Unfortunately, the Angels score a run in the bottom of the ninth and go on to win the game 7 to 6 in extra innings. The Dodgers need to find a better "closing" pitcher – they are losing too many games in the late innings.

Since 2023, Ohtani's jerseys have sold more than any other player in the U.S., Japan and worldwide. Internationally, Ohtani represents Japan. At the 2023 World Baseball Classic, he won the MVP Award for the tournament following Japan's victory over the United States. The 2023 final was one of the most-watched baseball games in history, culminating with Ohtani striking out Angels teammate and U.S. captain Mike Trout on a full count, securing a 3–2 win and Japan's third title.

Early life

Ohtani was born to Kayoko and Toru Ohtani in Mizusawa (now part of Ōshū), Iwate, Japan, on July 5, 1994. His mother Kayoko was a national-level badminton player in high school and his father Tōru worked at a local automobile manufacturing plant and was an amateur baseball player who played in the Japanese Industrial League.



Ohtani with his mother



Ohtani with his father

Ohtani is the youngest of three children. He has one older sister, Yuka, and one older brother, Ryuta, who is also an amateur baseball player in the Japanese Industrial League. In Japan, Ohtani was known as a "yakyū shōnen" (野球少年; "baseball boy")—a kid who lives, eats and breathes baseball. Coached by his father, he displayed an aptitude for the game at an early age. He began playing baseball in his second year of elementary school, and as a seventh-grader, Ohtani recorded all but one of 18 outs in a six-inning regional championship game.



Amateur career

As a teenager, Ohtani could have played baseball for any powerhouse high school team in big cities such as Osaka or Yokohama. Instead, he opted to stay local, selecting Hanamaki Higashi High School in Iwate Prefecture, Northern Japan, the same high school as pitcher Yusei Kikuchi, whom he admired; Ohtani competed there as a swimmer and played baseball. Ohtani's high school baseball coach, Hiroshi Sasaki, said that he was a fast swimmer who could have competed in the Olympics.

Under Sasaki's guidance, Hanamaki Higashi's players lived on campus, returning home for only six days a year. Sasaki would assign toilet cleaning chores to Ohtani, to teach him humility. In 2012, Ohtani threw a 99 mph (160 km/h) fastball as an 18-year-old high school pitcher, which at the time, had set a Japanese high school baseball record until it was surpassed by Rōki Sasaki's 101 mph (163 km/h) fastball in 2018. Ohtani threw the pitch in the Japanese national high school baseball championship tournament, commonly called Summer Koshien. In the 2012 18U Baseball World Championship, Ohtani had a 0–1 win–loss record with 16 strikeouts, eight walks, five hits, five runs, and a 4.35 earned run average (ERA) in 10+1/3 innings pitched.

Shohei Ohtani Early Life Goals

Shohei Ohtani, a Japanese phenom and current Los Angeles Dodgers player, mapped out a detailed list of goals for himself during high school, ranging from ages 18 to 42. These goals included aspirations for both his professional baseball career and his personal life.



Ohtani in High School

Ohtani's early life goals covered a range of achievements he aimed for at different ages. Some of his notable goals included joining an MLB team by age 18, mastering English and reaching AAA by 19, and being called up to the Majors by 20. He also set financial targets, aiming to make 1.5 billion JPY (approximately \$13 million USD) by age 20. His pitching goals included winning 16 games by age 21, winning the Cy Young Award by 22, and throwing a no-hitter by age 24. He also aimed to throw the fastest pitch in the world (175 kph or 108 mph) by age 25. Personal goals included winning the World Series and getting married by age 26, having his first son by 28, and his first daughter by 31. He also envisioned winning multiple World Series, being part of the Japan World Baseball Classic (WBC) team multiple times and breaking the strikeout record by age 36. His long-term plan included his first son starting baseball at 37, a decline in stats and thoughts of retirement at 38, deciding to retire at the end of the following season at 39, throwing a no-hitter in his final game at 40, returning to Japan at 41, and introducing the American system to Japan at 42.

Personal Life

Shohei Ohtani, the Los Angeles Dodgers' two-way superstar, has been making headlines not just for his record-breaking performances on the field but also for his rapidly evolving personal life. On February 29, 2024, Ohtani shocked fans by announcing on Instagram that he had married a "very special" woman from his native Japan, though he initially kept her identity under wraps.

The mystery lasted only two weeks. In March 2024, the Dodgers posted a photo of Ohtani boarding a plane to Seoul with a woman later confirmed to be Mamiko Tanaka, a former professional basketball player. The caption casually referred to her as his partner, finally putting speculation to rest.



Mamiko Tanaka, born on December 11, 1996, in Mitaka, Tokyo, is far from just a famous athlete's spouse. She carved out her own legacy as a power forward for the Fujitsu Red Wave in Japan's Women's Basketball League from 2019 to 2023. Standing at 5'11", Tanaka was known for her offensive rebounding and playmaking, averaging 7.8 points and 6.0 rebounds in her final season before retiring. She also represented Japan internationally, winning silver at the 2017 Summer Universiade and nearly making the 2021 Olympic 3×3 team. Her athletic pedigree made her a perfect match for the 6'4" Ohtani, with fans joking their child would inherit both talent and height.



Ohtani's Dog Decoy High-Fives Him after He Throws out First Pitch

The “little rookie” arrived on April 19, 2025. Ohtani skipped a game against the Texas Rangers, placed on the paternity list, and announced the birth of their daughter via another heartfelt Instagram post. The photo showed the newborn’s tiny feet cradled in their hands, with Ohtani thanking Tanaka for delivering their “healthy beautiful daughter” and joking about their nervous excitement as first-time parents. Dodgers manager Dave Roberts quipped about Ohtani’s love of sleep is facing a new challenge, while teammates rallied around the news. The baby’s gender and birth date were confirmed, but true to form, her name remains undisclosed, a testament to the couple’s guarded approach to privacy.

Pitcher-Hitter: Two-Way Players in the Major Leagues in Last 100 Years Who Pitched in a Least 100 Games and Hit in at Least 500 Games

1925-1929: 2 Babe Ruth (163 games pitched and batted .342 in 2502 games)

Bob Smith (435 games pitched and batted .242 in 742 games)

1930-1939: 2 Chubby Dean (162 games pitched and batted .274 in 533 games)

Bucky Walters (428 games pitched and batted .243 in 715 games)

1940-1949: 1 Johnny Cooney (159 games pitched and batted .286 in 1172 games)

1950-1959: 2 Bucky Walters (428 games pitched and batted .243 in 715 games)

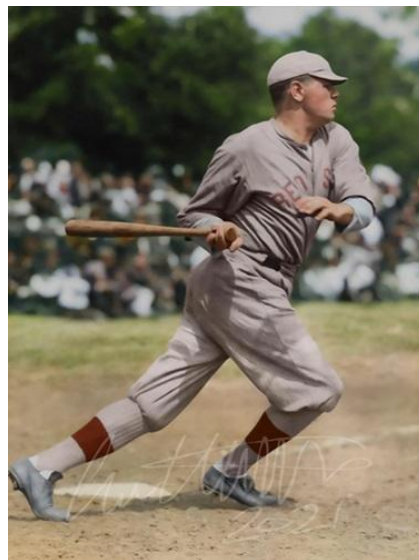
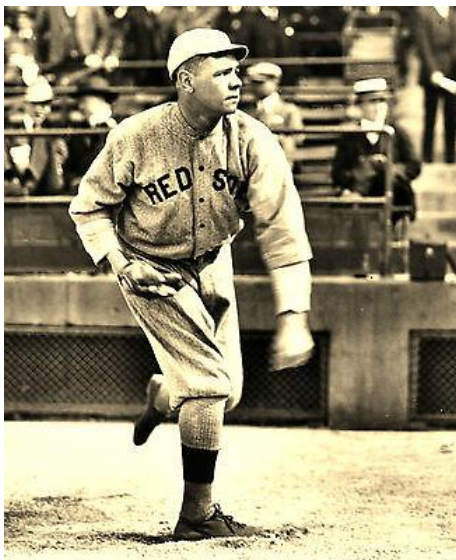
Dick Hall (495 games pitched and batted .210 in 669 games)

1960-2017: 0

2018-Present: 1 Shohei Ohtani (Probably the greatest two-way player ever)

Note: From the above list, only Babe Ruth and Shohei Ohtani pitched and hit in the same game.

Babe Ruth



George Herman "Babe" Ruth (February 6, 1895 – August 16, 1948) was an American professional baseball player whose career in Major League Baseball (MLB) spanned 22 seasons, from 1914 through 1935. Nicknamed "the Bambino" and "the Sultan of Swat", he began his MLB career as a star left-handed pitcher for the Boston Red Sox but achieved his greatest fame as a slugging outfielder for the New York Yankees. Ruth is regarded as one of the greatest sports heroes in American culture and is considered by many to be the greatest baseball player of all time. In 1936, Ruth was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame as one of its "first five" inaugural members.



Shohei Ohtani Interesting Facts

Shohei Ohtani, often referred to as the "Japanese Babe Ruth," is a two-way baseball phenomenon known for his exceptional skills as both a pitcher and a hitter.

Record-Breaking Season: In the 2024 season, he achieved career-highs with 54 home runs, 130 RBIs, and 59 stolen bases, becoming the first player in MLB history to enter the 50/50 club.

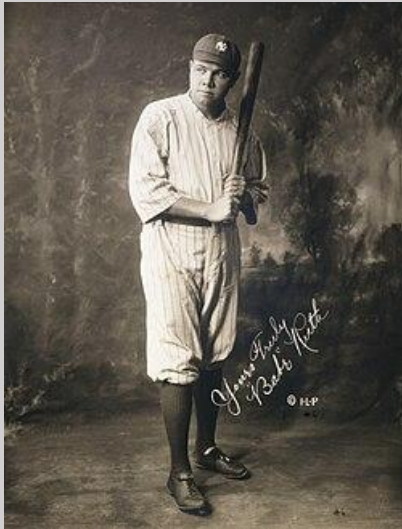
Shohei is a Christian: Despite the majority of the Japanese population adhering to Shintoism, Ohtani is a practicing Christian.

Ohtani has brought intense national pride for the Japanese. Although Ohtani is not the first Japanese athlete to bring pride to their nation, Ohtani is considered a treasure by his people. Several Japanese athletes have succeeded in the same sport, but there's just something about Ohtani that remains remarkable. His big build has even changed the world's perception of Japanese athletes, giving a boost to their national ego. The stereotype that their athletes are physically inferior is debunked.

Aside from his athletic capabilities, he has a heart of gold. Shohei's teammates vouch for his kindness and have only good things to say about him. He even cleans up after himself in the Angels dugout. No wonder he's a crowd favorite.

MLB Two Greatest Pitchers/Hitters

Babe Ruth



Ruth in 1920

**Born: February 6, 1895
Baltimore, Maryland**

**Died: August 16, 1948 (aged 53)
From Metastatic Cancer
New York, New York**

Batted: Left --- Threw: Left

Teams

**Boston Red Sox (1914–1919)
New York Yankees (1920–1934)
Boston Braves (1935)**

MLB Statistics

Hitting

**Games Played 2,303
Batting average .342
Hits 2,873
Home runs 714
Runs Batted In 2,214
Base on Balls 2,062
Strike Outs 1,330
Stolen Bases 123**

Shohei Ohtani



Ohtani in 2025

**Shohei Ohtani was born on July 5, 1994,
in Japan**

**Ohtani is 31 Years Old at this Writing
and in the Prime Years of his Career.**

Bats: Left --- Throws: Right

Teams

**Los Angeles Angels (2018–2023)
Los Angeles Dodgers (2024–Present)**

**NOTE: The following MLB Statistics
are only current up to 12 Aug 2025**

Hitting

**Games Played 993
Batting average .282
Hits 1,009
Home runs 268
Runs Batted In 646
Base on Balls 511
Strike Outs 1,062
Stolen Bases 162**

Pitching

Games Pitched 163
Win-loss record 94-46
Earned run average 2.28
Strikeouts 488

Career Highlights and Awards

2× All-Star (1933, 1934)
7× World Series champion (1915, 1916, 1918, 1923, 1927, 1928, 1932)
AL MVP (1923)
AL batting champion (1924)
12× AL home run leader (1918-1921, 1923, 1924, 1926-1931)
6× AL RBI leader (1919-1921, 1923, 1926, 1928)
AL ERA leader (1916)
New York Yankees No. 3 retired
Monument Park honoree
Boston Red Sox Hall of Fame
Major League Baseball All-Century Team
Major League Baseball All-Time Team
Baseball Hall of Fame (Induction 1936)

Signature

Babe Ruth



Ruth Enjoyed His Cigars

Pitching

Games Pitched 94
Win-loss record 38-19
Earned run average 2.98
Strikeouts 633
Walks 178

Career Highlights and Awards

5× All-Star (2021-2025)
World Series champion (2024)
3× MVP (2021, 2023, 2024)
4× All-MLB First Team (2021-2024)
AL Rookie of the Year (2018)
3× Silver Slugger Award (2021, 2023, 2024)
2× Hank Aaron Award (2023, 2024)
2× Home run leader (2023, 2024)
NL RBI leader (2024)



Shinzo Abe awarding Shohei Ohtani the Prime Minister Trophy at the 2018 Japan Professional Sports Grand Prize Award Ceremony

A Few Remarks

The Dodgers have become very popular here in Hawaii since they got Shohei Ohtani. I go to a bar once in awhile to watch football, basketball, baseball or golf. Nowadays whenever the Dodgers are playing, the bar is crowded with people routing for the Dodgers and especially for Shohei Ohtani. It is almost like when there is an NFL football game on. It was never like that before!

I have been a Dodger fan for a long time. They were the Brooklyn Dodgers when I was young and listened to the games on the radio. Well, this was before my family got their first Television Set. There were no computers or cell phones back then. FYI - The Dodgers were a successful baseball team in Brooklyn for decades before they moved to Los Angeles after the 1957 season.

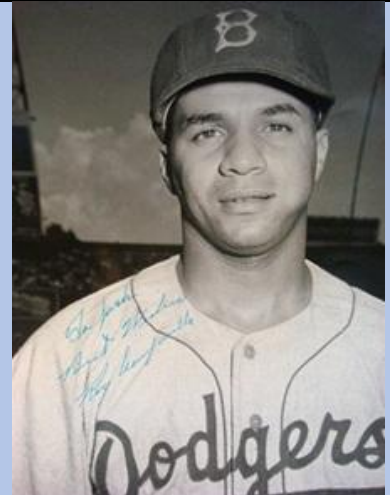
Some of the Brooklyn Dodger players I liked included:



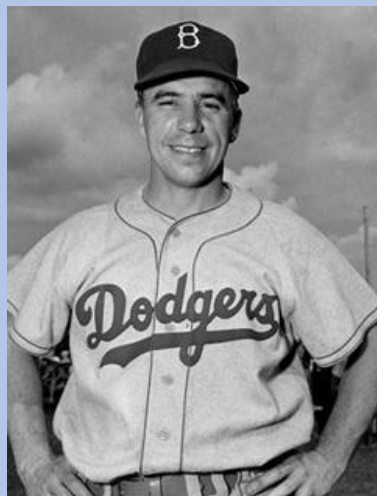
Jackie Robinson



Duke Snider



Roy Campanella



Pee Wee Reese



Gil Hodges



Carl Furillo

Jackie Robinson revolutionized baseball by breaking the color barrier in 1947. His .311 career batting average, 137 home runs, and 197 stolen bases showcased his exceptional talent. As the 1949 NL MVP, Robinson's aggressive baserunning and clutch hitting transformed the game. His courage in facing racism made him an American hero, leading to his number 42 being retired across all of MLB.

Duke Snider was the power-hitting centerpiece of the Boys of Summer, blasting 389 career home runs and driving in 1,271 RBIs. During the 1950s, he achieved the remarkable feat of hitting 40+ home runs in five consecutive seasons. An eight-time All-Star, Snider led the Dodgers to their only Brooklyn World Series victory in 1955.

Roy Campanella dominated the game, winning three NL MVP awards in just 10 seasons. Despite his career being cut short by tragedy, "Campy" hit 242 home runs and drove in 856 runs. His leadership behind the plate proved crucial in Brooklyn's 1955 World Series triumph, cementing his legacy as one of baseball's greatest catchers.

Pee Wee Reese, as team captain for 16 seasons, embodied Dodger leadership. The 10-time All-Star shortstop accumulated 2,170 career hits and displayed exceptional defensive skills.

Gil Hodges combined power hitting with defensive excellence, smashing 370 home runs while winning three Gold Gloves. The eight-time All-Star drove in over 100 runs for seven consecutive seasons. His consistent performance at first base helped establish Brooklyn as a National League powerhouse throughout the 1950s

Carl Furillo earned his nickname "The Reading Rifle" through his powerful throwing arm from right field. The two-time All-Star won the 1953 batting title with a .344 average and finished his career with 1,910 hits. His defensive prowess and consistent hitting made him a crucial part of Brooklyn's success.

From my research and everything I have heard, Shohei Ohtani is a humble good person along with being "probably" the best baseball player ever.

GO DODGERS!!

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