

ALL GENRES

## Obituary / Koki Morita / Ex-Yokohama reliever





The Yomiuri Shimbun

Koki Morita

9:29 pm, October 20, 2015

## The Yomiuri Shimbun

Former star relief pitcher Koki Morita, whose career was interrupted by a brain tumor from which he bravely battled back to pitch for four more seasons, died on Friday. He was 45.

Morita, who played for the Yokohama Taiyo Whales and Kintetsu Buffaloes and was the first Japanese reliever to establish the role of set-up man, retired in 2002 and was said to have spent recent years fighting his illness.

Morita was the No. 1 draft pick in 1988 of the Whales (now the DeNA BayStars). With a sharp screwball, he led the Central League in earned run average in 1992. Pitching before closer Kazuhiro Sasaki, he became the pioneer among set-up men.

In 1998, he was traded to Kintetsu, but was forced to leave the game after being diagnosed with the brain tumor. But through his tireless rehab efforts, he returned in 1999 and was named comeback player of the year in 2001, when he appeared in 34 games.

He compiled a 47-34 record with 29 saves in 345 career games.

Facebook

Like Share 0

Twitter

ツイート

Google+



Hatena Bookmark



Evernote



LinkedIn



---

### Related

Takahashi ready to take reins as Giants manager

Turning it up

All Blacks shut door on Boks to reach final

Front-runners

---

### SUBSCRIBE NEWSPAPER

購読申し込みはこちら





## Weather

Tokyo 08:00 pm

[Customize](#)

# 15°C

**Tue**

22°  
13°

**Wed**

26°  
17°

**Thu**

19°  
15°

**Fri**

20°  
14°



See the history of  
WASEDA University  
As it is today



Capturing the age,  
focusing on the future  
Chuo University



Latest news from Sophia University,  
a pioneer in Japanese  
global education

**Advertising with The Japan News**





[SCROLL TO TOP](#)

[Web Site Policies](#)

[Web Site Policies Top](#)

