**Hideki Matsui** (松井 秀喜 *Matsui Hideki*, born June 12, 1974) is a Japanese former professional [baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baseball) [outfielder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outfielder) and [designated hitter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Designated_hitter) who played baseball in Japan and the United States.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hideki_Matsui#cite_note-1) He batted left-handed and threw right-handed.

After playing the first ten seasons of his career for the [Yomiuri Giants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yomiuri_Giants) of Japan's [Nippon Professional Baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nippon_Professional_Baseball), he played the next seven seasons, from 2003–2009, for the [New York Yankees](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Yankees) of North America's [Major League Baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_League_Baseball). As a free agent, Matsui then had one-year stints with the [Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Angels_of_Anaheim), the [Oakland Athletics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oakland_Athletics), and the [Tampa Bay Rays](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tampa_Bay_Rays). Matsui was successful in both leagues, winning the [Central League Most Valuable Player Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nippon_Professional_Baseball_Most_Valuable_Player_Award) three times in Japan, as well as the [World Series Most Valuable Player Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Series_Most_Valuable_Player_Award) in the United States. On July 28, 2013, Matsui signed a one-day minor league contract with the [New York Yankees](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Yankees) in order to officially retire as a Yankee. A pregame ceremony was held for him.