



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Official Statement from Mayor Ken Sim Regarding The Recent Passing of Kaye Kaminishi

VANCOUVER, BC - Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim released the following statement regarding the recent passing of Kaye Kaminishi:

“Our city sadly mourns the loss of Kaye Kaminishi, the last surviving original member of the legendary Vancouver Asahi baseball team. Kaye was a symbol of resilience, determination, and the unbreakable spirit of Vancouver’s Japanese Canadian community.

“At just 17, Kaye joined the Asahi, where he became an integral part of the team's remarkable journey to numerous championship victories, breaking barriers and challenging the racial prejudices of the time.

“Like so many Japanese Canadians during World War II, Kaye endured the injustice of internment camps. But his determination and strength never wavered.

“After the war, Kaye returned to the game he loved and became a father and later a proud grandfather. He is survived by his loving family, including his daughter, Joyce, and his son, Ed.

“Kaye’s influence stretches far beyond the baseball diamond. His story continues to inspire new generations of aspiring baseball players, and his impact on Vancouver is carried forward by the Asahi Legacy team.

“Earlier this year, myself and my team on City Council paid tribute to Kaye and the Asahi baseball team by declaring January 11th, 2024 as “Vancouver Asahi Day”, marking his 102nd birthday. This event added to the long list of accolades for the team, including their induction into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 2003 and the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.

“I am incredibly proud to have known Kaye. He was more than just a sports icon - he was a Vancouver legend. Humble, courageous, and constant source of inspiration, he will forever hold a special place in our city’s heart.”

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