

## Recitation C

### **The Achievements of Ichiro Suzuki**

Ichiro Suzuki came to a turning point in May, 2018. He left the Mariners as a player, but stayed on with the team to pass on his special magic touch.

After a successful career in Japan, Ichiro began his Major League Baseball career in 2001 with the Mariners. He was traded to the Yankees in 2012 and spent some time with the Marlins. At the age of 44, he rejoined the Mariners in March, 2018.

Whether or not Ichiro plays again, his status as one of the game's most important players is already cemented. He ranks 21st in all-time MLB history with 3,089 hits. He won ten straight Gold Glove Awards from 2001 to 2010, and will be forever remembered for his amazing laser-beam throws.

But what makes him outstanding is not limited to his terrific performances and brilliant records. He was a good representative of the Japanese style of baseball. He had the same intensive pregame practice routine every day of the year. Players on the other teams used to stop and watch him because it was such a labor intensive workout. When asked about his laser-beam throw, he said it's not the power but the flexibility of muscles that counts. He embodied the Japanese philosophy, "The flexible can conquer the powerful."

He set an example for other Japanese stars to follow and showed the league that there's value in the Japanese approach. The Mariners are hoping he can pass on some of his vast knowledge to his teammates. The team's executive vice president said, "With Ichiro's track record of success, his personality, his unique perspective and his work ethic, he is singularly positioned to impact both our younger players and the veterans in the clubhouse."

His mission is not yet over and his achievements will pave the way for future generations.

(303 words)