

(English translation follows)

関係各位

私は、日本の秋田県五城目町にある五城目第一中学校で教師をしている京谷明仁です。本校に赴任して6年目になりました。他国の学校への推薦状を書くのは初めてで、うまく書けるか自信ありませんが、コーディ君との楽しい思い出を振り返りながら、喜んで書かせていただきます。

コーディ君は、中学2年次の4月に本校に留学し、野球部に所属しました。1年前の夏休みにも来日し、一緒に練習をしたことがあったので、スムーズに野球部員と打ち解けることができました。しかし、簡単な日本語は話せても、それ以上のこととなるとなかなか言葉が出てこないで、自分の意志を伝えられない場面がよくありました。私は、コーディ君の短い言葉を拾いながら急がせないようにして、彼の考えを理解するように努めました。同時に、野球部員にもコーディ君のことを理解し、受け入れるよう指導しました。

コーディ君は大変謙虚な態度で、日本の部活動に馴染もうと努めることで、同級生だけでなく上級生にも信頼されるようになりました。次第に、彼の人柄、強い意志、集中力、努力する姿勢は本校野球部の模範となっていきました。彼は常に気持ちのいい態度で誰とでも接するので、みんなコーディ君のことが大好きでした。野球の技術についてもコーディ君は傑出していました。チャレンジ精神あふれる守備、アグレッシブな走塁、パワフルな打撃は、日本の野球とはまた違った魅力がありました。彼の打撃フォームは個性的でしたが、合理的な長所がいくつもありました。コーディ君の打撃を私の指導の参考にしたいと考え、打撃論についてよく彼と語り合いました。

コーディ君のことで最も印象に残っているのは、4月の春季地区大会と5月の本校招待大会での活躍です。春季大会ではエクストラ・イニングスでの安打でグッバイ・ウィンに貢献しました。また、招待大会ではマルチ安打を放って、相手チームに恐れられました。コーディ君が打席に立つと大声援が起きました。その打撃力への期待感は当然ですが、何よりコーディ君の人柄が周囲を応援させたいのだと感じました。6月に帰国することになって大変残念に思いました。チームにとって必要な戦力であったこともありますが、私よりずっと年下ながら、友人として尊敬できるアメリカの若者とお別れするのが辛かったからです。

コーディ君は、目標に向かって努力する真面目さと人との多様なコミュニケーション力を兼ね備えた素晴らしい人物です。そして、これからも自己を磨く努力を惜しまず、関係各位の期待に十分応える活躍をするものと確信できます。

以上の理由から、本生徒を貴学へ自信をもって推薦します。

日本国 秋田県五城目町立五城目第一中学校
教諭（野球部監督） 京谷 明仁

To whom it may concern:

My name is Akihito Kyoya, and I am a teacher [and baseball coach] at Gojome Daiichi Junior High School in Gojome, Akita, Japan. I have been at the school for six years. This is my first time writing a letter of recommendation to a school in another country, and while I am not sure I can do so well, it is a joy for me to take this opportunity to recall some happy memories I have of Kodi Dotterer.

Kodi joined the baseball team when he came to our school as a sophomore exchange student in April [of 2017]. Having practiced with the team the prior summer, he was able to integrate smoothly. On the other hand, although he spoke simple Japanese, when it came to more than that, he struggled to find the right words and often could not express himself. I endeavored to understand Kodi's thoughts by taking in each short word he used, encouraging him not to rush. I also instructed his teammates to understand and welcome Kodi.

With diligence and great humility, Kodi worked to fit in with the Japanese sporting experience, to the point that he gained the trust and confidence not only of his fellow sophomores but of the older students as well. Gradually, Kodi's personality, strong will, focus and hard work, made him an example for our team. Everyone loved Kodi because he was always cheerful in his interactions with each person. As for his baseball skills, Kodi excelled. His powerful batting, aggressive baserunning, and dynamic fielding are appealing and different from what we see in Japanese baseball. His batting form is unique but has several advantages. Wanting to use Kodi's hitting as a point of reference in my coaching, I often spoke with him regarding batting philosophy.

The memories of Kodi that stick with me most are those of his performances at the Spring District Tournament in April and our own school's Invitational Tournament in May. At the Spring Tournament, he contributed to our walk-off win with a hit in extra innings. At the Invitational, he had a multi-hit performance that left the other teams fearing him. There was loud cheering whenever Kodi came the plate. Naturally, people have expectations for power hitters. But I feel that more than anything, it was Kodi's personality that made others want to support him.

I was very sad to see Kodi go back to the US in June. He was a valuable and necessary asset for our team, of course, but what was painful for me was saying goodbye to this American youth, who, though he was much younger than me, I had come to respect as a friend.

Kodi is a wonderful person who has both the earnestness to work toward his goals and the power to communicate with different types of people. I am sure that he will continue to spare no effort to improve himself, and that he will do everything necessary to meet and exceed the expectations of those concerned.

For the above reasons, I confidently recommend this student to your school.

Akihito Kyoya
Teacher / Baseball coach
Gojome Daiichi Junior High School
Gojome, Akita, Japan

Note: This recommendation was received by email from Mr. Kyoya (a Japanese speaker) and translated and submitted on his behalf. If you would like to contact Mr. Kyoya directly, please do so via Gojome Daiichi Junior High School, in Japan. The phone number is +81 018 852 2051