

January 12, 2006

Darvish of the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters Closes an Exclusive Deal with  
Avex

Avex Network Inc. (ANI), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Avex Group Holdings Inc., announces today that ANI has entered into an exclusive personal management agreement with the professional baseball player Yu Darvish of the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters.

Darvish is the second professional baseball player, following Daisuke Miura (Yokohama Bay Stars), with whom ANI has reached such an agreement.

Yu Darvish

Birthplace: Osaka

Date of birth: August 16, 1986

Height/weight: 195cm/85kg

Blood type: A

Team: Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters

Position: Pitcher (throws: right, bats: right)

Graduated from: Tohoku High School (Sendai)

Darvish was named in the first round of the amateur draft by the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters and joined the team immediately after his graduation from high school in 2004. He was assigned in his first year as a starting pitcher for the team.

Darvish is a renowned hard-throwing pitcher with his max pitching speed as fast as 150 km/hr, not to mention his exquisite “shoot.”

Past performances (as of October 2005)

-- 14 matches/five wins, five losses/94 innings (1/10)/52 strikeouts/ERA 3.53

Message from Darvish

I hope that, backed up by Avex, increasing my exposure in fields other than just as a baseball player will contribute to attracting more fans to the baseball fields.

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