



**Critical Acclaim For
P.O.V.'s "KOKOYAKYU: HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL"
By Kenneth Eng**

"Tom Hanks's character in *A League of Their Own* was wrong: there is crying in baseball. Anyone who doubts that should tune in to Kenneth Eng's *Kokoyakyu: High School Baseball*, an intense P.O.V. documentary on PBS."

– **Anita Gates, *The New York Times***

"*Kokoyakyu* brings us the players, coaches, parents, yell leaders and spectators who make the Koshien a life-altering experience. . . . The approach of director-editor Kenneth Eng is intimate but never intrusive. . . . The joy of victory and, in particular, the agony of defeat are palpable. . . . For an American audience, *Kokoyakyu* succeeds marvelously . . ."

– **Tony Perry, *Los Angeles Times***

So you thought it was just Americans who went batty every summer over four sandbags and a dirt mound? You haven't seen sports-crazy till you've tuned into baseball as lived and breathed by hoards of Japanese teens. Grade: A

– ***Christian Science Monitor***

"In an age of over-zealous coaches and parents, the men who manage the Japanese high school baseball teams profiled in the film *Kokoyaku: High School Baseball* offer a refreshing change."

– **NPR "Only a Game"**

"PBS' excellent documentary series 'P.O.V.' showcases *Kokoyakyu: High School Baseball*. A few minutes in, viewers may forget it is in Japanese with English subtitles."

– **Jacqueline Cutler, *Newark Star-Ledger***

"[The] documentary is a home run."

– **Susan Bickelhaupt, *Boston Globe***

"An hourlong thrill ride. . . . "The film is a wonderful glimpse at the way another country has accepted and made one of our national pastimes one of its own."

– **Victor Balta, *Daily Herald (Everett, Wa.)***

"A fascinating study in cultural translation. . . . The film conveys the fervor with which baseball is played and adored in Japan."

– **Steven G. Kellman, *San Antonio Current***

"While Japanese culture might seem about as similar to American life as that of Mars, there are still some things that translate between the two worlds."

– **David Koons, *Arkansas Times***

"*Kokoyakyu: High School Baseball* is set in Japan and provides a rare glimpse into its unique culture . . ."

– **Crystal Wong, *Japan Times***

"Sublime. . . . a beautiful, hour-long look at two dissimilar teams trying to make it to the national championship played at Koshien Stadium in Osaka. . . . Their film conveys a cultural elegance."

– **Cliff Vaughn, *Ethicsdaily.com***

