

The Asian Reporter

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Japan high school baseball looks to save pitchers



PROTECTING PITCHERS. Masahiro Tanaka of the New York Yankees pitches during a game against the Tampa Bay Rays at Yankee Stadium in the South Bronx, New York. The marathon pitching exploits of Japan's high school baseball players may soon be a thing of the past. Tanaka, a standout in Japanese high school baseball, was recently placed on the 15-day disabled list with a partially torn ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow. (AP Photo/Tomasso DeRosa)

By **Jim Armstrong**
AP Sports Writer

TOKYO — The marathon pitching exploits of Japan's high school baseball players may soon be a thing of the past.

Japan's High School Baseball Federation is considering introducing measures such as a tiebreaker and pitch-count limits

in order to protect the health of the country's future stars.

New York Yankees right-hander Masahiro Tanaka, who was recently placed on the 15-day disabled list with a partially torn ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow, was a standout in Japanese high school baseball. He led his high school team to a championship in 2005.

New York Mets pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka, who had elbow surgery in 2011, gained notoriety for throwing 250 pitches in 17 innings at the summer high school tournament in 1988 after a 148-pitch complete-game shutout the previous day.

Tomohiro Anraku, who many consider the future of Japanese baseball, took the mound recently and pitched a complete-game shutout in an 8-0 win in a qualifying

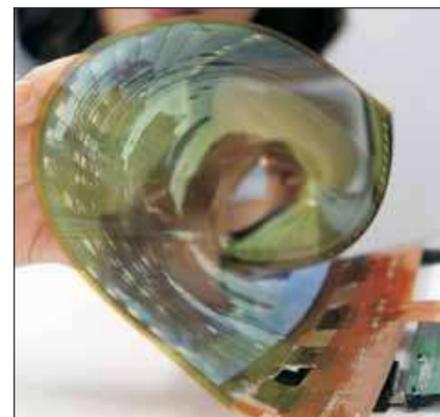
game.

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Hollywood 'Godzilla' finally stomps to Japan

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18" roll-up screen unveiled in Seoul

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ABC's "Fresh Off the Boat" kicks off this fall

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