

Key moments in the North Korea-China relationship

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s surprise visit to China makes clear that Beijing, the North’s only major ally and chief provider of energy and trade that keeps the country’s broken economy afloat, will have a major role in any effort to rein in the North’s nuclear program.

A look at key moments in relations between North Korea and China:

October 1949: North Korea and China establish diplomatic relations.

October 1950: China intervenes in the Korean War and engages in combat with U.S.-led forces, saving North Korea from defeat. The war ends in 1953 with an armistice.

November 1958: North Korea founder Kim Il Sung visits China, shortly after China withdraws troops from the Korean Peninsula. He successfully requests economic aid in meetings with Chinese leader Mao Zedong. Kim goes on to visit China and the former Soviet Union many times through the 1960s while maintaining a balancing act between the competing communist powers and consolidating his leadership at home.

April 1982: Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping visits North Korea to attend celebrations of Kim Il Sung’s 70th birthday. Kim visits China five months later to discuss his plans to pass his leadership to his son, Kim Jong Il, and



also reassure Beijing that the North wouldn’t tilt toward the Soviet Union once he’s no longer in power.

August 1992: China establishes diplomatic relations with South Korea, complicating its relations with the North.

May 2000: Kim Jong Il, who took power in 1994 after his father’s death, makes the first of his eight visits to China as the North Korean leader. The trip was reportedly aimed at consulting with the Chinese leadership weeks before Kim’s summit with then-South

DIPLOMATIC HISTORY. North Korean leader Kim Il Sung, right, shakes hands with Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, left, at the logging house in Beijing, China, in this September 17, 1982 file photo. Relations between North Korea and China have spanned from 1949 to the present. (Korean Central News Agency/Korea News Service via AP Images, File)

Korean President Kim Dae-jung, which opened a temporary era of rapprochement between the rivals. Kim, rumored to have had a fear of flying, travelled to China on a green-and-yellow armored train that was also used by his son in March.

August 2003: North Korea joins the first round of six-nation nuclear talks in Beijing, which include China, Japan, Russia, South Korea, and the United States. The talks continue periodically over the next several years before stalling.

December 2011: Kim Jong Un takes power after the death of his father.

May 2013: Senior North Korean official Choe Ryong Hae visits China as Kim’s special envoy and meets with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

October 2015: Senior Chinese official Liu Yunshan visits the North and attends a military parade with Kim.

March 2018: Kim visits Beijing for a meeting with Xi, weeks after the announcements of his planned summits with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump.

The Ohtani Dilemma: Can fantasy accommodate a two-way star?

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eligible as a pitcher only, in part because they’re skeptical of his hitting ability.

Yahoo has taken a different approach: creating two distinct Ohtanis — one a pitcher, one a hitter. The same player doesn’t have to draft both, meaning Ohtani could be split between teams.

“Our engineers would have needed to substantially rebuild the fantasy product,” to create one Ohtani, wrote Yahoo’s Andy Behrens in a statement in December.

“This would have been an enormous undertaking, disrupting other initiatives

and delaying the game. And in the end, Ohtani’s owners still would not have received 100 percent of his stats.”

Yahoo’s programmers aren’t alone in opting against a program re-write. The National Fantasy Baseball Championship is only allowing users to draft Ohtani as a pitcher.

If Ohtani legitimizes himself as a two-way fantasy threat, the ideal scenario for owners is that his hitting and pitching stats are both tracked, regardless of where he is in the lineup. For fantasy sites, though, that would mean a complete

restructuring of the software to track batting stats for all pitchers. Start going down that road, and owners might be able to get a boost from slugging pitchers like Bumgarner, too.

Schoenke, who is also chairman of the Fantasy Sports Trade Association, said sites didn’t have time for that undertaking between December and opening day.

Expect that to change if Ohtani — or perhaps Tampa Bay Rays two-way prospect Brendan McKay — emerges as a fantasy-worthy talent on both sides. If Ohtani can win 20 games and hit 40 home

runs, users are going to demand sites like CBS, ESPN, and Yahoo undertake a massive system re-write.

“People in fantasy baseball are secretly rooting that he doesn’t make it as a hitter so it can kind of go back to what it was,” Schoenke said.

Fantasy fanatics like Schoenke are still dreaming, though. In the past, the most a player could help your team in a standard league was in five categories — five for pitchers, five for hitters. But a 10-category player? “That throws a wrench in everything,” he said.

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