

## "Baseball's god would have hated it."

On the day Shohei Ohtani (30, Los Angeles Dodgers) wrote the milestone of achieving the first 50 home runs and 50 steals in the U.S. Major League Baseball (MLB), Miami Marlins coach Skip Schumacher, who became a scapegoat in history, is also drawing attention.

Ohtani started as the first designated hitter in an away game against the Marlins at Rondipo Park in Miami on the 19th (local time), and played 6 hits, 10 RBIs and 4 runs in 6 at-bats, including 3 homers and 2 stolen bases.

Ohtani entered the batter's box with two outs and a runner on third in the top of the seventh inning when the Marlins were trailing 3-1. Until the last minute, Ohtani had four hits in four atbats for one homer, two doubles, one single and two stolen bases. It would not be a strange situation to intentionally get Ohtani on the base with four pitches, so coach Schumacher chose to go head-to-head. Ohtani scored the much-awaited 50th homerun by pumping out the outer knuckle curve and achieved the record of 50 homers and 50 steals.

Schumacher, who won the National League's Coach of the Year award last season, said after the game, "If it was a one-point game, I would have let Ohtani go. However, when I was lagging far behind, I thought (the four intentional pitches) were a bad move in terms of baseball, karma, and the god of baseball. There is no reason to build karma. The god of baseball will hate it," and added, "It's a bad day for the Marlins, but it's a good day for baseball to see Ohtani break the record."

"I wish I could have seen Ohtani in the dugout as a fan, not as a coach of the opposing team," Schumacher said. "He is the most talented player I have ever seen in a game. He is doing things that I have never seen in a game, and if he spends these prime years more, he will be the best player to play in a game." "I am proud of the players who were not afraid to target Ohtani. I had to make sure that I could put him out. It is respect for baseball. We have to have a head-to-head match with him. He just hit a home run, and that is part of the game."

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts replied, "Today's game was not something that I could have done artificially. I understand Schumacher. There is nothing I can do but respect him."

The Marlins have had tough days in the bottom of the National League winning percentage this season, but they weren't afraid to fall prey to the milestone. Ohtani's ability to hit 50 homers and 50 steals also contributed to a fair game.

Meanwhile, as much as Schumacher's interview, Caster's comment when he reached the 50-50 mark is a hot topic on social media. When Ohtani hit his 50th home run, Caster emphasized Ohtani's greatness by repeatedly using the expression "one-of-a-kind," which means "unprecedented, unique, and very special."