Japanese baseball team arrives in lowa

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DES MOINES - The high school baseball team from Japan that will play in Cedar Rapids Tuesday night has arrived safely in Iowa.

The team from Yamanashi, Japan, arrived at the Des Moines airport on Friday and stayed with local host families Friday night.

The team will be in Cedar Rapids Tuesday for the Japan-Metro All-Star Classic at Kennedy High School, with the pre-game ceremony beginning at 7 p.m.

There are 18 players on the team from Japan. They will play a doubleheader at Southeast Polk High School on Saturday and a doubleheader at Urbandale High School on Sunday.

The Japanese club will play a single game at Principal Park in Des Moines Monday night before traveling to Cedar Rapids on Tuesday for the sixth and final game of their tour.

The Japanese team will arrive in Cedar Rapids during the noon hour on Tuesday. There will be a luncheon at Kennedy for the Japanese team and the local host families, followed by an early dinner for the Japanese team and the Metro All-Star team.

The Japan-Metro All-Star Classic will consist of one nine-inning game. The Japanese players and coaches will spend Tuesday night with local host families and will visit Bloomsbury Farm Wednesday morning before returning to Des Moines.

The Japan-Metro All-Star Classic is being presented by the Metro Sports Report. The sponsors are Genghis Grill, Carlos O'Kelly's and Bloomsbury Farm in conjunction with the Kennedy Baseball Support Group, Iowa AAU and the Cedar Rapids Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Tickets cost \$5 and may be purchased at the gate Tuesday night.