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## Physical Education and Sports in China from Last Stage of Ching Dynasty (1842) to Early Days of Republic of China (1920)

By Kohsuke Sasajima

China, after having been defeated in the Opium War (1839~1842), abolished her policy of seclusion and entered into diplomatic relations with alien countries. Thenceforth, she was defeated by the foreing countries in the wars in succession, and started to take up a policy of Westernization. After the defeat in the Sino-Japanese War(1894~1895), she traced the causes and came to a conclusion that the defeat had been caused by Japan's remarkable development of national education. She, therefore, established successively schools of an Occidental education system and abolished Ko-Chii(examination for government officials in old times) and Wu-Chii (examination for military officers in old times).

Physical education was widely carried out at military schools out of these educational institutes.

With announcement of school education system, the educational system covering from primary schools to universities was established between 1902 and 1903 after the Boxer Uprising. The Japanese educational system was taken as a model for the said educational system in China, and as to the physical education it was almost the same as that in Japan. A training school for gymnastic teachers was also established along with the institution of instructions on gymnastics at schools. It was in this period that Western sports were to be exercised and athletic contests were to be held.

The Ching Dynasty fell before the educational system established in 1903 was put into full operation, and Republic of China was born.

Republic of China proclaimed the educational system in 1912, however, it was scarcely put into practice due to the political unrest except coastal provinces and major cities. The physical education should have been put into practice at schools in accordance with the educational system, however, the over-all practice could not be

expected because of the insufficient installations and teachers with some exceptions.

Sport contests became very popular in localities and athletic contests by classification of events, or national rallies were held.

A missionary school was first established in China in 1839. Then various organizations covering from primary schools and universities were established and some of them were founded according to the American School Law. The missionary schools introducing to Republic of China Western sports, made the groundwork of holding athletic contests. The Western sports were introduced and exercised by Chinese students through foreign teachers at the missionary schools. Intercollegiate sport contests or other athletic contests were first held between the missionary schools. At the same time, Y. M. C. A. also contributed themselves to the promotion of sports in China at that time.

With the born of Republic of China, association of athletes were organized one after another and various sport grounds were made as well.

The era between the last stage of the Ching Dynasty and early days of Republic, of China (era handled in this thesis) was the stage of "Dawn", therefore, enough installations and equipments were scarcely furnished and no remarkable sport records were made.

It is Japan that exerted a large influence on the school physical education in China at this stage and the missionary schools that contributed themselves to the sports.