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Discussion on Bringing up a Volleyball Team

(Subject : Japanese male national team)

By *Masakazu Kimura**

The purpose of this paper is to study a more correct way for bringing up a volleyball team by looking back the history of the Japanese volleyball world which, after making all possible efforts ever since the 6-men system was established with the bitter experience of the Japanese teams having been defeated more than once as a base, at last succeeded in having had the Japanese team won gold medals in the München Olympic Games.

The cause for the victory gained by the Japanese team in München can be attributed to the use of the team which surprised the enemies. An important meaning can be found in that the victory was gained through the strengthening measure which was formulated with the defeats in the past as foundation.

It may be said that all the factors had direct relations with the victory, such as a number of strengthening measures planned and implemented since the defeat in the Tokyo Olympic Games by using the experience as foundation, the manager who himself instructed and guided the team throughout the long period of time, the champions who made their utmost relying wholly upon the manager, the volleyball society that backed up the champions wholeheartedly. Among such factors, the foremost that played the most important role in gaining the victory may be said to have been the leaders. All the strengthening measures which were formulated by the leaders functioned as motive power for the victory. Most of all, the improvement of dietary life and development of basic physical strength were indispensable to compete with foreign teams for the Japanese people are handicapped physically. Thus, the measure employed for such purposes teaches us how important it is to build up bodies, and at the same time calls the sports world for grave reflection,

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that tends to directly rely only upon the strengthening of the team and improvement of techniques. When the defeat in München of the female team the manager of which were changed each time when the Olympic Games were held in Tokyo, Mexico City and München is compared with the male team's win in München, we learn how important it is to guide a team consistently over a long period of time.

In the volleyball world in which a number of powerful rival teams are improving their skills, what lead to an international victory are not only the real power of a team, but also individual champion's physical strength, spiritual strength and a victory in information fights. Accurate judgements must be done based on the experience over a prolonged period, and necessary measures must be taken up with utmost care. He who did these most important things perfectly was the manager of the Japanese male team. In contrast to this manager, he who was compelled to exclusively engage in levelling up skills and lost a victory in München in spite of his efforts was the manager of the female team. From this fact, we can know the advantages of building up a team through the instructions and guidance of a unique manager over a long period of time.