

Title	Effects of the international rule on Japanese volleyball (2)
Sub Title	
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Publisher	慶應義塾大学体育研究所
Publication year	1977
Jtitle	体育研究所紀要 (Bulletin of the institute of physical education, Keio university). Vol.17, No.1 (1977. 12) ,p.111- 112
JaLC DOI	
Abstract	
Notes	Abstract
Genre	
URL	https://koara.lib.keio.ac.jp/xoonips/modules/xoonips/detail.php?koara_id=AN00135710-00170001-0111

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Effects of the International Rule on Japanese Volleyball (2)

By *Masakazu Kimura**

The purpose of this study is to seek the changes effected on the Japanese volleyball by the International Rule for Volleyball. The writer, in the Paper No. 1, published the results of studies made chiefly on basic plays; what is contained in the study of this time is about combination plays and others.

For the basic plays, the International Rule has given adverse effects significantly to the establishment of a six-man volleyball system in Japan. While, in a quite contrast to such obstacles, the writer is going to make a report on the favorable effects given to various aspects of volleyball games in Japan. The quick-attacking plays have completely thrown away the style adopted during the days of the 9-man system. The new system has now been developed into a very advanced and complicated one, always using tactics to develop attacks in a quick rhythm instantly from the serve-receive. The rotation play has swept away the players whose merits were to develop irregular plays, thus making a great contribution to the promotion of the quality of players.

The experiences obtained in many international matches have taught the Japanese players the importance of the promotion of basic physical fitness and Somato type. The charm of speedy and forceful plays has not only increased the number of the volleyball population, but also has made those who had had no concern about volleyball interested in this sport. This achievement should not be overlooked.

As stated above, the International Rule has promoted remarkably the physical quality of the Japanese volleyball established during the old 9-man system days, and it has made a great contribution to the attainment of a rapid progress. However, on the other hand, the demerits which the Japanese volleyball has suffered cannot be overlooked: Foreign teams, by absorbing the Japanese quick attack tac-

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tics, are now standing vigorously before Japanese teams. Thus, the International Rule has raised the level of the Japanese volleyball and also the international level; and it may be said that the Japanese volleyball, as a compensation for such level-up, has lost its sole weapon, what is called "quick attacks." The course in the future of the Japanese volleyball may be said to be filled with a lot of difficulties.