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On the Change in the Contents of Game After the Revision about the Blocking Rule in Volleyball

By *Masakazu Kimura**

As a result of the revision effected in 1965 after the Tokyo Olympics about Blocking Rule changed the conditions of volleyball; at that time, no one could predict that this change would have such important influence as to make volleyball closed up as a sport in which human beings make challenges to the extremity of height.

As to what influence the revision effected again on the blocking rule in 1976 after the Olympiad held in Montreal will have on the contents of the game, seizing of influence of the revision promptly and accurately is considered very important for the strengthening of teams.

As a method for investigating the change made in the contents of the game, from the records of the male final leagues taken place in the Montreal Olympics before the revision was effected and the records of the male final games in the World Cup Event (1976) after the enactment of the revision, the average set records for four teams, namely the USSR, Japan, Cuba and Poland, were calculated. And the differences between the Montreal Olympics and the World Cup Event (1976) were compared, and further, comparison was made between the results thus obtained and the records of the World Championship (1978). By thus doing, investigations and studies were made of the process of the conditions of changes on a step-by-step basis. The method adopted for recording was of original. As to serve points and block points, by taking into consideration the degree of contribution made by plays, records were taken for each set, i.e., the rate of success in serve receive, and in the case of good receive, the rate of the use of quick attacks and that of open at-

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tacks as well as the rate of the attack success conclusion were calculated; in the case of bad receiving, too, for the above rates, calculation was made. And thus the average set records were calculated.

As a result of comparison and discussion of the records obtained by the method mentioned above, it was recognized that the effects of the revision in the rule were shown in a form of more intense attack vs block confrontation; in the World Cup competed first after the revision, this confrontation was seen in the concentration of power to height, and in the World Championship competed next, it was confirmed that a transfer was made from the concentration to height to the quick attack vs blockers' prediction confrontation, i.e., confrontation of quickness. As priority is given to speed, complicated attack formations are required, which compels the setter to participate in attacks and the ace in quick attacks, thus it was confirmed that quick, higher and complicated play is necessary for respective positions. All of these changes suggest that bringing up of all-round players and large Height setters able to make attacks is necessary in the building up of teams in the future. Therefore, it can be said that the revision made in the blocking has had an important influence on the attack formation and buildup of teams, and that it is changing the pattern of volleyball up to this time remarkably.