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Policy for Strengthening Players in the People's Repulic of China

By Kohsuke Sasajima*

The People's Republic of China had concerned with sports since the time of her establishment in 1949, however it was in 1955 that the country began putting efforts into the strengthening of players by establishing spare-time athletic schools; ordinances were issued in 1958 concerning strengthening of various sorts of sport and efforts were started positively toward strengthening of players. This strengthening policy was reaping the fruits to some extent, however, in the cultural revolution started in 1966, the sport world became the subject of criticism and suffered a great blow because it was regarded to have belonged to the Liu Shao-chi faction. The sport that had been discontinued for some years was revived in around 1970, however, its power could never be equal to that before the revolution.

In 1976 Gang of Four was purged and upon the return of the leaders before the revolution, the sport world began resuming power rapidly, its power became so strong that the Chinese representatives threatened the Japanese representatives in the 8th Asian Athletic Meet held in 1978.

The present basic policy for the strengthening of players was established according to the resolution made at the meeting held in January 1979 participated by physical training authorities from all over the country. The aim of this policy is to get the country to grow to one of the first-class sport countries in the world in 2000.

The spare-time athletic schools established in 1955 have been perfected and have played an important role in the strengthening of players although there was a change in their school days, etc. due to the revolution.

According to the system of the spare-time athletic school, children and boys and girls attending schools receive lessons after such schools were over; Riu, Vice Minister of the Education Department, in order to train players capable of winning

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a gold medal in the Olympic Games, made his policy clear in 1979, by which special schools will be established to give both ordinary education and sport training. Since both intellectual and physical lessons are given at these schools, more efficient results will be expected in comparison with the present double system; as necessities demand, the ratio between study and sport may be altered. A borading system will be employed for these schools. Also, according to this policy, school years may be increased to four years at junior high schools and senior high schools respectively in view of the Olympic system under which games are held every four years.

However excellent policies may be established with an aim to strengthen the power of players, if there is a shortage in the number of leaders, satisfactory results would not be obtained as expected originally, therefore, efforts have been made toward perfection of leaders. In lieu of "the grading system of coaches" that was established in 1958, revised partially in 1963 and discontinued due to the cultural revolution, a new grading system for trainers' skills (draft) was issued in June 1979. By this system, trainers are classified into five grades, and the top two grades require an learning level equivalent to that of a university lecturer, an assistant professor or a professor. On the other hand, training is being given to coaches.

In order to make the results of study of sport science be utilized for the strengthening of players, endeavors are being exerted to perfect the Physical Science Institute, and in order to bring up successors, research students are being invited.

In the case of this strengthening policy, too, some problems are being involved concerning expenses, treatment of those failing in becoming first-class players in the school, after their graduation, etc.

If this strengthening policy is pushed forward successfully, it is considered that Japanese athletic representatives would fall behind the Chinese representatives in all events in the near future.