

13th Lecture**“We Cannot Do Sports without Peace”****Nagisa Osada**December 7 (Fri.), 2012 at Japan Education Center (9th floor)

Mitsumoto: We would now like to start the Solidarity of International Judo Education 13th Lecture Meeting. I'm sincerely grateful that so many of you have taken the time out of busy schedule at the end of the year to join us today. I'm Mitsumoto from the secretariat. Thanks to your support, we can hold the 13th lecture meeting today, and we'd like to express our heartfelt gratitude again for your kind support that has made it possible for us to continue this program for so many years. Thank you so much.

Now, Yasuhiro Yamashita, Executive Director of the Solidarity, will make an opening address and introduce today's lecturer, Ms. Nagisa Osada. Mr. Yamashita, please.

Opening Address**Yasuhiro Yamashita**

(Executive Director, NPO Solidarity of International Judo Education; Trustee and Vice-Chancellor, Tokai University)



I'd first like to express my cordial thanks for your continued support for the activities of the NPO Solidarity of International Judo Education. There was rather a strong earthquake a short while ago. Because this building is slightly old and this is the ninth floor, the tremor felt really large as if the epicenter were right under this building. I reacted in a slightly

embarrassing way in front of students who have come here to assist today's lecture meeting (laughter). The epicenter is reported to be Miyagi Prefecture in the Tohoku region. A tsunami warning was also issued, so the situation is rather worrisome. Hopefully there will be no serious damages.

Before the lecture, I'd like to report briefly on activities conducted by the Solidarity this year.

As one of its main activities, the Solidarity donates second-hand judo uniforms overseas. This year, we sent second-hand judo uniforms to six countries, namely, Columbia, Samoa, Egypt, Myanmar, Swaziland, and Peru. We also donated a total of 99 tatami mats to Myanmar.

As in last year, we accepted two judo instructors, one each from Israel and Palestine, for a short-term one-month training from middle November through middle December. They will be introduced to you in the reception after the lecture, so please speak to and communicate with them.

Two Russian young female instructors arrived in Japan the other day. They will receive training on Japanese-style judo for about eight months as they are expected to lead women's judo in Russia in the future. They will also be introduced to you later.

With regard to the athlete training program, one Afghan female judo athlete is currently receiving training in Japan. She was also taking part in the program for seven months from December last year, aiming to compete in the London Olympics held this year. Unfortunately, she couldn't participate in the London Olympics, but because she made an address in our General Meeting in June this year, many of you may remember her.

We also sent four student volunteers to Myanmar and Guam.

As regards exchange activities with China, Toshiaki Hashimoto, assistant executive director of the Solidarity, has been playing the main role. As part of his efforts, he created a Judo manual for beginners in the Chinese language, in which Chinese boys and girls appear, and presented its copies to Chinese people through the Qingdao Japan-China Judo Friendship Center and the Nanjing Japan-China Judo Friendship

Center.

As for my personal activities, I visited Myanmar between June and July as a member of a cultural and sports exchange mission organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. In September, I went to Vladivostok in Russia to promote Japanese judo, while the annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was held in the city. In Vladivostok, I also attended a ceremony to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the birth of Vasili Oshchepkov, who founded Sambo, a Russian martial art.

The territorial disputes with China and Korea are becoming increasingly bitter. I was going to attend an event to celebrate the second anniversary of the founding of the Nanjing Japan-China Judo Friendship Center in March this year. My plan was to go to Nanjing together with students of the All Japan University Judo Federation (AJUJF) to present copies of the judo manual created by assistant executive director Hashimoto and, as part of efforts to promote Japan-China friendship, to make a speech at the Nanjing University. However, one week before the departure, the statement made by Nagoya Mayor Takashi Kawamura regarding the Nanjing issue led to the postponement of the visit.

This year marked the 40th anniversary of the normalization of the diplomatic relations between Japan and China. To commemorate this, NHK was planning to produce a 40-minute program for the NHK BS Premium channel to introduce exchange activities conducted by the Solidarity in Nanjing and Qingdao. The initial schedule was to discuss details in late September and visit China in around November, but NHK decided that it was not right time to make such a documentary program with China. I rather felt that we should go on various exchange activities especially when the relations between the countries were stranded, but had to accept the decision of NHK and give up the plan.

Nevertheless, we were able to conduct all these activities just reported today this year, and this is all because of the support from everyone here and other members of the Solidarity, as well as from sponsor companies. I'd like to take this opportunity to express

my heartfelt gratitude for your support and cooperation. Thank you.

Now, today, we are having the 13th lecture. For the lecturer, we have invited Ms. Nagisa Osada, an old friend of mine, who interviewed me several times as a reporter before. Let me introduce her career just briefly.

Ms. Osada was born in Tokyo and graduated from the Drama Course at the Toho Gakuen College of Drama and Music. After working as an overseas reporter, she served as the sportscaster for "FNN Super Time" on Fuji TV network for 10 years. She is a pioneer female sportscaster in Japan and the leading sports journalist. She also worked as the chief editor for "FM Hotline," an NHK radio program for young people, for a long time. She is a member of the Japan P.E.N. Club and known as a nonfiction writer as well. A visiting professor of the Shukutoku University, the representative director of Nihon Sports Gakkai, the chief editor of "Sport Godzilla" magazine, and many others, she is active in a wide variety of areas, while offering various suggestions as to how the Japanese sporting world should be. I'm looking forward to today's lecture very much. The title is "We Cannot Do Sports without Peace." Ms. Osada, I appreciate your joining us today. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention.

Mitsumoto: Thank you. Now, Ms. Osada, please come to the stage. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome her with a big hand.

We Cannot Do Sports without Peace Nagisa Osada

(member of the Japan P.E.N. Club, nonfiction writer, visiting professor of the Shukutoku University, Representative director of Nihon Sports Gakkai and Chief editor of "Sport Godzilla" magazine)



Osada: Thank you, Yamashita sensei, for your very kind introduction. I have always been participating in the lecture meetings of the Solidarity of International Judo Education as a listener to the lectures on the floor. When I received a call from Ms. Mitsumoto and was requested to give a lecture, I, to be honest, didn't know what answer to make. "Yamashita sensei always cares about me, so I can't reject the request, but can I make a speech that will meet the standard of the Solidarity's lecture meeting?"—This is what I felt. Yamashita sensei and I have known each other for quite a long time. When the Nihon Sports Gakkai, for which I serve as the representative director, planned Yamashita sensei's lecture, he kindly accepted the offer and made a wonderful speech. So, although I felt rather at a loss, I accepted the request, and I have come here today with strong determination to complete my mission.

As you are already aware from the address that Yamashita sensei has just made, he is a really good speaker. His speech is like a magnet that draws our attention. I always look forward to the Solidarity's lecture meetings, eager to know what activities Yamashita sensei has engaged in during the past one year and what the lecturer is going to talk about. However, this year, the situation is totally different to me. I sincerely appreciate your joining the meeting today despite your busy schedule at this time of the year as well as despite a restless mood created by the election that is around the corner and the earthquake that has just happened.

As a Woman Sport Journalist

I would appreciate your understanding if there are any shortcomings in my lecture. Because I have been in this career for more than 30 years to report people involved in sports, I witnessed how Yamashita sensei was while he was an active athlete. I even chased Yamashita sensei after he came out of his waiting room to have an interview. Today I have come here because I was invited by my most favorite and respectful man. I'm Nagisa Osada. I would appreciate your patience during my lecture.

Yamashita sensei introduced me as a pioneer female

sports journalist. But as a matter of fact, there was another female sports writer and journalist before me. She was Ms. Kinue Hitomi, a former long jump world record holder. Since I majored in drama at college, a Foreign Affairs Ministry official I met the other day asked me where I had studied journalism—a question that concerned the root of my career. Actually, I had never studied journalism. I was given an opportunity to become involved in sports journalism soon after graduating from the college, and have continued this career until today. That's all. But what I did was both writing and speaking. Sports journalists who did both writing and speaking were perhaps very rare. But the way I entered into this career was rather unique, which was like trying to get the black belt while my skills were those of beginners who were still doing warm-up. In other words, I have earned money since my first writing, when my skills were still poor, and as such, I have had numerous embarrassing experiences. But I have made the most of these experiences as my nourishment, "eaten" all my failures, and "grown fat." Despite my amateurish skills, I was able to enter the world of journalism. This is perhaps because the level of Japanese journalism is low in comparison with the global standard.

As you are well aware, Yamashita sensei's level of guidance and speech is of the highest standard in Japan. He also has a good sense of humor and a humorous physique. He is an outstanding, globally praised person not just for his formidable skills in judo but for his various aspects. How should I look back at and review achievements of such a great man in my speech?—This is one of the questions I was asking myself on my way here.

The Episodes of Olympics Medals

I wrote a book called "*Konna Sugoi Yatsu-ga-ita*" ("amazing athletes") [Bunshun Bunko paperback series], a collection of amazing tricks of athletes, which earned me a reputation as a sports journalist. I was a young cute girl at that time (laughter), and because young cute girls were considered unsuitable for writing profession in those days, this book often raised people's curiosity about me. This roused me to write more

books. Mr. Kenzo Kitakata, a friend of mine who acted as a go-between for me and my husband, has also always been asking me when I would stop writing. The reason I have been able to continue my career is because there are many things I want to write and talk about.

My book “*Konna Sugoi Yatsu-ga-ita*” focused on “tricks,” rather than endeavors and fighting spirit which are often associated with sports. Mr. Mikio Oda is an athlete who won Japan’s first gold medal in the triple jump at the Amsterdam Olympics in 1928. Although it was not as easy to gather information as in the present network society, he studied his rivals in great depth, and even obtained their photos to study the characteristics of each of them before going to Amsterdam. He even did not have a coach. In the stadium, he analyzed personalities of his rivals and concluded that the third round of preliminary jumps would be the most important and decisive race. As a result of these analyses, despite his small and frail physique, Mr. Oda beat all his big rivals and won the gold medal successfully.

“*Konna Sugoi Yatsu-ga-ita*” doesn’t mention even a word on how hard the athletes trained. When I met Mr. Oda, I focused only on his trick. Mr. Oda won the gold medal more than 80 years ago and passed away in his 90s. The last interviewer in his life happened to be me. I was able to hear something that I even thought was “maybe disclosed too openly?”

Another athlete appearing in the book is Mr. Shuhei Nishida, who won the silver medal in the pole vault at two consecutive Olympic Games. At the Los Angeles Olympics in 1932, where he won his first silver medal, he cut the end of the pole by 15 cm just before the race to the length that he thought was most appropriate for him. This is also another trick. This book covered only tricks of various athletes, but some athletes who I interviewed with had no tricks at all. There were even athletes for whom I spent a whole one week asking about a trick but in vain and I gave up. So it was a very costly job.

I also asked Yamashita sensei about his trick. I have interviewed with Yamashita sensei quite often since he was an active athlete, and when I met him to ask

whether he had played any trick, I was again amazed at the smartness of sensei who gave me a quick answer. He giggled with only the right end of his mouth curved and said, “Yes, there was one” (laughter). I actually have a video introducing that trick here. It’s very short, so please watch.

(Video starts)

Sportscaster: The Los Angeles Olympics in 1984 was an Olympic games in which Japanese participated after an interval of eight years. One amazing athlete who did a great job in this Olympics is this man.

Narrator: Everyone in the world had no doubt that Yamashita would win the gold medal and that no one could beat him except an atomic bomb. Gastrocnemius rupture of the right leg. . . Suffering from this injury, what trick did this extraordinary man with unrivaled strength perform on the greatest stage in his life?

It was his first Olympics for Yamashita, who had to choke back his disappointment when Japan decided not to participate in the Moscow Olympics. In the first round in the Los Angeles Olympics, which he had been awaiting for such a long time, he defeated the opponent by ippon. But in the second round, there was an unexpected accident. When he did uchimata, he felt an acute pain in the calf of his right leg on which his weight rested. It was a pulled muscle—a serious injury.

Winning the gold medal at Olympics had been his dream since he started judo when he was a fourth grader in elementary school. It was his dream stage. But on this stage, that tragedy happened.

In the semi-final, the opponent persistently attacked Yamashita’s right leg. Yamashita even lost his balance. Although he barely won the fight, the injury in his right leg was becoming worse and worse.

In the waiting room after the semi-final, the pain in his right leg reached its peak. He even couldn’t stand up without his coaches supporting him on their shoulders. The calf was swelling quickly. The unrivaled judo king was in a desperate situation.

The opponent in the final, Mohamed Ali Rashwan, was also in a difficult position. It was a “chance of a lifetime “to

beat Yamashita. But he didn't want to fight in an unfair way. "What should I do?"—Both Yamashita and Rashwan were in agony.

Yamashita: I was thinking over and over how I could exert my power and win the final. But I had no idea.

Narrator: The final was about to begin. Rashwan was in the passageway leading to the arena. "How should I fight with the king in the desperate condition?"—His agony continued.

Yamashita was also in the same passageway. He was not in a condition to fight. One more bout for the gold medal. Yamashita looked at Rashwan's face quietly. Five or six seconds later, Rashwan noticed Yamashita looking at him. Their eyes met.

Yamashita: When our eyes met, I smiled. Then, he stopped moving and gave me back a very good smile. With this smile, I felt his strained spirit and concentration were losing momentum. I smiled on my face but not in the bosom of my heart. That's when I felt there was a chance to win.

Narrator: The final began. Rashwan came squarely. He tried to do osotogari by catching Yamashita's right leg. Yamashita intercepted it desperately. Rashwan attacked with a left haraigoshi but was collapsed by Yamashita and fell to the mat.

The gold medal in the open-weight category. Yamashita had never smiled, and would never smile, before a match. Why did he smile before this final? What effect did it have on Rashwan? This great bout of the two judoists has become a legend and is still talked about.

(Video ends)

Osada: This was Yamashita sensei's successful trick. Yamashita sensei, which achieved 203 consecutive victories and nine consecutive all Japan championships, had never smiled before a match, but he did only prior to the final with Rashwan. I entitled this episode "Smiling Back." Yamashita sensei used this trick only once, and I think this is the reason it

worked. As Yamashita sensei said in the video, the trick led Rashwan to lose his spirit and concentration. But Yamashita sensei told me that he smiled but it was not because he wanted to smile. He also said, "Looking back, it may have been a slightly wily trick."

Listening to this kind of things is a job of sports writers. I shivered with excitement when I heard this episode from Yamashita sensei. He also added that it was for the first time that he talked about the trick to someone else. Is that right?

Yamashita: That's right.

Osada: I felt how lucky I was as a sports writer (laughter), and wrote an article about it for Asahi Shimbun newspaper. Watching the video, Yamashita sensei looks like want to say something, but please hold it back for a while, sensei (laughter).

After this final, the fair play spirit of Rashwan, who did not attack Yamashita sensei's injured right leg, became well-known and praised. But as you have just seen in the video, he was attacking the right leg apparently. Before the final started, while Yamashita sensei was sitting on the mat, Rashwan approached. Yamashita sensei was hearing the rustling sound of Rashwan's uniform as he rotated his arms. At that time, Yamashita sensei still had no idea about how to fight and was just sitting with his eyes closed. When he opened his eyes quietly just before the final started, his eyes met with Rashwan's. There may have been—or may not have been—a little exchange of smile between them for one hundredth of second. But anyhow, Rashwan tried to attack too hurriedly against his coach's advice to attack slowly. From here we can see the "subtlety" of the match.

Let me explain why I wanted to write this book. When I read "*Hiken Kasha*" ("hidden sword technique Kasha"), a novel about great swordsmen written by Shinjuro Tobe, there was the following scene—On a sunny day with no wind, in a quiet place with a cherry tree, two samurais walk from different directions. When they meet, a strong wind blows and cherry blossom petals are blown in one direction, and one of the samurais begins to sway and falls. What happens

to him?

This novel is about “hidden sword techniques.” When I read this book, I thought there were similar scenes in the world of sports as well, which I had seen many times. This realization led me to write “*Konna Sugoi Yatsu-ga-ita*.” The TV adaptation of this book received the Program Award in the TV Entertainment Category at the JBA Awards in 2008. No one knows what will happen in this world.

My job, which allows me to listen directly to athletes and express what I heard, is really interesting. When communicating what I heard to the public, I always think about what way is the easiest to understand for people. One reason I’m concerned with ease of understanding was probably because I wasn’t athletic at all at school. My grade for physical education class was always 3, and I hated sports days. I was always complaining like “Why should I run in front of people?” or “When I run, the ground looks like rolling,” and I was not good at sports at all. I even had asthma and was in poor health. I sometimes have an asthma attack even now, but I feel I have changed a lot. I have become rather stout and in the eyes of other people often look like I can do any sports. I explain that I was a frail child, but the majority of people don’t take it seriously.

The First publication of "Sport Godzilla"

While associating with Yamashita sensei, I also created a free magazine called “Sport Godzilla,” as well as “*Konna Sugoi Yatsu-ga-ita*.” The magazine is published three times a year. Thanks to your support, 20 issues have been published to date. They are distributed in 106 Toei Subway stations and 60 universities. The intention of this magazine is to have readers re-experience exciting moments of sports through a print form of media, as well as to validate our assertion that print media are indispensable for making a deep insight into human nature. In addition to offering a space for the magazine since its first issue, the Tokai University also covers shipping costs for subscribers. I appreciate the Tokai University’s most polite and heartfelt way of handling the magazine.

When I proposed the publication of the Sport

Godzilla, everyone in the Nihon Sports Gakkai was opposed to the idea. They told me something like “Print media are obsolete and the magazine should be published online” and “Online publishing is cheaper than print.” But I believe the benefit of print. When people read the episode about Yamashita sensei, for example, in print media, they find it very interesting and come to want to read it again later. It is also said that the action of turning the pages has a very good effect on the brain. Facing a flood of information online, the current generation of people tends to skim it very quickly, and although they think they understood the content of the information while reading, they often cannot remember what was written. I therefore make sure, when producing the Sport Godzilla, that the magazine is valuable at all times so that people even want to take it with them when moving house.

Now, I’d like to talk about how Yamashita sensei has helped me for this Sport Godzilla. This is not apple-polishing (laughter).

When the Athens Olympics was held in 2004, various incidents including terrorist attacks were taking place. However, ancient Greeks started to compete with others at an Olympics, rather than engaging in a war. I like this spirit very much. Instead of confronting with each other and fighting a bloody war, they held an Olympics for one week or 10 days. During this period, they may probably have realized absurdness of war, leading them to return to the discussion table.

In order to remind people of that spirit, we started to publish a tabloid newspaper concurrently with the opening of the 2004 Athens Olympics. This is the first issue. A beautiful woman beside Yamashita sensei in this photo on the front page is the mayor of Athens. Her former husband was killed by a terrorist attack, and she herself has the experience of encountering a gun battle. So she is a quite tough woman. When publishing this newspaper, we asked for your cooperation. Do you remember? We received a donation of 2,000 yen each from individuals mainly from the Tokai University. The number of donors was 375. I placed the names of all the donors in the newspaper, although their fonts were so small that the

magnifying glass might have been needed. Many of you in this audience may have been in those names. We even received a message that “Lay down weapons and let’s do sports for peace.”



On the day of the opening ceremony, 140,000 copies of this newspaper were distributed in the Athens Station. Japanese athletes also seemed interested by the photo of Yamashita sensei and the mayor. We were thus able to publish a newspaper in a print form which asserted the importance of doing sports by laying down weapons. All the articles were written in English so that they could be read by people from around the world. With a circulation of 140,000 copies, the newspaper provoked a huge response. I think many readers became aware of the importance of peace and the universality of sports. Our call for laying down weapons had a big impact. And this newspaper is actually the origin of the Sport Godzilla.

When I decided to work seriously on the periodical publication of the magazine seven years ago, the first person I met to seek advice was Yamashita sensei. Yamashita sensei had always been saying that Judo is not just a world of winning or losing, but judo has power of functioning as a language. In his commitment to the Solidarity of International Judo Education, Yamashita sensei set out the importance of not just judo but sports in general. It is because, as sensei says, like music and food, sports are a communication tool that transcends national boundaries and can serve as a grassroots diplomatic intermediary.

To seek advice from Yamashita sensei, I flew to Kumamoto because he said he could make time to meet me after a meeting in Kumamoto. Do you remember, sensei? That was when Yamashita sensei advised me that the theme and name must be big like the Solidarity of International Judo Education so that many people can gather under the name.

After returning home, while washing dishes, I came up with the name Godzilla. “This is it! It’s the name everyone can remember!” I also liked the image of Godzilla, a monster that crushes everything existing underfoot. So I decided to name the magazine “Sport Godzilla.” The image of Godzilla differs among people, but it’s not a dinosaur but it’s actually a property of Toho Pictures, Inc. So although I really liked the name, a copyright expert who I met for advice was surprised very much by my idea and said, “Are you serious? It’s a name copyrighted by Toho. Imagine Sayuri Yoshinaga, the name of actress, were owned by Toho. What you have just proposed is almost like you have declared you will change your name to Sayuri Yoshinaga.” The expert went on to warn me, saying, “Matsui, a baseball player, is called “Godzilla,” but it’s just his nickname. But if Godzilla is used for the name of something with no permission, it will be a big trouble. There are numerous lawsuits going on around the world against toys and other products bearing the name of Godzilla. You can’t use the name Godzilla so easily.” So I asked another acquaintance of mine how much we need to pay for the royalty. The answer was surprisingly 20 million yen!

Although I thought it was impossible to pay 20 million yen just for the name, I wrote to the president of Toho Pictures and visited him for negotiation. Stiffening his face, the president said, “Godzilla is our property. Why should we allow you to use the name?” I didn’t understand why he was so angry, but it seemed that I had no option but to choose other name, such as “Sport Kujira (whale)” or “Sport Gorilla.”

Two days later, I attended a party organized by a publishing company. To my surprise, I met the president again there. I felt rather embarrassed, but I greeted him. In an awkward mood, he began to explain about the property of the name of Godzilla all over again with his glass of whiskey-and-water in hand, and I was just repeating “I see” while listening to him.

Then one week later, I received a call from Toho and was offered to use the name of Godzilla if the magazine was intended for social contribution. I was surprised from the bottom of my heart. As far as I know, it was not that the president had been influenced by someone

else to change his mind. I suspected that he might have had a dream while sleeping that Godzilla threatened to crush his head underfoot (laughter). In the publication notes page of the magazine, you can find a copyright mark under the name of Sport Godzilla. It means the name can be used only for this magazine. I visit Toho every two years to thank them for allowing us to use the name and renew the license.

Looking back, if Toho is the mother of the name of Sport Godzilla, Yamashita sensei, who gave me advice to use a “big name,” must be the father (laughter). Thanks to your advice, I came up with an unforgettable name.

Now, the next problem is the content of the magazine. We have been thinking over and over about the content for every issue until now.

Yamashita sensei may forget this, but I interviewed with Yamashita sensei, who was committed to various activities in China while considering the meaning of holding an Olympics in China. I also saw the activities of Kenji Mitsumoto sensei over there. I listened to what Yamashita sensei was thinking about Nanjing and Qingdao in the light of the war and exchanges with local people through sports, and compiled what I listened and saw in an issue of the magazine. A photo of Yamashita sensei appears on the cover page. I took this photo by asking Yamashita sensei not to dry his face after washing. The picture quality was slightly coarse-grained, but he looks really nice-looking in the photo (laughter). I heard that he used the photo for his private purpose as well.

How Sports Men Faced on Their Activities During World War II

In this way, we have published 20 issues so far. The latest 20th issue deals squarely with the theme of “Sports and War.” Please take one with you when leaving here today and read. This issue is actually thicker with a larger number of pages than the previous issues. The printing costs were therefore heavy, but there were many articles I wanted to include in this issue.

This issue focuses on Mr. Ivica Osim, the ex-manager of the Japan national football team. He

was born in former Yugoslavia. Former Yugoslavia, which borders on seven neighboring countries, was said to be a very complex country with seven races, four languages, three religions, and two types of letters. The country had been in a state of civil war until recently. Mr. Osim therefore had a dream of uniting the races through soccer. He was a very good manager for the Japan national team, but when I came to know his thoughts about his country, I decided to ask Mr. Yukihiro Kimura to write an article for the magazine. Mr. Kimura is the author of “*Osim-no-Kotoba*” (“Osim’s words”), a best-seller book with more than 400,000 copies sold. I thought he was most suitable for the article, and made this request. He kindly accepted the request, and it became the opening article of the issue. Mr. Kimura wrote the article devotedly, the length of which was equivalent to eight pages of Japanese writing paper sheets (*genkoyoshi*).

At the beginning of the article, Mr. Kimura writes about spiritualism, which I thought was very important for Japanese. Managers of baseball teams often claim, after winning the Japanese championship, that they managed the team in the same way as in the navy, and that this made it possible for them to win the championship. These managers mean to say that even one wrong order may cause a naval ship to sink, and that this can be said about baseball games as well. But whenever I come across this kind of comment, one question always occurs to me: If their intention is just to say that the team players must obey their orders, why should they refer to a war? There are also some people who insist that Koreans were trained through fighting across the 38th parallel and became strong. But is this true? These people may want to say that Koreans are different from Japanese who are complacent with peace. But the truth may be that Koreans are strong not because of the military conscription but because Olympic/World Cup players are granted exemption from the conscription. I think those people forget to look at things from a totally different perspective.

I have heard an official of the Zagreb Football Association of the Republic of Croatia saying something like “If the civil war has made our football

stronger, we are happy to be weak. We wish we could change ourselves to be weak.” Isn’t it that people who know well about sports do not boast of their strength by referring to a war? Mr. Kimura’s article about Mr. Osim answers this question.

“You have overcome the brutal civil war, which compelled neighbors to kill each other. Do you think that your guts and wise-decision making ability as a manager of soccer team have been developed through such hardships? “—When asked this question, Mr. Osim answers “May be so. But in words, I always say ‘No.’ If I answered that I learned from the civil war, it would sound like such a war is necessary.” This is a superb answer. On the page where this remark appears, there is also a photo. It may look like something to eat in a big pot, but these are actually bullets shot against Mr. Osim’s house, collected in a tin cookie container. He showed them to us as his family treasure.

Mr. Osim also didn’t become involved in conflicts among the races. He refused to yield to Mafia’s repeated threats and demands to use particular players. He was just the team manager for a small country, former Yugoslavia, nevertheless, people in many countries name Ivica Osim as the most outstanding manager.

Thanks to this long article, the printing costs were 90,000 yen higher than planned. This was a blow, but I was, of course, glad to place the article in the magazine. Sports books, magazines, and information that saturate the market are screened into two groups: those that sell and those that don’t. Those that sell are considered to be superior, while those that don’t tend to be regarded as inferior, and it is difficult for the latter to survive. However, the Sport Godzilla is a free magazine that cannot be evaluated in terms of sales. Our sponsors are all respectable companies, offering only money rather than interfering us, and even giving us kind messages like “That article of the latest issue was good/interesting.” They are very precious for us.

This 20th issue also carries an article about Mr. Isao Harimoto, a former professional baseball player. He is an energetic old man who appears in a TV program on Sunday morning together with Mr. Hiroshi Sekiguchi

and shouts like “Kaaatsu!”(laughter). He was a magnificent player, but he actually experienced atomic bombing. He remained silent about his experience for a long time, but began to speak it recently. This is because he felt alarmed after he listened to young people around 20 years old speaking on TV that they don’t care about a war and that they even don’t know where the atomic bombs were dropped. He realized it was only his generation that could pass on their war experiences to the next generation. He experienced atomic bombing when he was five years old. He is still in good health, but his friends, elderly sister, and his many other beloved people were killed by the bomb. Mr. Harimoto, who used to be called a “hit-producing machine,” threw out the ceremonial first pitch for the first time in the Mazda Stadium in Hiroshima this year. He also talked about his experience in the stadium.

I’d also like to talk about another article. The article is about what happened some ages ago, dating back to 1934. In the Kusanagi Stadium in Shizuoka Prefecture, an extraordinary baseball game took place. It was a game with U.S. Major League players who visited Japan. The Major League players had been overwhelmingly strong, scoring 60 points in four games. In the eighth game, they scored as many as 21 points. And in the ninth game, which was held in the Kusanagi Stadium, a 17-year-old pitcher who still looked like a child stood on the mound. He was called a “school boy” by the U.S. players, but he was a super-fastball pitcher as well as a good drop-ball pitcher.

He struck out four big powerful batters—Gehring (leadoff hitter), Ruth (second hitter), Gehrig (third hitter), and Foxx (fourth hitter) in a row. He allowed only two hits in the first six innings. Although in the seventh inning Gehrig hit a high outside ball over the right field fence, this was the only tally he gave up. The game ended in defeat 0-1, but it was a very narrow margin. You may think “Oh, Japan lost the game. It’s a shame,” but only this game was a close game while in the previous game in this series Japan had lost 21 points. This was the beginning of Japanese baseball. The Japanese players were handled like children by

the professional Major League players. When will be a day when Japan will win the U.S?—This game became the first step toward realizing this dream.

This pitcher, who was later praised by U.S newspapers for his dazzling fast balls that would be effective even in the Major League, was Eiji Sawamura. You know the name very well. People who are older than I probably know about him better than I do. As a sports writer, I knew he was killed during the war, but I didn't know he went to war not just once but several times.

He was the eldest son with six siblings. When he was in elementary school, he was not a pitcher but a third-baseman simply because no one was able to catch his fast balls. But when Senmangoku Yamaguchi came to Sawamura's school from another school and became a catcher, Sawamura was able to become a pitcher. They both entered Kyoto Commercial High School and again formed a battery. Yamaguchi continued playing baseball and served as an umpire, and lived longer than 90 years old.

Yamaguchi, who did all his best to catch Sawamura's balls and had experiences of having his fingers broken many times, was exempt from conscription. He was judged as unable to pull a trigger of a gun, and this saved his life resulting in his longevity. But this was not the case for Sawamura. His grandfather failed in business and his family was poor. The eldest among the seven siblings, he gave up going on to Keio University and joined the Great Japan Tokyo Baseball Club (later Tokyo Kyojin, current Yomiuri Giants) to become a professional baseball player. He was an excellent player, but enlisted in army for two years and three months. His outstanding pitching skills were taken advantage of and used to throw hand grenades. A hand grenade is more than five times as heavy as a baseball. After intensive practices, he became able to throw a grenade 80 meters while for ordinary soldiers 40 meters may be a maximum. But this damaged his shoulder and he even caught malaria.

After returning to Japan, he began to play baseball again. But he was no longer able to kick his leg high in the air to throw super-fast or drop balls as he had been doing before going to war, and he was throwing balls

sidearm, a totally different pitching form. His physical condition also gradually deteriorated.

Then he was sent to war again. He came back to Japan after one year and three months, but soon came a third conscription. And on December 1, 1944, a ship he was onboard was attacked by Americans approx. 150 kilometers west off Yakushima Island near Taiwan, on its way from the Moji Port to the East China Sea. The ship sank, and he died together with 2,100 people.

When writing this article, I researched quite enthusiastically. Many of you must have been to the Tokyo Dome, but do you know the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum located at the dome? On the monument of war victim players erected at the bottom of the stairs in front of the museum, 69 names are inscribed, including Sawamura. It's an inconspicuous monument that very few people pay attention to. Next time you go to the Tokyo Dome, please go downstairs and see the monument.

Sawamura wanted to play baseball. Yamashita sensei, who really liked judo, couldn't participate in the Moscow Olympics due to the boycott. There must have been many others who wanted to do sports but lost their lives in a war. Before Sawamura died at the age of 27, his wife asked only once whether he was angry with the war, but he didn't answer. He may have thought it's no use answering, or may have felt it too painful to pour out his heart. I don't know. But in this 20th issue, I wanted to tell people clearly that there were times when people were deprived of freedom to do sports due to the war. Baseball is a representative of such sports, but all other sports were affected by the war.

After the war ended in 1945, baseball, which was called an enemy's sport during the war, spread throughout Japan in the form of, as you know, "sankaku-baseball" (hand-hit baseball with no second base). There was one boy who was listening to the Emperor's announcement about the end of the war on radio in a countryside in Chiba Prefecture. The fourth-grader boy, whose nickname was "Chibi (midget)," was excited by the announcement because he knew it meant that he can play baseball, and asked

his mother to make a ball for him. The ball was made from marbles tied together by obidome (kimono sash cord). The boy, sitting beside her mother, asked her to make it as round as possible, but because obidome was hard, it was difficult to make it round. Nevertheless the mother did do her best to make a ball for her son, with her fingers bleeding. The boy used the ball to play baseball, hitting home runs. The boy's name was Shigeo Nagashima.

Nagashima made tremendous achievements in professional baseball, and retired leaving the famous words "The Giants are forever." Nagashima's last game took place in the Kusanagi Stadium, the same stadium in which Eiji Sawamura had amazed the U.S. Major League players. Furthermore, the date of the both games also happened to be the same November 20. Nagashima's last game was against the New York Mets, a U.S. Major National League team visiting in Japan. So there were several mysterious cross points between Shigeo Nagashima, who played baseball to his heart's content after the end of the war, and Eiji Sawamura, who was killed in the war at the age of 27. Many of you may already have known these facts, but I became really excited when I came to know these facts during my research.

I hope that many people will be deeply aware of the fact that there was a time in Japan when people were pressured to give up, and not allowed to do, what they wanted to do. In this hall, there are students who look like doing judo at university, but please don't forget that if you had been born during such a time, you could have been told "You are tall and big, so throw hand grenades at the front" and could have disappeared instantly from this world. Sawamura went to a watery grave. Yamashita sensei's 203 consecutive victories thrilled everyone. His nine consecutive Japan championships excited and moved people. A scene in which Rashwan supported Yamashita sensei, whose right leg was injured, after the match can still be seen on video and other media. There were many exciting and moving moments. I still feel emotional with joy when thinking of Yamashita sensei's great achievements. But I'd like to emphasize that even Yamashita sensei could have died in the sea if he had

been born a little earlier.

The Possibility for the International Sports Exchange Programs

Similarly to music and food, sports also can be a tool for communication. I think this is really wonderful. I also admire the Tokai University, which is open to students from various countries, and appreciate the current peacetime that enables international exchanges through sports. Instead of judging people in countries with which Japan is in diplomatic friction only through "impression," we should establish communication through sports to understand the personality and good points of our friends so as to allow us to develop a better relationship. If this is realized through sports, sports will be even more exciting and help the world to eliminate wars. This is what I hope. This is something that Yamashita sensei has taught me for the past long years. Although my expression skills may be immature and poor compared with those of Yamashita sensei, I have made this speech today based on my belief that what I have learned through my experiences is aligned with Yamashita sensei's thoughts.

We will continue to create the Sport Godzilla magazine hopefully up to the 100th issue while tackling various issues seriously. By the time the 100th issue is published, I will be in my 80s and this audience may be reduced to a half (laughter). If you find this magazine in a station or other places, please take one and read. I will no longer work only for earning money. I have learned a lot from sports. It's my turn to do something for sports, little by little, in return. Thank you for your attention.

Mitsumoto: Thank you. We are running short of time, but if you have a question, please raise your hand. Is there anyone who wants to ask a question?

Osada: It's difficult to ask a question in this setting, isn't it? (laughter) I understand. Don't you have any question, Yamashita sensei? (laughter)

Yamashita: No, I don't think so (laughter).

Mitsumoto: All right, everyone? OK, then, this is the end of the speech session. Thank you very much, Ms. Osada. Please once again give a big hand to Ms. Osada.

Now, Toshiaki Hashimoto, the assistant executive director of the Solidarity, will make a closing address.

Hashimoto: I'm Hashimoto, the assistant executive director. Ms. Nagisa Osada, thank you for making a wonderful speech and introducing to us many interesting episodes. Your expression skills are actually excellent, and I'd like you to teach me some tips. I'm sure that this one hour has been precious and fun for everyone here.

I was born in Hiroshima. When I was a child, I often saw Mr. Harimoto walking. My elder sister's house was located near Mr. Harimoto's house. Ms. Osada's speech reminded me of him, who often had been strutting in the middle of the road. When he decided to go to Namisho High School in Osaka, people in the town talked that he went to Osaka probably because he was too energetic to remain in Hiroshima (laughter). Every time I see him on TV, I remember those old days.

There was a big earthquake a little while ago. I hope it didn't cause any damage. In today's audience, we have Mr. Toyoshi Terasawa from the Toyosato Judo Club in Miyagi Prefecture, who talked about his experiences of the Great East Japan Earthquake in his lecture one year ago. When I called Mr. Terasawa before this lecture meeting began to ask if everything was OK in Miyagi, he said "I'm now at Yamashita's lecture meeting," and he was actually right behind me (laughter). Everyone, when back home today and asked by someone where you were at the time of the earthquake, please tell him or her that you were at the lecture meeting of the Solidarity of International Judo Education. It would be a good ad for us (laughter).

It's December 7 today. Three days later, there will be an award ceremony in Stockholm for Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, a recipient of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. This is a great honor for all the Japanese. Dr. Yamanaka was doing judo in junior high school. I saw a photo of Dr. Yamanaka wearing a judo

uniform in a newspaper. He started to play rugby when he became a high school student.

Because research activities cost a lot of money, he is taking part in marathon races to raise funds these days. When I read this in a newspaper, I thought it was a good idea, and when our Solidarity is short of funds, maybe we can take part in a marathon race to appeal to people by shouting "Support for the Solidarity!" (laughter) Yamashita sensei can lead us. Mr. Kosei Inoue and others will also join us. If you in the audience support our cause, please run together. (Applause from the audience) This way we could organize a demonstration with the slogan of "Peace through sports."

Anyhow, Dr. Yamanaka's experience of judo in junior high school may be playing a certain role in his study. I believe judo has such power. For the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016, Mr. Kousei Inoue has taken office as head coach for the men's national team, working hard to provide guidance for the members. People's experience of judo can support their life, and this will also eventually lead to the world peace—This is the way judo should be, which Grand Master Jigoro Kano always wanted to realize. The Solidarity is a small nonprofit organization, but we will have this goal in mind at all times and work hard toward achieving it. We would appreciate your support.

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to attend this modest lecture meeting. Before closing this meeting, I'd like to express my gratitude again to Ms. Osada. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much.

Mitsumoto: I'm sincerely grateful that so many of you have taken the time out of busy schedule to join us today. Although we are a small organization, we will continue to work hand in hand with each of you to gradually and steadily expand our activities. We look forward to your continued support. Thank you very much.