

Japanese fans enjoy volleyball

Volleyball only needs one thing to become a popular sport in America: spectators.

Yasutake Matsudaira, who was at Texas A&M University earlier this month for an International Volleyball Coaches Conference, knows all about promoting volleyball. He led Japan to a gold medal in the 1972 Munich Olympics and attributes all, or most of this team's success, to audience support.

"If I had spent all of my time on the court teaching players, we'd never have won the gold medal," explained Matsudaira, adviser to the Japanese National Volleyball Team.

"I had to spend 50 percent of my time on the court and 50 percent drumming up spectator support.

"The audience is a big force behind the Japanese Olympic team, the players don't get paid or receive any other incentive," he said. "They win for the spectators."

Japanese volleyball has a large audience. The game is televised nationally three times a week and consistently wins in the television ratings war.

The power of the Japanese television audience was no more evident than during the nation's series of baseball last year, he said. Vol-

leyball was televised in the same time slot on a different channel and beat the one-time all-American sport in viewer support.

"Lack of spectator support is the reason American volleyball players don't have much motivation," Matsudaira observed. "There's virtually no American media coverage of volleyball."

"It's much harder for your players to get motivated. You can't expect a volleyball player to say to himself, 'let's go out and win this one for the good old Stars and Stripes,' when he is playing to empty stands."

Matsudaira has done a lot for the

promotion of volleyball in Europe and America. He's on national television in Tokyo three times a week hosting talk shows, doing sports news and conducting a children's show. Volleyball isn't his only topic, but he usually finds a way to work it into the conversation.

"People love me in Japan," Matsudaira said laughing. "I tell them football is the number one sport in America, baseball is number two and volleyball is number three."

"Then I tell them to watch out, someday volleyball will be the number one sport. And they look at me like I'm a crazy man. I'm not crazy."

"Volleyball is growing in support every day."



Yasutake Matsudaira (left), who was at Texas A&M University earlier this month for an International Volleyball Coaches Conference, explains some of the game's finer points to Robert Wayne Bradby of San Antonio. Matsudaira coached the Japanese National team to a gold medal in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games and is currently serving as the team's adviser.

Kite gets temporary injunction

HOUSTON — A federal judge Wednesday granted a temporary injunction to a school basketball player who opposed to the rules of the athletic governing body.

U.S. District Judge F. James also urged the University Interscholastic League to rule which prohibits varsity school athletes from taking summer basketball camps.

"The rule is the only one in 50 states which is as broad and prohibitory," Cowan said.

Boston Celtics center David, who runs a basketball camp in Texas, had entered the lawsuit sought \$30,000 in damages. Judge Cowan denied that but suggested that Cowan relief next year if the UIL changed its rule.

UIL Director Bailey refused to comment after the ruling.

"I have to talk to my lawyer," Kite, 16, was one of the players in Texas last season. He said he hoped the action would open the door to others in his situation to intensive training camps.

"I hope this will help other players too, the ones who want to make the varsity," he said.

Kite, as well as the other school varsity players in the state, was prohibited from attending summer camp under a rule which was instituted in the entire team from practicing during the summer.

The Dallas Jefferson High School team of 1962 was taken to court for a summer camp, and turned to win the Texas championship with ease.

Judge Cowan said he ruled in Kite's favor because the athlete, who would be seeking a college scholarship, and his parents, who could pay for a college education, would be harmed if Greg did not use his skills fully.

"The plaintiffs will suffer no harm," Cowan said. "Cowan said that talent is rare, very rare, and that the state's inability to develop that talent is a severe deprivation."

Cowan continued: "The interest is never served by a rule which seeks to deprive an individual of his constitutional right to compete in the final argument Wednesday.

An attorney for the UIL defended the rule as one which is fair to persons too poor to attend summer basketball camps.

In a day-long hearing, Dave Cowan, Houston coach Tom Nissalke and Sonny Allen testified in Kite's favor.

The ruling marked the first time in three months that a judge sitting in Houston has issued an injunction overriding UIL rules.

On April 27, a judge ruled that a 16-year-old teen-age girl to play on a high school baseball team in violation of UIL rules.

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New sign for Spurs

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs will have the largest scoreboard of any arena in the National Basketball Association come October, to their way of thinking, at least.

The trapezoid-shaped scoreboard will be 26 feet 6 inches across the top, 23 feet across the bottom and 12 feet 9 inches high, according to Spurs' president Angelo Drossos.

The sign is under construction at the American Sign and Indicator Corporation's facilities in Spokane, Wash.

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Kupec traded

HOUSTON — The Rockets Wednesday traded forward C.J. Kupec to the Milwaukee Bucks for a sixth-round pick in 1979.

The 6-8 Kupec, 25, averaged 10.5 points and one rebound in the first half of this past season. He broke a leg during the last part of the season.

Kupec is a three-year veteran, having played with the Los Angeles Lakers for two years. The Lakers drafted him out of high school.

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