

On-the-island and Outside-the-island Competition Performance of Tennis and Baseball of Taiwan during Japanese Colonial Period

Ting-kuo Lin

ABSTRACT

“Competition” is one of the basic principles of sports. In Taiwan, modern sports have been systematically practiced since Japanese colonial period. After the development of decades, how is the sports level of Taiwan under Japanese rule? Sports of Taiwan are not simply the physical competitions; sometimes, they implied the significance out of playground. What is the special meaning of Taiwanese athletes’ participation in competitions on and outside the island? In order to answer the questions above, we must observe the performance and real situations in the competitions. According to the survey on sports organizations in Taiwan conducted by the Society of Taiwan Physical Education in 1933, tennis and baseball were the most popular sports during the Japanese colonial period. The number of organizations and players of these two sports were the majority in Taiwan, and they were popular with newspapers and media. The competitions were held regularly on the island and representatives were selected and sent to Japan for the imperial games. They were the most representative sports during Japanese colonial period. Thus, this study aims to explore the technical levels of tennis and baseball, including the performance in competitions on and outside the island, results of competitions with foreign teams, and the meaning of holding and participating in these games. This paper first briefly introduces the development of baseball and tennis, and discusses tennis competition between Taiwanese and Japanese on the island, as well as baseball games with Japan, the Manchuria and Korea. In addition, it examines the performances of different players in Taiwan, including the Hans and Japanese migrants and the aborigines, in sports games held both local and abroad.

Keywords: Japanese Occupation, sports in Taiwan, on-island and outside-island competition, tennis, baseball