



THE DAILY NEWS

KOBE 2024 PARA ATHLETICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

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DAY 2

English

Yesterday's **Highlight**

Record rush from the first day of the Championships

After being postponed twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kobe 2024 World Championships finally began. This year, the Paris Paralympics will be held in August. It is the first time that the World Championships takes place in the same year as the Paralympic Games. With the Paralympics just 100 days away, the event has already provided a venue for top athletes from around the world to show us their impressive results. The men's 5000m T11 and men's 100m T72 set a new world records. The medalists and world record holders showed us their great performance from the first day of competition.

■ Men's 5000m T11



A new world record was set in the first day of Championships. When Yeltsin Jacques of Brazil, the gold medalist at the Tokyo Paralympics, set a new world record of 14:53.97 sec in the men's 5000m T11 final, surpassing the previous record by 1.42 sec. Jacques' said, "I'm very happy with the result. I won the second gold in Kobe after Tokyo, and I had a good memories in Japan." It was also a new competition record.

The T11 is a totally blind class that runs with a guide, and there are 9 pairs competing in this race. Julio Cesar Agripino dos Santos of Brazil led the race since the first instant. On the other hand, Jacques started in back side controlling the race, but after 1000 meters, he gradually moved up in the standings, and when the guide changed, he clearly changed up the gears. Even though he came out on top from the outside of the track, his speed remained unchanged until he across the finishing line, nearly four seconds ahead of second-place Agripino dos Santos.

"The race was completed according to the plan which was completed with two guides. In the first half, the guide kept his own pace and kept a good position, and when the guide changed, the strategy was to pace up and overtake others."

He is confident in his speed for middle distance event like 800m and 1500m. "In the 5000m race, you can save your strength by keeping in the first half, and speed up the race in second half is my style", he said.

"Japanese Karasawa and Wada, Kenya and Brazilian's athletes, they are considered as a good rivals and friends, expecting that we can respect each other and increase our skill as well", he said.

Karasawa as a defending champion tried to keep the same group and/or position as Brazilian Agripino dos Santos, but he could not follow him. He took bronze in this event with 15:3.25 sec. "I'm so disappointed because I was aiming for a gold medal. Many people from the local prefecture of Gunma came to support and cheer us. To be honest, I think I let my guard down after winning the gold medal at the Paris Games last year. I finished in third place and broke my previous world record, I will try to win the gold medal in Paris three months later.

■ **Men's 100m T72**



The new class T72 created at the 2023 Paris Games, is designed for athletes with severe cerebral palsy and runs on a competitive 3-wheel frame. Carlo Fabio Marcello Calcagni (Italy) made a rocket dash or start to win the gold medal in this race, breaking his own world record by 0.41sec.

"I'm so happy," he said with tears on your eyes. He nodded, saying, "I'm very happy. I have a serious neurological disorder, but a three years ago I started to practice a frame running, and it gave me hope to be able to run again. It's so important to have hope and never give up, and continue keep fighting." and thanks for all the audience, including the children for their support.



■ Women's Shot Put F41

In the Women's Shot Put F41, Laoura Trilli (Tunisia) "absolute champion", who has won many World Championships and Paralympics, she won the title since her first throwing. Trilli marked her season best with a 10.15m in her sixth throw, to win the gold medal.

"I am very happy to be the first gold medalist of Tunisia, in this championships. I am very satisfied with the result of our hard work, and I am looking for the good result for Shot Put as well. It is also a good start to the second consecutive victory at the Paris Paralympics this summer.

■ Women's Club Throwing F32

The highlight of the evening session of first day Women's Club Throw F32, 12 athletes participated in this event, including Maroua Ibrahimi of Tunisia who won the Gold medal in last Championships in Dubai.

For this event, each athlete throws 6 consecutive times, and Brazilian Giovanna Boscolo Castilho Gonçalves becoming in top position after she marked 24.35m in sixth slowing, but she was surpassed by Wanna Brito when she set a new record marking 26.66m, another Brazilian athlete participating in the same event.

Maroura Ibrahimi who is defending champion, she tried to surpass breaking the mark of Wanna Helena Brito Oliveira 26.66m in her last trial, but she could not change the final result.

The remaining spectators applauded the one-on-one battle between two athletes Ibrahimi and Oliveira.

The winner Wanna Helena Brito Oliveira, 27 years old, having just started competing in 2022. She won the 5th place at the Paris Games last year, "There are many stronger players in the world than me. I think I should keep training harder than before. But I want to thank a God to be a winner." she said with tears in her eyes. Another Brazilian Giovanna Boscolo Castilho Gonsalves, 22 years old, who won a bronze medal, this is her first appearance in International competition. "I support Oliveira as a member of the Brazilian national team", she said in a friendly tone.



GO KOBE 2024!

Enjoy the charm of Kobe!

A Media Tour for the press from the overseas for Kobe 2024 Para Athletics Championships was held by Kobe Tourism Bureau on May 18th, the day before the competition opening.

This tour is to explore Kobe's history and culture and enjoy its famous cuisine. Journalists and photographers from Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Poland participated in.

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We first went to "Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum" near to Shin-Kobe station.

This is the only museum of carpentry tools in Japan. It exhibits the carpentry tools collected and preserved as cultural heritage in 7 booths. You can learn the history and different kind of Japanese cultural carpentry tools and techniques, and you can feel the passion of the carpenters too.



A Germany photographer whose grandfather was a carpenter seemed interested in each exhibit. He talked with holding a well-maintenance plane and wood shavings, "I'm surprising it's very thin that I can see through it. Japanese culture of building up precisely and carefully planning from the beginning is amazing."

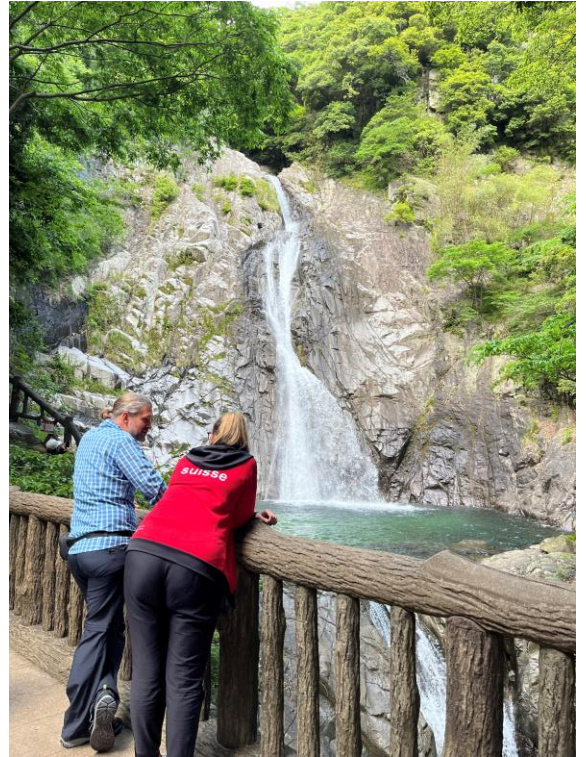
The next is famous place of Sake production, Kiku-Masamune Sake Brewery Museum in Nada, Kobe. Kiku-Masamune is a sake brewing began in the mid-Edo-era (1659) and has its history over 360 years.

Making not only sake also a cask used for storing sake is also their characteristic. We had a factory tour to see the process of making casks and faced the high-quality techniques of sake brewing professionals passed down from Edo-era in the Meister Factory.



A plane using at the end of the process is specially remade by the professional. It reminded us of the attitude for the carpentry tools at Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum. After the tour we moved to the tasting booth of famous "Tarushu" (Cast Sake). A Italian journalist tasted sweetened "Raw Sake" and told us, "it's similar to a taste of after-dinner wine from the south Italy." Then he enjoyed and finished "Sake of Nada".

We headed to "Nunobuki Falls" as known as the one of "Japan Three Great Falls" where you can walk from Shin-Kobe station. "Nunobuki Falls" is the collective name for four waterfalls: 43m of Ontaki Waterfall, Mentaki Waterfall, Meoto Waterfall, and Tsuzumigataki Waterfall. You can enjoy 15 minutes hiking to get to the top, Ontaki Waterfall. We could restore our energy for the championships starting next day with the fresh spring air of May.



The end of this tour is "Biftech Kawamura", a restaurant in downtown of Kobe, Sannomiya. You can enjoy the course of highest Kobe Beef perfectly cooked by a chef's performance in front of the guests. A journalist from Poland said, "it's like a fantastic show. The beef is tender and delicious" and she finished, "this was a satisfying tour and I'm glad I participated" with her smile.

