



Yesterday's **Highlight**

Pleased with the racing wheel chair

On the fifth day of the championships, the cheers of many school spectators filled the sunny Univer stadium. Xiaoyan Wen of China set a new world record in the women's 100m T37 with a time of 12.27 seconds, and Dulan Kodithuwakku of Sri Lanka set a new world record in the men's javelin F44 with 66.49m. There were many other new area records. On that day, Japan won two silver medals and three bronze medals in track events.



■ Men's 400m T52

Tomoki Sato of Japan won a gold medal in the 400m wheelchair T52 at the 2015 World Championships in Doha. At the Tokyo Paralympics, he won two titles, 400m and 1500m, in a competitive run. He is the king of this class of Japan.

However, when Maxime Carabin of Belgium participated in the 400m event in Paris last year, he won by more than 2 seconds. Moreover, in February this year, Carabin set a new world record of 52.00 seconds in the 400m. Will Sato regain the throne at this championships? Will the 23 year-old hero win two consecutive world championships? The men's 400m T52 final was a remarkable one.

In the preliminary round held the previous day Sato and Carabin were ranked first in Group 1 and Group 2 respectively, to advance to the final race. Carabin's qualifying time was 52.50 seconds, it's a new championships record.

In the final, right after the start Carabin accelerates so fast, jumping out on the back straight and crossing the finish line for his another victory. Sato finished in second with 57.98 seconds, almost 5.00 seconds of time difference between two athletes.

In fact, Sato had an unexpected accident at this championships. A newly adjusted racer (competition wheelchair for athletics) was damaged during the transportation, and the frame was completely broken, so he used an old racer from the Tokyo Paralympics to compete in this championships.

"Within a short time after the accident, I managed to adjust myself and prepare for this race. Even in this circumstance, I could control myself and qualifying with 57.00 seconds.



Still, Carabin's run, showing off his overwhelming power, is truly superhuman. In the 400m race at the last Paris Championships, the time difference between Carabin and Sato was 2 seconds. In less than a year, the gap widened to the five seconds.

"In the final race, there was a strong headwind and it was difficult to get to the top speed. This time, I was more focused on the title than the record, so I'm happy that I was able to achieve that." Carabin said of the race.

Since winning the Paris Games last year, he has broken the world record and won two consecutive championships.

"I used to play handball. His strength is that he already has the arm and shoulder muscles necessary for a racer and how to use them. There is a place for serious competition with great athletes like Tomonori Sato, and you should train for it. That's my motivation, my strength." he said.

Since his disability, Carabin has tried a variety of sports, including swimming, but he has found none of them interesting. Riding into a racer you meet in track and field gives you the freedom and speed to feel the wind. "That's the main attraction of athletics."

The racer's carbon-fiber frame is a "new leg" for Carabin. "I love the new legs that give me freedom and speed."

It will be Carabin's first appearance at the Paris Paralympics. "Of course, it's a good place to set a world record. But winning a gold medal is important in the Paralympics. If I'm in good shape at that time, I think I'll also be trying to set a new world record."

For the Paris Paralympics, Sato is preparing a new racers and will be in perfect condition. The true one-on-one battle between Carabin and Sato will be carried over to the Paris Paralympics.

In addition to Sato from Japan, Tatsuya Ito and Hirokazu Ueyonabaru participated in the final, and Ito won the bronze medal in 1:01.32.

■ **Women's 100m T34**

In the morning session on the 21st, the women's 100m T34, who use a racer (special wheelchair for athletic), were divided into 2 groups with 5 athletes each, and the 8 athletes who qualified during the preliminary race will participated in the final race evening session. Hannah Cockroft of England, who holds the world record for five events including this result (16.31 seconds), won the championship with 16.89 seconds.

When she jumped out after the start signal, she left behind by more than two seconds other participants. In the preliminary round, she set a new record of 16.67 seconds. This is her 15th gold medals in the World Championships.

"I'm relieved. I say this every time I go to a major championship. It's getting harder and harder to keep winning. There are a lot of new players, so I can't relax."



In fact, Hanyu Lan of China, who came in second with a time of 18.90 seconds, is 16 years old, and Moe Onodera, who came in third with a time of 19.15 seconds, is 20 years old.

"Over the next few years, I think we'll see some athlete closing that gap. This person is not participating in this championships, but main rival is my teammate Kare Adenegan. And the first Chinese athlete I saw today Hanyu Lan. I met Moe for the first time at the Paris Championships last year, and she has improved a lot. They are all young, so they have a lot of room to stretch out, so I can't stay idle."

Adenegan, who is 23, won silver in two events at the Tokyo Paralympics and the previous Games (100m, 800m), behind Cockroft. It's definitely coming.

Onodera broke the Japanese record last May with a time of 18.46 seconds. She went from fifth place in the last Paris Games to winning the bronze medal for the first time in this year's Games. In the final, he was not able to finish in second place, which was his goal, in the 18 second mark. "I thought too much and made a mistake. It's frustrating." she said. But Onodera, who hates to lose and has a strong core, is also now working on her dream to catch up with and overtake Cockloft.

Of course, Cockroft isn't ready to relinquish its position. In practice, she competed against male athletes and worked hard to improve herself, and this season, the racers are also new to the model that is more focused on speed. It took about five months to make the adjustments, and the team is feeling the effects.

"I'm only 31. There's so much to learn and so many barriers to break. I want to break 16 seconds time barrier for 100m, and it will be interesting to see how fast I can go. I love being in races, and I want to stay on the starting line as long as I can."

I can't take my eyes off the hot race between the absolute champions and the rising stars.

Japan's Ayano Yoshida was fifth with a time of 19.85 seconds, while Haruka Kitaura was sixth with a time of 20.02 seconds.

Competition Schedule and Results



GO KOBE 2024!

Sustainability initiative from Kobe 2024 Para Athletics

You can experience the initiative for SDGs and diversity in the sponsor's booths in the venue of Kobe 2024 World Para Athletics Championships.

■ Get a drink from a vending machine that "eats" CO2.

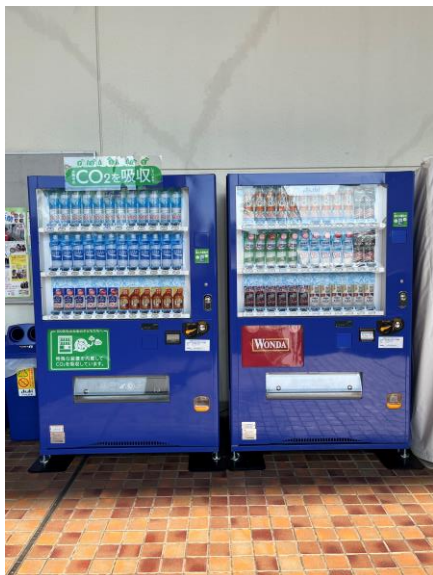
In the concourse beyond the stadium entrance, there is a blue vending machine. At the first sight, it seems a ordinary drink vending machine, but it's actually a futuristic vending machine that absorb the CO2 (carbon dioxide) from the atmosphere.

The conventional vending machines absorb the air around it to make it cool and hot. The one at the concourse is equipped with a special absorbent material which absorbs CO2. This system absorbs only CO2 from the atmosphere. It is truly a vending machine that "eats" CO2 from the atmosphere.

The amount of CO2 absorption per machine is expected to be up to 20% of CO2 emissions from its operating power. If this is placed into Japanese cedar trees aged 56-60 years, it's equivalent to the annual absorption of about 20 trees.

It will start a full-scale expansion from 2024. This is the first sight of this vending machine for the spectators and para athletes in the stadium concourse at this event.

CO2 absorbed will be used as raw materials for fertilizers and concrete by companies and local governments. This vending machine that "eats" CO2 is going to be expanded over the country. The future that vending machines in the cities and stadiums absorbs CO2 like trees starts from this venue of 2024 World Para Athletics Championships.





■Cheering with a fan with message

Kawasaki Heavy Industries is a global company of ships, energy plants, and industrial facilities and also familiarly known as a motorcycle company with “Kawasaki”'s logo in the world.

The headquarter of this company in Kobe City, Hyogo, endorses the event's basic principles of 'Connect, Expand, Advance' and is having a support project to cheering the Kobe 2024 World Para Athletics Championships.

Around the medal plaza in the stadium, there is a booth of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, and families with little children are gathering around there every day. At the booth, rounded fans are prepared for them and they can make original fans with drawing messages on the blank side to cheer the athletes.



These fans are made by employees from the special subsidiary company of Kasawaki Heavy Industries, Kawaju Heartful Service. Many people with disabilities are employed at Kawasaki Heartful Service, where they collect used milk cartons and sake cartons, and use them as raw materials to produce recycled paper products. The main products are name card and paper for certificate, and this time was the original fans.

At the booth, the children is enjoying to make the original fans drawing with colorful pens and seals with the employees with disabilities. They can use the fans for cheering the athletes in the stadium and bring it back to home for a memory of this competition.

Also you can try the three-wheeled vehicle “noslis” that the people with disabilities can enjoy safely riding. Toward the realization of a society that everyone, with or without disabilities can actively participate together. We hope you enjoy to experience this at the venue of Kobe 2024 World Para Athletics Championships.

