



# THE DAILY NEWS

KOBE 2024 PARA ATHLETICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

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DAY 7

Japanese

## Yesterday's **Highlight**

### Go farther. drama of jumping and throwing

On the sixth day of the second half of the competition, the event took place in the weather typical of May in Japan, with a cool breeze blowing in the blue sky. There was no world record, but several championships and area records were broken. The stadium was filled with cheers until the end of the evening session as a number of high-profile athletes participated in the field events.

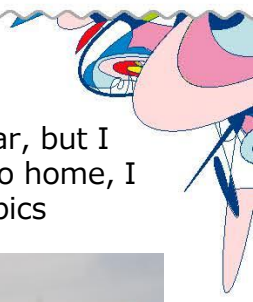


#### ■ Women's Shot Put F46

The women's shot put in the F46 class, which has arm disabilities, is set to return to action at the Paris Paralympics for the first time since the 2008 Beijing Games. In the final of this world championships, a high-level battle was held in which the world's top ranking players were almost all in one place.

The winner was defending champion and world record holder (13.32m) Noelle Malkamaki (USA). She reached the top with a mark of 12.23m on the first throw, and stretched to 13.12m on the fourth attempt. Holly Robinson (New Zealand) came in second with a 12.25m, and Japan's Yukiko Saito came in third with a 11.72m.

"It feels great to win the world title two years in a row. It's always a great experience to play wearing the U.S. national team uniform." said Malkamaki, who won two consecutive championships. She said with smiling on your face, but the final goal of the champion is more higher position.



"I wanted to break the world record set at the Paris Championships last year, but I fell a little short. But winning with the gold medal is great. After returning to home, I want to train more harder and break the world record at the Paris Paralympics Games."

Malkamaki, who had specialized in throwing in able-bodied athletics, started competing in Para Sports competitions about three years ago, thanks to her coach's recommendation, and achieved to the top level. In the long term, she will look to compete in the 2028 Games in Los Angeles, but first she will seek the title of new queen at the Paris Paralympics Games.



Robinson, who is in second place, is a two-way athlete with the javelin, but he focused on the shot put, which was the silver medal in the previous Paris Championships. As intended, she increased her personal best by 8cm and broke the Oceania record. "I'm so excited. I'm very happy because I got a personal best on the big stage."

She was in third position (11.51m) after her fifth throwing, but after her big throw in the last attempt, moved her to the second position. Saito, who threw after Robinson, failed to improve she's record, and Robinson finished second. She was second at the last Paris Championships Games.

"I was very nervous because I was third for almost long time. But in the final throw, I tried to win a silver medal, and when I used my legs to burn and use my strength, I made a good throw." he said. At the Paris Paralympics Games, she will aim to win two titles, the javelin and shot put.

Saito, who was upset by Robinson and finished in the third place, the same as the previous World Championships in Paris, bit his lip, saying, "It's pure frustration. She was turned around on the final throw, and she wasn't good enough to turn it around again." In her second throw, she hit a 11.72m, the best of the season, but she was unable to extend it due to her current physical condition.

Saito, who had hold the title of world record (12.47m) for a long time, until it was replaced by Malkamaki, returned to the sport in earnest after the birth of her first child in 2022. "I want to re-conditioning my physical condition one more time, aiming to win a gold medal at the Paris Paralympics Games." she said.



These top three athletes are exactly the same as at the last Paris Championships. It will be the first time for anyone to win at the Paris Paralympics Games for the first time. Breaking a world record or a personal record, a come-from-behind play, or another athlete breaking in? We are less than 100 days away from an endless battle.



## ■ Men's Long Jump T64

Markus Rehm. He is a long jump specialist for the German national team and one of the best superstars in parasport. The long jump will start at 18:21 with a mix of two below-knee amputations using a prosthetic leg (T62), one below-knee amputation using a prosthetic leg (T64), and one below-knee functional disability class (T44). 13 athletes participated, including Rehm.

Rehm broke his own world record by jumping 8.72m in June 2023. Will a new world record be born? The main stand at Univer Stadium was packed with spectators hoping to witness a historic moment.

Rehm's trial order is 12th. Derek Loccident of the United States, the third jumper in the order of trials, made a big jump of 7.05m, and a roar and cheer from the stands. Rehm jumped in the audience's claps from the first attempt and took the top spot with a 7.95m.

The number of players was reduced from three in the first half to eight in the second half. The top lame in the first half became the final trial order. In the second half, two American athletes, Rehm and Germany's Noah Bodelier, were active. American veteran Trenten Merrill jumped 7.10m in the fourth jump, but 20 year-old Bodelier jumped 7.11m, 1 cm more than Merrill's record, and Loccident jumped 7.28m. Merrill then chased Rehm's superhuman jump, also he jumped 7.35m in his last trial, and Loccident setting a new American continent record of 7.69m in the fifth attempt.



Rehm jumped 7.86m in his fourth trial, and jumped 8.30m in the fifth attempt, which was more than 8m for the first time in the day. All eyes of the stadium are focused on the ream. The countdown to the run-up started, and with 30 seconds to go, he raised his hands and signaled to the stands, and there was a huge clap. With 15 seconds left, they started running. Accelerating, stepping, and into the air. He landed so hard his thought I was going to fly out of the sandbox. The record of the last jump was 8.23m. He won the championship with a record of 8.30m. He has won seven consecutive world championships since winning his first in Christchurch in 2011.



"The seventh consecutive victory was Amazing. It was difficult to adjust today, reading the wind, but I'm satisfied with the record of 8.30m." he said.

For Rehm, the Kobe 2024 World Para Athletics is his first official match of the season. "Four days before I came to Japan, I did an exhibition-style long jump in Australia, and I could not reach 8m jump at that time. The world championships bring together top athletes from all over the world. Even though my condition was not perfect, participating in the Kobe Championships was one of my top priorities. If I miss this competition someone will win the title, not easily disposed to surrender."

In July 2018, Rehm participated in a Japanese competition and set the world record (8.47m). Japan is also one of Rehm's favorite countries. "When I came to the stadium again today, I was greeted warmly by a lot of people who wanted me to take a pictures with them and/or showed me pictures I had taken before."

Loccident, Merrill and Bodelier were ranked second, third and fourth, respectively. "Derek is 25 and Noah is 20 year old. Both of them have grown so much that the record is getting closer and closer. With these records, I think the championships was exciting and the people watching it were able to enjoy it. I think it will further spread the appeal of Para athletics."

Rehm may become the first human to exceed 9 meters. "If all the factors including physical condition, weather conditions including wind, adjustment and use of the prosthetic legs are not in order, it will not be possible to reach the unprecedented 9m. But I'm always preparing and leaping for it."

Go farther. Rehm's further challenge continues from the Kobe 2024 World Para Championships, where he won 7 consecutive titles.

Koto Matayoshi of Japan ranked 12th with a record of 5.57m.

## Competition Schedule and Results



# GO KOBE 2024!



## Students of special support school welcomes the event supporters with warm hospitality

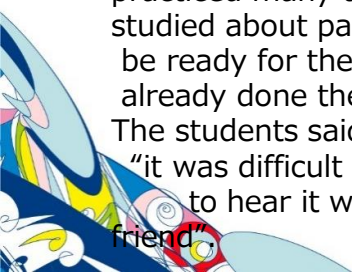
“Please” “thank you” — On May 21st, the middle day of 9 days competition, the backroom of volunteers “ANCHORS” was full of the aroma of coffee and smiles. Students from Kobe city Seiyō Suma special support high school served coffee made from freshly ground beans to ANCHORS who supports the competition every day, with warm hospitality.

This is the one of the programs of “warm hospitality for the event officials”, which the organizing committee brought them to provide a motivation for their dairy studies and an opportunity for future social participating.



12 schools joined this program. These special support schools provide services and handmade products on a regular basis for working support and life study. The students from each school, have participated in the activities; offering coffee and sweets in the venue, making the messages for the athletes and souvenir items, and cleaning at the mail train stations.

The one of the 12 schools is Seiyō Suma Special Support School. 7 students who took part in this “coffee service” are the 3rd grade of job training course and all of them passed the coffee service examination of job training support. For this competition, they had received training of using coffee mill and coffee maker, and customer services at “Hagiwara Coffee” in Kobe, and practiced many times at school too. Also, they studied about para sports and para athletics to be ready for the competition. On 20th, they had already done the coffee service in the VIP room. The students said with the satisfied smiles, “it was difficult at the first time, but I was happy to hear it was delicious”, “this is very fun”, “we could come together with a friend”.





And we could hear the voices of gratitude from the volunteers who were served coffee, "it was delicious with real coffee flavor", and "it is nice to have a hot coffee when tired and cold".

Mr. Takahiro Oki, a teacher of the school, was watching over the students said, "I could see them nervous first, but they could respond the situation that they haven't prepared, and talked each other, took the lead to refill the coffee maker... I am deeply moved by how much the students have grown beyond my imagination in the field." And, he told execratively, "I hope these activities will lead people to know the abilities of special support students and the expansion of employment opportunities."



The students from Hyogo Nishi Kobe special support high school had hand-made biscuits. it was distributed each location in the venue during the competition, and it has been well received by the event officials. Before the competition, they baked 150~200 biscuits and packed them into 1,500 bags. The hand drawing by the students is on the cover of the bags as well.

At first, there were doubts if they can make it to 1,500 items, but the students managed to finish their cooking practice over the course of a year to prepare for the opening competition. Some of them improved as to be called "pastry chef". They seemed to feel the activity responding and rewarding, saying things like "I was happy to hear it was delicious."

The schools participated in this program other than these 2, 5 schools from Kobe city; Kobe City Blind School, Nada Sakura Special Support School, Seyo Nada Special Support High School, Yusei Special Support School, Ibuki Myojo Special Support School, and 5 schools from Hyogo prefecture; Prefectural Blind Special Support School, Prefectural Kobe Deaf Special Support School, Prefectural Kobe Special Support School, Prefectural Nojigiku Special Support School and Prefectural Ashiya Special Support School.

