

E-Mail Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama City “Challenge of Legendary Okayama” (28)
September 4th Issue

【Various topics on sports】

Hello, I'm Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

In this changing season from summer to fall, Mayor's office becomes very lively because sports players who won great records at the various national sports championships in summer visit the city hall to report their results.

During the past week, the following people visited the city hall to report their good records; the soft-ball tennis players of Okayama who won the championship at the national elementary school soft-ball tennis championship series, women's group; Mr. Kodai Nakada of a senior at Ishii Junior High School who contributed as a member of Japan team to become the world champion for the world boys' baseball tournament; Mr. Yuya Hinomoto of a senior at KANZEI High School who established new records in men's 100 meter and 200 meter in breaststroke in the national interscholastic athletic meet of Chugoku region; and Mr. Naoki Nago of a senior at Kibi Junior High School who won the final in 800 meter in men's track and field at the national junior high school athletic tournament.

They looked determined and their eyes were very sparkling and I was very envious of them. They also made me want to exercise.

I wish I could re-start playing tennis that I used to learn every week until June last year and golf

that I enjoyed playing before but unfortunately, I'm suffering from a shoulder pain.

It is currently very difficult for me to play sports because of my shoulders. When I joined a fire drill the other day, I was told to protect my head with both hands but my left shoulder was in severe pain. But I put up with it because I knew someone was taking pictures of me. For the time being, I just need to do aerobics by walking (8,000 steps in weekdays and 12,000 steps in weekends is my goal) and stretching.

But watching sports is a different story. I love watching various sports. When I lived in Tokyo, I used to go watching "the national tennis championship" at Ariake Colosseum because of my tennis instructor's influence and high school and university baseball at Jingu stadium every year.

After I came back to Okayama, I am into watching the soccer games of Fagiano Okayama. I went to see them play about 4 times now. Kanko Stadium in a summer night was especially good. 90 minutes past so fast when I watch a game with my son while drinking beer.

There are other attractive sports in Okayama such as Seagulls, Nadeshiko league, and boys' baseball. I would like to widen my areas of watching sports.