



Kawasaki Heavy Industries: A Supporter of Hockey

Kawasaki does not have a corporate sports team at present, but is focusing on supporting sports promotion activities by acquiring naming rights for sports facilities and employing sports personnel.

Keiko Miura

Senior Staff Officer, General Affairs Section, Human Resources & General Affairs Department, Planning Division, Aerospace Systems Company / Coach and Analyst, National Women's Field Hockey Team, "Sakura Japan"

Naming Rights to Facilities Such as Gifu Prefecture Green Stadium Acquired

A single coach, brimming with passion, changed a town. Zenjiro Yasuda, who participated in the Mexico Olympics as a member of Japan's men's field hockey team, graduated from university the year after the Olympics and became the field hockey club coach for Gifu Prefectural Female Commercial High School (now Kakamigahara High School) in his hometown. Since then, he has turned the school into a regular championship contender,

winning the National High School Championship 20 times. As coach of the women's national field hockey team, he led to their participation in the Athens Olympics, a first for Japan. The sports press describes him as "a distinguished coach who has an outstanding record of accomplishments."

Gifu Prefecture and Kakamigahara City have also entrusted him with their dreams to turn the city into "Field Hockey Kingdom Kakamigahara." The symbols of this are Gifu Prefecture Green Stadium, a hockey complex boasting the best facilities in Asia, and Kakamigahara City Hockey Field, which were established on the

Reach for Your Dreams!

Kawasaki Spirit

same grounds. The facilities have three official competition pitches, and the Green Stadium has a main stand which can seat 1,630 people.

Kawasaki acquired the naming rights to both facilities as a result of a joint public offering in 2016. Since then, the facilities have gone under the name of Kawasaki Heavy Industries Hockey Stadium.

The stadium hosts games at the national and international level, and it is used as a national training center, which is home to the men's and women's Japanese national teams.

Actually, Kawasaki Heavy Industries Aerospace Systems Company (Gifu Works) is also located in this area, with the company on the opposite side of the hockey stadium and the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) Gifu Base in between the two. The Gifu Works manufactures large aircraft, helicopters, and space-related equipment. Kawasaki decided to acquire the naming rights to the facilities as a unique way of acknowledging local employees' excellent work and of contributing to society.

Miura from General Affairs Is a "Sakura Japan" Coach

Keiko Miura, Senior Staff Officer in the General Affairs Section of the Aerospace Systems Company, was discovered by Coach Yasuda at Gifu Female Commercial High School, and was serving as captain of the Japan women's field hockey team when it was decided that they would take part in the Olympics for the first time, as well as during the Athens Games themselves. Having joined Kawasaki in 2015, she provides operational support in the General Affairs Section, gives lectures at elementary and junior high schools, and coaches junior high school field hockey clubs in the city as social contribution activities.

The Kendo grip she honed in junior high school and the powerful stroke she developed playing softball helped her in field hockey, and during her active career she made strong shots on par with male athletes in set-plays from the penalty corner. She is one of the key players who brought Japanese women's field hockey to the international level.

Miura is also currently a defense coach and analyst for the national women's field hockey team, "Sakura Japan." She uses her excellent computer skills during matches to segment images of the play in real time and analyze the movements of the players. She also sends the results to the bench.

Japan placed 14th in the international women's field hockey rankings announced in September 2019. However, Miura says, "There is no country we can't beat. We share



Coach Miura advises players in a match.

ball possession 50-50 when playing against any team. If we give all that we have, to win each match, we will get results."

When asked once again why she chose field hockey, she says, "It's simply good fun. From field hockey I learned that if you have a goal and work hard, your dream will come true. Then being a coach taught me that I can contribute to people by giving them an environment where they can think for themselves and set their own goals." She always makes this point at lectures at elementary and junior high schools.



Do You Know the Rules of Field Hockey?

● 11 People Play on the Pitch

There are 11 people per team on the pitch during a match: 1 goalkeeper and 10 players. Players can be substituted at any time during the match, and any number of substitutions can be made, so the timing of player substitutions greatly affects the match. A player may run more than 13 km in one match, in a semi-crouched position. There are 18 registered players per team in an international match.

● 15 Minutes x 4 Quarters

A match is 60 minutes in total, with a 10-minute half-time after the 2nd quarter. If there is a tie, a shoot-out similar to a penalty shoot-out in a football match is played, in which five shooters from each team take part.

● No Offside

The previous offside rule has been abolished, which makes for a faster match.



● Harder than a Baseball

The ball is almost the same size as a baseball, but it is harder because the core, made of cork, is covered with resin. Recently, balls that are dimpled like golf balls have become popular, and top players can shoot at speeds of 150 - 170 km/h. It really hurts if you get hit.

● Flat Side of the Stick Only

The stick is a maximum of 737 g in weight and 105 cm in length. Sticks have a flat and a rounded side. Players can only hit the ball with the flat side. Players turn the stick to dribble the ball, which is more difficult than it seems.

● Artificial Grass Sprinkled with Water

Most matches are now held on artificial grass, so water is sprinkled on it to prevent friction burns when a player falls. Sprinkling water makes the play dynamic, speeding up the ball and drastically reducing mistakes. The games have become even more thrilling.

Reference: Japan Hockey Association website



Competition pitch at Kawasaki Heavy Industries Hockey Stadium.