

ABSTRACT

A Study on Yukio Matsumoto's "Rokyu-Kenkyu" (1934-36)

OIKAWA Yusuke

The purpose of this study is to analyze and discuss Yukio Matsumoto and "*Rokyu-Kenkyu*", and at the same time to consider what Matsumoto looked for in basketball at the time, and what constituted his ideal basketball. Then I will explain what "*Rokyu-Kenkyu*" conveyed to the Japanese basketball world at the time.

Although he lived in Kansai, where there were only a few small local branches of the Japan Basketball Association, Matsumoto expressed his passion for basketball in "*Rokyu-Kenkyu*" and successfully conveyed it to the reading audience concerned with basketball.

A good portion of the articles in "*Rokyu-Kenkyu*" with basketball tactics called "system play". As well, his coaching and training methods are described with respect to these tactics. Matsumoto distributed "*Rokyu-Kenkyu*", presumably to introduce "system play" theories to the public, which, in turn, may have helped to improve the competitive level of Japanese basketball.

At the time, there was little information about basketball, despite the fact that this information was needed. "*Rokyu-Kenkyu*" introduced and explained some tactics and coaching methods. How was he able to impart information when little was available? Matsumoto was probably able to do this because he was concerned with the improvement of not only the teams he had instructed, but also the competitive level of Japanese basketball. Matsumoto's attitude can be considered an important factor which contributed to the development of Japanese basketball to an eventual Olympic level.