

19.Sports

In our modern world, sports have become a part of our daily life. People are crazy about many kinds of sports. There are two ways to enjoy them, playing or watching them on TV. Professional sports are booming here in Japan. We have baseball and football. And, recently, volleyball became professional and is growing ever more popular. Players are making more money and playing better, and fans are enjoying high-quality games. Some national athletes have even gained international attention. So everybody seems to benefit from professional sports. But the players and coaches are under heavy stress. Players must compete for positions, and coaches are at the mercy of their win-lose record. And many players, the ones on the bench, are still living from hand to mouth.

Comprehension

1. The word "fan" is derived from "fanatic." Which word in the paragraph has the same meaning?
2. Which three professional Korean sports are mentioned?
3. What is stressful to players and coaches?

Express Yourself

1. Why are people crazy about professional sports?
2. What do you think is the difference between amateur and professional sports?
3. Which kind of sport do you prefer, amateur or professional?
4. Which do you prefer, playing a sport, watching it on TV, or watching it "live"?
5. What are your favorite sports?
6. What do professional sports give us?
7. What makes professional players do their best?
8. Do you think their salaries are high enough?
9. What do you think about importing foreigners to play professional sports?
10. Do you think it's okay for your children to become pro athletes? What kind of sport would you recommend for your children?

