

## 第3部 課題

# 第21回 毎日パソコン入力コンクール 全国大会・冬季大会


【課題】

第3部 英文A

Raising Spirits

制限時間5分

【注意事項】

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※この課題は、MAINICHI WEEKLY 2019年3月2日号「Raising Spirits」、11月1日号「Blossoming Heroes」より引用しました。(文字数3,100字程度)

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## Raising Spirits

A paracheer team, comprising cheerleaders with physical disabilities, performed with a professional cheerleading team for the first time at the halftime show of a game of the country's premier Women's Japan Basketball League (WJBL). With the possibility that cheerleading will become an Olympic and Paralympic sport in the future, those involved in paracheer are enthusiastic about spreading the sport to a wider base of participants and spectators. 

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During halftime of a WJBL game in Tokyo's Ota Ward on Feb. 2, four members of the paracheer team at Spitzen Performance, a nonprofit organization based in Sagami-hara, Kanagawa Prefecture, appeared on the court with 10 cheerleaders from the Professional Cheerleading Association. Along with the 10 cheerleaders, members with lower limb disabilities danced to the music, ending the show with huge smiles across their faces. 

↓1級

Spitzen Performance, whose activities include dispatching physical trainers and running sports sessions, created a paracheer team in April 2016. What directly sparked the move was the sight of children with disabilities performing spiritedly at a world cheerleading competition in the U.S. The NPO's representative director, 50-year-old Tada Hisayoshi, who witnessed the competition, was moved to provide the same opportunities to those with disabilities in Japan. Today, paracheer practice is held once a week, and the team performs every year at a national cheerleading competition. 

Meanwhile, the International Olympic Committee has provisionally approved the International Cheer Union as the world governing

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body of cheerleading. The chances that cheerleading will be approved as an Olympic and Paralympic sport seem to be growing. 📄

"We want to work toward increasing paracheer's visibility, and being able to aim for world competitions," Tada said. 📄



Blossoming Heroes 📄

Japan bowed out of the 2019 Rugby World Cup after being defeated by South Africa on Oct. 20, but not before making historic strides in the tournament and proceeding to the quarterfinals for the first time, thrilling legions of rugby fans. 📄

The diverse Japanese team of 31 members, including 15 players from overseas, bonded together under the slogan "One Team," and won all four of their pool stage games to advance to the best eight of the tournament, which was held in Asia for the first time. 📄

In the pool stage, Japan beat Ireland, a team that entered the World Cup ranked No. 1 in the world and which had been seen as a contender to win the tournament. They also felled Scotland, which have regularly made the World Cup's best eight. At one stage Japan rose as high as sixth in the world rankings - its best position to date. 📄

In the quarterfinal match before a crowd of 48,831 at Tokyo Stadium in Tokyo, the Brave Blossoms sought to repeat the victory over the Springboks that they achieved in Brighton, England, during the 2015 World Cup. At the end of the first half, they narrowly trailed 3-5, but in the second half, South Africa's powerful forwards got the better of them. When the final whistle blew, Japan's 3-26 defeat was settled.

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