

第3部 課題

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【課題】

第3部 英文A

Mat Maestro Moves on

制限時間5分


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Mat Maestro Moves on

Three-time Olympic champion Yoshida Saori has announced she is bringing her stellar career as a wrestler to an end. 

"I decided to retire, feeling that I had done all I could in wrestling," the 36-year-old said with a smile at a news conference in Tokyo on Jan. 10 to mark the end of her 33-year career as a competitor. "Thanks for all your support and cheers," she said, acknowledging the support she received over the years. 


Yoshida also said, "I've come to see young athletes competing on the world stage quite often, and I came to think it would be OK to hand the baton over to them." She revealed that she finally came to her decision after watching the Japan championships in December last year, in which she did not compete. She wrote a message about her retirement on her Twitter account on Jan. 8. 

Yoshida was born in Mie Prefecture and started wrestling at the age of 3, training at her home under her father Eikatsu, a former winner of the Japan wrestling championships. She polished her high-speed takedowns, and won three consecutive Olympic golds -- at Athens in 2004, Beijing in 2008 and London in 2012. In 2012, she received the People's Honor Award. 

The freestyle wrestler won 13 straight world championships from 2002. Combined with her Olympic golds, she managed to achieve 16 consecutive world titles, surpassing the 12 of Russian wrestler Alexander Karelin. She had 206 straight individual match victories until she was beaten in the final of the 53-kilogram division at the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. Some even dubbed her the "strongest female among primates." 


Yoshida had taken time out from competition after being defeated in Rio de Janeiro. Her recent activities have included coaching the Japanese women's team. 


Of her future plans, Yoshida indicated that she wanted to continue coaching the Japanese national women's team, and said she hoped she could provide psychological support to team Japan


at the 2020 Olympic Games. She also said, "I have dedicated myself to wrestling, so I would like to try something new." 




Hair-raising Heritage 

UNESCO added "Raiho-shin, ritual visits of deities in masks and costumes" of Japan to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity on Dec. 1. 

The decision to add the visits by the deities, known as "raiho-shin" in Japanese, was made during a meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO in Port Louis, Mauritius. As the newly registered visiting deities were added to the existing entry "Koshikijima no Toshidon," a raiho-shin from an island in the southwestern Japanese prefecture of Kagoshima, the number of Japan's intangible cultural heritage listings remains at 21. 

In the ritual visit, a person dons a mask and a costume to look like a certain deity, and visits neighborhoods or houses around New Year's Eve, New Year's Day or other special occasions to warn lazy residents and bring luck to the locals. The committee said, "By performing the rituals, local people -- notably children -- have their identities moulded, develop a sense of affiliation to their community, and strengthen ties among themselves." 

Besides "Toshidon," which was registered in 2009, the updated listing includes the deities "Oga no Namahage" of Akita Prefecture, "Noto no Amamehagi" of Ishikawa Prefecture along the Sea of Japan, "Miyakojima no Paantou" from Okinawa Prefecture and others ranging from the Tohoku region in the north to Okinawa, spanning eight prefectures. All 10 raiho-shin are already designated as important intangible folk cultural properties by the Japanese government. 

As "Namahage" resemble Toshidon, calls to make a separate entry for them on the UNESCO list had been rejected in the past. Because of this, the Japanese government submitted a proposal to have all of the raiho-shin added to a single listing in March 2016.
