

Team Japan

team "Hayate" *swift wind*



(C) Japan Ultimate



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THE WORLD GAMES ROSTER

First Name	Last Name	No. #	Gen	Height	Exp.	Position
Mizuho	TANAKA	2	M	178 cm	13 yrs	Handler
Yasuo	TAKAHASHI	3	M	168 cm	12 yrs	Handler
Keiko	OTSU	5	F	157 cm	9 yrs	Handler
Masashi	KURONO	6	M	179 cm	7 yrs	Cutter
Sanako	INOMATA	7	F	160 cm	10 yrs	Cutter
Madoka	ITO	9	F	154 cm	16 yrs	Cutter
Masahiro	MATSUNO	10	M	171 cm	12 yrs	Handler
Eri	ENZU	11	F	153 cm	14 yrs	Handler
Kaori	NAMIKIRI	12	F	155 cm	10 yrs	Cutter
Akina	FUJIKAWA	16	M	161 cm	9 yrs	Handler
Satoru	SAMESHIMA	17	M	177 cm	14 yrs	Cutter
Keiichiro	SHIBA	97	M	178 cm	6 yrs	Cutter
Takanori	FURUZAWA	99	M	175 cm	6 yrs	Cutter



TEAM COLORS: BLUE and WHITE

CLUB & COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

Players on *Hayate* normally compete for club teams Buzz Bullets, UNO, HUCK, and MUD. Additionally all of the players competing for Team Japan played last year in Sakai at the 2012 WFDF World Ultimate & Guts Championship. Several also competed at 2008 WFDF Worlds in Vancouver: Mizuho Tanaka, Masashi Kurono, Masahiro Matsuno, Eri Enzu and Satoru Sameshima.

RECENT TEAM JAPAN INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

2012 WFDF World Championships, Sakai, Japan

Open: 5th Women: Gold Mixed: Bronze

2009 The World Games, Kaoshing City, Taiwan — **Silver**

2008 WFDF World Championships, Vancouver, Canada

Open: Bronze Women: Silver Mixed: Silver

2005 The World Games Duisburg Germany — **4th place**

2004 WFDF World Championships Turku, Finland

Open: 5th Women: 4th Mixed: 8th

2001 The World Games, Akita, Japan — **Bronze**

OTHER NOTABLE INTERNATIONAL WINS:

2011 Asia Oceania Championships — Open: **Gold** Mixed: **Gold**

2009 AOUC — Open: **Gold**

2007 AOUC — Mixed: **Gold**

2006 WUCC — Open: **Gold** Women: **Gold** Open Masters: **Gold**

STYLE OF PLAY on OFFENSE and DEFENSE

Over the years Japanese players have faced significant height mismatches that have resulted in losses despite fielding superior throwers and cutters. But where there is weakness there can be found strength and Japan has found it in utilizing what they call a “speedy pass offense” or “*Hayate* offense” in which the disc moves quickly and



effectively to either side of the field. Look for Japan's super-quick offense to dictate the pace of the game if they can stay on break.

On defense, Japan will feature (like most teams) different methods depending on their opponents. Obviously there are certain matches that the Japanese will want to exploit and their speed at all positions will provide them with their best chance at creating turnovers.

TOP DEFENDERS

Satoru Sameshima #17 — sophisticated one-on-one man defender

Keiichiro Shiba #97 — layout diving blocks put the buzz in Buzz Bullets.

TOP THROWERS

Mizuho Tanaka #2 — backhand breakmarks

Akina Fujikawa #16 — deep forehand hucks

TOP RECEIVERS

Sanako Inomata #7 — great speed and excellent timing

Madoka Ito #9 — might be the quickest female player in the world, certainly at the top of her class in speed

TEAM COACHES and CAPTAINS:

Coaches: #14 Takatoshi Saito #15 Yuki Mori, #66 Tetsuya Tatehora

Captains: Satoru Sameshima, Eri Enzu

MORE ABOUT ULTIMATE IN JAPAN

"Almost all players start playing ultimate at the university level," says team representative Makoto Ohi. This is why many of Japan's best teams are actually university teams or university alumni teams (MUD is an example). Also, interestingly enough, most of these university ultimate practices happen at the banks of rivers.

Ohi explains Japan's strength on the field in the quest for the gold:



“*Running* is one of the primary strengths of Japan. We have to run, run and run on the ultimate field to win the gold medal. And not just sometimes, but running a lot more than any other country,” Ohi explains. “*Always running* is what Japanese ultimate is about.”

FAVORITE PART ABOUT ULTIMATE?

“Ultimate is not a famous sport in Japan and thus game tactics aren’t established,” says Ohi. “So we’re able to create new, innovative tactics by ourselves that haven’t been pioneered before. It’s difficult, but so fun for us!”

HOW MANY ULTIMATE PLAYERS ARE THERE IN YOUR COUNTRY?

About 3,000 people play in Japan.

PICK ONE WORLD GAMES SPORT TO WATCH AFTER ULTIMATE

Sumo: Sumo is the national sport of Japan.

PROFILE

“Japanese teams have been steadily growing to compete internationally since the early 2000s and have seen successful results lately,” explains Ohi. “Especially last year when the Japan Women’s team won the gold medal at WFDF Worlds in Sakai [over Team USA represented by Fury, it should be noted].”

“Winning allowed us to feel that our independent tactics and style of Japanese play can be successful,” says Ohi. “However, Japanese teams have never won gold at The World Games [they did win silver in 2009]. To become the ultimate “ultimate team of Japan” we would like to win the gold medal in Cali!”

“The Japanese team members were selected from top-class teams in Japan specifically for World Games 2013. The team started in January 2013 and final members were decided in May 2013 through strict selection,” says Ohi. “This team shoulders the hopes of Japanese ultimate players around the country. Go! Hayate Japan!”



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