

The ELM News

"Tenipon"

We went to an interview for the "Sports II" Class on May 18. When we went to the interview they were getting ready to play "Tenipon". In this project, English-course students report on Tenipon and create a newspaper in English.

Tenipon is a new sport that mixes tennis and table tennis. The rackets are between the size of a tennis racket and a table racket. The racket is made out of wood and has rubber grip. The balls are something very soft, about the size of softball. The rules are similar to tennis, and points are given one at a time.



It started in Samani Town, Hokkaido in 1983. It is a mix of tennis and ping pong. People made this sport for everyone. "Anyone can enjoy it anywhere" easily. You can play it even in the snowy winter of Hokkaido.

We will explain the tools used in this sport. The net used in tenipon is averagely low, around 80-100cm's high, about that it almost touches the floor. In class, they played at 110cm, but that was a special rule customized for their athletic abilities. The court used in tenipon is about the same size as a badminton court.

The main rules of Tenipon are the same as tennis. Matches are played to 11 point matches, but normally it is a 21-point match played in 3 sets. Rallies are either no-bounce or one-bounce.

When we visited the class, we heard some chatting. The students looked like they were having fun in the class. From what we saw, we thought that the teacher was planning a very good class. The students should thank the teacher for the enjoyable class.

In the match, one girl screamed from sadness. That was because the opponent had a score. But she looked like she was having fun at the same time. After a bit, she jumped with joy. She looked happy from scoring. It looked like she was having fun after all.

Interview

Student K

Tenipon is very fun. But I get really tired. The ball is made out of sponge. Controlling it is very difficult. I'm using my brain. The racket is heavy, so we need some technique.

student I

Tenipon is a very interesting sport. It's hard to control my strength when hitting the ball. But it is easy to learn. I like the difficulty of hitting the ball without missing the court.

She also said "The racket is heavy so my shoulders hurt after the game."

student S

Tenipon is "Namara" very fun. if it doesn't work out, it's annoying. It's fun when you pull off a trick.

Mr. Yamazawa

I want the students to learn about and try sports that they don't usually do in physical education.



PS.

Hibiki: Watching the match, We was surprised that they could hit back with such small rackets.

Kana: After going to an interview and watching classes, I started to want to try playing Tenipon myself.

Hannah: This was my first time writing a newspaper in English. It was a very interesting experience for me. I am looking forward to writing a new article. I wish everyone could have fun.

Nao: I realized this after actually writing an article. I think what is the Tenipon? I looked into Tenipon and found out that it is an exciting sport for all ages. And I wanna play Tenipon.

Ed. Note

Recently, lack of exercise is becoming a problem in Japan. 77% of Japanese people feel that way. So, we think it would be a good idea to hold a Tenipon event. because Tenipon is open to participants of all ages. Then, we think this idea can be improved for the problem.

Our students did a fantastic job making newspapers in collaboration with the Sports II class! They achieved the goal of expressing their ideas in English. Next time, we'll dive into a new topic and take on some fresh challenges in English expression!

Teacher in charge : Yuto Yamauchi