

Dear Coaches and Team Reps,

Thank you for participating in the 2011 Nikkei Games 3-on-3 and 4-on-4 co-ed basketball tournament. This year's tournament covered 26 hours over two days. There were 114 divisions, 456 teams and over 1,800 participants, making this the largest tournament ever. We issued over 1,350 medals and awards.

It is through your participation and support that made the tournament possible. We are very thankful and appreciative of your support. We trust you, your teams and families and friends had a great time. Hopefully, they enjoyed the venue - the beautiful CSULB Pyramid, as well as the excitement and fast-paced games of the 3-on-3 half court format.

For those of you that were at the Opening Ceremonies, we trust you enjoyed our Mistress of Ceremonies, the lovely actress and former Nisei Week Queen Tamlyn Tomita. We also hope you were moved by the beautiful singing of Lauren Hanako Kinkade, 2001 Nisei Week Queen and accomplished vocalist. We also hope you and your families enjoyed the Parade of Athletes. We think the kids had a great time marching into the Pyramid behind their respective organization's placard. We estimate there were over 400 participants in the Parade and 1,200+ people in attendance during the Opening Ceremonies. Maybe the raffle with the Apple iPad2 and Xbox 360 had something to do with the tremendous turn out this year. Perhaps the highlight of the ceremonies was the electrifying athleticism displayed during the Slam Dunk contest. We also hope you and the kids enjoyed the words of wisdom from Coach Mike Bokosky, Men's basketball coach at Chapman University regarding working hard, being coachable and always being a good team mate. There was also the great Taiko performances from Judi Kaminishi and the Shinzen Daiko of the Taiko Center of Los Angeles. For those of you that couldn't make it, we think you really missed out on an exciting 60 minutes.

In keeping with the legacy that our Nikkei Games forefathers started over 75 years ago, our goal is to create an environment for having healthy competition and building lasting friendships. We also endeavor to celebrate the Japanese traditions of our past and preserve them for our future.

Remember our motto: "The Nikkei Games: Games for the Generations". In keeping with this motto, this year we had as many players 6-13 years old as we had 14-60 years old. And we had grandkids of participants playing in the Nikkei Games. We hope you will share this vision and help make the Nikkei Games something our grandchildren and their children will be able to enjoy.

The basketball tournament results should be posted very soon on the Nikkei Games website at [www.nikkeigames.org](http://www.nikkeigames.org).

A special thank you to those of you who volunteered to be a court commissioner. For many of you, it was your first time. As you know, it is one of the most challenging jobs of the tournament and it is also one of the most important. We are always in need of strong court commissioners because of the length of the tournament. It is very clear the success of the tournament is directly related to the quality of our court commissioners. If you did not have the opportunity to be a court commissioner this year, please take

advantage of the opportunity next year. This was the first year the court commissioners sign-up sheet was full prior to the coaches meeting. Thank you so much for helping make that happen.

This year we closed all divisions in July and turned away over two dozen teams even though we accepted a record 456 teams. So next year, please get your applications in early. The 2012 Nikkei Games basketball application should be available on our website sometime in March 2012. The tournament is expected to be even bigger and better next year!

Also, please join us in thanking our Nikkei Games sponsors, coordinators and the more than 350 volunteers that worked to make this event such a great success. The only way we can keep the player fee low and have the tournament at the Pyramid is through the generous support of our sponsors.

It is also worth pointing out that for every game going on, the number of volunteers on the court equals the number of players. There are two scorekeepers, two coaches, a court commissioner and the referee. Those six volunteers match the six players on the court. This is not even considering the people tabulating game results at the head scorers table, score sheet runners, announcers, medal awards ceremony coordinators, tournament planners and schedulers and the countless other volunteers working behind the scenes to make the Nikkei Games a wonderful experience for our kids.

Also, thank you to all of you that were able to place a contribution in the donation box for the Farmers in Japan who were impacted by the earthquake and tsunami in March. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Speaking of support, attached is a flyer regarding an L.A. Sparks event on Tues., Aug. 30 involving Jamie Hagiya. She played basketball at USC and professionally in Europe. She is also 2010 Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi. She grew up playing JAO basketball and continues to give back to her community by helping our kids and running affordable basketball clinics and participating in many JA community activities. She is now in need of support from her community. She is running a basketball clinic prior to the LA Sparks game on Aug. 30 at the Staples Center, 4:30-5:30pm as part of an Asian Basketball Night event. Apparently part of the program is to demonstrate to the L.A. Sparks people that the Asian American community is a market worth pursuing and that Jamie is worth extending a try-out to for the team. Well, let's show our support for Jamie and demonstrate what the Asian American community can do and that we are a force to be reckoned with. Please encourage all your players to attend the clinic and the game!

Finally, if you have any comments or suggestions on improving the Nikkei Games basketball tournament, please let us know. Your feedback is very important to making the tournament better each year.

Again, thank you for your participation and support. We look forward to seeing you next year!

Sincerely,

Wallace Chan

2011 Nikkei Games  
Basketball Chairperson