Women’s U23 World Championship 2013
Tijuana, Mexico
October 5 – 12, 2013

Technical Evaluation: JAPAN
3rd place

Japan was the team that excited all the Mexican fans during the competition. Shorter than most teams, Japan played with the most heart and the best execution of defensive skills. They were fighting for every point.

They were the only team to use all 12 players in any situation and ran very exact game plans, which exploited their opponents over and over again.

Their offense was surprisingly simple, yet it quickly changed for complex when it was needed. They used fast sets to the peripheral of the antenna (both front and back), along with a mixture of quick attacks with their middles and, finally, some crossing combinations.

The persistence of their attackers made their opponents to block hands with wipe-off attacks, which caused an increasing level of frustration to more than one teams. A few well-timed, powerful inside shoot attacks and ‘pipe’ attacks with their 3 m attackers all resulted in a balanced attack formation.

Teams had to work to beat this team, using power and create one vs. one blocking situations before they could say this team was defeated. Being shorter gave them a certain advantage because of their speed, skill and cohesive team play but the lack of height made blocking their real enemy. The top teams had too much fire power which their digging could not always overcome.

Individual Player Award winner Outside Spiker Sarina Koga (#19) played impressively and Libero Miku Torigoe (#7) gave this team super chances. Both setters showed perseverance as they led their team to their Bronze Medal.

Add to this the use of all players by Coach Shigekazu Okubo who found situations for each player to excel against the weaknesses of their opponents and you had a nice recipe for a medal winning performance.

ROTATIONS:
## ROTATIONS

**Team:** JAPAN

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### Serve-Reception Formation

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<th>Libero Position Reception</th>
<th>Libero Position Defence</th>
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### TEMPO OF SET

1 = Quick – 1st tempo; 2 = X – speed - 2nd tempo, 3 = Shoot – 3rd tempo