



December 16, 2020

# Less Than 300 Days Until the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games Passionate Talk Interview with Athletes for Paralympic sports! ~Video Released on Official Website~

TOBU TOWER SKYTREE CO., LTD.

TOBU TOWER SKYTREE CO., LTD., an Official Supporter of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, believes in a “VIEW of HOPE.” We who operates the world’s tallest freestanding broadcasting tower -TOKYO SKYTREE- send support to all the athletes that aims to become the world’s best and their wishes and passion with keeping the momentum and the positive energy of Tokyo 2020 going.

Athletes for Paralympic sports (Football 5-a-side athlete Kento Kato, Para Canoe athlete Monika Seryu, Para Taekwondo athlete Mitsuya Tanaka) were interviewed, and they discussed how they are going to spend their 300 days until the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic games, their hopes about this Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, and about the “WISH RIBBON” monument located on the TEMBO DECK of TOKYO SKYTREE.

The interview footage can be accessed on the official website under the 「Tokyo 2020 Special Page」 tab. For further details please view the reference page.



△Football 5-a-side Athlete Kento Kato



△ Para Canoe Athlete Monika Seryu



△Para Taekwondo Athlete Mitsuya Tanaka

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## Interview Footage of the Athletes for Paralympic sports

Interviews were held with Kento Kato, Football 5-a-side athlete, Monika Seryu, Para Canoe athlete, and Mitsuya Tanaka, Para Taekwondo athlete. They were asked about what they feel“now” as there are less than 300 days until the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. The interviews can be accessed via the links down below.

### Kento Kato | Football 5-a-side

Interview : <https://youtu.be/zlOfcLzdNOY>

Kento Kato's Wish : 「**A society where disabilities aren't seen as different.**」



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### Monika Seryu | Para Canoe

Interview : <https://youtu.be/9rOjiu5Aa0U>

Monika Seryu's Wish : 「**I will get the gold medal in my hometown of Koto-ku!!**」



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### Mitsuya Tanaka | Para Taekwondo

Interview : <https://youtu.be/NJwlsW9rcaY>

Mitsuya Tanaka's Wish : 「**I will make everyone excited about Para Taekwondo!**」



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## < Introducing the Athletes >

### Kento Kato | Football 5-a-side



Born in Fukushima Prefecture October 24, 1985. Started playing soccer when he was in the third grade.

He was diagnosed with Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy in high school and his vision slowly deteriorated. He was unhappy with the fact that his vision was deteriorating, but luckily he was introduced to Football 5-a-side when he was 19. Every year since 2007, he has been chosen to be on Japan's national team and currently he is aiming to get the gold medal in the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

#### < Achievements >

- 2014 Incheon 2014 Asian Para Games – 2nd Place  
IBSA\* Blind Football World Championships – 6th Place
- 2015 Seoul IBSA World Games – 5th Place  
IBSA Blind Football Asian Championships – 4th Place
- 2017 IBSA Blind Football Asian Championships – 5th Place  
The 16th AXA Brave Cup Blind soccer All-Japan Championship Tournament – 2nd Place
- 2019 The 18th AXA Brave Cup Blind soccer All-Japan Championship Tournament – 1st Place  
IBSA Blind Football Asian Championships – 3rd Place

※IBSA : International Blind Sports Federation

### What is Football 5-a-side?

Football 5-a-side is composed of four field players, a goal keeper, a guide, and a coach. Four blind field players wear eye shades and use a special football that jingles. Each team has a “guide” that stands behind the opponent's goal and directs their team about how far to the goal they are, angles, and other information using their voice and sounds. The name “Blind Soccer” was termed by the Japan Blind Football Association so that the sport can be better known in Japan, but in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, it will go by the name “Football 5-a-side.” In other countries, it is also known as “Blind Football” and under the medical-based classification for blind sports, it is classified under B1.

### Monika Seryu | Para Canoe



Born on November 17, 1997 in Koto-ku, Tokyo. Started Canoe during middle school, but due to an accident during her physical education class in high school, both of her lower limbs were paralyzed causing her to be in a wheelchair. After about one year of rehabilitation, she started Para Canoe.

Since then, she has made several achievements, including participating in the Para Canoe World Championships and Rio de Janeiro 2016 Paralympic Games. In the 2019 Para Canoe World Championships, she earned 5th place. She will participate in Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games via the invitation from the Japan Para Canoe Association.

#### < Achievements >

- 2015 Para Canoe Overseas Qualifiers – Women's (KL1) – 1st Place
- 2017 Canoe Sprint World Cup 3 - Women's (KL1)/(VL1)- 1st Place  
Japan Para Canoe Championships Women's (KL1)/(VL1) - 1st Place
- 2018 Para Canoe World Championships (Portugal) - Women's (KL1) – 7th Place/(VL1) – 1st Place  
Japan Para Canoe Championships – Cancelled due to severe weather
- 2019 Para Canoe World Championships Women's (KL1) – 5th Place/(VL1) - 1st Place  
Japan Para Canoe Championships Women's (KL1)/(VL1) – 1st Place

### What is Para Canoe?

In Para Canoe, athletes sprint over a 200m course. There are three classes depending on the level of disability: L1, athletes that can sprint using their shoulders and arms without moving the torso, L2, athletes that can sprint with their torso and arms, and L3, those with some kind of disability in their legs, but can move their legs, torso, and arms. There are two events in Para Canoe called kayak and va'a. Kayak is when athletes will use a double-bladed paddle to propel the canoe. Va'a is when a float, called “outrigger,” is attached to the side of the canoe. Athletes have to avoid the floats and propel the canoe.



Born July 22, 1992 in Shizuoka Prefecture. Born with a limb reduction defect in both of his arms (Congenital Upper Limb Deficiency). During his childhood, he played sports such as Kendo and soccer, as well as many others. When it was announced that Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games would be held in Tokyo, he took initiative and gained experience with companies that were involved with Para Sports. Won first place in the 61kg class in the Japan Representative Competition that took place in January 2020. He will participate in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games with the invitation from the All Japan Taekwondo Association.

< Achievements >

- 2018 Kimunoyong Cup International Para Taekwondo Open – 1st Place  
Pan America Para Taekwondo Open – 1st Place
- 2019 U.S. Para Taekwondo Open – 1st Place  
5th Asia Para Taekwondo Open - 3rd Place  
ReadySteadyTokyo Paralympic Event – 3rd Place  
Sanmarie Cup Para Taekwondo – 1st Place

**What is Para Taekwondo?**

For the first time in Paralympic history, Para Taekwondo will be one of the events. For the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, the event “Kyorugi” will be held; where athletes with upper limb impairments can participate. Events are divided into four classes from K41 to K44 with K41 referring to athletes with the most impairment. In the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, only athletes who fall into the K43 and K44 class will be able to compete. Men and women fall into one of three different classes depending on their weight. In Para Taekwondo attacks to the head are prohibited and only kicking attacks are allowed.

< How TOBU TOWER SKYTREE CO., LTD. Supports Tokyo 2020 >

**Tokyo 2020 Special Page**

TOBU TOWER SKYTREE CO., LTD. (Headquarters: Sumida Ward Tokyo) has an Official Supporter Contract with the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in the category of “Management and operation of Transmission Tower and / or Observation Deck of TOKYO SKYTREE”.

< Tokyo 2020 Special Page >

<http://www.tokyo-skytree.jp/tokyo2020/>



**“W1SH RIBBON” Monument**

The “W1SH RIBBON” monument, placed on TEMBO DECK Floor 350, was created in response to the current situation of COVID-19 with the strong belief that everyone will overcome this obstacle, and with hopes that it will make everyone hopeful. Many wishes can be seen on the ribbons which are tied onto the monument.



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