

Plasma displays and HD camcorders support Japan's elite athletes in a new training facility

Installation Details

Exclusive training facilities for world-class athletes

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the National Training Center (NTC) opened its doors on January 21, 2008, as a comprehensive training facility for Japan's top athletes to further hone their competitive skills. The NTC has an indoor training facility at its core that contains special courts and rooms for each sport, and also houses facilities for track & field training, indoor tennis courts, and an athletes village for accommodation. Plasma displays are used in the practice areas for each sport, the main entrance lobby, and in meeting rooms throughout the facility.

High-quality displays provide powerful support for sports training

The National Agency for the Advancement of Sports and Health (NAASH), which manages and operates the NTC, selected the equipment to be used after carefully considering requests from relevant sports associations. The AV system includes projectors and screens for giant, 200-inch images, and a number of medium- and large-size displays of around 50 inches. The sales company advised NAASH on the following plasma display advantages:

- High moving-picture resolution, which is essential for displaying fast motion sharply and clearly for sports training.
- High contrast, for clear viewing even in the brightly lit practice rooms, and a wide viewing angle to allow large groups of people to view the images comfortably.
- Excellent safety in the event of an impact, thanks to a durable glass panel on the front of the display.

The future advantages of HD compatibility were also explained, and the final decision by NAASH reflected these proposals.



A plasma display installed in one of the practice rooms. Coaches offer instruction while viewing the images to further improve the athletes' skills.



Information in the main entrance lobby is provided by 103-inch and 65-inch plasma displays (above).

Plasma Display System Report

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System Outline

Training Facilities

Displays show detailed athletic motion from images recorded by HD camcorders

Plasma displays are installed in the practice rooms and the coaches' technical rooms. Numerous HD camcorders are mounted in the practice rooms to record images from angles that are not ordinarily possible, such as from directly above the athlete. The camcorders can also be operated by wireless remote control, which allows the coaches to check images together with the athletes. BD, DVD, S-VHS, HDD, HDV and other devices are connected to the video system. Being able to save practice images onto a wide range of media allows athletes to take them home for extended training and checking.



▲ For some sports, a cover is mounted on the front screen, or the entire display is embedded in the wall, to protect the athletes from possible accidents.

Lobby and Meeting Rooms

NMstage® used in the NTC information system

The main entrance lobby is equipped with 103-inch and 65-inch plasma displays that provide information on seminars and activities in the meeting rooms. NMstage is used in this display system, so the content can be remotely distributed from the NTC office.

The meeting rooms use mainly projectors and screens, which are joined by auxiliary plasma displays to allow clear visibility even from the back of the room.

*NMstage is a registered trademark of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.



▲ Displayed images can be split into several windows to allow an athlete's motion to be viewed from various angles.

After Installation

High evaluation for a top-class video system and the support it provides for training world-level athletes

Many athletes and coaches have expressed surprise at how clearly this system "shows even the smallest details," by combining HD camcorders and plasma displays to record and display high-resolution images of fine body movements from angles that were previously not possible.

The coaches also rate the system highly because fine nuances that were difficult to express through words can now be shown to the athletes in clear, natural images to greatly improve their understanding.

Also, by using the system for joint practice sessions with athletes from other countries, they are able to collect and analyze techniques and information from various angles to make their training more effective.

Outline Example of the Video System at the NTC

*This drawing shows only the video image relationship for the installed system. The type and number of devices varies depending on the sport.

