

The  
July  
2022  
Issue

What is in  
this issue:

•Can  
sports  
unite the  
world?• :

International  
Sporting  
Events

Our Sports  
History



## ‘Can Sports Unite the World?’

### Rugby World Cup 2019- Iwate, Japan

Sheila lived in **Morioka City** from 2017-19, but just missed the Rugby World Cup that summer. **Rugby** is not popular in the U.S., so she had never watched a game before. But she was happy to see a **mascot character** or two around town.



### Keika Girls' School Sports Day 2019-2021

Keika Girls' School had a **normal** Sports Day in 2019 in Saitama. It was Sheila's first one at Keika. After that, there were special class **dodgeball** games. Did you have fun? Erin can't wait to **experience** a real Japanese Sports Day one day soon!



### Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympic & Paralympic Games

These Olympics were really in 2021 because of the Coronavirus. However, they were still beautiful. Erin and Sheila watched the **Opening Ceremony** together on TV. The mascots were cute and the Arashi theme song was **catchy**. The world was happy to be together again.



### Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic & Paralympic Games

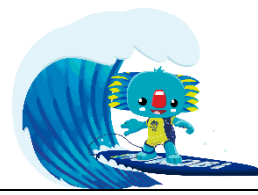
These Olympics were in Beijing, China. It was difficult because of Covid-19 and the **war** starting between Russia and Ukraine. Do you think the Games were a **success**?



### 2022 Commonwealth Games- 7/28/2022 START!

This time the Commonwealth Games start on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in **Birmingham**, U.K. Let's learn about these Games from Erin because Sheila has never heard of them before! The U.S.A. is never in them.





## Gold Coast Commonwealth Games- 2018!

The **Commonwealth** is a group of 54 countries **connected** with the UK. These countries have their own **government** and **leaders**, but they also **obey** the Queen of England. Some examples are **Australia, Canada, Wales, Nigeria, Jamaica, Singapore**, and **Guyana**. The Commonwealth games are like the Olympics, but only for Commonwealth countries.



In 2018, The Commonwealth Games were in Australia, on the Gold Coast! It was exciting for Erin to have it in her **hometown**. The **mascot** was Borobi the Koala. The name Borobi means 'Koala' in the Yugambeh language. The Yugambeh people are the **Aboriginal** Australians who live on the Gold Coast. Borobi's blue **fur** represents the water of Australian beaches. The **patterns** on his hands and feet are Aboriginal dot art which **represent** all the countries coming together.



Erin volunteered as an assistant to Team **Scotland**. Sometimes they were a little hard to understand, because their **accent** is very unique. She worked in the **athlete's village** with a team of 5 other people. Before the games, they checked all the athlete's rooms to make sure they had everything they needed. During the games, they **welcomed** the athletes, **delivered** things around the village, carried lots of **luggage**, prepared **equipment** for athletes, and more! After the games they did lots of cleaning, and packed everything up so it could be sent back to Scotland.



The athlete's village was a very cool place to be. The **residential** half had all the countries' living areas, dining halls, pools, and game rooms. The 'international zone' had services the athletes needed like haircuts, massages, doctors, and shops. Everyone got to see people from all over the world, and make lots of friends. Team Scotland was neighbours with **New Zealand** and **South Africa**. They were both very nice. Erin liked watching the New Zealand **Hakka** in the morning & afternoon. She also had fun **trading** pins with volunteers from other countries.



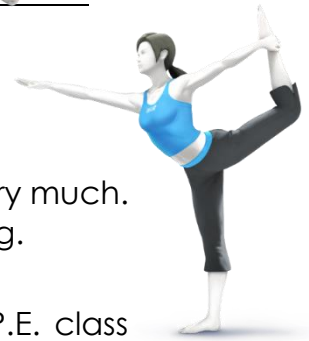
Erin's other job was helping the team from **The Solomon Islands** during the **opening ceremony**. The Solomon Islands is a small island country in **Oceania**- the same **continent** as Australia. She **guided** the athletes and **officials** to the waiting area, and then to the **stadium** for the Parade of Nations.







## Sheila's Sports History



I AM NOT **SPORTY**! I am not good at sports, and I do not like them very much. But I **respect** people who are good **athletes** because they are strong.

I had to play **team sports** like soccer, basketball, and softball in P.E. class when I was a child. However, I have always liked **individual / solo sports** more. Solo sports are sports that you usually do alone. For example, swimming, gymnastics, yoga, and figure skating. **Why?** I am not **competitive**... at sports, at least. I do not care about **winning**. I think that sometimes people care too much about games and matches. So, sometimes they are **mean** to athletes and other teams. Or **coaches** can be scary and too **serious**. Sports **equipment** can be expensive too. It is too much **pressure** for me!

'Good Game!'

Because of this pressure to win, '**good sportsmanship**' is super important. Players must respect the sport and each other. For example, in the U.S., we give **high-fives** ('high-touches?') to the other team before we play. Then at the end, we do it again and say '**good game**' to each other. Do you **bow** before and after sports games in Japan? What does good sportsmanship mean to YOU?

I AM very competitive about special things though. I get very excited for Mario Party, karaoke contests, freestyle dance battles, and **trivia** games. Let's try, please challenge me!

Katie Ledecky



Chihayafuru



**By the way**, my favorite sports anime is **Chihayafuru**! It's about the Japanese card game, Competitive Karuta. I like the history, art, & love story the best. My favorite sports video games are Nintendo Wii Sports, Wii Fit, and Just Dance.

Also, here is a crazy fun fact: I was on the same swim team as the U.S. Olympic gold **medal** swimmer **Katie Ledecky**!!! **How?!** Well, I was on my high school swim team... BUT only because they had to let everyone join. Katie was a student too. Our school has a beautiful pool, so she was part of the team. She was the best swimmer, and I was very, very, very slow. But I tried my best!





# The Keika Chronicle



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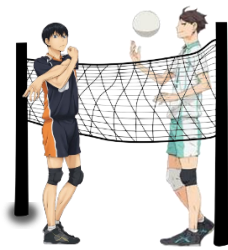


## Erin's Sports History!

When I was younger, I did lots of sports! I am very **grateful** to my parents who **paid** for them and took me to all my events. I enjoyed both individual and team sports. I can't write about ALL my sports, but here are the **highlights**!

Picture	Sport	Where?	Fun fact	My favourite part
	<b>Long-distance running</b>	My school races were 3km – 6km. I also ran 5km & 10km at local events.	I ran <b>competitively</b> for many years. It was my main sport.	State competitions. I liked our uniform and was <b>proud</b> of it.
	<b>Track &amp; Field</b>	I competed in school <b>athletics</b> carnivals. I was also in my local athletics club for <b>several</b> years.	In my last year at the athletics club, I was captain!	800m, 1500m, 3000m, racewalk, <b>javelin</b> , and <b>triple jump</b> .
	<b>Volleyball</b>	In high school we did <b>competitive</b> sport for half of the year. I did <b>Volleyball</b> every year.	In volleyball you can serve, dig, set, spike, and kick!	I loved learning how to jump and do an <b>overhead</b> serve.
	<b>Surfing</b>	In high school we did <b>recreational</b> sport for half of the year. I chose surfing for 3 years.	I could only stand up and surf small waves.	Even though I wasn't very good at surfing, I had lots of fun!
	<b>Baseball</b>	I played <b>baseball</b> at my local club for 1 year. My brother and dad played there too.	My dad played baseball for many years.	My favourite part was stealing bases.
	<b>Softball</b>	I played <b>softball</b> at my local club for a few years. The club was near where I did running training.	Softball is like baseball, but it is an all-girls sport.	I was a <b>pitcher</b> , which is in the middle of all the action.
	<b>Netball</b>	I played <b>Netball</b> at my local club for a <b>few</b> years. There were areas for many sports there.	Netball is a girls' <b>version</b> of basketball, with different rules.	I played the centre position. I loved running all around.
	<b>Cheerleading</b>	Outside of school I went to a <b>Cheerleading</b> school for a few years.	We learnt dances, <b>stunts</b> , and fun <b>tumbling</b> .	Stunts were my favourite part. I got to be on top as the flyer.
	<b>Karate</b>	I went to <b>Karate</b> classes with my brother for a few years. It was in the same place as Netball.	We learnt <i>kata</i> , <b>sparring</b> , and simple Japanese.	My favourite part was sparring!
	<b>Nippers</b>	I joined my local <b>Nippers</b> club for 1 year. We had beach events and swim <b>practice</b> in the pool.	Nippers clubs teach surf <b>life-saving</b> skills.	Board races were a lot of fun. The boards are very big!

What do you think- Can sport unite the world?



XOXO,  
Sheila & Erin





Can you name all the sports and activities in Erin & Sheila's old photos?



## FINISH!