

**Aiming Higher,
Our Challenge
Will Never End**

Special Feature: Sumitomo Electric's Track and Field Team

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Sumitomo Electric Group Magazine

Special Issue

**Innovative Development,
Imagination for the Dream,
Identity & Diversity**

Aiming Higher Always with Banji-nissei in Mind

Do your sincere best as an individual in every aspect of your life.

This is the meaning of Banji-nissei, one of the tenets of the Sumitomo Spirit, handed down for 400 years in the Sumitomo Electric Group. With this tenet held in their hearts, all employees of the Group are committed to their responsibilities every day.

The tenet has much in common with the attitudes adopted by sportspeople and instructors, which is the reason why the Sumitomo Electric Group supports a wide variety of sports, including athletics, and the athletes themselves. For our team in particular, we are reinforcing various efforts to develop athletes who can compete in the global arena. By providing support for sports, we aim to contribute to developing sports and local communities.

This special issue of id features some members of Sumitomo Electric's Track and Field Team, who are aiming higher without forgetting Banji-nissei, and shares with you their individual passion for athletics.

Aiming Higher,
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Don't Become Too Eager to
Win or Too Aware of Victory,
but Just Try as Usual

At a high school athletics meet where I was expected to finish in a high position, I failed to do so, probably because of my overconfidence. I still remember that my coach told me back then that confidence and overconfidence were different.

Today, I compete in a race in a natural stance without becoming too eager to win or too aware of victory so that I can simply post a performance that's the result of my daily training.

Now that there has been improvement in my acceleration from the middle of a race, I would like you to see me speeding out of the pack at around the halfway point.



■ Major Achievements

2021: Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games	110mH	Representing Japan
2022: World Athletics Championships, Oregon	110mH	Representing Japan
2023: Japan National Championships	110mH	Three-time champion
2023: Diamond League (Lausanne, Switzerland)	110mH	Champion

■ Personal Records

110mH 13"04 (National record)
Long jump 8m00
Triple jump 16m08

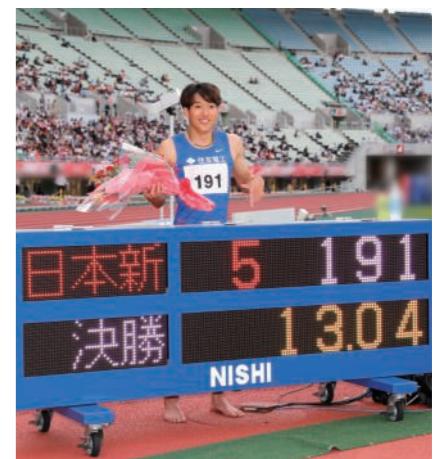


Photo: Rikujo-kyogi Magazine

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id Special Issue

Special Feature: Sumitomo Electric's
Track and Field Team



Aiming Higher,
Our Challenge Will Never End

Have Fun but Never Forget the Appreciation

At my first under-20 international race, all my rivals were really strong, even though we belonged to the same generation, and I could not compete against them at all. This experience aroused my hunger to compete globally in the senior division next time.

No matter what I do, I always place my foremost priority on having fun. And since I compete as a member of my team and company, I believe that it is really important to appreciate everyone concerned.

For the 200 m, I always try to be ahead of the pack by a body length at the end of the corner. This is the point that I would like you to watch.

KOKI
UEYAMA

id Special Issue

Special Feature: Sumitomo Electric's
Track and Field Team



Photo: Rikujyo-kyogi Magazine

■ Major Achievements

2022: Japan National Championships	200m	Champion
2022: World Athletics Championships, Oregon	200 m / 4 × 100 m relay	Representing Japan

■ Personal Records

100m 10"31
200m 20"26



Photo: Rikujyo-kyogi Magazine

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Training Distance Determines Everything

Believing that the best shortcut to competing successfully in track from early on is to belong to a corporate team, rather than a university team, I joined Sumitomo Electric.

My motto is “training distance determines everything,” which I learned from my former junior high school teacher. This phrase has left a strong impression on me. When competing in a race, I always feel that I can surely win by making sufficient preparation.

Since I’m most confident about putting on a final spurt, I’d like you to focus on my running the final lap, final 200 m, or final 100 m.

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id Special Issue

Special Feature: Sumitomo Electric's
Track and Field Team



■ Major Achievements

2022: Japan National Championships	5000m	Two-time champion
2022: World Athletics Championships, Oregon	5000m	Representing Japan
2023: SEIKO Golden Grand Prix	3000m	Champion

■ Personal Records

1500m	3'36"69
3000m	7'45"08
5000m	13'10"69



Photo: Rikujo-kyogi Magazine

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id Special Issue

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Track and Field Team



YUKI KOIKE

How Far Can I Go? That's My Motivation.

In elementary and junior high school, I played baseball, and I began to do athletics in high school. At my first high school athletics meet, I finished second, but I found athletics fun, because what matters in the sport is not only winning or losing but also your time.

How far can I go? I run solely due to my curiosity to know the answer to this question. Now that I've narrowed my focus to athletics, I'll continue to explore how far I can go in Japan and in my life, and what I can do if I fully demonstrate my capabilities. Actually, this exploration is my motivation.

I'll do everything I can and then simply wait for the result.



■ Major Achievements

2018: Asian Games	200m	Champion
2019: World Athletics Championships, Doha	100m / 200m / 4 × 100m relay	Representing Japan (Bronze medal)
2021: Japan National Championships	200m	Champion
2021: Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games	100m / 4 × 100m relay	Representing Japan
2022: World Athletics Championships, Oregon	200m / 4 × 100m relay	Representing Japan

■ Personal Records

100m 9"98
200m 20"23



Photo: Hidetoshi Nakano

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Enjoy Athletics

At the world championships in 2017, I ran in the lane next to Usain Bolt in the preliminary round and the semifinals of the 100 m. I really enjoyed that experience.

I'm keenly aware that the best way to generate good results in athletics is to enjoy the sport. I feel that it is important to build my skills and foundation without forgetting to fully enjoy the sport of athletics.

My weapon is my performance from the beginning to the middle of a race. I run while imagining an airplane taking off. My greatest advantage lies in maintaining a forward-bent posture before straightening up, so I'd like you to watch me doing that.



Photo: Rikujyo-kyogi Magazine

S I C H E I T A D A

id Special Issue

Special Feature: Sumitomo Electric's
Track and Field Team



■ Major Achievements

2017: World Athletics Championships, London	100m / 4 × 100m relay	Representing Japan (Bronze medal)
2019: World Athletics Championships, Doha	4 × 100m relay	Representing Japan (Bronze medal)
2021: Japan National Championships	100m	Champion
2021: Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games	100m / 4 × 100m relay	Representing Japan

■ Personal Records

60m 6"56
100m 10"01



Photo: Rikujyo-kyogi Magazine

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YUMA MARUYAMA

Do My Sincere Best

Before enrolling in university, I was told by a coach from the university that he would help me enhance not only my sports skills, but also my humanity. Strongly impressed with the remarks, I decided to follow that coach.

Sumitomo Electric has the corporate tenet of *Banjinissei*, meaning “Do your sincere best in every aspect of your life.” This is similar to my attitude toward the decathlon and other athletics events, to which I make a wholehearted commitment.

I'd like you to watch me, at 194 cm tall, do the ten types of events dynamically and skillfully.

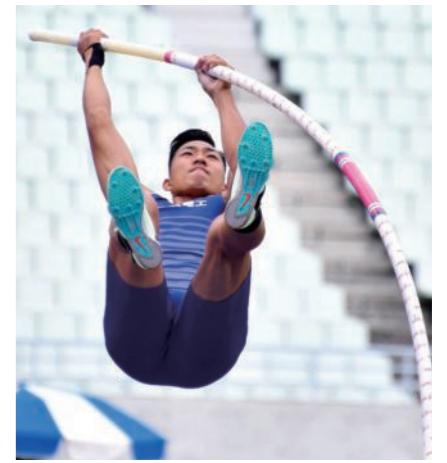


■ Major Achievements

2022: Kinami Michitaka Memorial Athletics Meet	Decathlon	Champion
2023: Asian Indoor Athletics Championships	Heptathlon	Champion
2023: Japan National Championships	Decathlon	Champion

■ Personal Records

Heptathlon (indoor) 5,801 points
Decathlon 7,816 points



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Don't Forget the Starting Point

I began to make a full commitment to athletics after enrolling in high school, when I saw Japanese athletes competing in the global arena. Driven by the desire to compete on such a stage, I decided to join Sumitomo Electric.

"Don't forget the starting point." I'm still impressed with this phrase given by a coach. I feel that this means that I should not forget my strong points or unique advantages.

That said, I feel that the foremost point is having fun. As long as I have fun, I can continue. *Que sera sera* is my style.

But so long as I am competing, I will aim for the world stage.



■ Major Achievements

2019: Japan National Championships	100m	Champion
2022: Mikio Oda Memorial Athletics Meet	100m	Champion
2022: World Athletics Championships, Oregon	4 × 100m relay	Representing Japan

■ Personal Records

100m 11"46
Long jump 6m03



Photo: Rikujo-kyogi Magazine

id Special Issue

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Track and Field Team



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Strive to Achieve Victories in the Global Arena, Backed by Support from Employees



Yasuyuki Watanabe

Manager, Track and Field Team
Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.



Have Fun to Be Stronger

My former coach would often say "You have to be fond of running. If you hate running and feel negative about it, you can't be stronger." He taught me to become fond of training and enjoy running. I hope that those striving to compete in athletics will always stay positive and enjoy running with a smile, even when they're not setting records.

Foster World-Class Athletes

At Waseda University, I achieved several victories at ekiden races and then accumulated experience as a manager. The development of my career in the field of athletics is owed especially to such wonderful days at the university. Afterwards, I met the then President Matsumoto of Sumitomo Electric and we hit it off, leading me to serve as the manager of Sumitomo Electric's Track and Field Team to foster world-class athletes.

When I joined the Company in 2015, the club was in a difficult situation because there had been a lot of changes in its membership. Since there is a stronger call for cost efficiency at companies than at universities, I felt pressure to generate the desired results quickly. While serving as the university's manager, however, I led a team floundering near the bottom of the league, but finally earned victory, giving me a certain toughness and patience to overcome difficulties. I feel that this experience has enabled me to always work hard at Sumitomo Electric.

Get Rid of Instruction Based on Top-Down Communication

Hoping that the club's members will become as independent as possible, I always try to give instructions based on dialogue on an equal footing. Since the members are no longer students, they communicate their own views clearly. Some of them are setting better records than what I accomplished when I was a runner. In this regard, I always focus not on top-down communication, but on a one-on-one approach on an equal footing or support behind the scenes.

The members of Sumitomo Electric's Track and Field Team are headstrong and distinctive both in a good way and a bad way. It is often the case that those who can be No. 1 are self-assertive. In addition, they do what they say they will do. No matter how hard their training is, they never shy away from it. I feel that if the members become able to always control themselves without receiving detailed instructions, many more of them will represent Japan.

Encouraged by the Support from Employees

I'd like to make the club "unconstrained." I also would like to see the club supported by everyone. We can continue athletics thanks to the Company's understanding and support as well as our staff's cooperation behind the scenes. It is important above all for the club's members to interact with employees and receive support. I would like to develop as many athletes as possible who can represent Japan and earn medals at international competitions by doing what they say they will do without forgetting their appreciation.



Para athletics at the Festa



Athletics class at the Festa



Sumitomo Electric Athletics Festa 2022
(Together with the champion team of the 4 × 100 m relay event among junior high schools in Itami City)

Community-Based Social Contribution Activities

Athletics Class and Sumitomo Electric Athletics Festa



Athletics class at the Festa

Guided by the Sumitomo Electric Group Basic Policies on Social Contributions, we strive to ensure mutual prosperity together with local communities and focus on community-based social contribution activities. As part of such efforts, we are committed to promoting local sports by organizing athletics classes under the lead of our track and field team and providing sponsorship for athletics events.

We will continue to organize events involving local communities, such as athletics classes for local elementary and junior high school students and kindergarten children, as well as Sumitomo Electric Athletics Festa, so that the Sumitomo Electric Group will continue to be trusted and loved by members of the local communities.

Support Sumitomo Electric's Track and Field Team!

Official website of
Sumitomo Electric's
Track and Field Team



Instagram



Twitter

Sumitomo Electric's page
for supporting sports





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Information and videos not posted in this magazine
are found on the "id" special site

<https://sumitomoelectric.com/id>



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