



The Games of the XVIIIth Olympiad, Tokyo 1964

from October 10th (Saturday) to 25th (Sunday)

What will the Weather be like?

The climate in Japan is generally mild throughout the four seasons. However, in comparison with cities on the same latitude, Tokyo generally has colder winters and warmer summers because of special geographical and meteorological factors.

Japan is located off the eastern coast of the Asian Continent and runs from north-east to south-west. Cold north-easterly winds sweep the country during winter, while hot

and humid winds blow from the South Pacific during summer.

In addition, the Japanese Archipelago lies in an area subject to more cyclones than any other area on earth, and high atmospheric pressures, which develop over the Asian Continent and the Pacific Ocean in winter and summer, cause far-reaching effects during early summer and early autumn, effecting each other alternatively.

This results in a rainy season known in Japanese as *Bai-u* in early summer and another known as *Shurin*, in early autumn, because of low atmospheric pressures. In addition, typhoons spawned in the Pacific Ocean south of Japan, hit the country several times during summer.

In the broadest sense, the Japanese climate is of the monsoon variety.

What will the climate in Tokyo be like during the Olympic period? A brief rainy season generally lasts from the middle of September through the first ten days of October. This 'rainy season' normally ends around October 10 and is followed by fine mid-autumn days. This period is an ideal season for sporting activities in Japan. Normally, numerous picnics and sporting events are held throughout the country under a clear sky. The National Sport Festival, in which more than 10,000 athletes participate, is held annually during this time.

Suitable meteorological conditions are prerequisite to enjoyable sports, both from the standpoint of the competitor and the spectator. How does October meet these requirements? Observations made by the Japan Meteorological Agency, reveal the following information:

1. WEATHER: The rainfall probability on the basis of observations over the past 75 years. The probability for rainfall sharply declines after October 10. In short, the rainy season generally ends by October 10 at the latest and more fine autumn days may be expected up to the end of the month. This is due to the movement of a high pressure area, accompanied by good weather, that moves from the Asian Continent across Japan. However, this high pressure area moves eastward and is replaced by a low pressure area in a cycle of approximately 4 days. This cycle is the main feature of the season.

2. TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY: Sharp changes in temperature and humidity may be expected during the period as the weather changes. In addition, such factors can vary greatly within 24-hour periods; in fact, examined minutely, it becomes apparent that they are under constant change. Since an ideal framework of temperature and humidity is necessary for holding sporting events, it is important to know when the perfect conditions will prevail during the daylight hours.

The ideal hour for holding a sporting event is not determined by climatic conditions only, but also by the type of sport, for different forms of athletics call for different conditions. Broadly speaking, the period from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. is ideal, whether the sky is clear or cloudy. The only requirement is that there should be no rain.

3. WIND VELOCITY AND DIRECTION: Wind velocity also changes by the hour under varying weather conditions and is generally stronger in the daytime and weaker at night. It accelerates as the weather deteriorates. In all cases, average wind velocity shows no change according to whether days are bright or cloudy.

The wind generally blows from the north in the morning, while a southern wind is more common in the afternoon. When taking into account weather conditions, land and sea breezes are more common on bright days, and they prevail from the south between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. and from the north at other times. In cloudy, and rainy weather, the prevailing wind direction is southward throughout the day.

These are the general climatic conditions in Tokyo during October.