

## "I didn't give up with the spirit of a soldier."

The Armed Forces Sports Unit (Sangju) held a hot return ceremony.

In the first Group B match of the 2024 Tongyeong Dodram Cup Professional Volleyball Championship held at Tongyeong Gymnasium at 3:30 p.m. on the 5th, Sangmu made a thrilling come-from-behind 3-1 (32-34, 25-23, 25-22, 25-17) against KEPCO. Sangmu, who failed to compete in the cup last year, returned to the tournament for the first time in two years since 2022, and achieved satisfactory results on his first journey.

After the game, coach Park Sam-yong said, "Even though Lim Dong-hyuk is absent today, the players are in harmony. I want to thank the players who did their best to bring the victory without giving up despite losing unfortunately after deuce in the first set."

"Im Jae-young and Hong Dong-sun, including Libero Park Ji-hoon, were able to withstand receiving well," coach Park said. "As a result, Hwang Taek-ui's toss came back to life," adding, "Im Jae-young found a way out of the attack more than expected.

Coach Park, who will play in the second game against Samsung Fire & Marine Insurance on the 24th, said, "I will prepare for the next game. I've never advanced to the semifinals before, but I think it will lead to good results if I do my best in each game. Also, as we are a military team, we will continue to emphasize our players' attitude of not giving up as soldiers and prepare well for the rest of the game."

Unlike Coach Park, who made an "unexpected decision" against the professional team, coach Kwon Young-min's expression was not very good. "It hasn't been long since (Im) Sung-jin returned from the national team after injuring his back. So I thought about whether to put it or not, but I thought I should put it in as the best members before the season, but (Im) Sung-jin's offense wasn't as strong as I thought, so I think Yamato also felt frustrated," he said. "Our team players haven't performed as well as I know. We still need to work together more." "If we had a good score management when we were ahead of the first set of the second set, it would have been easy, but I'm sorry that it didn't work out," he said. <u>메이저놀이터</u>

Korean Electric Power Corp.'s new foreign mercenary Elian (Cuba) displayed impressive performance on the day, scoring 30 points alone, including 11 back-attacks. However, no one in his team has scored more than 10 points. While it is encouraging that Elian's outstanding scoring ability was proven ahead of the season, it is a task that must be solved if the team's offense is focused on one side. "As Yamato doesn't score points even if he gives (Lim) Sungjin, it seems that he has given Elian more and more points. Originally, the balls were evenly distributed, but today's attack success rate was so low that's what happened," Kwon said. However, Elian showed a tendency to lose points over and over again. "I think there were some physical challenges (because of the heavy attacks). At first, we were in sync with (Yamato), but as time went by, Yamato's toss got lower," coach Kwon said. "But (Elian) got much better than when he first came to Korea."