

Ichigo Welcomes Professional Tennis Player Yuto Oki & Establishment of Ichigo Tennis Team

Ichigo is a sustainable infrastructure company dedicated to making the world more sustainable. Yuto Oki, a student at Sadowara High School in Miyazaki Prefecture who is ranked No.1 in the Japan Junior Tennis Rankings and has qualified as a professional tennis player this month, is joining Ichigo next March. Ichigo is establishing the Ichigo Tennis Team along with Mr. Oki's joining.



After beginning to play tennis at three years old, Mr. Oki entered Miyazaki's Seagaia Tennis Academy during elementary school and won second place in the National Junior Invitational Tennis Championships (U12) at the age of 12. Mr. Oki won the National High School Tennis Singles Championships and the All-Japan Junior Tennis Championships this year, and qualified as a professional player yesterday. Mr. Oki will continue to be based in Miyazaki and aim to compete in the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments and the Olympic Games.

Ichigo is developing a new business that supports the growth of promising athletes and the revitalization of local communities. Ichigo, Ichigo ECO Energy, Miyako City, Miyazaki Sunshine FM, and Ichigo Potager operate businesses in Miyazaki Prefecture. Ichigo will leverage its business network in Miyazaki to provide training camps and workplaces for its weightlifting, rifle shooting, track and field, and tennis teams, all based in Miyazaki, with the goal of developing top-class athletes from the region.

Yuto Oki Profile

Joining Date March 1, 2024 (Expected)
Hometown Miyazaki Prefecture
High School Sadowara High School



Major Tournament Results

2017 National Junior U12 Invitational Tennis Championships Finalist
 Asia U12 Competition Champion (Japan Representative)
2021 National Junior U16 Tennis Championships Best 8
 Hyogo International Junior Tennis Tournament Finalist
 Ehime International Junior Tennis Tournament Best 4
2022 Istanbul Tennis Tournament Champion
 Japan Open Junior Best 4
2023 National High School Invitational Tennis Championships Best 4
 National High School Tennis Singles Championships Champion
 All-Japan Junior Tennis Championships Champion

Japan Junior Ranking No.1 (as of October 4, 2023)

Japan Tennis Association NISSHINBO NATIONAL JUNIOR TEAM Representative

Message From Yuto Oki

Hello, my name is Yuto Oki, and I will be joining Ichigo next March as a professional tennis player.

Born in Miyazaki City, I have been practicing tennis to win at national championships. Since I started tennis in my early childhood, I have had the privilege of working with many coaches and meeting competitive players, which has been an invaluable experience for me.

I was drawn to Ichigo's philosophy of Ichigo Ichie, an ancient Japanese proverb literally meaning "One lifetime, one encounter," which is something I have treasured in my career so far.

As a professional tennis player, I hope to inspire children who are or will start playing sports in Miyazaki via the power of sports.

I will continue to treasure my encounters with people, and work hard to be able to compete in the Grand Slam tournaments and Olympics.



Message From Rvosuke Yokoyama, Sadowara High School Tennis Team Head Coach

Yuto has been a promising athlete from a young age but was unable to produce results due to injuries during middle school. It was not an easy journey during high school either playing with our team. Despite the setbacks, he continued to work hard to improve his game, and never gave up on his goal of becoming Japan's No. 1 Professional Tennis Player. This strong will is one of Yuto's biggest strengths.

Although a career as a professional tennis player will be tough with many challenges, I am certain that Yuto will be able to achieve his goals with his strong will.

Message From Minoru Ishihara, Ichigo Executive Vice President & COO

We are very pleased to have Mr. Oki join Ichigo. He expressed his interest in joining Ichigo and continuing training to become an athlete competing at the international level in Miyazaki, and we are determined to manage his career so he will be successful as a professional tennis player.

Takeshi Koura, who has led Japan's leading tennis player, Kimiko Date to the Grand Slams and trained a number of Japanese tennis players to compete internationally, will join the Ichigo Tennis Team as the General Manager, with Shingo Kobayashi of the Seagaia Tennis Academy as the Head Coach, and Shuji Yamamoto, a Japan Association national trainer, as the strength trainer. Koji Sugawara, the trainer and physical therapist for the Ichigo Track Team, professional athletes, and local soccer schools, will oversee Mr. Oki's strength and conditioning training. As the Ichigo Tennis Team Manager, I will work with our Sports Management team to provide an optimal training environment and oversee Mr. Oki's on-the-job business training.



From left to right: Sadowara High School Tennis Team Head Coach Ryosuke Yokohama, Yuto Oki, and Ichigo Executive Vice President & COO Minoru Ishihara

A student-organized press conference announcing Mr. Oki's qualification as a professional athlete was held today at Sadowara High School. Please visit Sadowara High School's YouTube channel and Miyako City's Instagram for highlights from the press conference.

Sadowara High School's YouTube Channel (Japanese only)
www.youtube.com/channel/UCjMHgU9Hzt6VWrPIYfg4R4Q



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