

1 Article: Reo Fujita to Become Youngest Pro Go Player in History at 9 Years Old

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

The Osaka 3rd-grader follows in the footsteps of 2-dan player Sumire Nakamura, now 13, the first professional child player under the special screening system.

During the Cold War, the Soviet Union had a complete [hold over](#) the United States when it came to chess.

But that lasted only until the 1972 World Championship — Bobby Fischer became the first American world champion and ushered in an unprecedented chess boom in the United States.

It all started with a dollar chess set that the six-year-old Fischer received from his older sister. He began frequenting a chess club in his hometown of New York City, then became the youngest US champion at the age of 14, cementing his status as a child prodigy.

Asian Rivalry in the Game of Go

For a long time, Japan had fallen behind China and South Korea in what used to be its *métier*: the game of Go.

It was thought that one of the reasons for China and South Korea's success was in their training system, which provided special training to [gifted](#) children.

This led Japan to establish its own system that gives children the opportunity to become professionals without having to go through the usual selection process.

Three years ago, 2-dan player Sumire Nakamura, now 13, became the first professional player under the special screening system. Her subsequent success has spurred high hopes for another Go prodigy: Reo Fujita.

A 9-year-old third grader from Osaka, Fujita is set to become the youngest professional Go player in history.

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Brilliant Children of Go and Shogi

In contrast to Nakamura, whose father is also a professional Go player, Fujita was a stranger to the game.

In fact, he had been obsessed with Othello. It was only by chance that, unable to find any classes that taught Othello, he joined a Go club and fell in love with the game.

Fischer had been dubbed “a Mozart of the chess world” by Yoshiharu Habu, a 9-dan Shogi player and chess master. Musical prodigy Wolfgang Mozart began composing music at the age of five and was famous for his many eccentricities. Similarly, Fischer mysteriously disappeared after refusing to defend his championship title and also stirred controversy with his anti-American statements.

Hopefully, child prodigy Fujita will focus on the Go board and let nothing get between him and the title of world champion.

Meanwhile, in the Shogi world, 5-crown title holder Kana Satomi is currently playing the best-of-five test match for professional status, which if she succeeds, will make her the first female professional shogi player in history.

Go and Shogi fans will be holding their breath for the next several days.

Source : Reo Fujita to Become Youngest Pro Go Player in History at 9 Years Old
[JAPAN Forward](#)



2 Key phrases and vocabulary

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. hold over ~への支配、~に対する影響力

- They were forced to vote by people who have a **hold over** them.

2. gifted 天賦の才能がある、素晴らしい才能を持った

- Yuzuru Hanyu is so **gifted** that he has the ability to influence a whole new generation of young figure skaters.

3. in contrast to/with ~ ~と対照的に、~とは大きく異なり、~とは裏腹に

- **In contrast to** the beautiful outside, the hotel room was so shabby.

4. stir (a) controversy 論議を起こす、物議をかもし、論争を引き起こす

- The president's decisions **stirred a controversy**.

3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What countries are stronger than Japan in Go?
2. What game was Reo Fujita into before he started Go?
3. Do you play Go or any other board games?
4. In your opinion, is intensive training in Go or any other kinds of things such as sports for young children important?

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**日本語関連記事：
囲碁界史上最年少のプロ棋士誕生 大阪の小学3年生、藤田怜央君(9)の活躍に期待**

冷戦下、チェスの世界では旧ソ連が米国を圧倒していた。ところが1972年の世界選手権で、米国人のボビー・フィッシャーが初めて世界チャンピオンとなる。米国は空前のチェスブームに沸いた。

6歳の時、姉から1ドルのチェスセットを買い与えられたのが始まりだった。地元ニューヨークのチェスクラブに出入りするようになり、14歳で史上最年少の全米王者となる。神童の名をほしいままにした。

かつて日本のお家芸だった囲碁で、中国や韓国の後塵(こうじん)を拝して久しい。理由の一つとされるのが才能のある子供たちを集めて英才教育を施す育成システムだった。それに倣い日本でも、通常の選抜の手続きを経なくてもプロになれる制度ができた。3年前に第1号となったのが仲邑菫二段(13)である。その後大活躍が続いており、第2号にも期待がかかる。

史上最年少のプロ棋士となる大阪の小学3年生、藤田怜央君(9)である。仲邑二段の父親はプロ棋士なのに対して、藤田君の場合はもともと囲碁に縁があったわけではない。4歳の頃オセロに夢中になったものの教室が見つからず、代わりに通った碁会所ではまった。

チェスの名手でもある将棋の羽生善治九段は、フィッシャーを「チェス界のモーツァルト」と呼んだ。5歳で作曲を始めた音楽の神童は、数々の奇行でも知られる。フィッシャーもまた、世界王者となった後防衛戦を拒否して消息を絶ち、反米発言を繰り返して物議を醸した。囲碁の神童にはくれぐれも碁盤に集中して、世界チャンピオンへの道を突き進んでほしい。

将棋界では昨日、女性初のプロ棋士をめざす里見香奈女流五冠のプロ編入試験五番勝負が始まった。囲碁、将棋ファンにとってそわそわする日々が続く。