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Abstract : The aim of this research was to investigate whether for the university admission policy, by Japan's most prestigious universities in field of baseball, for baseball athletes were influenced by the academic ranking of the high schools from which they graduated. A statistical analysis was carried out using the data from sources such as the list of players in the three collegiate baseball leagues in Japan, ROKUDAIGAKU, SHUTODAIGAKU, and TOUTODAIGAKU, and from the list of academic ranking of Japanese high schools published by one of the largest cram schools in Japan. The results of our research suggest that there were two influential factors in the admission policy. The first factor was the academic ranking of the high schools. Our findings suggest that there was a tendency for students who went to a higher ranking high school to be admitted to a more prestigious university. The result of our study also showed that students who went to a high school which has a recommendation agreement with those universities were in a more advantageous status for the university admission. It also seems that a big gap exists in academic abilities between those who went to the high school which has the agreement with the university and who did not. This mismatch of students' academic abilities and university's academic ranking, which is generated by the admission of those students who do not have enough academic abilities to enter those universities otherwise, may affect the university ranking. To this end, adopting the academic support employed by many American universities may be useful to improve the situation in Japan. This is an urgent task to be dealt with, especially because school sports play crucial roles in raising athletes for competitive sports nation-wide.

Keywords : college sports ; school ranking ; student athletes ; college baseball ; recommendation admission agreement