

**予習課題** 次の英文を読んで、内容を理解しなさい。

US sports are very serious for some people and large commercial business for others. On some levels, they are obsessively involved with winning and money. But the majority of Americans probably still see sports as wholesome and positive means of enriching their lives. They are highly involved in their sports as participants and spectators and are dedicated to the success of their particular teams.

The American sports scene is divided between the professional and amateur ranks. In terms of spectator attendances at professional events, National Football League games (with their Super Bowl finals) come top, followed by Major League Baseball Games (with its World Series), National Basketball Association (with its NBA Finals), National (Ice) Hockey League games, horse racing and greyhound racing.

In terms of all sports, both professional and amateur, the four most popular spectator and participatory sports in the US are American football, baseball, basketball and ice hockey. The football season begins in early autumn; basketball is an indoor winter sport; and baseball is played in spring and summer, although these games have increasingly tended to overlap.

An interesting feature of the American sports scene is that since few other countries play baseball, basketball and American football on a professional and large-scale level, competition in them is largely restricted to the US and there is no international opposition as such. But, although these games are seen as distinctively American sports, they are increasingly being played in other countries.

Although some professional and college sports like professional football, ice hockey and boxing, are tough action games, American sports do not suffer from the same amount of spectator violence as some other countries' sports. Sports events, such as baseball and football, can still be family outings. They have a carnival atmosphere and a large element of show business, in which cheerleaders orchestrate the crowds and lead the cheering and marching bands provide additional entertainment.

(注) obsessively : 異常なまでに