



大相撲新報

SUMO SHIMPO

THE VOICE OF CALIFORNIA SUMO SINCE 1999



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“Three-in-a Row” for Hakuho

Early Kinboshi Loss Costs Shoryu in Return to Action

by “Yukikaze” for SUMO SHIMPO

Coming back from his involuntary two-tournament ride on the bench, yokozuna-West ASASHORYU (MGL) could not take anything for granted at Hatsu 2008. HAKUHO (MGL) has shown that he is definitely here to stay as a formidable counterweight to SHORYU's desire to rule the world of sumo – and even the slightest mistake would have consequences. The mistake happened on day 2, when “The Express” not only gave up a kinboshi loss to maegashira #1-East KISENOSATO, but lost the bout in humiliating fashion by okuritaoshi. That gave “Sleeping Thunder” the opening for the lead. He held that position until day 10 when the new “Mighty Mite”, sekiwake-West AMA (MGL), downed him (by uwatnage) for the third consecutive basho. The two grand champions now had the yusho battle to themselves, as they blew through all comers to lead up to the decision on senshuraku. And it was here, at the final match, where HAKUHO's dominance over the senior yokozuna was demonstrated yet again. It was the sixth championship in seven basho for Miyagino Beya's top deshi as he finished with a 14-1 record, leaving SHORYU's 13-2 with the jun-yusho in his 30th yokozuna ranking.

Would it be polite to say that the four ozeki really stunk up the Kokugikan? Maybe not; but that's how this writer saw it. The best effort out of the quartet was from kadoban-vulnerable #2-West KOTOOSHU (BUL) who bobbed and weaved his way to a “passing grade” 9-6. #2-East KAIO had a good start, winning four in a row in the middle of the festivities and making kachi on day 12. “The Human Juicer” apparently lost his focus at that point, along with his final three torikumi, to finish at 87. His mark on the all-time torikumi list now stands at 723. Four victories over hiramaku talent gave #1-West KOTOMITSUKI seven wins as of day 12. But the former collegian had trouble nailing matters down: it took a senshuraku victory over sekiwake-East AMINISHIKI to capture his

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New Grand Prix Tournament Set to Take Place April 19

A Letter from Troy Collins
President and Trustee of the United States Sumo Federation

Hello,

As many of you may have heard, the Federation is putting on a tournament this coming April 19th. This tournament is going to be an open (international) tournament, so we are hoping to get folks coming from overseas to compete. It is scheduled to take place at the Nishi Hongan-ji (Buddhist Temple) in the Little Tokyo district of Los Angeles.

This will be one of three tournaments that the Federation will be hosting this year. It is intended to serve as a promotion for the Grand Sumo Los Angeles koen, or exhibition, which will be taking place on the weekend of June 7-8 at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. The Japan Sumo Association's 42-man Makunouchi Division, including grand champions ASASHORYU and HAKUHO, will be competing for prizes. (Go to www.sumotour.com for details and ticket information.)

For our April 19 tournament, former sumo greats **Musashimaru (67)** and **Akinoshima** will be present as our special guests to help promote the koen. Therefore, the Federation asks every one of its members for their help and support. For those of you that may have retired: we need judges, referees, ticket takers, booth attendants, etc. Those of you who are active can look at this tournament as preparation for both the Nationals in June and the Worlds later on.

The tournament registration fee will be \$15. Forms will be available online at www.ussumofederation.org this week and should be mailed to me at PO Box 16751, Encino, CA 91416. Please include a photo headshot and a check made out to the USSF.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing all of you in April,

Troy Collins
323-251-1167

“Yukikaze” edited and reformatted this letter for SHIMPO publication.

HAKUHO (from front page)

kachi-koshi. CHIYOTAIKAI's 54rd basho at sumo's second rank was a disaster: the injury that had forced him out of the senshuraku battle in Fukuoka apparently continues to cripple him. TAIKAI didn't win a single match in the first seven days and withdrew on day 8, making him the latest ozeki to be saddled with the kadoban 'buck'.

The main story in the lower sanyaku continues to be AMA, who seems to be moving from strength to strength. His third consecutive trouncing of HAKUHO, along with his 9-6 mark for this tournament, earned him a second consecutive Shukun-Sho. It also gets him the sekiwake-East slot, as AMINISHIKI's run of stellar efforts ended with a 5-10 beating this time out. Komusubi-East KOTOSHOGIKU bounced back after a shonichi loss to SHORYU with six wins in the next six days. After losing to HAKUHO on day 8 he stayed off the dohyo for the next three days – but then came back and won three of his last four matches to finish at 9-4-2. Meanwhile, any hopes komusubi-West DEJIMA may have had of regaining his former status as an ozeki were well and thoroughly thrashed. The former member of Musashigawa Beya's "College of Sumo Knowledge" was batting .500 after day 4, but then lost his next nine bouts and was thoroughly tattooed with a 3-12 'erebeta' ticket.

Maegashira #7-East TAKEKAZE may have been a force in the yusho race had it not been for losses on days 3 and 8. Nonetheless, his 12-3 effort was the best among the hiramaku, and well-deserving of the Kanto-Sho. Other mentionable maegashira marks:

#1-East KISENOSATO (10-5)(kinboshi)(Shukun-Sho)

#4-East ASASEKIRYU (MGL) (10-5)

#8-East KAKURYU (MGL) (11-4)(Gino-Sho)

#9-East KOKKAI (GEO) (9-6)

#10-East WAKANOH (RUS) (10-5)

#10-West KYOKUTENHO (10-5)

#13-East IWAKIYAMA (9-6)

In the Juryo: #12-West TOCHINOSHIN (GEO) made his sekitori debut in grand fashion, as he rolled out a 12-3 mark to win the division championship. Other noteworthy "Triple-A" outings:

#3-East SAKAIZAWA (9-6)

#4-West OTSUKASA (9-6)

#5-West HOSHIHIKARI (9-6)

#7-East MOKONAMI (MGL) (9-6)

#8-East KITAKASUGA (10-5)

#8-West HAKUBA (MGL) (11-4)

#13-West TAMAWASHI (MGL) (10-5)

Former maegashira #1 TOCHINOHANA (civilian name: Hitoshi Yachi) retired after day 12. A member of Kasugano Beya, he had a career record of 449-439-32 and a Makunouchi record of 155-194-11. He had one Juryo yusho, one Jonokuchi yusho, two Kanto-Sho, two Gino-Sho and no kinboshi.

Kinboshi: Receivers and Givers

(after Hatsu 2008)

Rikishi	No.	YOKOZUNA (#)	No. / Y
Akinoshima	16	Taiho (48)	28/58
Takamiyama	12	Kitanoumi (55)	52/62
TOSANOUMI	11	Chiyonofuji (58)	29/53
TOCHINONADA	11	Akebono (64)	35/39
Takatoriki	9	Takanohana II (65)	37/36
Kotonowaka	8	Musashimaru (67)	21/19
Kotonishiki	8	ASASHORYU (68)	20/30
TAMAKASUGA	7	HAKUHO (69)	1/2
KAIO	6		
DEJIMA	6		

Y = number of basho ranked at yokozuna

The Sumo Squat

by "Tonkatsu" for SUMO SHIMPO

If you go on YouTube and just type in sumo, you will get all kinds of stuff. You will get pro sumo, amateur sumo, people in fat suits fooling around, robot sumo, and something called the "sumo squat." We decided to check out the latter.

In addition to YouTube, we Goggled the subject. What we found was almost as many variations on the subject as there were articles. Sumo squats done with bar bells, one heavy dumb bell, two lighter dumb bells, a kettle bell, a medicine ball, and no weight at all. One version included a front kick after the squat. Another a side kick that looked like a crude shiko.

What all the variations had in common was a wider stance than a normal squat. According to most sources, the feet are shoulder width apart in a normal squat. How much wider they were in a sumo squat varied. It seemed obvious to us that the proper place to look for the definition of a sumo squat, would be in a Japanese book on sumo. Of course, most Japanese books on sumo are in Japanese!

(continued page 5)

Current Holders of USSF Dan Rank

Rank (Degree)	Name (Club)
Sandan (3rd)	Tom Zabel (LSSA)
Nidan (2nd)	Hiroshi Matsuzaki (SCSK), Harry Dudrow (SCSK), Kelly Gneiting (SRSA), Jim Lowerre (SCSK)
Shodan (1st)	Jeff Riddle (GSS), Doug Cochran (GSS), Andrew Freund (CSA), Troy Collins (CSA), Rene Marte (JKC), Tyler Olsen (GEM), Trent Sabo (OSK), Marcus Barber (SCSK), Kurt Rightmyer (SCSK), Bart Harris (LSSA), Art Morrow (SCSK), Packy Bannevans* (GSA)

* Rank conferred by the Japan Sumo Federation

Current USSF Life Members

1. Harry Dudrow
2. Yoshisada Yonezuka
3. Jim Lowerre
4. Andrew Freund
5. Troy Collins
6. Hiroshi Matsuzaki
7. Manny Yarbrough (honorary)
8. Trent Sabo
9. Packy Bannevans
10. Doug Cochran
11. Tom Zabel
12. Dan Kalbfleisch
13. Kelly Bannevans
14. Richard Hopp
15. Gary Goltz (honorary)
16. Musashimaru Oyakata (honorary)
17. Art Morrow

JUNIOR DIVISION YUSHO WINNERS (Hatsu 2008)

Division	Rank	Shikona	Heya	Rec.
Makushita	58-E	YAMAMOTOYAMA	Onoe	7-0
Sandanme	77-W	TERASHITA	Ounomatsu	7-0
Jonidan	43-E	WAKARYOMA	Ounomatsu	7-0
Jonokuchi	30-E	OGATA	Kise	7-0

Friend of Sumo Recalled to Tokyo

by "Tonkatsu" for SUMO SHIMPO

"Kazuo Kodama, consul-general of Japan in Los Angeles, was recalled to Tokyo on Jan. 11. Kodama was appointed to Los Angeles in May 2006. The consul general made the announcement on Jan. 19 and he and his wife, Keiko departed on Jan. 11." (Rafu Shimpo, Jan. 15, 2008)

We had the privilege of meeting and chatting with Consul-General Kodama at last year's United States Sumo Championships. He was very friendly and very enthusiastic about sumo, staying for almost the entire meet. We wish him and his wife good luck on their next assignment. We wish they could have stayed longer.

IF YOU REALLY LOVE SUMO, AND WANT TO STAY CLOSE TO IT FOR MANY YEARS TO COME...

MAKE THE COMMITMENT!! Become a United States Sumo Federation LIFE MEMBER

A one-time tax-deductible donation of \$200.00 eliminates your worries about annual USSF dues **FOR LIFE**. If you compete in USSF-sanctioned amateur sumo events for ten years or more, a Life Membership will pay for itself. It also shows you are very serious about the sport, and is a definite 'resume enhancer' if you decide to seek office in the USSF or any other amateur sports body.

Application form is available at www.sumoshimpo.com

The 700-Win Club

(after Hatsu 2008)

Rikishi (Top Rank)	MD Basho	MD Wins	Wins/ Basho
Chiyonofuji (Y58)	81	807	9.96
Kitanoumi (Y55)	78	804	10.31
Taiho (Y48)	69	746	10.81
KAIO (O)	87	723	8.31
Musashimaru (Y67)*	73	706	9.67
Takanohana II (Y65)	71	701	9.87

* Non-Japanese

The ASASHORYU Watch

(after Hatsu 2008)

Rikishi (Top Rank)	MD Basho	MD Wins	Wins/ Basho
ASASHORYU (Y68)	43	479	11.14

'Tis a pleasant day of merry spring,
No bitter frosts are threatening,
No storm-winds blow, no rain-clouds low'r,
The sun shines bright on high,
Yet thou, poor trembling little flow'r,
Dost wither away and die.

"Kino Tomo-Nori"

Sukui-WHAT?

by “Tonkatsu” for SUMO SHIMPO

It has often been said of we Americans and our British cousins that “We are two peoples separated by a common language.” We say baby carriage, they say perambulator. We say suspenders, they say braces. We say gasoline they say petrol. Keeping with the automotive theme, we say hood, they say bonnet. We say windshield, they say windscreen. We say trunk, they say boot. You get the idea.

Well, as someone who does both, we have noticed a similar situation with sumo and its younger cousin judo. Almost all of the terminology is different. Matches start on different commands. An amateur sumo match starts on the command “Hakayoi” (get moving). By contrast, a judo match starts on the command “Hajime” (begin).

Even similar or identical techniques have different names. Not only that, but in the sole case where a sumo technique and a judo technique have the same name, they are totally different throws!

Let’s start with some of the throws that are the same or similar but have different names. In judo there is a throw called “Ouchi-gari” (large inner reap) The exact same throw in sumo is called “Uchi-gake” (inside leg trip). The judo technique “Kosoto-gake” (small outer hook) is known in sumo as “Soto-gake” (outside leg trip). Note: this is the throw we used to beat Yukikaze with in the third and final match of the Masters division at the 2001 NASC.

The sumo technique “Shitate-nage” (underarm throw) is very similar to Jigoro Kano’s favorite throw “Uki-goshi” (floating hip throw). Although rarely seen these days, the sumo technique “Ippon-zeoi” (one arm shoulder throw) is the same as the very popular judo throw “Ippon-seoi-nage” (also one arm shoulder throw). Matsuzaki-san says that “ zeoi” and “ seoi” are different spelling of the same word and that sumo just left the “nage” off for brevity.

In judo, there is a throw called “Uchi-mata” (Inner-thigh reaping throw). The same action is often seen in sumo as part of a “Uwate-nage” or “Shitate-nage” but it is simply called as those throws and doesn’t have a separate name.

There are other examples, but let’s go to the one throw that has the same name in both sports, “Sukui-nage.” In sumo, “Sukui-nage” is generally translated as “Beltless arm throw.” Our Japanese-English book on sumo describes it this way; “Without gripping a mawashi, he extends an inside arm across his opponents back and throws him so that he may be tripped.” Compare that to the description of “Sukui-nage” in Kodokan Judo, where it is translated as “Scooping throw.” “Having broken your opponents balance to his left front corner, you pick him up in your arms and drop him to your right rear.” This is much closer to the sumo throws “Komat-sukui” and “Soto-komata.,” both of which involve scooping your opponents leg and dumping him over backwards, the same as the judo throw.

Obviously, there are many techniques in each sport that have no equivalent in the other because of differences in the rules. Slapping isn’t allowed in judo and a sacrifice move that will win you a judo match will lose you a sumo match.

So why all the differences? Sumo has been around a lot longer than judo. We don’t know if Jigoro Kano ever did sumo (although it’s most likely he did in elementary school). We do know that he derived most of the techniques in judo from the study of several of the existing schools of jujitsu, in many cases changing the names of techniques. Either way, we think the study of both sports is interesting. There are many aspects of judo that can be applied to sumo.

Movie Review

by “Tonkatsu” for SUMO SHIMPO

Budo: The Art of Killing (Einaru Budo) 1979

Synapse Films: Producer, Richard Gordon; Exec. Producer, Arthur Davis; Director, Masayoshi Nemoto

We stumbled upon this film one night while channel surfing. The notes said that it is a cult classic among martial arts fans.

Filed entirely in Japan in the late 1970's, this documentary covers most of the Japanese martial arts. Included are Iaido (swordsmanship with metal swords), Judo, Karate, Aikido, Okinawan Kobudo, Kendo, Naginata and Sumo. For some reason, the only major Japanese martial art left out (at least by name) was Jujitsu.

Obviously, the reason we are reviewing this film is because of the sumo sequence. And what a sequence it is. Filmed at Takasago Beya, it features *Takamiyama* (now Azumazeki Oyakata) doing keiko: teppo pole, matawari, and butsumari geiko with younger deshi. One interesting aspect of the session was that the dohyo is wet, apparently to facilitate sliding. The same day that we wrote this we saw ASASHORYU doing keiko on the NHK broadcast, and the dohyo floor was wet there also.

For a sumo nut, seeing *Takamiyama* in his prime is worth the price of admission. So are the judo throws, if you are into that sport.

[Budo: The Art of Killing](#) (there isn’t actually any, by the way) is available on DVD from Amazon and other sources.

SUMO SQUAT (from page 2)

Fortunately, we have one very nicely illustrated book with text in Japanese and English. Its title is just **SUMO**. We can't credit the publisher, because that information is only in Japanese. A sumo squat starts with the first position of shiko. Done without the shiko it's called koshiwari. Here is what it says:

"He takes the position of shiko. In the posture he spreads his legs apart three times the length of his foot and extends the tips of his toes at an angle of 120 degrees. He drops his hips down to about a right angle and places both hands on the knee softly. He must not pull his hips backwards." The description continues under koshiwari. "From a position of shiko, he drops his hips deep by pushing down on each thigh with the hand as low as he can. It is important to keep his upper body upright, to face straight ahead and not to pull his hips backwards." And finally, "When he does this movement by dropping his hips deep, he pulls his jaw towards him and keeps his upper body upright. He fastens his side firmly and drops his hips down deeper. He take care not to bend forward." We would note that the main difference in koshiwari is that the hips drop below a right angle.

One of the more interesting items was a woman who set a world record by doing 5,135 sumo squats in an hour! You can see her in action on YouTube. What she is doing are very fast koshiwari.

Finally, we also found items on a sumo deadlift. Basically, these were standard deadlifts with a very wide stance.

SUMO SHIMPO is published six times a year (following each official basho in Japan) by the **Southern California Sumo Kyokai**.

If you think this publication is worth reading, your subscription would be most appreciated. Subscription price is \$5.00/year, payable to the **Southern California Sumo Kyokai**. Each subscription includes mailing and membership in the **SCSK**.

Comments and contributions from readers are not only welcome, but strongly encouraged.

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United States Sumo Calendar for 2008

CLASSES/TRAINING SESSIONS

SESSION	DAY	START	END	FEE	LOCATION	STAGING ORGANIZATION
GSS Practice	SU	ongoing	ongoing	Yes	Combined Martial Science 13611-A 12th St., Chino, CA	Golden State Sumo (Doug Cochran)

Contact the listed STAGING ORGANIZATION for the latest fee schedule and other information.

COMPETITIONS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	STAGING ORGANIZATION
SHUNBUN 2008	March 30, 2008	"Dohyo of Dreams", Garden Grove, CA	Southern California Sumo Kyokai
World Sumo Grand Prix	April 19, 2008	Nishi Hongan-ji (Buddhist Temple) 815 E. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA	United States Sumo Federation

All information on this calendar is subject to change. Contact the listed STAGING ORGANIZATION for latest information.

Darryl Tackleberry - by MOMOKO 2008



I SURE WILL BE GLAD WHEN OYAKATA BRINGS IN SOME MORE ROOKIES; WE NEED MORE HELP AROUND HERE



YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT ALL THREE OF US NEED SOME ASSISTANTS AND ASSISTANCE



THEY PROBABLY LAUGH AT US AT THE OTHER STABLES, HAVING TO DO OUR OWN LAUNDRY, ERRANDS AND ALL ELSE. HOW EMBARRASSING - AND ESPECIALLY FOR BIKISHI OF OUR RANK



WHADDA YOU THINK, DARO-SAN? DON'T YOU FEEL WE NEED HALF A DOZEN OR SO ASSISTANTS TO GIVE US SOME ASSISTANCE?



I ONLY NEED ONE ASSISTANT TO GIVE ME ASSISTANCE RIGHT NOW. PUT THAT CANCELLER STICK OUT AND GIVE ME A LITTLE HELP WITH ALL THIS STUFF! I'M DOING FOUR CHORES WHILE YOU SIT & SMOKE? BE GLAD I AIN'T GOT MY KENDO STICK!