



大相撲新報

SUMO SHIMPO

THE VOICE OF CALIFORNIA SUMO SINCE 1999



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Hakuho Runs Nagoya's Table

Makes Second Zensho Yusho; Shoryu Withdraws

By "Yukikaze" for SUMO SHIMPO

One thing is definitely emerging regarding yokozuna-West HAKUHO (MGL): he is determined to carve out his own distinct jidai. The 2008 Nagoya Basho may have been a portent of what will come. While yokozuna-East ASASHORYU (MGL) lost matches he should easily have won, and finally withdrew from the tournament due to purported elbow problems, "Sleeping Thunder" rolled like an unstoppable storm wave through every sumotori who came onto the dohyo to fight him. The result was his second zensho effort, and his seventh Makunouchi championship overall. By comparison, SHORYU's Nagoya trip started with a case of the 'shonichi yips' at the hands of komusubi-West TOYONOSHIMA. "The Express" won his next three matches, but then surrendered a kinboshi to maegashira #3-West TOCHINONADA. The next day he went fusen to #5-East WAKANOSATO and did not appear again, finishing with a 3-3-9 record.

Only one of the ozeki quartet failed to improve on his May results. #1-East KOTOOSHU (BUL) went into the July festivities with the tantalizing prospect of becoming the first European grand champion. But two losses in the first three days (including one to the aggressive TOYONOSHIMA) ended that dream for the immediate future. Still, the "Sofia Skyscraper's" 9-6 final mark was acceptable. Stablemate KOTOMITSUKI, in the #1-West slot, had the best performance of the foursome. Seven wins in the first eight days helped power the former college champ to an impressive 11-4 mark. #2-West CHIYOTAIKAI came into the Aichi Prefectural Taiikukan under kadoban for the twelfth time in his career, a record. But he was in his 62nd basho at sumo's second rank (another record), and he fought as if he were determined to keep that streak going. The resulting 9-6 closed his latest vulnerability window for at least

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THE POWER IS BACK IN TOWN... Siosifa "Joe" Isamau (back to camera) and Dirk Sommers pit themselves against each other in a heavyweight matchup on the "Dohyo of Dreams" at the 2008 California Open. "Joe" won this match and the division, but Dirk would prevail in the openweights. (Photo: "Yukikaze")

Old Faces, New Faces, New Champions at 2008 California Open

By "Tonkatsu" for SUMO SHIMPO

After an absence of four years, the California Open Sumo Championships returned to the "Dohyo of Dreams" in Garden Grove on August 16th. With competitors coming from as far north as San Francisco and as far south as Alpine in San Diego County, the ninth edition of this event was a state championship in the truest sense.

With defending middleweight champion Doug Cochran relegated to judging because of a shoulder injury, and heavyweight/openweight champion Dan Kalbfleisch a no-show, the only defending champions were kids' champion Judy Morrow, her father Art (lightweights), and masters' champ Jim Lowerre. We were happy to see the familiar faces of Marcus Barber and Andrew Freund, even though Andrew couldn't compete due to a ruptured thumb.

Folks making their sumo debuts included Alberto Sanchez from Torrance, Alfredo Dominguez from Fresno, Katrina Walter from Poway, local Mongolian Daava Damdin and his seven year-old son "Enkhsaikhan". Having their first contests of the "DoD" were Siosifa "Joe" Isamau from San Francisco, Jose Jimenez (also from Fresno), Americus Abesamis, and Dirk Sommers. Present as a special guest (but not competing) was two-time world heavyweight champion "Byamba".

(continued page 2)



HAKUHO (from front page)

another two months. Meanwhile, under the radar, #2-East KAIO emplaced himself in sumo's history books with his day 12 win over WAKANOSATO. It was his 747th victory in the Makunouchi Division, surpassing **Taiho (48)** and moving him into third place on the all-time top-division win list (see related article). "The Juicer" would add one more win to his skein to finish at 9-6. No ozeki are kadoban for September in Tokyo.

In the lower sanyaku, AMA continues to make people stand up and take notice. The 123 kg (270 lb.) package of TNT won his first five matches and seven of his first 8, slipped with three consecutive losses, then won three in a row on his way to a very nice 10-5 mark to grab the Gino-Sho for the second consecutive basho. After his shonichi win over SHORYU TOYONOSHIMA cooled off, standing 4-4 after eight days. But he then won his next four and six of the last 7 to go 10-5 and take the Shukun-Sho. Sekiwake-West KOTOSHOGIKU got well and truly manhandled and was never able to win more than two matches in succession: the resultant 6-9 tagged him for a ticket on the down 'erebeta' to the maegashira ranks. Komusubi-East KISENOSATO could not duplicate the superb mark he had posted two months earlier: six losses in the first eight days put him on track for a deplorable 6-9 and a return to the hiramaku for at least one tournament.

The top maegashira performance was split among four men, all of whom posted 10-5 marks: #5-West BARUTO (EST), #9-East KYOKUTENHO, #13-East TOYOHIBIKI (Kanto-Sho) and #16-East MASATSUKASA. Other honorable mentions:

- #5-East MIYABIYAMA (9-6)
- #6-East HOMASHO (9-6)
- #7-East ROHO (RUS) (9-6)
- #11-East TOCHIOZAN (9-6)

TOCHINONADA's win over SHORYU marked the 12th time he has bested a yokozuna in his career. He is now the current kinboshi leader among active rikishi, and is tied for second with *Takamiyama* on the all-time list.

In Juryo: #11-East CHIYOHAKUHO slammed together a 13-2 to win a tightly-contested race for the "ten-ryo" championship. Other efforts of note from pro sumo's second division:

- #2-West KIMURAYAMA (11-4)
- #3-East MASATSUKASA (9-6)
- #7-West KORYU (12-3)
- #8-West KITAZAKURA (10-5)
- #14-East BUSHUYAMA (9-6)
- #14-West KATAYAMA (9-6)

Maegashira WAKANOHO (RUS) has been expelled from the Japan Sumo Association for possession of marijuana (see related article). He faces prison time at hard labor, followed by expulsion from Japan.

WE MAY BE SMALL, BUT WE ARE STRONG... The California Open 2008 Kids' Open competitors receive their prizes. From left: Judy Morrow (silver), "Enkhsaikhan" (gold) and Shannon Cochran (bronze). (Photo: "Yukikaze")

CALIFORNIA OPEN (from front page)

In addition to Doug, Jeff Riddle served as a judge. The honorable Matsuzaki-san did outstanding service as yobidashi. Jim did his usual fine job running the scoring table. And this writer served as referee without any controversy.

The ensuing competition was adjudged by all, to be some of the best ever at the DoD. When the dust had cleared, there were new champions in every division.

RESULTS of the 2008 California Open (Aug. 16, 2008: "Dohyo of Dreams", Garden Grove, CA)

Division	Results
Kids' Open	1. "Enkhsaikhan" (CSA) 2. Judy Morrow (SCSK) 3. Shannon Cochran (GSS)
Women's Open	1. Lindsey Hood (OSK) 2. Katrina Walter (unattached)
"DoD" Rookies	1. Davaa Damdin (CSA) 2. Alfredo Dominguez (GSS) 3. Alberto Sanchez (unattached)
Men's Lightweights	1. Alfredo Dominguez (GSS) 2. Art Morrow (SCSK)
Men's Middleweights	1. Robert Ashworth (GSS) 2. Davaa Damdin (CSA) 3. Jose Jimenez (GSS) Also competing: Alberto Sanchez, Bradley Sutton (unattached)
Men's Heavyweights	1. Siosifa "Joe" Isimau (unattached) 2. Dirk Sommers (GSS) 3. Americus Abesamis (CSA) Also competing: Marcus Barber (SCSK)
Men's Open	1. Dirk Sommers (GSS) 2. Siosifa "Joe" Isimau (unattached) 3. Americus Abesamis (CSA) Also competing: Marcus Barber, Alberto Sanchez, Jose Jimenez



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), Doug Cochran (GSS)
Shodan (1st)	Jeff Riddle (GSS), Andrew Freund (CSA), Troy Collins (CSC), 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

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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 Nagoya 2008)

Rikishi (Top Rank)	MD Basho	MD Wins	Wins/Basho
Chiyonofuji (Y58)	81	807	9.96
Kitanoumi (Y55)	78	804	10.31
KAIO (O)	90	748	8.31
Taiho (Y48)	69	746	10.81
Musashimaru (Y67)*	73	706	9.67
Takanohana II (Y65)	75	701	9.35

* Non-Japanese

The ASASHORYU Watch

(after Nagoya 2008)

Rikishi (Top Rank)	MD Basho	MD Wins	Wins/Basho
ASASHORYU (Y68)	46	506	11.00

JUNIOR DIVISION YUSHO WINNERS (Nagoya 2008)

Division	Rank	Shikona	Heya	Rec.
Makushita	14-E	SATOYAMA	Onoe	6-1
Sandanme	85-E	HOMAREFUJI	Isegahama	7-0
Jonidan	62-W	KAMEI	Kise	7-0
Jonokuchi	36-E	OZAKIUMI	Dewanoumi	7-0

2008 US Nationals: All Things Considered...

by "Yukikaze" for SUMO SHIMPO

Almost everyone knows that when "the best-laid plans" come face-to-face with Murphy and his despicable little law... it takes some fast thinking and faster footwork just to be able to come up with something remotely resembling what was envisioned in the first place.

And so it came to be, that the team that would represent the United States Sumo Federation at the 2008 World Championships and the subsequent World Games would be selected at the LAPD Academy Gymnasium. And it was here that some of the strongest, most powerful men in America assembled for a new chikara kurabe.

The first surprise was a big one: Kena Heffernan, one of American amateur sumo's most hard-hitting competitors for over a decade, had made the trip from Hawaii to try his hand again. Another not-so-welcome surprise was the non-appearance of the strong Oceanside women's contingent.

Three men had arrived at the venue under the lightweight limit. At the end of the round-robin Trent was once again crowned the division champion. Andrew Freund, returning to competition, scrambled to the silver while Art Morrow gained the bronze.

The middleweight division was the largest, with seven rikishi lined up for a shot at the gold. Each man fought six hard, grueling matches. When the fog of battle had cleared Kena stood atop the podium, with Doug holding the silver and James with the bronze.

There were only three heavyweights... but when one of those has been the champion three years running, and another one was last year's openweight king... you could just figure that the hitting would be very hard. Kelly's finish at the LA Marathon could not help him win a fourth consecutive gold: Dan finally downed him to claim that crown for himself. Americus copped the bronze.

Eight of the competitors, including all three weight class winners, stepped onto the dohyo for the openweight competition. After an opening-round loss to Kena, Robert fought his way through the repechage to the bronze-medal match, only to lose to Kelly. Dan bested Kena in the finals for the gold.

In fisher's barque I onward glide
O'er th' broad expanse of ocean's tide
And towards th' horizon when I turn
My glance I scarcely can discern
Where the white-tipped billows end
Than with the cloud-horizon blend

Daijo-Daijin

RESULTS of the 2008 US Nationals

(June 28, 2008: Police Academy Gymnasium, Los Angeles)

Division	Results
Men's Lightweights	1. Trent Sabo (OSK) 2. Andrew Freund (CSA) 3. Art Morrow (SCSK)
Men's Middleweights	1. Kena Heffernan (CSC) 2. Doug Cochran (GSS) 3. James Brewster Thompson (CSC) Also competing: Robert Ashworth, Bradley Sutton, Zachary Clark, Jose Jimenez
Men's Heavyweights	1. Dan Kalbfleisch (CSA) 2. Kelly Gneiting (SRSA) 3. Americus Abesamis (CSA)
Men's Open	1. Dan Kalbfleisch (CSA) 2. Kena Heffernan (CSC) 3. Kelly Gneiting (SRSA) Also competing: Robert Ashworth, James Brewster Thompson, Doug Cochran, Trent Sabo, Americus Abesamis
Men's Teams	1. K. Heffernan, J. B. Thompson, T. Collins 2. D. Cochran, D. Kalbfleisch, R. Ashworth 3. T. Sabo, J. Jimenez, K. Gneiting
<u>Fusen</u> wins	Zachary Clark (Junior Middleweights) Natalie Burns (Women's Open) Art Morrow (Men's Master Lightweights) Jim Lowerre (Men's Grand Master Hvys)

Kinboshi: Receivers and Givers

(after Nagoya 2008)

Rikishi	No.	YOKOZUNA (#)	No. / Y
<i>Akinoshima</i>	16	Taiho (48)	28/58
<i>Takamiyama</i>	12	Kitanoumi (55)	52/62
TOCHINONADA	12	Chiyonofuji (58)	29/53
TOSANOUMI	11	Akebono (64)	35/39
<i>Takatoriki</i>	9	Takanohana II (65)	37/49
<i>Kotonowaka</i>	8	Musashimaru (67)	21/27
<i>Kotonishiki</i>	8	ASASHORYU (68)	21/33
TAMAKASUGA	7	HAKUHO (69)	2/7

Y = number of basho ranked at yokozuna

Collecting Sumo Trading Cards

by “Tonkatsu” for SUMO SHIMPO

We have known for some time that in Japan, they have sumo trading cards, just like we have baseball cards here, but we never knew where to find them. Well, now we know at least one source, E-Bay.

We have found several sets on sale, ranging from single cards to a complete set of over forty. So far we have bid on five sets and gotten two. If you decide to check it out, please go to www.goodshop.com and click E-bay. That way, if you win a bid, the United States Sumo Federation gets a cut.



SUMO HISTORY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS... Some of the sumo trading cards acquired by “Tonkatsu” are shown here. Top left: ozeki Asashio Taro. Top right: ozeki Wakashimazu Mutsuo. Bottom left: ozeki Konishiki Tasokichi. Bottom right: sekiwake Takamiyama Daigoro.

USSF Revenue Source Reminder

By “Tonkatsu ” for SUMO SHIMPO

We have made approximately \$20.00 for the USSF by using www.GoodSearch.com and www.GoodShop.com. This is a fair start, but there is room for considerable improvement.

GoodSearch, which is powered by Yahoo, pays one cent to the USSF for each search. That may not seem like much, but if we get hundreds of people using it, it will make a difference.

The GoodShop site is potentially an even better deal. More than three dozen major companies will donate a percentage of your online purchase to the USSF. A few examples include: Amazon.com 1.5%, Flowers.com 7%, Hotels.com 2.5%, and Nike 4%.

There are currently more than 57,000 non-profits signed up. To use this service, simply type in www.GoodSearch.com or www.Goodshop.com. Then click go and follow the instructions. You will have to type in United States Sumo Federation the first time. They issue a check once a year in December, so let’s start searching and shopping!



PHOTOS related to articles in this newsletter



Ozeki KAIO entering the arena for the dohyo-iri at the Grand Sumo koen in Los Angeles. Sumo's new "Iron Man" now has 748 top-division victories.



Russian maegashira WAKANOHO in action on the final day of the Nagoya Basho. This was the final torikumi of his career: he has been expelled from professional sumo for possession of marijuana. (Kyodo Photo)



The competitors for the 2008 Nationals gather at the dohyo on the LAPD Academy Gymnasium floor prior to the start of action. Front row in sonkyo (L to R): Andrew Freund, Trent Sabo, Art Morrow. Back row standing (L to R): James Brewster Thompson, Kena Heffernan, Jose Jimenez, Doug Cochran, Robert Ashworth, Bradley Sutton, Kelly Gneiting, Zachary Clark, Americus Abesamis, Dan Kalbfleisch, Jeff Riddle (referee).

Kaio Wins 747th Torikumi; Passes Taiho on All-Time List

by “Yukikaze” for SUMO SHIMPO

For ozeki KAIO, all he was probably thinking about on day 12 of the 2008 Nagoya Basho was his opponent that day: WAKANOSATO, a veteran campaigner much like himself; no slouch inside the tawara. It may have been some time after he'd run SATO off the dohyo that someone had told the Tomozuna stalwart the news: it was his 747th victory as a member of the Makunouchi Division, pushing him past the superlegendary **Taiho (48)** into third place on the all-time torikumi list.

Despite turning 36 in July, “The Human Juicer” seems to be more than holding his own after 15 years and 90 appearances on the top row of the banzuke. Not only is he in position to make a run at both **Kitanoumi (55)** and **Chiyonofuji (58)** and their 800+ win marks, but he could very well become the first rikishi to be ranked in the top division for 100 tournaments.

Lost & Found:

A towel was found on one of the chairs after the conclusion of the 2008 California Open.
If this item belongs to you, phone (714) 539-7272 with a description and we will arrange its return.

“DoD” Management

Wakanoho Expelled From Sumo After Being Caught With Marijuana

Kyodo News services (Japan Times)

The Japan Sumo Association said Thursday it will expel top-division wrestler Wakanoho, a Russian who was arrested earlier this week on suspicion of possessing marijuana, making him the first active wrestler to be fired in the sport's history.

The JSA also accepted the resignation of the wrestler's stablemaster, Magaki, who was an executive member of the JSA board. Magaki was punished with a pay cut in May for beating and injuring one of his jonokuchi junior-division wrestlers.

The 20-year-old Russian wrestler, whose real name is Gagloev Soslan Aleksandrovich, wrestled in the makuuchi top division. He was arrested Monday for allegedly possessing a Russian-made cigarette containing 0.368 gram of dried plant matter including cannabis on a street in Sumida Ward, Tokyo, on June 24. He was 19 at the time.

His alleged transgression came to light after his wallet, which contained both the cigarette and his alien registration card, was given to police after he lost it on the street.

After the meeting, JSA Chairman Kitanoumi told reporters the association made the decision because Wakanoho has admitted the misdeed.

Stablemaster Magaki said the decision is right, and apologized for Wakanoho's arrest.

The incident is yet another body slam on sumo, which is suffering from scandals tied to wrestlers and stablemasters.

In October, the JSA fired stablemaster Tokitsukaze over the fatal beating of a 17-year-old wrestler in June last year. The ex-stablemaster and three wrestlers from his stable were indicted in February for the fatal assault.

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
US Sumo Open	Sept. 6, 2008	Memorial Sports Arena, Los Angeles, CA	California Sumo Association
SHUUBUN 2008	Sept. 20, 2008	“Dohyo of Dreams”, Garden Grove, CA	Southern California Sumo Kyokai
Georgia Sumo Open	Sept. 27, 2008	Gwinnett Convention Center, Duluth, GA	Georgia Sumo Association

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

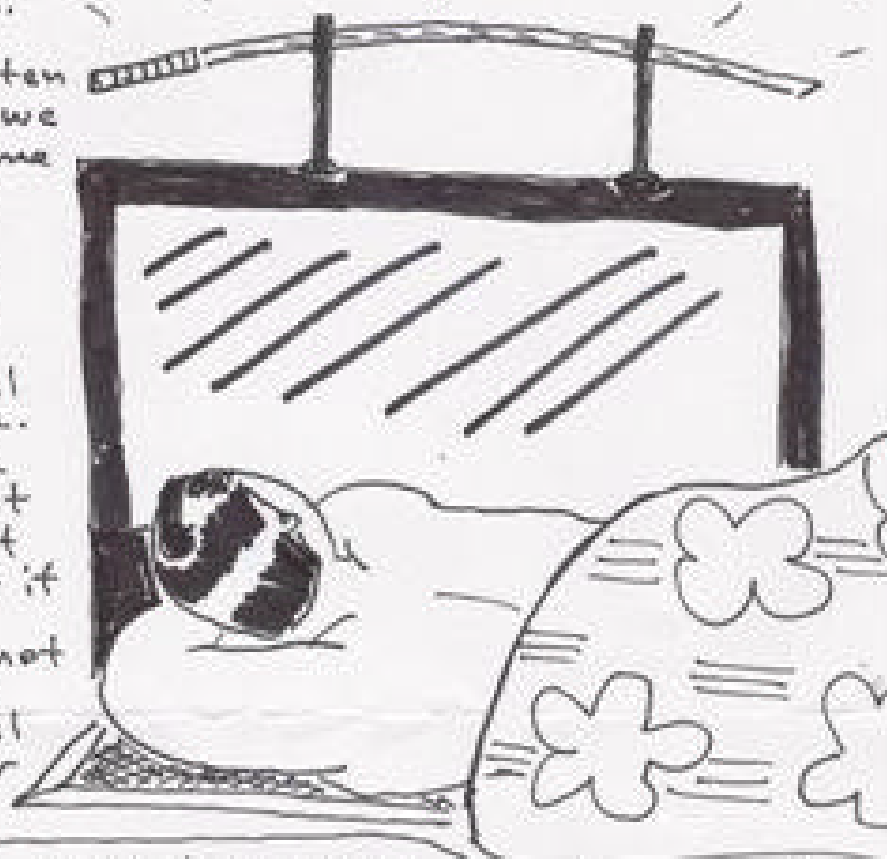
darryl tackleberry

by MEMOKO

Dear mama,
Since my
stable has gotten
new recruits, we
have gotten some
seriously cool
gifts.

One wealthy
fan sent Vili,
Toshi and I
EACH an actual
samurai sword.
I have mine
atop my giant
HDTV & I just
like to look at it
sometimes.

Of course, not
all of us have
the same level
of respect for
the swords.



I'm makin' like Chef
Tong on TV. Throw me
some more! ha, ha!



And guess
who that
not all of us
is?