



大相撲新報

SUMO SHIMPO

THE VOICE OF CALIFORNIA SUMO SINCE 1999



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Asashoryu Catches 22 in Osaka

Ties Takanohana for Number of Cups: Hakuho Falls on Senshuraku

SHUNBUN 2008: Small, but Power-Packed

By “Yukikaze” for SUMO SHIMPO

At this point in their storied careers, ASASHORYU and HAKUHO (both MGL) have probably learned one very important lesson as the two top players in professional sumo: whichever one of them makes the first mistake in any given basho will probably lose that yusho. At the Hatsu festivities in January it was SHORYU who lost to a maegashira in the early going: HAKUHO went on to win. But in Osaka at the Prefectural Taiikukan, it was “Sleeping Thunder’s” turn to fall, handing a kinboshi to maegashira #2-East AMINISHIKI. Meanwhile SHORYU, fighting from the yokozuna-West slot, remained focused and won his first 11 torikumi. On day 12, HAKUHO was bested by ozeki #2-West CHIYOTAICAI. This would have all but clinched the Cup for SHORYU... except he was knocked off his rensho in the subsequent match by sekiwake-West KOTOSHOGIKU. He then lost the following day to ozeki #1-West KOTOMITSUKI: HAKUHO had won earlier, so the two yokozuna went into senshuraku tied at 12-2. This time it was SHORYU who held sway, as “The Express” used a kotenage to twist the younger man onto his back.

This yusho was ASASHORYU’s 22nd Makunouchi championship. He is now tied with **Takanohana II (65)** on the list of sumo’s legendary grand champions (see tables in this publication). It was SHORYU’s 44th tournament on the top row of the banzuke, and his 31st appearance as a yokozuna. (**Takanohana II’s** numbers at yusho number 22 were 65 and 39, respectively.)

For the second tournament in a row, the performance of the four-man ozeki contingent was absopositively underwhelming. #1-East KOTOOSHU (BUL) who had posted the best performance in January, was 2-1 after day 3. And then he went completely off the cliff, losing five in a row before withdrawing on day 9. The “Sofia Skyscraper” is now in his second kadoban situation in the last three

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ON YOUR MARKS... Art Morrow (left) and Glenn Crosby set themselves for a middleweight match at SHUNBUN 2008 on Sunday, March 30. (Photo credit withheld)

By “Yukikaze” for SUMO SHIMPO

The weather did not look promising at first. But as the afternoon moved along, the clouds broke and the sun began to warm things up.

What became a bigger concern was a seeming lack of interest from the local amateur sumo community. The organizers of the Equinox Series had been getting an earful about how Saturday tournaments were so difficult to get to. So SHUNBUN 2008 was set for Sunday, March 30... and the people who had been complaining the loudest did not show up then, either. Needless to say, there will be no sumo contests scheduled on Sunday for a long time coming.

For those competitors who did show, there were a good number of spectators in the yard. Their faith in coming was rewarded by spirited action. In the “Girls Under 10” division, 9-year old Judy Morrow topped 7-year old Hannah Crosby in a best-2-of-3. Judy then lost a best-2-of-3 to 13-year old Madison Weizorick. After Hannah had a chance at Madison (predictable result), the three young ladies fought adult heavyweight Karen Eckhoff in a special challenge match. In order for Karen to win, she had to either knock all three of her opponents off their feet or out of the ring. All parties fought well: when the dust cleared, the Crosby/Morrow/Weizorick team had won twice. Congratulations to all!

(continued page 2)



tournaments. TAIKAI came into his 55th consecutive tournament as an ozeki once again facing the possibility of losing his Kokugikan parking space. His prospects for keeping position looked good on day 7, when he stood 6-1. But it took five more days (and the win over HAKUHO) to secure his kachi: once he did that, the air seemed to leak out of him as he finished 8-7. MITSUKI had a cold start: he was 2-6 after day 8. Five wins in five days (including the win over SHORYU) gave him his chance: defeating TAIKAI on senshuraku gave him a bare 8-7. #2-East KAIO did not have to walk the katana's edge: he won four of his first five and actually secured his majority on day 12. "The Human Juicer" then lost his last four (both yokozuna gave him the yorikiri treatment) and ended at 8-7. He now has 731 Makunouchi shiroboshi to his name.

Three of the four in the lower sanyaku will hold their positions on the May banzuke by virtue of 8-7 performances. Sekiwake-East AMA had a much tougher time of it this basho than last: after going 3-2 in the first five days, he lost five of his next six to stand 4-7 after day 11. He needed four wins in the last four days – and he got them, pounding on the maegashira who were sent against him with every one of his 124 kilos (273 pounds). SHOGIKU stood at 4-4 after day 8. He alternated wins and losses to stand at 7-7 going into senshuraku, then forced out komusubi-East KISENOSATO for the kachi – and the Shukun-Sho for taking down SHORYU on day 12. SATO had the usual early difficulties that come with 'the killer rank'. But four consecutive wins gave him a chance at keeping position at the very least: his day 14 win over maegashira #4-West KYOKUTENHO sealed the deal. TAKEKAZE had posted a 12-3 mark in January, to lead the maegashira standings and earn promotion to komusubi-West. Unfortunately, he was not quite ready for the big time: he went down in his first five torikumi, then followed his day 6 win with six more defeats. The final mark of 3-12 hands him a ticket on the 'erebeta' back to the hiramaku ranks.

It was a field day for "Eurikishi" in the maegashira ranks, as #5-West KOKKAI (GEO) and #7-East BARUTO (EST) both posted 12-3 records and shared the Kanto-Sho. Other hiramaku performances worthy of honorable mention:

- #4-West KYOKUTENHO (9-6)
- #10-East FUTENO (10-5)
- #11-West TAKAMISAKARI (10-5)
- #12-East TOCHIOZAN (11-4) (Gino-Sho)
- #13-East HOMASHO (9-6)

In Juryo: #14-East KIMURAYAMA showed considerable power in his first sekitori basho, pounding out a 12-3 record to win the "tenryo" championship. Other notable efforts from professional sumo's "Triple-A" division:

- #1-East TOSANOUMI (10-5)
- #4-East TOCHINOSHIN (GEO) (9-6)
- #5-East TAMANOSHIMA (10-5)
- #7-East TAMAWASHI (MGL) (9-6)
- #9-East MASATSUKASA (9-6)
- #10-East KITATAIKI (11-4)

THREE-ON-ONE... Madison Weizorick, Hannah Crosby and Judy Morrow Square off with Karen Eckhoff at SHUNBUN 2008. (Photo credit withheld)

In retrospect, it didn't matter that Art Morrow came in at just over the lightweight limit: his only competition was Glenn Crosby, who was an even match in age and size. The heavyweight competition consisted of Steven Barbosa prevailing over this writer in two well-fought matches. The open competition, run as a round robin, went exactly according to expected form.

But the day's story does not end there. Indian Capital Sumo Association members Joe and Elizabeth Gray had driven out from Arizona to compete; but their information stated that the contest would start at 4:00PM instead of 2:00PM. They rolled in about an hour after the tournament wound up. This writer showed them the "DoD" facilities, then took them inside Meade Station for refreshment and conversation. "Tonkatsu" gave them a bag filled with kids' mawashis, to start sumo programs for children on the reservations. This writer gave them a shopping bag filled with VCR tapes of past basho in Japan. Joe had his picture taken on the "DoD" and working the teppo pole, before he and his sister started their long trip back home.

SHUNBUN 2008: the Results

Division	Results
Girls (Under 10)	1. Judy Morrow (SCSK) 2. Hannah Crosby (SCSK)
Girls (Bit Older)	1. Madison Weizorick (SCSK) 2. Judy Morrow (SCSK)
Special Challenge	1. Hannah Crosby, Judy Morrow, Madison Weizorick (SCSK) 2. Karen Eckhoff (OSK)
Men's Middleweights	1. Art Morrow (SCSK) 2. Glenn Crosby (SCSK)
Men's Heavyweights	1. Steven Barbosa (SCSK) 2. Jim Lowerre (SCSK)
Men's Open	1. Steven Barbosa (SCSK) 2. Jim Lowerre (SCSK) 3. Glenn Crosby and Art Morrow (SCSK)



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

JUNIOR DIVISION YUSHO WINNERS (Haru 2008)

Division	Rank	Shikona	Heya	Rec.
Makushita	4-E	DAIYUBU	Shibatayama	7-0
Sandanme	46-W	MASUNOYAMA	Chigonoura	7-0
Jonidan	7-W	TERUKAZE	Oguruma	7-0
Jonokuchi	26-E	FUKAO	Kise	7-0

You May Already Be Eligible For Promotion!

From the SUMO SHIMPO Staff

We want to remind all USSF members that there are a number of you who are eligible for the rank of shodan, but have never applied. There are also a number of shodan who are eligible for promotion to the rank of nidan, but who haven't applied.

You can't get a rank if you don't apply for it. Feel free to visit the USSF website (www.ussumofederation.org) to find out what the requirements are.

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.

The 700-Win Club

(after Haru 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)	88	731	8.31
Musashimaru (Y67)*	73	706	9.67
Takanohana II (Y65)	75	701	9.35

* Non-Japanese

The ASASHORYU Watch

(after Haru 2008)

Rikishi (Top Rank)	MD Basho	MD Wins	Wins/Basho
ASASHORYU (Y68)	44	492	11.18

Ere long for me this world shall end,
Thus doth my mind to me foretell;
Ere long to other world shall wend
My soul that thee hath lov'd so well.
Ah! Would that thou
But once more wer't beside me now.

"Ids'mi Sh'kibu"

Sumo Champs Conquer Marathon

by Dan Kalbfleisch for SUMO SHIMPO

It was on his list of things to do, when Kelly Gneiting won his first US Sumo Championships in 2005. This feat was crossed off the list, along with other milestones such as: becoming a father, appearing on television and in film, and generating thousands of dollars for charity. But the challenge of running a marathon had been lingering on Kelly's list for the longest time. He decided that 2008 would be the year he conquered the Los Angeles Marathon.

If the sport of sumo had an exact opposite, it would be long-distance running. Most sumo athletes have strong heavy bodies, while top runners are light and lean. A marathon covers 26.2 miles and takes hours to complete. In contrast, a sumo wrestler travels across the 15-foot dohyo in a matter of seconds.

Kelly had to drastically change his training in order to maneuver his 420-pound frame through a marathon route. Because his focus was on finishing the race, not winning it, Kelly concentrated on running long periods of time instead of for speed. He ran every day for two months, training wherever he was during his cross-country truck drives. On one occasion, he even got hit by a car, but kept on running anyway. (Note: Kelly was unharmed, but the car was not so lucky.)

When 5-time US Champion Trent Sabo found out that Kelly was training for the Los Angeles Marathon, he decided to join in the fun. Trent had never run a marathon before either, but he felt this was a great opportunity to publicly show the true athleticism of sumo wrestlers. Plus, this would give them time to just hang out and talk sumo. Kelly and Trent asked me if I wanted to join them, so there would be 3 US Champs running. I intelligently declined the offer to run, but agreed to help them accomplish their goal.

On March 2nd, I dropped Kelly and Trent off at the starting line early so they could do pre-race interviews. The novelty of sumo wrestlers running a marathon sparked interest from the media. NBC news even showed one of Kelly's matches from the 2007 US Sumo Open, and vowed to do updates on him during the race. When all interviews were over, the two champs joined the pack of over 26,000 runners and prepared for the marathon to begin.

The energy of the crowd seemed to fuel Trent and Kelly as the race started. They kept a strong steady jogging pace, going up the hill from Universal City into Hollywood. The next few miles showed constant movement as they alternated between jogging and walking, proving that Kelly's training had paid off. They were at Mile #9 when the winners crossed the finish line. NBC did a follow up on Kelly right before the end of their broadcast. He was still walking strong, and spectators were still cheering him on to finish.

The mood was changing as Kelly and Trent passed Mile #16. The constant pounding of feet on pavement had taken a toll on both men, and they felt like quitting. They were taking a break on the sidewalk when a marathon bus pulled up and offered them a ride. This is when they got a surprise phone call from former World Champion Manny Yarbrough. Manny encouraged Kelly and Trent to keep going, and pretty soon they were back on their feet.

At Mile #18, Trent and Kelly had another surprise. I was there to cheer them on along with California Sumo Association president Andrew Freund and 2-time World Champion Byambajav Ulambayar.

Kelly was all smiles and felt rejuvenated from all the support. I decided to walk with them to finish their trek through downtown Los Angeles. So I guess there were 3 US Champs in the marathon after all.

It was getting dark by the time we hit Mile #23. I had to depart from Kelly and Trent in order to get my vehicle out of the parking lot before it closed. But by then, they had met up with some ladies who were determined to complete the marathon as well. Being true gentlemen, Trent and Kelly promised to escort the women through the questionable areas of downtown, until they all finished the race.

Eleven hours, forty-eight minutes, and sixteen seconds was the official time as Kelly crossed the finish line. Trent came in a minute later. Both men were exhausted, but relieved that they accomplished their goal. As promised, the NBC cameras were there to interview Kelly, and to document that this sumo champion can do anything he puts his mind to. Kelly claims he couldn't have done it without Trent by his side, and all the support from the sumo community. Now that the marathon has been conquered, we can only wonder what's next for Kelly to cross off his list of things to do.

Marathon Winners:

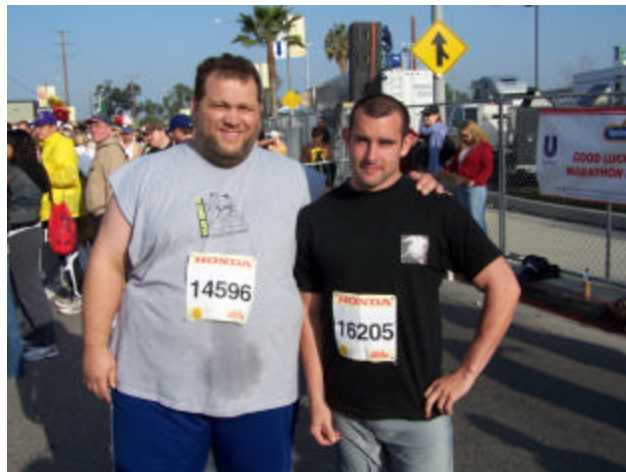
1st Place Men: Laban Moiben, Kenya
Time: 02:13:50

1st Place Women: Tatiana Aryasova, Russia
Time: 02:29:32

Sumo Champs:

17218th Place: Kelly Gneiting, USA
Time: 11:48:16

17219th Place: Trent Sabo, USA
Time: 11:49:22



THE BRAVE ONES... US sumo wrestling champions Kelly Gneiting (HWT, left) and Trent Sabo (LWT, right) get together for a photo before they take off in the 2008 Los Angeles Marathon. (Photo: unknown at this time)

Would Kosho Seido Help?

By "Tonkatsu" for SUMO SHIMPO

On the fourteenth day of the Kyushu Basho, ozeki CHIYOTAIKAI injured his elbow in a loss to yokozuna HAKUHO, forcing him to withdraw on senshuraku. In spite of the fact that he hadn't recovered, CHIYO answered the bell for the 2008 Hatsu Basho. He withdrew on day eight after going 0-7 for the first seven days. This made him kadoban for the Haru Basho. There he barely escaped demotion with an 8-7 record.

Ozeki KOTOMITSUKI fought the Kyushu Basho while dealing with gallstones, then had surgery right after the basho. He had to come back for the Hatsu Basho in order to avoid being kadoban. He barely managed an 8-7 for kachi-koshi on senshuraku, and repeated this barely-adequate performance at the Haru Basho.

And ozeki KOTOOSHU has been flirting with kadoban demotion for several basho while dealing with recurring knee problems. On day nine of the Hatsu Basho the English-language commentator on the NHK broadcast mentioned this, along with the fact that he has had to take the ring each tournament even though his knees weren't at 100%.

All of this has made me wonder what the difference would be if the Public Injury system ("Kosho Seido") that was in effect from 1972 until 2004 was still in force. Under Kosho Seido, a rikishi who was forced to withdraw from a hon-basho due to injury could sit out the next basho without being demoted.

So, how would our three ozeki have been helped if Kosho Seido was still in effect? It would have helped CHIYOTAIKAI, who was already kachi-koshi when he withdrew on the last day of the Kyushu Basho. He could have sat out the Hatsu Basho and wouldn't have been kadoban coming into the Haru Basho. It wouldn't have helped KOTOMITSUKI, because gallbladder surgery wouldn't meet the criteria of an injury sustained in a hon-basho. It also wouldn't have helped KOTOOSHU with his current kadoban, although it might have helped at the time of the original injury.

Kosho Seido also wouldn't help if you were injured in practice or at a koei or jingyo. Matsuzaki-san says that one of the main reasons it was dropped was because rikishi were abusing it.

Interestingly, in the light of KOTOMITSUKI and KOTOOSHU's problems, the last rikishi to use Kosho Seido was their current oyakata, moto-sekiwake *Kotonowaka*.



SUMO SHIMPO Awards Announced

From the SUMO SHIMPO Staff

This has been a rough year for the SUMO SHIMPO Awards. In the past we have announced and handed out these accolades at the annual January event, but that was cancelled this year. We had them ready for SHUNBUN, but none of the winners showed up!

This year, we have notified the winners and have placed the citations on the SUMO SHIMPO Web site. They are in Adobe PDF format, and can be read, downloaded and printed.

The 2007 winners are:

Outstanding California Sumotori:

DAN KALBFLEISCH (repeat winner)

Outstanding Female California Sumotori:

LINDSEY HOOD

Outstanding Junior California Sumotori:

ZACHARY CLARK

Rookie Sumotori of the Year:

JIMMY CALAS

OMEDETO GOZAIMASU to this year's winners!

Kinboshi: Receivers and Givers

(after Haru 2008)

Rikishi	No.	YOKOZUNA (#)	No. / Y
<i>Akinoshima</i>	16	Taiho (48)	28/58
<i>Takamiyama</i>	12	Kitanoumi (55)	52/62
TOSANOUMI	11	Chionofuji (58)	29/53
TOCHINONADA	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)	20/31
TAMAKASUGA	7	HAKUHO (69)	2/5
KAIO	6		
DEJIMA	6		

Y = number of basho ranked at yokozuna

HEAVY-DUTY ACTION... Jim Lowerre (left) and Steve Barbosa muscle for position at SHUNBUN 2008 on Sunday, March 30. (Photo credit withheld)

New Revenue Source for USSF

By “Tonkatsu ” for SUMO SHIMPO

There is now a way for all of you to help support the USSF by doing things you do anyway. The two things are web searches and shopping online. The two web sites are www.GoodSearch.com and www.GoodShop.com. 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%. We purchased a copy of the DVD “Budo, The Art of Killing” from Amazon, and had it in less than a week without paying extra for rush shipping.

There are currently more than 57,000 non profits signed up. A couple of examples from their list of success stories are the ASPCA which has earned \$13,600, and Capri Elementary School which earned \$191 from a recent purchase on Adobe.com.

To use this service, simply type in www.GoodSearch.com or www.Goodshop.com 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!

What Next??

From the SUMO SHIMPO Staff

Now that Kelly Gneiting has finished a full marathon, what could be next on the horizon?

Some suggestions (which are offered with all due respect and love):

The Ironman Triathlon

The Iditarod sled dog race

Swimming the English Channel

Other ideas? Send them to jimlowerre@yahoo.com.



Grand Sumo Publicity Demo: Staples Center, Clippers Game



“Legendary” Yokozuna (10+ Yusho)

(updated after Haru 2008)

YOKOZUNA	Heya	Yusho	Zensho
Taiho	Nishonoseki	32	8
Chiyonofuji	Kokonoe	31	7
Kitanoumi	Mihogaseki	24	7
ASASHORYU	Takasago	22	5
Takanohana II	Futagoyama	22	4
Wajima	Hanakago	14	3
Musashimaru	Musashigawa	12	1
Futabayama	Futabayama	12	8
Akebono	Azumazeki	11	0
Kitanofuji	Kokonoe	10	3
Tochinishiki	Kasagano	10	1
Tsunenohana	Dewanoumi	10	1
Wakanohana I	Hanakago	10	1

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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

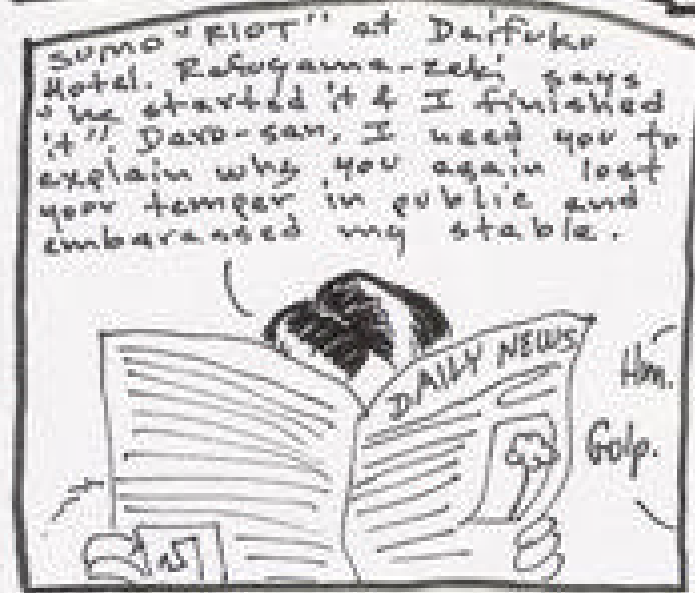
EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	STAGING ORGANIZATION
Sumo Grand Prix	April 19, 2008	Nishi Hongan-ji (Buddhist Temple) 815 E. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA	United States Sumo Federation
Ronald McRumble	April 25, 2008	Charlottesville, VA	Ronald McDonald House Charities
Grand Sumo	June 6-7, 2008	Los Angeles Sports Arena	Nihon Sumo Kyokai
US NATIONALS	TBD	TBD	United States Sumo Federation
Nisei Week	TBD	TBD	United States Sumo Federation
US Sumo Open	Sept. 5-6, 2008	Los Angeles Sports Arena	California Sumo Association
SHUUBUN 2008	Sept. 20, 2008	“Dohyo of Dreams”, Garden Grove, CA	Southern California Sumo Kyokai
Georgia Sumo Open	Sept. 27, 2008	TBA	Georgia Sumo Association

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

darryl tackleberry

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mamako



I think the Boss understood but we still got dis-
 ciplined. BUT, he finally decided to do some extensive
 recruiting for at least 6 rookies - that's 2 assistants
 for each of us. We were so happy, we were crying!

