



大相撲新報

# SUMO SHIMPO

THE VOICE OF CALIFORNIA SUMO SINCE 1999



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## Hakuho Puts Stamp on New Jidai

### Goes 14-1 for Second Yusho in Row; Shoryu Withdraws Again

By "Yukikaze" for SUMO SHIMPO

It wasn't quite deja vu all over again for yokozuna-East HAKUHO (MGL): there was a little matter of giving a kinboshi to maegashira #2-East KISENOSATO on day 5. And then Miyagino Beya's mighty heyagashira proceeded to run roughshod over everyone else in his path, to finish at 14-1 and take the eighth championship of his career.

One man that "Sleeping Thunder" didn't run over was yokozuna-West ASASHORYU (MGL). That was because "The Express" lost to maegashira #1-West MIYABIYAMA on day 3, to #4-East AMINISHIKI on day 6, and to sekiwake-West TOYONOSHIMA and sekiwake-East AMA (MGL) on days 8 and 9. SHORYU finally withdrew on day 10 with an effective finish of 55-5 before HAKUHO could get his hands on him. This writer does not believe that SHORYU is a spent force; but he might have to take an extended time off to give his damaged elbow a chance to recuperate.

All four members of the ozeki group finished kachi in this tournament, so none of them are kadoban for the November festivities. #1-East KOTOMITSUKI won 6 of his first 7 matches. The former college champ lost to AMA on day 8, then won his next 5 before losing to #2-East KAIO and HAKUHO to end with an 11-4. Meanwhile KAIO was 2-3 after day 5, but won his next 5. "The Juicer" took 2 of his last five torikumi to go 9-6 and run his Makunouchi career win total to 757. In his 63rd basho at sumo's second rung, #2-West CHIYOTAIKAI fought inconsistently; but still managed to pull out a 9-6 mark. #1-West KOTOOSHU (BUL) is making this writer wonder whether his 14-1 in May was a fluke. The "Sofia Skyscraper" fought a very inconsistent tournament and just managed an 8-7.

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**PERSISTANCE FINALLY PAYS OFF!!...** The top finishers in the Lightweight Division at the 2008 World Championships receive the audience's congratulations. From left: Stilyan Georgiev (BUL), silver; Takashi Shimako (JPN), gold; Trent Sabo (USA) and Nachyn Mongush (RUS), bronze. (Photo: Peeter Ossip)

### Trent Sabo Wins Bronze Medal at 2008 World Championships

By "Tonkatsu" for SUMO SHIMPO

After several years of falling short, many-time United States Lightweight champion Trent Sabo finally made it to the podium of the World Championships in Rakvere, Estonia. His bronze medal marks the first time in over a decade that an American has gained that hallowed status.

At his first World Championships in 2002, Trent came within one win of a medal. He qualified again at what turned out to be the last North American Sumo Championships in Vancouver in 2003, only to see the Worlds cancelled due to the SARS epidemic. 2004 was the only year in which he did not qualify for the "big dance", falling completely off the podium at the newly-constituted US Nationals in Las Vegas. In 2005, 2006, and 2007 he made the repechage each year, but finished no better than fifth.

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." And Trent is certainly no quitter. He started his 2008 quest by taking down Sami Yla-Kero (FIN) in the first round. His second-round match was against Nachyn Mongush (RUS), who had shared the bronze medal in 2007. In what was a good test match, Trent finally bested the Russian. That bought him a match against Takashi Shimako (JPN) which he lost by oshi-taoshi. Shimako qualified for the finals on his way to the gold medal, so Trent gained a repechage slot for a chance at the bronze. Since he had won in the first and second rounds, Trent only

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HAKUHO (from front page)

AMA continues to fight the way SHORYU and HAKUHO did when they were ranked at sekiwake. Isegahama Beya's 129kg (270 lb.) A-bomb had his kachi in hand on day 9, defeated SHORYU and all four ozeki, and took 4 of last 6 to finish with a 12-3 and the Shukun-Sho. He has amassed 31 wins in the last three basho: if he wins 10 or more in Fukuoka, the ozeki promotion committee should do the proper thing even if the current holders of the rank are still there. Komusubi-East BARUTO (EST) started off very poorly: after day 9 he stood on the cliff's edge at 2-7. But he then won his final six matches in succession to scratch out an 8-7. This should get him a sekiwake slot: TOYONOSHIMA could not parlay his victory over SHORYU into a meaningful performance and finished make-koshi at 6-9. Komusubi-West ASASEKIRYU (MGL) will also be heading back down the ladder: SHORYU's stablemate had very little to give and ended his basho with a 4-11 mark.

#10-West FUTENO posted an 11-4 mark for the best maegashira performance. Other mentionable hiramaku efforts:

#5-West GOEIDO (10-5) (Kanto-sho)

#9-West WAKANOSATO (9-6)

#12-West DEJIMA (9-6)

#14-East TAKEKAZE (9-6)

#16-West KAKIZOE (10-5)

The Gino-Sho was not awarded.

In Juryo: #6-West ARAN (RUS) went 12-3 to win the division yusho and gain almost certain promotion to the Makunouchi. Other worthy Triple-A performances:

#1-East BUSHUYAMA (10-5)

#3-West KASUGANISHIKI (9-6)

#5-East KORYU (10-5)

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

#10-East TOSAYUTAKA (11-4)

#12-East YAMAMOTOYAMA (9-6)

#12-West OTSUKASA (9-6)

Former sekiwake, now-Juryo #2-West TAMAKASUGA retired at the conclusion of the Aki tournament. A native of Ehime Prefecture, TAMA (civilian name: Ryuji Matsumoto) entered Kataonami Beya in January 1994 as an insert into the Makushita Division due to his success in college sumo. His overall career record was 606-636-39: his Makunouchi record was 444-537-24. He had one Juryo yusho, 1 Shukun-Sho, 2 Kanto-Sho, 2 Gino-Sho and 7 kinboshi on his books.

The winds of autumn have amassed  
Dried withered leaves in ruddy heaps,  
Have them in th' mountain-torrent cast,  
Whose stream in stony channel sweeps;  
Amid the rocks that bar the way  
The Mom-ji's reddened leaves delay.

Haru-Michi no Tsuraki

TRENT SABO (from front page)

had one man between him and the podium: Mohamed El Said (EGY). It started out very aggressively, but the Egyptian was no match for Trent and went hard to the dohyo surface.

Prior to Trent, the last American to medal at the Worlds was Wayne Vierra, who garnered a heavyweight bronze in 1997. (Harrington Wa'a won openweight gold, and Gregory Donofrio took middleweight bronze, at the Junior World Championships in 2001.)

In other Worlds action: Dan Kalbfließ finished fifth in the open division, losing in the repechage to eventual bronze medalist Alan Karaev (RUS).

The heartiest of congratulations are hereby extended to Trent, Dan, Kena and Kelly. OMEDETO GOZAIMASU!

**“Yukikaze” reformatted and fleshed out this report.**

### RESULTS: 2008 Sumo World Championships (October 12th, 2008: Rakvere, Estonia)

<b>Women's Light</b>	1. Nelli Vorobyeva (RUS) 2. Paola Boz (ITA) 3. Satomi Taira (JPN), Alina Boykova (UKR)
<b>Women's Middle</b>	1. Maryna Pryshchepa (UKR) 2. Epp Mae (EST) 3. Nicole Hehemann (GER), Marina Dvoretzkaya (RUS)
<b>Women's Heavy</b>	1. Olga Davydko (UKR) 2. Olesya Kovalenko (RUS) 3. Edyta Witkowska (POL), Chiu-Jung Cheng (TPE)
<b>Women's Open</b>	1. Anna Zhigalova (RUS) 2. Francoise, Harteveld (NED) 3. Svitlana Iaryomka (UKR), Sylwia Krzemien (POL)
<b>Women's Team</b>	1. RUS 2. UKR 3. POL, JPN
<b>Men's Light</b>	1. Takashi Shimako (JPN) 2. Stiliyan Georgiev (BUL) 3. <b>Trent Sabo (USA)</b> , Nachyn Mongush (RUS)
<b>Men's Middle</b>	1. Katsuo Yoshida (JPN) 2. Konstantyn Yermakov (UKR) 3. Atsamaz Kaziev (RUS), Victor Pastrello (BRA)
<b>Men's Heavy</b>	1. Takashi Himeno (JPN) 2. Petar Stoyanov (BUL) 3. “Byamba” (MGL), Vasily Margiev (RUS)
<b>Men's Open</b>	1. Naranbat Gankhuyag (MGL) 2. Jaroslav Poriz (CZE) 3. Alan Karaev (RUS), Robert Paczkow (POL)
<b>Men's Team</b>	1. RUS 2. JPN 3. MGL, POL

## 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

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

Effective with the February 2009 (Hatsu) issue, SUMO SHIMPO will become a solely-electronic publication, with issues being available in Adobe PDF format at [www.sumoshimpo.com](http://www.sumoshimpo.com). We will no longer produce a print version. Subscriptions will no longer be offered or accepted. Membership in the SCSK will still be available at \$5.00/year.

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

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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](http://www.sumoshimpo.com)

## The 700-Win Club

(after Aki 2008)

Rikishi (Top Rank)	MD Basho	MD Wins	Wins/Basho
<b>Chiyonofuji (Y58)</b>	81	807	9.96
<b>Kitanoumi (Y55)</b>	78	804	10.31
<b>KAIO (O)</b>	91	757	8.32
<b>Taiho (Y48)</b>	69	746	10.81
<b>Musashimaru (Y67)*</b>	73	706	9.67
<b>Takanohana II (Y65)</b>	75	701	9.35

\* Non-Japanese

## The ASASHORYU Watch

(after Aki 2008)

Rikishi (Top Rank)	MD Basho	MD Wins	Wins/Basho
<b>ASASHORYU (Y68)</b>	47	511	10.87

### JUNIOR DIVISION YUSHO WINNERS (Aki 2008)

Division	Rank	Shikona	Heya	Rec.
Makushita	13-W	YOTSUGURUMA	Isenoumi	7-0
Sandanme	81-W	YAMASHITA	Kise	7-0
Jonidan	81-E	ARAJISHI	Arashio	7-0
Jonokuchi	36-E	ARATOSHI	Irumagawa	7-0

## Golden State Sumo Dominates SHUUBUN 2008

by "Tonkatsu" for SUMO SHIMPO

The smallest turnout we have ever had for a tournament at the Dohyo of Dreams was four, for one of the fun tournaments several years ago. At the SCSK, we don't take advance sign-ups, or ask for RSVP's. We just put out the word, and see who turns up. So far, we are still waiting for the answer to the question, "What if they gave a tournament and nobody came?"

With Trent Sabo in Tucson, we didn't expect anyone from Oceanside, and we were right. We did, however, have Jose Jimenez and Alfredo Gutierrez from Fresno. The best news was that top middleweight Doug Cochran came to compete, not just judge.

As always, Art Morrow and his daughter Judy were there. Judy didn't get her usual struggle with Shannon Cochran because Shannon had a gymnastics meet that evening. Instead, she had a best-2-of-3 rematch with Madison Weizerick. Afterwards, the two young ladies teamed up to do battle with the ferocious "Jim-Zilla". They gave everything they had, and finally ran the monster over the tawara.

In the men's divisions we had Art and Alfredo in lightweights; Doug, Jose and Alberto Sanchez in middleweights, and Jim Lowerre was the sole heavyweight. After the girls, Art and Jim fought a Masters' open, won by Art. Alfredo won the lightweight competition while Doug won the middleweights and open. Golden State Sumo took gold in every division they contested and swept the podium in the open division. Good work, guys!

This writer served as referee, with Andrew Freund and Mr. Matsuzaki as judges. As always, the competition was judged to be excellent by everyone present.

### RESULTS of SHUUBUN 2008

(Sept. 20, 2008: "Dohyo of Dreams", Garden Grove, CA)

Division	Results
Girls' Open	1. Madison Weizerick 2. Judy Morrow
Men's Lightweights	1. Alfredo Gutierrez 2. Art Morrow
Men's Middleweights	1. Doug Cochran 2. Jose Jimenez 3. Alberto Sanchez
Men's Open	1. Doug Cochran 2. Jose Jimenez 3. Alfredo Gutierrez
Masters' Open	1. Art Morrow 2. Jim Lowerre

### Kinboshi: Receivers and Givers

(after Aki 2008)

Rikishi	No.	YOKOZUNA (#)	No. / Y
<i>Akinoshima</i>	16	<b>Taiho (48)</b>	28/58
<i>Takamiyama</i>	12	<b>Kitanoumi (55)</b>	52/62
TOCHINONADA	12	<b>Chiyonofuji (58)</b>	29/53
TOSANOUMI	11	<b>Akebono (64)</b>	35/39
<i>Takatoriki</i>	9	<b>Takanohana II (65)</b>	37/49
<i>Kotonowaka</i>	8	<b>Musashimaru (67)</b>	21/27
<i>Kotonishiki</i>	8	ASASHORYU (68)	23/34
<i>Tamakasuga</i>	7	HAKUHO (69)	3/8

Y = number of basho ranked at yokozuna

### RESULTS of the 2008 Georgia Sumo Open

(Sept. 27, 2008: Atlanta, GA)

Division	Results
Women's Lightweights	1. Catherine Watkins 2. Shannon Vocker
Women's Open	1. Rachel Frank 2. Catherine Watkins 3. Robin Stafford
Men's Middleweights	1. Steve Bird 2. Packy Bannevans
Men's Heavyweights	1. Doug Cochran 2. Tommy Massie
Men's Open	1. Doug Cochran 2. Packy Bannevans 3. Steve Bird 4. Tommy Massie

#### 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

## The Lighter Side of Sumo

by “Tonkatsu” for SUMO SHIMPO

One of the lighter aspects of sumo is rikishi dressing up (frequently in drag) for charity events.

Two examples from Tonkatsu's growing collection of sumo trading cards, are shown below (both from 1999). In the first picture, *Chiyotenzan* (L), *CHIYOTAIKAI* (C) and an unidentified rikishi pose as characters from the popular Japanese Anime series Sailor Moon. In the second picture, *Hoshitango* (L) and *Terao* (R) pose as members of the all-woman dance troupe Takarazuka.



## USSF Revenue Source Reminder

By “Tonkatsu ” for SUMO SHIMPO

We have made \$25.68 for the USSF by using [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) and [www.GoodShop.com](http://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](http://www.GoodSearch.com) or [www.Goodshop.com](http://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!



## US Sumo Open 2008: Improvement on Excellence

by “Yukikaze” for SUMO SHIMPO

After last year’s US Sumo Open, this writer came away with the opinion that it was the best one he had experienced since he began covering it in 2002. Only a rather eldritch glitch in the Sports Arena’s sound system detracted from the experience.

This year, the sound system behaved itself... and the competition continued its improvement path. With a highly-experienced officiating crew in place, the tournament ran very well indeed.

Unfortunately there was one serious injury, as Michelle Pike went down very hard in her opening match with Brittany Moreau. She had to be helped from the dohyo to the locker room: the word this correspondent heard was that she had suffered a broken collarbone. (The staff of SUMO SHIMPO extends their best wishes to Michelle for a speedy and complete recovery.) Jovann Rushing tweaked a knee in the lightweight quals and had to withdraw.

Last year Dan Kalbfleisch was the only American male to win a medal. This year marked a considerable improvement, as the USA took at least one medal in every competing division.

This writer is looking forward to the next installment.



A trimmed-down Marcus Barber squares off against eventual champion “Byamba” in heavyweight action at the 2008 US Sumo Open. (Photo: “Yukikaze”)

The competitors at the 2008 US Sumo Open in Los Angeles, CA assemble on the dohyo platform. (Photo: Chuck Green)



## RESULTS of the 2008 US Sumo Open (Sept. 6, 2008: Sports Arena, Los Angeles, CA)

Division	Results
Women’s Lightweights	1. Brittany Moreau (USA) 2. Michelle Pike (USA)
Women’s Middleweights	1. Natalie Burns (USA)
Women’s Open	1. Natalie Burns (USA) 2. Brittany Moreau (USA)
Men’s Lightweights	1. Munkhjargal Ulziibayar (MGL) 2. Peter Panatayopoulos (USA) 3. Tsogsuren Tsoghkuu (MGL) Also competing: Art Morrow, Jovann Rushing, Trent Sabo (all USA)
Men’s Middleweights	1. Erdenebileg Alagdaa (MGL) 2. Robert Ashworth (USA) 3. Rye McAfee (USA) Also competing: J. B. Thompson, Alberto Sanchez, Pablo Jones, Mark Reiman (all USA)
Men’s Heavyweights	1. Byambajav Ulambayar (MGL) 2. Petar Stoyanov (BUL) 3. Dan Kalbfleisch (USA) Also competing: Anthony Noli, Americus Abesamis, Kelly Gneiting, Marcus Barber, Siosifa “Joe” I’sima’u (USA); Bayanbat Davaadalai, Tamir Dolgormaa (MGL); Torsten Scheibler, Karsten Grap (GER); Gyorgi Otsetarov (BUL).
Men’s Open	1. Petar Stoyanov (BUL) 2. Byambajav Ulambayar (MGL) 3. Kelly Gneiting (USA) Also competing: Art Morrow, Trent Sabo, Alberto Sanchez, Anthony Noli, Pablo Jones, Americus Abesamis, Mark Reiman, Dan Kalbfleisch, Siosifa “Joe” I’sima’u, Marcus Barber (USA); Erdenebileg Alagdaa, Tamir Dolgormaa (MGL)

## Dismissed Sumo Wrestler Launches Lawsuit

### From Japan Times News Services

Fired sumo wrestler Soslan Aleksandrovich Gagloev's lawsuit to win back his membership in the Japan Sumo Association got under way Monday with his lawyers saying he desperately wants to return to the sport.

Gagloev, 20, whose ring name was *Wakanoho*, was expelled from the JSA on Aug. 21, three days after he was arrested for allegedly possessing marijuana. His photo is shown at right.

At the first session of the lawsuit in the Tokyo District Court, Gagloev's attorneys submitted a written statement arguing that his dismissal violated the Labor Standards Law, which sets the bar very high when firing employees.

They termed the association's decision too severe and invalid. However, the JSA's lawyers, also in writing, countered that the law does not apply to the relationship between JSA and sumo wrestlers, and that the association's decision was appropriate.

Gagloev did not show up for the session, but his lawyers said it is common in civil cases that plaintiffs do not appear in court unless they are called to testify.

The Russian's stay in Japan depends on his sumo status. One of his attorneys, Makoto Miyata, said they have filed for an injunction against a possible deportation because his visa will expire in mid-November.

The district court's second session is scheduled for Nov. 25.

Miyata said Gagloev is currently in Tokyo staying with acquaintances.

In September, the Russian caused a sensation when he told a news conference in Tokyo that he was bribed to fix matches. He said his accusations were an effort to clean up the traditional national sport.

Gagloev's attorneys said they tried to stop him from holding the news conference.

This marks the latest development in the case involving marijuana and Russian sumotori. The Boradzov brothers, Batraz (who wrestled as *Hakurozan*) and Soslan (who wrestled as *Roho*), were removed from the Aki 2008 banzuke after testing positive for use of the drug. And *Hakurozan's* oyakata, Kitanoumi, has resigned as the chairman of the Nihon Sumo Kyokai in the fallout of the incident.

“Yukikaze” added material to this report.



## United States Sumo Calendar for 2008-2009

### 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
Snake River Sumo Classic	Dec. 13, 2008	Rigby, ID: venue TBA	Snake River Sumo Association
FitExpo Sumo Grand Prix	Jan. 24-25, 2009	Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA	Troy Collins
Lone Star Asian Festival	January 31, 2009	San Antonio, TX: venue TBA	Lone Star Sumo Association

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

# Darryl Tackleberry

- by MoMoKo -

