



大相撲新報

SUMO SHIMPO

THE VOICE OF CALIFORNIA SUMO SINCE 1999



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Kotooshu: First Ever “Euroyusho”

Defeats Both Yokozuna On Way to 14-1 Mark

By “Yukikaze” for SUMO SHIMPO

How did it happen? Was it something his stablemaster said or did? Was it a batch of the same secret concoction that jump-started **Musashimaru (67)**’s career into overdrive in the previous millennium?

Whatever it was... it fired new life into ozeki #2-West KOTOOSHU (BUL) as the sport’s first “Eurozeki” destroyed his most-recent kadoban by slamming out a 12-bout rensho that included wins over both yokozuna-East ASASHORYU and yokozuna-West HAKUHO (both MGL). Maegashira #2-East AMINISHIKI managed to push the “Sofia Skyscraper” over the tawara on day 13; but OSHU dispatched his last two opponents in decisive fashion to finish at 14-1. With this effort, he becomes the first European rikishi to hold the Emperor’s Cup in triumph. He also makes himself the big story for the upcoming Nagoya Basho: can he win again to become the sport’s first “Eurokozuna”?

Both SHORYU and HAKUHO were at 10-1 going into their respective matches with the “Bulgarian Bomb-Blast”. “The Express” had reached a milestone on day 9: his victory over sekiwake-East AMA (MGL) was his 500th Makunouchi shiroboshi. After falling to OSHU he lost to ozeki #2-East CHIYOTAIKAI and #1-West KAIO, before besting #1-East KOTOMITSUKI on day 14. “Sleeping Thunder” was taken down by MITSUKI, but knocked off KAIO for the edge going into the last torikumi on senshuraku. SHORYU prevailed by hikiotoshi in a match marked by chippy play between the two grand champions, as they finished tied at 11-4. (See related article in this publication.)

KOTOOSHU’s effort was the obvious highlight of the basho. For the other ozeki, it was another “same ol’, same ol’” serving of bare-

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“Yobidashi For a Day” or Adventures in Dohyo Building

By “Yukikaze” for SUMO SHIMPO

It was an opportunity I would probably only have once in my lifetime. There would be some concrete benefits, but the greatest rewards would be intangible... and for someone as passionate about ozumo as myself, priceless. There would be a price to pay: I would have to take UPTO (unpaid time off) from my contract position at Thales Avionics in Irvine. But the lovely and gracious Lorinda (bless her heart) understood completely and strongly encouraged me.

Wednesday, June 4, 2008; approximately 8:00AM. It was overcast in Los Angeles. As previously instructed, I maneuvered my green Honda CR-V into the VIP parking lot at the Memorial Sports Arena at Exposition Park. Once parked, I placed my cooler and utility bag on a small luggage cart and walked down the sloped accessway to the Arena’s base floor level. It was time for me to lend my hand to the building of a dohyo (raised sumo ring).

As a venue, the Sports Arena is on a gentle but irreversible downslide. It was here in 1960 that John F. Kennedy accepted the Democratic Party’s nomination for President. It hosted the Lakers when they first came to LA, and later was home to the NHL’s Kings. Circuses, ice shows and musicians also made it a regular stop. But when the Forum was built in Inglewood in the early ‘70s, the Lake Show and the Kings moved there along with most of the other business (most of which has since moved again, to the new Staples

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ALMOST DONE... A yobidashi paints the shikkiri-sen on the surface of the dohyo built for the 2008 Grand Sumo exhibition at the Memorial Sports Arena in Los Angeles. (Photo: “Yukikaze”) (More photos: page 7)

KOTOOSHU (from front page)

minimum performance and another demotion threat. After standing at 3-2 after day 5, TAIKAI nosedived into six straight losses and ended up at 5-10 (kadoban again). MITSUKI had two wins after day 2. From that point on he alternated wins and losses (except days 11 and 12, where he lost twice in a row). It took a senshuraku win over KAIO to give him his poor 8-7. Meanwhile, the “Human Juicer” had actually managed a fair effort, standing solid at 8-5 after day 13 with a win over SHORYU. But he could not finish it out against HAKUHO and MITSUKI, so he was left holding yet another 8-7. This gives him 739 top-division wins for his career, just seven short of **Taiho (48)**’s mark.

As happened last basho, three of the four lower sanyaku sumotori will hold their positions. AMA was never in any real danger of make-koshi: four straight wins (including a win over HAKUHO) had the smallest man in the top division sitting pretty at 9-4 after day 13. He couldn’t quite close the deal, however: two losses ended his tournament with a 9-6 and the Gino-Sho. Sekiwake-West KOTOSHOGIKU got rough treatment from his joi-jin brethren, only winning two matches from the members of that crew. It took a win on senshuraku to give him his kachi and keep him in place for July. Komusubi-East KISENOSATO started out well, with a shonichi win over SHORYU and a 5-1 mark after day 6. Batting .500 over the next nine days netted him a respectable 10-5 and a share of the Kanto-Sho. Komusubi-West AASEKIRYU (MGL) did not have to fight stablemate SHORYU. Which was just as well: after starting 3-1 he proceeded to lose two torikumi for every one he won. With a 6-9 posting, it looks as if the “Red Dragon” will be returning to the hiramaku for at least two months.

#5-West TOYONOSHIMA copped top maegashira honors with an 11-4 performance coupled with a share of the Kanto-Sho. Other notable efforts from the hiramaku ranks:

AMINISHIKI (10-5) (Shukun-Sho)

#6-East FUTENO (9-6)

#6-West HOKUTORIKI (10-5)

#8-East TOCHINONADA (9-6)

#10-West WAKANOSATO (10-5)

#11-West HOMASHO (9-6)

#13-West TAMANOSHIMA (9-6)

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)

YOBIDASHI (from front page)

Center in the Downtown Triangle). For the last few years the venue’s only tenant was the nearby University of Southern California, which used it for men’s and women’s basketball. When the on-campus Galen Center was completed, that went away also. In 2007, the California Sumo Association was able to rent the place for that year’s US Sumo Open. The resulting competition was judged by this writer, to be the best tournament the CSA had ever put on. As an outgrowth of that success, the Nihon Sumo Kyokai decided to come to the Sports Arena for a koen, or demonstration held outside Japan, in June 2008.

I wasn’t the only local sumo person lending time and effort. United States Sumo Federation President and Trustee, Troy Collins, was there to help. So were USSF Treasurer and Trustee Brian Condon, and Golden State Sumo president Jeff Riddle. (I am the current USSF Secretary, so a quorum of the Executive Board was present.) “Joe” and “Mark” were also on hand. CSA president Andrew Freund made the arrangements.

This day we would be working with a group of the yobidashi, the NSK “craft guild” that not only builds the dohyo but plays drums, announces matches, bangs wooden clappers, and performs other myriad tasks that support the traditional sport of sumo. Yesterday large amounts of clay borrowed from the infield at Dodger Stadium had been brought down to the arena floor for building. The yobidashi (along with other sumo-crazed volunteers like myself) had assembled a rough but properly-shaped mound (page 7, photo 1). (In Japan, river clay is used: it takes a yobidashi about 10 years to learn how to find and select it.) The first order of business was sculpting and tamping the sides and top. The removed overburden was to be gathered, shoveled into wheelbarrows, and moved to a Gradall which would take it back up the ramp to the pile in the VIP lot. We locals were set to this task.

When the dohyo had been sufficiently pounded and firmed up with bokken (wooden staves) and tampers (one-hand, two-hand and four-hand models, all wooden), it was time to bring in the tawara (“straw bales”). While we carried them in and stacked them, the yobidashi quickly marked out the dohyo center with templates and a length of rope. Within moments a circle, 15 feet in diameter, had been scribed on the well-packed surface. Special digging tools developed over many years of trial and experience opened a channel for the tawara to be laid inside, in such a manner that about 2” sat raised above the surface. This gives a clear indication of the ring boundary to the sumotori who is (correctly) sliding his feet when he moves. It also serves as a solid anchor point where a sumotori being pushed to the edge may set a foot to brace himself. To make sure the tawara don’t shift under that stress, the yobidashi set each one tight against its neighbors in the circle. Small amounts of removed clay were replaced in the trench and thoroughly tamped, layer-by-layer (glass beer and sake bottles are the tool of choice for this operation). Then the four tokudawara (“advantage bales”) were set. These bales, located at the dohyo’s compass points, are offset to the outside to give rainwater a way to drain out. Once the clay had been solidly packed around the bales, the two-hand tampers did their work with a precision that would have made Tiger Woods proud. The arena reverberated with a solid POW!! on each and every swing.

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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 Natsu 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)	89	739	8.30
Musashimaru (Y67)*	73	706	9.67
Takanohana II (Y65)	75	701	9.35

* Non-Japanese

The ASASHORYU Watch

(after Natsu 2008)

Rikishi (Top Rank)	MD Basho	MD Wins	Wins/Basho
ASASHORYU (Y68)	45	503	11.18

JUNIOR DIVISION YUSHO WINNERS (Natsu 2008)

Division	Rank	Shikona	Heya	Rec.
Makushita	12-W	TAMAASUKA	Kataonami	7-0
Sandanme	92-E	OGATA	Kise	7-0
Jonidan	93-E	HOMAREFUJI	Isegahama	7-0
Jonokuchi	9-E	YASHIKI	Kasugano	7-0

Sumo Grand Prix 2008: Big Excitement in Little Tokyo

by “Yukikaze” for SUMO SHIMPO

Amateur sumo had survived the Issei-Nisei generational transition, and had even managed to stay alive in camps such as Manzanar and Heart Mountain. But when the dohyo (sumo ring) in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo was torn down to make way for a police facility, the sport became dormant. Some even said it was extinct, never to rise again.

But it did revive in 1997, and it has grown bigger and stronger every year. And strangely enough: it was an LAPD officer and three-time United States middleweight sumo champion who had the vision, commitment and fighting spirit to bring amateur sumo back to Little Tokyo.

So it was on April 19th that event organizer Troy Collins watched as the dohyo came together inside the Nishi Hongan-ji’s basketball court. There had been a few glitches along the way... the biggest one being the visa foulup that kept the Bulgarian competitors from even getting into the country. But a Japanese team from Nihon University had arrived, along with Mongolians “Bayanna” and “Sogo”. Three-time US heavyweight champion Kelly Gneiting – who had entered and finished the recently-run Los Angeles Marathon at a bodyweight of over 400 pounds – was present and rarin’ to go. So were US lightweight champ Trent Sabo (who had finished just behind Kelly in the marathon) and US openweight champ Dan Kalbfleisch (who had supported their effort). And three special guests were in the building: Sendagawa Oyakata (former sekiwake *Akinoshima*), Tochiazuma Oyakata (former ozeki *Tochiazuma*) and the massive Musashimaru Oyakata (former 67th yokozuna **Musashimaru**). They signed autographs and otherwise did yeoman service as ambassadors of the professional game.

Once the opening ceremonies were completed, the tournament began. Round-robin competitions – where each person fights every other person in their group – were used to seed finals brackets in men’s lightweights, men’s middleweights, men’s heavyweights and women’s openweights. Then came the men’s open, in which anyone who lost a match was eliminated from contention for the gold and silver medals... and anyone who lost two matches was eliminated, period.

When that was done, the finals began. The matches were all well-fought, with torrents of intensity and spirit that seemed to inundate those who had come to watch. When it was all finished, the podium finishers came forward to receive their prizes. Daiki Tomita, the men’s openweight winner, received a special trophy and a bottle of premium sake in addition to his plaque and bag of rice.

This writer was glad he was able to be of service as the event’s scorekeeper, and wholeheartedly supports the idea of a 2009 Sumo Grand Prix at the same historical venue.

RESULTS of the 2008 Sumo Grand Prix (April 19, 2008: Nishi Hongwan-ji, Los Angeles)

Women’s Open:

1. Asano Matsuura (JPN)
2. Yuka Ueta (JPN)
3. Lindsey Hood (USA)
4. Michelle Pike (USA)

Men’s Lightweights:

1. Ginji Kochi (JPN)
2. Trent Sabo (USA)
3. “Sogo” (MGL)
4. Art Morrow (USA)

Men’s Middleweights:

1. Kenta Obama (JPN)
2. Katsuto Wauke (JPN)
3. Robert Ashworth (USA)
4. Packy Bannevans (USA)

Men’s Heavyweights:

1. “Bayanna” (MGL)
2. Kelly Gneiting (USA)
3. Dan Kalbfleisch (USA)
4. Siosifa Isamau (USA)

Also competing: Americus Abesamis (USA), Marcus Barber (USA), Tedo Rtveliashvili (GEO), Dirk Sommers (USA), Daiki Tomita (JPN)

Men’s Open:

1. Daiki Tomita (JPN)
2. Ginji Kochi (JPN)
3. Tedo Rtveliashvili (GEO)
4. Dan Kalbfleisch (USA)

Also competing: Americus Abesamis (USA), “Bayanna” (MGL), Packy Bannevans (USA), Marcus Barber (USA), Kelly Gneiting (USA), Siosifa Isamau (USA), Trent Sabo (USA)



Charlottesville: Ronald McDonald House

Special Report by Elizabeth Crooks, Attendee

Kate hands me the invitation and says with all the earnestness that a 15-year-old girl can muster, "We have to go to this, Mommy! It's sumo. You love sumo!" The invitation is for a black tie event featuring USSF Sumo demonstrations to support the Charlottesville, VA, Ronald McDonald House. I look over at my daughter and begin the mental calculations. Black tie means talking me into buying her a new dress, new shoes, and probably a visit to the salon. Not to mention the \$250 a plate donation.

"C'mon, Mom. It's SUMO!" she insists. "It's expensive." I reply. "I'll wear my dress from Christmas." She counters. "We have to go!"

Japanese television plays on the screen above our table at UVa's John Paul Jones Arena. I glance down at the sumo sports card I received upon my arrival. I am expected to cheer for the wrestler on the card. I review his stats. Weighing in at an impressive 400+ pounds, Kelly Gneiting's photo shows a man with an intense look on his face. I've seen that competitive expression before on other athletes' faces. It is obvious that he is a winner. The card says he is the three times and current US heavyweight champion. Yep. Definitely a winner. I look over at Kate in her new dress (yes, mom is a soft touch) and smile. A few moments later, best selling author John Grisham enters the dohyo to begin the charity auction. The first item up for bid is the opportunity to wrestle with one of the USSF sumo champions. Two tuxedoed men bid aggressively against one another. John Grisham looks out into the audience and asks, "Is there a woman who wants to do this?" My hand flies up. A woman in the dohyo! Unheard of in Japan! But apparently those rules don't apply in the US. "Sold!" says Grisham as he points to me.

Kate stares at me horrified. "Do you lie awake at night thinking of ways to embarrass me?" she asks.

The event organizers quickly grasp that there will be some modesty concerns when a woman in a silk dress and pearls dons a mawashi in public. A pair of oversized shorts and a t shirt are given to me courtesy of UVa's basketball coach. The t shirt is orange. Redheads don't wear orange. Or at least this redhead doesn't. So I eschew the t shirt and decide to wrestle in my dress with the shorts underneath. That settled, it is time to meet my opponent.

"We thought you would want to wrestle with Trent Sabo," the hostess tells me as my gaze moves to the handsome young man standing amid the other wrestlers. "He's closer to your size and less intimidating." Less intimidating! Is she out of her mind? What could be more intimidating for a middle aged woman than to look bigger than a sumo wrestler? Even if I shifted my control top pantyhose into overdrive and touched up my makeup, I would still look bigger and older than Mr. Sabo. This would never do! "No," I tell her smiling. "I want to wrestle with Kelly Gneiting. He's the one on the card I was given." Kelly is agreeable. "Do you want to win?" he asks.

The audience laughs and claps as I shimmy up my dress and have the mawashi placed over the shorts. Then Kelly and I squat down to perform the opening ritual (Thank you, Doug ____, for teaching it to me!) I look up and there it is, the same intense expression on Kelly's face that is captured on his card. In that moment the audience fades from my awareness and if I were a smarter person I would be afraid (see photo 4 – Ed.). Instead I smile. In our first match I bounce off Kelly and onto the mat. Hey! That's not winning! That's losing! The second match, however, goes my way. There is no third match. That will wait for another time.

(continued page 6)

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 NATIONALS	June 28, 2008	LAPD Academy Gymnasium, Los Angeles, CA	United States Sumo Federation
Highlander Open	August 2, 2008	Gallup Flea Market, Gallup, NM	Indian Capital Sumo Association
California Open Sumo Championships	August 16, 2008	"Dohyo of Dreams", Garden Grove, CA	Southern California Sumo Kyokai/ California Sumo Association
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.

Tochinoshin: Rising Euro Sumo Star

Profile by “Tonkatsu” for SUMO SHIMPO

The newest European in the sekitori ranks, and the second from the Republic of Georgia, is TOCHINOSHIN (civilian name: Levan Gorgadze). Fighting for Kasugano Beya, it only took eleven basho for him to make sekitori, for Hatsu Basho 2008. He won the Juryo championship two months later in Osaka to earn promotion to the Makunouchi for the Natsu Basho, where he went 7-8 for the first make-koshi of his young career.

We have been waiting for a photo of him in his keshomawashi (which is located on page 5 – Ed.) before doing this profile. Unfortunately, that means you don’t get to see the most notable part of his physique, which is what the announcers on NHK refer to as his “massive thighs.” His keshomawashi features the flag of the Republic of Georgia, along with a bear in the lower-right-hand corner. We are told that the latter is there just because he likes bears. A bear is certainly a good symbol for sumo because they usually fight standing up on their hind legs.

Interestingly, unlike most Eastern European sumotori, TOCHINOSHIN has no background in freestyle or Greco-Roman wrestling. Instead, he took up judo at age twelve and sambo a few years later. He won a European junior judo championship prior to taking up sumo. He placed second in the Heavyweight division at the Junior World Sumo Championships in 2005.

Born on October 13, 1987, TOCHINOSHIN stands 191cm tall and weighs 149kg. His career record to date is 82-32-1. His favorite grip/technique are migi-yotsu/uwatenage. However, in twenty-eight wins over six basho fourteen were by yorikiri, four by oshidashi, and three by uwatenage.



YOBIDASHI (from page 2)

When “Tonkatsu” and I had done the latest refurbishment of the “Dohyo of Dreams” in Garden Grove, I took a photo of him holding one of the new synthetic-cloth tawara as if it were a prize fish. I wanted my own triumphant moment, just me and a tawara... and I got one (photo 2).

The “DoD” only has the actual ring area bounded by tawara. A real dohyo’s entire topside is bounded by bales except in the corners (where single tawara are set diagonally, giving the corners a chamfered look). So there was a lot more marking... and digging... and emplacing... and filling... and tamping... and more filling... and more tamping to get the edges nice and pretty. And there was more clay to shovel up and move to the Gradall.

From the time sumo originally began as chikara kurabe (“test of strength”) through the Ashikaga and Tokugawa shogunate periods, the dohyo had been at ground level. Then someone proposed placing the ring on a raised mound of clay, to give the spectators a better view of the action. The height of the dohyo as currently constituted is about 2 feet above the floor. This presents a bit of a problem for anyone wanting/needing to get on it (although one of the yobidashi – shades of Superman! – was consistently able to go from the floor to the surface in a single bound). So the next operation was to emplace the fumidawara in the sides of the dohyo to serve as steps. There are ten of these in all: three on the East, West and North sides; one in the center of the South side. Special care is paid to this operation: these steps must bear a sumotori’s entire weight as he ascends or descends. (The acid test, without a doubt, would have been when KONISHIKI was an active competitor – at a peak weight of over 640 pounds.) The locations were drawn out with templates, and the digging and emplacing began. I found myself moving unused tools out of the way, placing soon-to-be-needed tools within easy reach – and moving more clay into the wheelbarrows for disposal.

Lunch (a bento box and canned tea) was provided for us. Later one of the yobidashi used a strong-smelling white paint to mark the two shikkiri-sen (starting lines) directly on the clay surface. Finally, the sides were sprayed with water and smoothed out. When we were finished for the day, this was how it appeared (photo 3).

My day’s labors netted me two floor-level tickets to the Saturday show (\$250.00 each), six concourse-level tickets, also for Saturday (\$50.00 each) and a 24-can ‘suitcase’ of Sapporo Beer. I gave the six \$50.00 tickets to the local USO, and the beer to two of my Thales colleagues.

CHARLOTTESVILLE (from page 5)

Kelly and I walk out of the dohyo tied at 1-1 (photo 5). “Never do that again,” Kate implores me. “That was beyond humiliating!” She says this as she sends the video clip to all her friends. I tell her that if she is genuinely embarrassed by me she wouldn’t want a soul to know. I then tell her that the day will come when I enter the dohyo again. “We left it a tie. At some point, we need to have a deciding match,” I say. Kate asks if Mr. Gneiting agrees to that. “Yes,” I tell her. “But if he were a smarter person, he’d be afraid.”

PHOTOS related to articles in this newsletter



1. The dohyo before we went to work on Wednesday.



2. Me – and my tawara moment.



3. The dohyo at the end of the day.



4. Charlottesville: “Not smart enough to be afraid...”



5. Charlottesville: “Walking off tied 1-1...”

DARRYL TACKLEBERRY

BY MOMOKO

The news of new recruits for Kawiniskiki Bega was and still is a big deal out here. Inquiring minds wanted to know our feelings. THIS IS WHAT WE SAID IN PUBLIC.....

Tomonoyokata, mainowami and I are all looking forward to our bega's newest members. We're very pleased and hope it'll be an enriching experience for everyone.



THIS IS WHAT WE SAID IN PRIVATE....

This is great; I can work on my degree and not have my laptop smell like onions and kamaboko



Awe! The recruits can scrub the floors and the toilets while I'm free to run the streets... after I get a back massage



Cool! I won't have to do any more laundry. We all can just run wild after morning practice. Something tells me

