



大相撲新報

SUMO SHIMPO

THE VOICE OF CALIFORNIA SUMO SINCE 1999



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Shoryu Re-Asserts Dominance in Nagoya

**Goes 14-1 for Cup #21:
Kaio Wins Number 700**

**California Open
Sumo Championships**

by “Yukikaze” for SUMO SHIMPO

In the previous issue of this publication, it was reported that then-maegashira #8-East KYOKUTENHO had been suspended for the Natsu Bashi. He also had his salary cut by 30% for three months (his stablemaster, Oshima Oyakata, had his wallet similarly lightened). Sure enough, the banzuke for the Nagoya festivities listed him at Juryo #3-West. Another curiosity was HAKUHO (MGL) being listed on the West side of the ranking sheet for his shin-yokozuna debut despite going zensho over ASASHORYU (MGL), who had posted a mediocre 10-5 mark.

The memory of what had happened may have played on SHORYU’s mind, as he found himself victimized by AMINISHIKI for the second consecutive basho. This time it happened on shonichi, and AMI was in the komusubi-West slot (no kinboshi). Meanwhile, HAKUHO won his first shiroboshi as a yokozuna over komusubi-East TOKITENKU (MGL). But the senior yokozuna did not falter, instead staying in HAKUHO’s draft until the new grand champion was taken down by sekiwake-East KOTOMITSUKI. This gave the former college champion the yusho lead for one day, until SHORYU rolled him with an uwatenage. The three-way race lasted until day 13, when “Sleeping Thunder” was cut down by ozeki #2-East KOTOOSHU (BUL) and #1-West CHIYOTAIKAI on successive days to fall out of reach. Meanwhile the “Mongolian Express” knocked off MITSUKI, took down the two ozeki still in the contest (#1-East KAIO having withdrawn on day 13) and polished off his fellow Mongolian yokozuna on senshuraku for a 14-1 outing and his 21st Emperor’s Cup, just one behind **Takanohana (65)**. HAKUHO finished at 11-4, which is acceptable yokozuna performance.

(continued page 2)

THIS AIN’T DANCING WITH THE STARS, GUYS...

Steven Barbosa (left) swoops past Kurt Rightmyer at the conclusion of an Openweight match at the 2007 California Open. Barbosa won the bronze in the Heavyweight division; Rightmyer won the Masters’ Light/Middle competition and placed second in the Middleweights. (Photo: “Yukikaze”)

by “Tonkatsu” for SUMO SHIMPO

It was almost a “Family Day” at the 2007 California Open Sumo Championships at the Hughes Community Center in Claremont, California. We had the father/daughter/son team of Doug, Shannon and Sawyer Cochran, the father/daughter team of Art and Judy Morrow, and the mother/son team of Misty and Damien DeBruin. We also had cousins Shane and Joshua Curtis, and brother/sister Yousef and Zehna Elissa. We would have had the father/son team of Mike and Steven Simpson on board if Mike hadn’t been hurt in practice the previous week. You could say that sumo promotes family togetherness.

The day’s action started with Masters’ and little kids’ action. Doug “Orinotora” Cochran functioned as the referee until Harry “Tonkatsu” Dudrow finished his matches. Which didn’t take long this year: Jim “Yukikaze” Lowerre twice pushed “Tonkatsu” over the tawara for the Masters’ heavyweight crown. “Tonkatsu” was roundly booed several times for committing such fundamental breaches of sumo etiquette as walking in front of judge Troy Collins. Kurt “Tachikaze” Rightmyer won two hard-fought bouts over Art Morrow to take the Masters’ light/middle competition.

(continued page 4)



ASASHORYU (from front page)

He probably deserved better, but sanyaku veteran and current maegashira #2-West WAKANOSATO unwittingly became the answer to the trivia question, "Who did KAIO defeat for his 700th Makunouchi Division victory?" The day 4 shiroboshi made Tomozuna's top deshi the first rikishi to reach this historic milestone without the symbolic support of a tsuna and gohei around his waist. He pushed past **Takanohana (65)** into the 5th position on the list, but then withdrew on day 13 with an 8-5-2 mark and 705 top-division career victories, one shy of **Musashimaru (67)**'s mark. With his 35th birthday arriving on July 24, he has shown he still has enough power to succeed at this level; but how long will the boiler continue to make steam? TAIKAI was also breaking new ground in the record books. This tournament marked his 51st consecutive appearance at sumo's second rank, surpassing *Wakanohana I's* record of 50 (it had to be bittersweet for Kokonoe Oyakata that his top deshi had been on the second rung of the ladder for this long without being able to push through to the pinnacle). For a while it looked as if TAIKAI was going to slip out of that slot: after day 7 he was 3-4. But he then won four straight, defeated HAKUHO on day 14 for his kachi, and finished at 9-6. "Sofia Skyscraper" OSHU was 5-4 after day 9, but notched four wins (including HAKUHO) in the last six days to put another 9-6 on the board. For the second consecutive basho, no ozeki are vulnerable to demotion.

MITSUKI was still in the hunt for the Tenno-Hai going into senshuraku's festivities, but defeat at the hands of maegashira #6-West KISENOSATO left him in the jun-yusho position at 13-2. This gives him a 35-10 mark over the past three tournaments, which should almost certainly give him promotion to ozeki and a ride on his stablemates' shoulders. He was also awarded the Gino-Sho (Technique Prize) and a share of the Kanto-Sho (Fighting Spirit Prize). With MITSUKI fleeting up, the lower sanyaku will see a lot of turnover. Sekiwake-West AMA (MGL) got pushed around quite frequently and was makekoshi after day 11. The smallest sumotori in the Makunouchi (124 kg / 273 lbs) then managed to win his last four to finish 7-8, leaving him with a fighting chance to remain among the joi-jin. TOKITENKU didn't fare any better: six losses in the first 8 days eventually led to a 7-8 record for him as well. AMINISHIKI lost 5 of the seven matches he fought after his win over SHORYU, but five consecutive wins gave him the 8 he needed to not only (probably) move all the way up to the sekiwake-East slot, but to win the Shukun-Sho (Outstanding Performance Prize) for the second tournament in a row.

The race for top maegashira honors ended in an 11-4 tie between KISENOSATO and #14-West TOYOHIBIKI (who shared the Kanto-Sho with MITSUKI). Other honorably-mentioned hiramaku efforts:

#6-East HOMASHO (9-6)
#8-East KAKURYU (MGL) (9-6)
#10-East TOCHINONADA (10-5)
#11-West HOKUTORIKI (10-5)
#15-East KAIHO (10-5)

In Juryo: #1-East IWAKIYAMA, KYOKUTENHO and #5-West GOEIDO all finished regulation tied at 12-3. IWAKI took the division title in a playoff, but all three will likely have places on the top row of the banzuke for Aki 2007. Other worthy efforts from professional sumo's Triple-A ranks:

#9-West WAKAKIRIN (10-5)
#12-East KORYU (MGL) (9-6)
#14-West CHIYOHAKUHO (9-6)

Asashoryu Suspended From Next Two Grand Tournaments

Kyodo News (The Japan Times: Thursday, Aug. 2, 2007)

The Japan Sumo Association took the surprising measure Wednesday of suspending Mongolian grand champion Asashoryu from the next two grand sumo tournaments as punishment for playing in a soccer charity event in his home country after opting to sit out the summer regional tour citing injuries.

It is the first time in the history of the sport that a yokozuna has been suspended or received a salary cut.

Asashoryu, whose real name is Dolgorsuren Dagvadorj, will be barred from the autumn meet in September and the Kyushu meet in November and has also been slapped with a 30 percent salary cut for four months. His stable elder Takasago has also been hit with a four-month, 30-percent salary cut.

"This is an appropriate punishment," said JSA chairman Kitanoumi. "It is important that he understand that many people are always watching the behavior of a yokozuna. Asashoryu might be dejected by this, but I want him to refocus and show us his imposing figure (once again)."

The JSA decided the measure at an emergency meeting among sumo officials held at Tokyo's Ryogoku Kokugikan. It came as a surprise as the JSA had hinted a day earlier at a one-tournament suspension for Asashoryu, who many believe feigned his injuries to avoid taking part in the Aug. 3-20 regional tour.

"I take this punishment very seriously. I will treat my injuries and get prepared for the winter regional tour and the New Year tournament in January," Asashoryu said.

Asashoryu played in a charity soccer event on July 25, despite having had submitted a medical report earlier listing injuries, including a fractured lower back and nerve and ligament damage in his left elbow, requiring at least six weeks of recuperation.

The 26-year-old was shown on Japanese television gleefully running around on a soccer field along with former Japan midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata in the charity event. In one scene, Asashoryu makes a twisting maneuver with his back while shooting at the goal.

Asashoryu apparently participated in the event at the behest of the Mongolian government.

Current Holders of USSF Dan Rank

Rank (Degree)	Name (Club)
Nidan (2nd)	Hiroshi Matsuzaki (SCSK), Tom Zabel (LSSA), 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)

The 700-Win Club

(updated after Nagoya 2007)

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
Musashimaru (Y67)*	73	706	9.67
KAIO (O)	84	705	8.39
Takanohana (Y65)	71	701	9.87

* Non-Japanese

The ASASHORYU Watch

(updated after Nagoya 2007)

Rikishi (Top Rank)	MD Basho	MD Wins	Wins/Basho
ASASHORYU (Y68)	40	466	11.65

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

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

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No rose could ever rue
The exquisite embroidery
Of sparkling drops of dew.

"Riumin"

Things got serious once “Tonkatsu” changed into his black bow tie and whites. Sawyer Cochran came back from a first-match loss to win the Real Little Boys division. Mikayla Platt won the Real Little Girls title, while Judy Morrow prevailed in a well-fought Girls competition. Shane Curtis set the pace in the Boys division, only to place second to Steven Simpson in Big Boys action. Steven Welling won the gold in Junior Middleweights.

Michelle Pike was the only member of the Oceanside Sumo Kyokai to appear for action. She fought and won two spirited matches with rookie Misty DeBruin to win the women’s open title. Old age and treachery prevailed over youth and strength, as Art Morrow won the men’s lightweight gold over tough teens Steve Welling (silver) and Zach Clark (bronze). The middleweight division saw Doug Cochran come back from a first-match loss to Kurt Rightmyer to win a well-deserved state championship. Kurt finished second; Robert Ashworth took the bronze.

“Dominator” Dan Kalbfleisch will likely be a middleweight when the Nationals arrive on August 18. For this competition he faced three rookie heavyweights, two of whom enjoyed significant size and weight advantages. But the 2006 California Amateur Sumotori of the Year’s might and skill were displayed for all to see, as he went 3-0 to win the division. Tupou Bo Tolo finished second and Steven Barbosa third. He followed that up by sweeping through the seven-man Open field for his second gold medal of the day. Former Texas A&M O-lineman Dirkson Sommers picked up the silver; Tupou Bo Tolo got the bronze and Kurt Rightmyer finished fourth. (Full tournament results are located elsewhere in this issue.)

Special thank to Sensei Gary Goltz, Ashton Farah and Glenn Crosby for announcing and running the scoring table. Troy Collins and the esteemed Matsuzaki-san served as judges. They had an easy day, as there were no calls that required a mono-ii.

“Yukikaze” contributed to this report.

“Legendary” Yokozuna (10+ Yusho)

(updated after Nagoya 2007)

YOKOZUNA	Heya	Yusho	Zensho
Taiho	Nishonoseki	32	8
Chiyonofuji	Kokonoe	31	7
Kitanoumi	Mihogaseki	24	7
Takanohana	Futagoyama	22	4
ASASHORYU	Takasago	21	5
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

Special Report to SUMO SHIMPO

The Lone Star Sumo Shootout was more of a “clash of the big boys” than just a sumo competition. There were six wrestlers that competed, five of them were in the heavyweight division. Current U.S. Heavyweight Champion, Kelly Gneiting made the trip out to Texas, along with the “California King” Dan Kalbfleisch. The fur’ners ended up stealing the show, taking the top two honors.

The other four rikishi were local boys from around Texas. Bart Harris moseyed in from the Houston area. Tom Zabel and two of his students, Jeremy Bowie and Alex Videgar, all from San Antonio, completed the card. Since all but one sumotori weighed-in as heavyweights, a round robin format was utilized in an open division. Alex weighed-in as a lightweight and competed well against his heavier opponents.

Kelly went undefeated (6-0) and took the gold, while Dan had only one loss (5-1) to take the silver medal home. Tom finished 4-2 but deferred his third place medal to Alex who had a superb first tournament and finished 3-3. Alex also was voted the Kanto-Sho (Fighting Spirit) Prize by the fans in attendance for his tenacity against the “big boys”. Comparisons were made and comments like, “Trent better be ready for the Texas boy at Nationals”, when referring to Alex’s first competition.

After the medal round the juniors fought against each other. Top honors were given to Jeremy Smith from San Antonio, while the silver and bronze went to the Harris boys, Jason and Kyle from Houston.

The seniors decided to wrestle again to get a few more matches in before calling it a day. During the second round robin and the “pick-up” bouts afterwards, Kelly and Dan imparted some of their sumo knowledge to the Texas bunch. We would like to extend our appreciation to both of them for making the long trip and for taking the time to share their expertise with us. It is always good to get a few more matches in and gain additional experience against a variety of rikishi so you can hone your own skills. Kelly and Dan helped raise our level of competition and we are extremely grateful.

JUNIOR DIVISION YUSHO WINNERS (Nagoya 2007)

Division	Rank	Shikona	Heya	Rec.
Makushita	19-E	ISOBE	Irumagawa	7-0
Sandanme	92-E	MINAMI	Onoe	7-0
Jonidan	57-E	TOSAYUTAKA	Tokitsukaze	7-0
Jonokuchi	16-E	TOKITSUKASA	Irumagawa	7-0

The Photo Page: 2007 California Open (podium shots by "Yukikaze")





2007 California Open Sumo Championships (Hughes Community Center, Claremont, CA) - Results

Real Little Boys: 1. Sawyer Cochran (GSS) 2. Drago Vasile (Goltz) 3. Elias Bustamante (Goltz) 4. Yousef Elissa (Goltz)	Boys: 1. Shane Curtis (Goltz) 2. Oubadal Alwan (Goltz) 3. Joshua Curtis (Goltz) 4. Damien DeBruin (GSS)	Girls: 1. Judy Morrow (SCSK) 2. Shannon Cochran (GSS) 3. Aeris Stewart (Goltz)
Real Little Girls: 1. Mikayla Platt (Goltz) 2. Zehna Elissa (Goltz)	Big Boys: 1. Steven Simpson (SCSK) 2. Shane Curtis (Goltz)	Junior Middleweights: 1. Steven Welling (Goltz) 2. Zach Clark (SCSK) 3. Steven Simpson (SCSK)
Masters' Light/Middle: 1. Kurt Rightmyer (SCSK) 2. Art Morrow (SCSK)	Masters' Heavy: 1. Jim Lowerre (SCSK) 2. Harry Dudrow (SCSK)	Women's Open: 1. Michelle Pike (OSK) 2. Misty DeBruin (GSS)
Men's Lightweight: 1. Art Morrow (SCSK) 2. Steven Welling (Goltz) 3. Zach Clark (SCSK)	Men's Middleweight: 1. Doug Cochran (GSS) 2. Kurt Rightmyer (SCSK) 3. Robert Ashworth (unattached) 4. Bradley Sutton (unattached)	Men's Heavyweight: 1. Dan Kalbfleisch (CSA) 2. Tupou Bo Tolo (SCSK) 3. Steven Barbosa (SCSK) 4. Dirkson Sommers (GSS)
	Men's Open: 1. Dan Kalbfleisch (CSA) 2. Dirkson Sommers (GSS) 3. Tupou Bo Tolo (SCSK) 4. Kurt Rightmyer (SCSK)	

United States Sumo Calendar for 2007

CLASSES/TRAINING SESSIONS

SESSION	DAY	START	END	FEE	LOCATION	STAGING ORGANIZATION
Sumo 101	SA	ongoing	ongoing	Yes	Hughes Community Center Claremont, CA	Claremont Recreation/ Southern California Sumo Kyokai
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
2007 US NATIONALS	August 18, 2007	New Otani Hotel, Los Angeles, CA	United States Sumo Federation
SHUUBUN 2007	Sept. 22, 2007	"Dohyo of Dreams", Garden Grove, CA	Southern California Sumo Kyokai
2007 Georgia Sumo Open	Sept. 29, 2007	TBA	Georgia Sumo Association
8th Junior World Champs.	Nov. 17, 2007	Chiang Mai, Thailand: venue TBA	International Sumo Federation
6th Women's World Champs.	Nov. 18, 2007	Chiang Mai, Thailand: venue TBA	International Sumo Federation
15th World Championships	Nov. 18, 2007	Chiang Mai, Thailand: venue TBA	International Sumo Federation

TBA = To Be Announced

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

“We Told You So”

From the SUMO SHIMPO Archives

With the promotion of KOTOMITSUKI to ozeki, the staff of this august publication reaches back into the archives to bring out what we said then about the former college champion...

Kotomitsuki: A Face To Watch

by "Tonkatsu" for SUMO SHIMPO

Most of the readers of SUMO SHIMPO are familiar with the rapid rise of MIYABIYAMA (civilian name: Masato Takeuchi) starting with his professional debut in 1998 which occurred shortly after his touring visit to Southern California. At the All-Japan championship the previous year he was a semi-finalist.

But the champion of that tournament was an owl-faced young man with a flat-top haircut named Keiji Tamiya, who beat current World Heavyweight Champion Osani. He waited a little longer to turn pro than MIYABIYAMA, not making his debut with Sadogatake Beya until 1999. He didn't rise through the lower ranks quite as fast as the "Musashigawa Monster" but was promoted to Juryo for the 1999 Kyushu Basho. He then went 33-12 in his first three tournaments as a sekitori to earn promotion to the top division in the same basho that MUSOYAMA was listed at ozeki. Unfortunately, like MUSOYAMA, he missed his debut due to injury and dropped back to the Juryo as a result. He went 9-6 in July, then went 14-1 to win the Juryo yusho at the Aki Basho and earn promotion back inside the curtain.

Barring further injuries, we look for big things from KOTOMITSUKI in years to come.



USSF Website Now Up and Running

by "Yukikaze" for SUMO SHIMPO

<http://www.ussumofederation.org>

After much work (and some inevitable tweaking), the United States Sumo Federation now has a Web presence.

At this site it will be possible to do the following:

- Contact the Trustees, the Executive Committee, and the Appointed Officers of the USSF
- View a schedule of USSF-sanctioned sumo tournaments
- Download forms for sanction application and memberships
- Contact USSF-registered sumo clubs
- View the lists of USSF Life Members and dan rank holders
- And more

Please take the time to pay a visit. If you have any questions or constructive comments, E-mail them this writer (who is functioning as the acting Webmaster).

Results – Idahoan Sumo Open

(July 14 2007, Boise State University, Boise, ID)

Middleweights
1. Trent Sabo (OSK)
2. Devon Kobashikawa (OSK)
3. Matt Anderson (SRSA)
Heavyweights
1. Kelly Gneiting (SRSA)
2. Dan Kalbfleisch (CSA)
3. Scott Edwards (SRSA)
Openweights
1. Dan Kalbfleisch (CSA)
2. Kelly Gneiting (SRSA)
3. Doug Cochran (GSS)

Below, the poppies red;
And thriving o'er the summer sky
The white clouds overhead.

"Kwanrai"