

Tochiazuma Danpatsu-Shiki Poster

by Mark Buckton

Here at SFM we have long focused on bringing you quality pieces on a bimonthly basis to coincide with the release of the banzuke.

Others, with their fingers on the daily pulse are perhaps better positioned to work in the 'daily' news room and are much appreciated by one and all, ourselves included, in the sumo following legions around the world.

However, as SFM becomes increasingly known in media circles here in Japan and around the world, we are increasingly being 'fed' nuggets that won't appear on the daily news sites for the simple reason that even the Japanese media won't be given or even pick up on some stories surrounding sumo.

Those 'nuggets' will now be coming

your way.

Sounds grand but it isn't really and we are only aiming to provide a secondary news source for the less urgent events in and around sumo that may provide interesting reading / viewing and could act as the mortar between the bricks of info piled together on such legendary online sites as Sumo Forum and the Sumo Mailing List.

To that end, bookmark and check back from time to time if you so wish? Some things carried here may be announced on SF / SML if time permits - some perhaps not.

When Tochiazuma Daisuke announced he was retiring from active sumo, the sport's only real Japanese 'yokozuna hope' in the

past four or five years gave up the promotion ghost.

In what is the literal end of an era, as has already been announced, the Tokyo born ozeki will have his danpatsu 'mage-cutting' ceremony early next year - after the Hatsu Basho - at the Ryogoku Kokugikan in Tokyo.

As much as write-ups and the like carry the state of play career wise, seeing the posters advertising such an event with ticket info and telephone numbers really brings it home that there is now, no turning back.

This is it - the poster at Tamanoi Beya:

