

# University Sumo at Yasukuni Shrine

*by Mark Buckton*

Two days of university sumo action came to an end Sunday afternoon at Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward as Nihon University made a bid to win their 43rd East Japan University Student Sumo League title in the 56 years of its history.

The tournament, held at the controversial shrine more associated with Japan's August 15th capitulation at the end of World War II always leaves visitors feeling just that little bit closer to the land and its culture. Statues commemorating former Japanese military prowess dot the grounds around the entrance to

the dohyo area - itself in the shadow of the main building of one of Japan's more respected universities - and the pomp and ceremony of Japan's right wing enthusiasts is never far away.

This year's event was held under blue skies amidst soaring early autumn temperatures as both Japanese and a smattering of international - predominantly Mongolian - rikishi went head to head in their bid to prove themselves the best of the university bunch at the same time as the majority of Japanese and sumo fans were limiting their focus to events on Days 7 and 8 at

the Ryogoku Kokugikan across town.

Support and planning was provided by some familiar faces on the international amateur sumo scene with an image of IFS President Hidetoshi Tanaka looking up from the programme and the voice of Satomi Ishigaya - Nihon University staffer and Japanese national team lightweight competitor on the women's sumo circuit - providing the commentary and rikishi prompts.

Results to follow on Sumo Forum.

## [Pictures](#)