

Kyushu Henka Summary

by Lon Howard

Maybe I'm getting a little picky but I could only find 26 bouts to nominate for henka voting in Kyushu, just one over the all-time low of 25. One thing NOT going down though, is the spread between our henka leader, Roho, and the rest of the pack. Just like Santa, the Ro ho ho man again showed that "he knows when you are sleeping..." at the tachiai, as he gave three of his Kyushu opponents a henk(a) slip, for another perfect three-bagger – three nominations, three henka, three wins. This boosted his henka percentage to 13.17%, and makes him not only a henka king, but also a superstar. In fact, he's barely four percentage points behind the 17.36 rate of our all-time leader, Kyokushuzan. I thought this mark was unassailable but now I'm wondering. All things considered, Roho's performance may be more impressive, since Kyokushuzan only recorded 121 bouts before he retired a year ago, while Roho is at 205 and counting. Keep in mind that Henka Sightings began in Nagoya 2005.

Besides Roho, only three men recorded more than one henka (two) in Kyushu, and two were in their makuuchi debut - Wakanoho and Wakakirin. The third was Tokitenku, who at least this time didn't disavow he had henka'd. Wakanoho's henka were particularly flashy, as they involved a really big guy leaping high and backwards – clumsy perhaps, but effective, as they led to two quick & easy wins. Wakakirin's day 8 dodge-job against Hakurozan was – I believe – the slowest successful henka in

history. Check out the video (there is one out there) for confirmation. Of the 26 nominations, 18 got the henka nod from the voters, with 14 of the 18 being winners. Since both of these percentages were well above average, it makes me believe that I may well have been a bit picky with the nominations.

As usual, the top vote getter was a bout involving a foreign rikishi, but this time it involved two of them. Not only that but it affected the yusho race too, so maybe that's why 64 voters chimed in when Roho handed Baruto his second loss on day 7 by way of the side door. Of those 64, only one voted to acquit the henka master.

The top ten list of active henka perpetrators has two new members, but only because Jumonji and Tokitsuumi have been removed. Those two were #4 and 5 but Jumonji hasn't been in makuuchi since March, and probably isn't coming back, while Tokitsuumi is now retired, as we all know. The bottom five men have all moved up and shuffled slightly, while Tokitenku and Kyokutenho are now at #9 and 10. Here is the current top ten list, ranked in order of the *percentage of their total bouts in which have henka'd*.

Roho	13.17
Aminishiki	7.11
Hakurozan	6.54
Hokutoriki	5.73
Kotooshu	5.56
Yoshikaze	3.87
Kotomitsuki	3.56
Kaio	3.23
Tokitenku	3.11
Kyokutenho	3.06

The standard reminder: only the bouts that were voted as henka with a majority yes vote are used in the calculations.

Only those with a henka rate of over 5% should be looked at as being overly prone to henka, since the average henka rate for all bouts since the beginning is 2.93%.

Of the major henka men (top five), Kotooshu and Hokutoriki lead the pack in winning percentage in their henka bouts, with 92% and 91%, respectively. The entire breakdown can be seen on the henka database [here](#). The database is completely sortable by anyone on their own computer.

In checking the henka targets for Kyushu, only two men were singled out more than once, those being Tamanoshima and Kotomitsuki, at two each. Being targeted more than once in a basho always brings a sizable increase in the target percentage, and with Tamanoshima, it was enough to boost him to 8th place.

Other than that, the list stayed pretty much the same, with Kaio being the only other new entrant, in the 10th spot. As with the perpetrators, one man has stood head and chest above the crowd for some time, and that is Hokutoriki. He was only hit on once in Kyushu, resulting in a slight decrease in his target percentage, but that's because it's a healthy rate of 9.38%. Miyabiyama trails by a large margin in 2nd place at 5.99%.

Here's the current top ten list,

ranked in order of the *percentage of their total bouts in which they were a henka target*: Again, only the bouts receiving a majority yes vote are used in these calculations:

Hokutoriki	9.38
Miyabiyama	5.99
Kotooshu	5.09
Dejima	4.89
Chiyotaikai	4.78
Kasugao	4.76
Tochinonada	4.62
Tamanoshima	4.55
Roho	4.39
Kaio	4.30

Roho's combined perpetrator and target rate now stands at 17.56%. If this keeps up, he will soon reach the point where he is involved in a henka in 20% of his bouts. That's some fancy dancing! Roho is also the only one on the top ten target list to have lost all of those bouts, but since he has only nine of those, I would still label Hokutoriki as the leading sad sack in this category since he has lost 17 of his 18 targeted bouts. Miyabiyama

and Kotooshu have also both survived just once, with 13 and 11 targeted bouts, respectively.

Now that we're two and a half years into the Henka study, the makeup of the top ten lists of both perpetrators and targets is beginning to show some stability, especially at the top. Hmm... I've just noticed that four of the top five active targets are either current or ex-ozeki, while both yokozuna are far down the list (again, see the [henka database](#) for the complete breakdown).

After having stabilized at around 67% for a while, the overall henka win rate has steadily climbed during this year, and now stands at 72% overall, with 190 wins in the 265 validated henka since the beginning of the study. I wouldn't begin to know why... I'm just here to report the data, not analyze it.

Finally, here is the data from the subcategories. In these subcategories, the win rate is

segmented out, based on the percentage of yes votes a particular match received. With one small anomaly in the 10+ vote area, it continues to show that when the percentage of yes votes for a match increases, so does the likelihood that the perpetrator will win that match. As a reminder, in the 10+ vote area, if a match receives only a single No vote, it's still counted as unanimous.

Yes-No Vote Disparity	Win % Any # Votes	Win % 10+ Votes
2-1	74	80
3-1	76	78
Unanimous	78	91

That's the henka news for Kyushu, and for 2007. Thanks very much for all who have contributed to the effort by taking time out to vote. If there are any suggestions about how to make the process easier, please send them to me at itsulon@wavecable.com. Enjoy the holidays and see you at the Hatsu basho.