

# Haru Henka Summary

by Ben Doolan

Hello once again my henka-watching friends. Haru Basho is now behind us, and once again the usual suspects featured strongly in Henka Sightings.

The basho started slowly, with few nominations and only one henka in the first three days. Then came Day 4 - four nominations and four clear-cut yes votes. The talking point of the day was Aminishiki's expertly performed henka of Hakuho. While many people may think it was despicable, it was sublimely executed and Hakuho was left with no chance of victory and a very annoyed look on his face. It was voted overwhelmingly to be henka, and gave Hakuho an early loss, causing him to trail Asashoryu for most of the basho.

Things settled down after that, with the odd henka here and there before another day of four henka on the 13th day of the basho.

Roho easily maintained his spot on top of the henka rate leader board, despite halving the number of henka that he pulled compared to last basho. His four were enough to keep his henka rate climbing, and it now stands at 16.60% of his bouts. Roho's excessive use of henka seems to continue having a negative effect on his ability to win when using them, as again he only managed to win two of those four henka bouts, leading to another 6-9 makekoshi.

Aminishiki's two henka were enough to keep him in second spot on the henka rate list. Despite

being ranked in juryo for the Haru Basho, Hakurozan was still able to pull a henka on his Day 14 makuuchi visit, and maintain third place on the list. The rest of the top 10 table also stayed the same, with the exception of Kotomitsuki, whose Day 10 henka against Ama was enough to move him into eighth spot.

While Wakanoho still hasn't recorded enough bouts to be considered for the top 10 list, his current henka rate of 12.77% looks almost certain to see him enter the list when he becomes eligible.

Wakanoho's Day 13 bout vs Goeido was another interesting bout during the basho, as it was voted a double henka, with both Wakanoho and Goeido judged to have committed. Wakanoho recovered faster and won the bout. In fact, Goeido was voted to have performed his first two makuuchi henka in the Haru Basho, and lost both bouts.

Here is the new top 10 list of perpetrators, ranked in order of the *percentage of their total bouts in which they have henka'd*:

Roho	16.6
Aminishiki	7.06
Hakurozan	6.88
Hokutoriki	5.41
Kotooshu	5.02
Yoshikaze	4.86
Asasekiryu	3.73
Kotomitsuki	3.53
Kokkai	3.14
Tokitenku	3.14

As a reminder, only the bouts that were voted as henka with a majority yes vote are used in the calculations.

There was no single stand-out victim for Haru Basho, with four rikishi being targeted twice: Goeido, Hokutoriki, Kotomitsuki and Wakanoho.

Goeido has now faced Roho three times in makuuchi, and been faced with three henka. Roho might want to start rethinking this tactic, as while it might have worked in their first two encounters, Goeido seemed to be ready for it this time around and recovered well to take the victory.

Both Goeido and Wakanoho have been targets a number of times, though they do not have enough bouts under their mawashi to currently be considered in the top 10 list. A few more basho might see them join this illustrious list, especially if Roho keeps up his current pattern against Goeido.

None of the top three targets won against henka in Haru Basho, meaning that they all continue to lose over 90% of bouts in which their opponents pull a henka. This failure to recover might help to explain why they are targeted more than others. However, Dejima, who comes in fourth on the top 10 targets list, has lost only 69% of bouts where he has been targeted. Despite this comparatively good record against henka, he still places high as a target.

Baruto is a new addition to the target top 10 list. He fell victim to an Asasekiryu henka on Day 13 and has now participated in enough bouts to be included on the list. He debuts in fifth place, and is still yet to win against a henka.

Other than Baruto's debut, there were only minor changes to the top 10. Here's the current top 10 list of targets, ranked in order of the *percentage of their total bouts*

*in which they were a henka target:*

Hokutoriki	10.81
Miyabiyama	6.07
Kotooshu	5.44
Dejima	5.1
Baruto	4.81
Iwakiyama	4.46
Chiyotaikai	4.33
Kisenosato	4.31
Kotomitsuki	4.31
Tamanoshima	4.26

Again, only the bouts receiving a majority yes vote are used in these calculations.

Remember, you can download the entire henka database [here](#).

With another basho just around the corner, remember to put on your extra thick glasses and keep an eye out for taichiai shenanigans come Natsu Basho.