

Elevator Ride

by Lon Howard

As safely predicted last issue, Takekaze took a giant stride toward Hokutoriki in the battle for the top active elevator rikishi. His Haru mark of 3-12 dropped him 16 places on the banzuke, compared to Hokutoriki's 2 spot advance due to an 8-7 record. His Elevator Index (EI) shot from 7.23 to 7.70, while Hokutoriki's EI barely moved – from 8.94 to 8.91.

He's still over a full point behind though, and should actually fall a bit further back as a result of the action in the Natsu Basho. Hokutoriki should pass at least nine rikishi on the banzuke as a result of his 10-5 mark at maegashira 6, while Takekaze probably won't fall that far after his 6-9 while ranked at maegashira 8.

Neither man changed direction, so that should keep Takekaze within reasonable striking distance, but you've got to think that since Hokutoriki will be back near the top of the maegashira ranks for the

first time in over two years, that he's in for a mega tumble back down the banzuke in July. His trip down is probably going to be much farther than Takekaze's expected trip back up, so my guess is that Slick Rik's lead is safe for at least a year or so, barring injury.

He will not, however, gain any ground on those above him on the all-time top 20 list; as a matter of fact, by failing to change direction on the banzuke he will lose his 19th place spot to #20 Toyokuni, actually changing positions with him. I do predict that after July, he will be #17 due to the collapse I feel is in store for him.

Futeno's challenge to Takekaze for the runner-up spot on the active list is stalled for the moment as he just posted his third consecutive kachi-koshi – 9-6 at maegashira 6. He could revive it with a crash-and-burn showing in Nagoya, which is very likely since he'll be at his highest rank in almost three years.

Amazingly, Takekaze was the only one on the active top ten list to increase his EI. All nine of the others lost a few points, mostly due to not reversing course on the banzuke – Tamanoshima actually did, but since he came up from juryo he doesn't get credit for it – see the Elevator Rules [here](#).

Another small anomaly is that, not only does the top ten active list have the same ten rikishi on it as last time; their positions on the list are also exactly the same.

The current top ten active list is [here](#), and the all-time top 20 list is [here](#).

There isn't a whole lot more to report, as Hokutoriki and Takekaze are the only two active rikishi showing all-time potential, with Futeno a definite dark horse. I predict eye-popping elevator numbers for all three in Nagoya. Check it out in the August issue. See you then.

All-Time Top 20 Elevator Rikishi

	<u>RIKISHI</u>	<u>MOQ</u>	<u>AFQ</u>	<u>REI</u>	<u>LF</u>	<u>EI</u>	<u>MY</u>
1	Itai	11.58	0.8039	9.31	1.50	13.96	1987
2	Takanofuji	11.00	0.9355	10.29	1.33	13.69	1988
3	Sadanoumi	10.61	0.7674	8.15	1.45	11.81	1984
4	Daijuyama	9.91	0.7460	7.39	1.50	11.09	1986
5	Jingaku	9.47	0.7955	7.53	1.46	10.99	1987
6	Kirinji	10.23	0.6867	7.02	1.50	10.53	1981
7	Higonoumi	10.06	0.6863	6.90	1.50	10.35	1997
8	Daitetsu	10.13	0.7586	7.69	1.31	10.07	1986
9	Kyokudozan	8.40	0.8043	6.76	1.48	10.00	1992
10	Takamisugi	9.70	0.6812	6.43	1.50	9.91	1989
11	Kasugafuji	8.88	0.7619	6.77	1.44	9.75	1992
12	Mainoumi	9.21	0.7368	6.78	1.40	9.50	1994
13	Koboyama	9.06	0.6875	6.23	1.50	9.34	1985
14	Tochiazuma (1)	8.34	0.7414	6.18	1.50	9.27	1972
15	Kyokushuzan	9.51	0.6500	6.18	1.50	9.27	2001
16	Ozutsu	8.19	0.7500	6.15	1.50	9.22	1985
17	Tochihikari (2)	8.52	0.7049	6.00	1.50	9.00	1979
18	Kotofuji	10.00	0.6571	6.57	1.37	9.00	1991
19	Hokutoriki	8.75	0.7429	6.50	1.37	8.91	
20	Toyokuni	9.00	0.7143	6.43	1.37	8.81	1965

- (1) The sekiwake
 (2) aka Kaneshiro

Explanation of the Terms:

MOQ (Move On Quotient): Average number of banzuke spots (not numbered ranks) moved per basho.

AFQ (About Face Quotient): Percentage of time rikishi changed direction on the banzuke.

REI (Raw Elevator Index): $MOQ \times AFQ$.

LF (Longevity Factor): $1.xx$ (xx = number of basho in qualifying string).

EI (Elevator Index): $REI \times LF$.

MY (Mid-Year): Year of the mid-point in rikishi's qualifying string.

For a detailed description, see the [Rules](#).

Active Top 10 Elevator Rikishi

	<u>RIKISHI</u>	<u>MOQ</u>	<u>AFQ</u>	<u>REI</u>	<u>LF</u>	<u>EI</u>
1	Hokutoriki *	8.75	0.7429	6.50	1.37	8.91
2	Takekaze	7.44	0.8077	6.01	1.28	7.70
3	Futeno	6.92	0.7083	4.90	1.26	6.18
4	Asasekiryu *	7.97	0.5667	4.52	1.32	5.96
5	Kyokutenho *	6.37	0.6038	3.85	1.50	5.77
6	Tamanoshima *	7.22	0.5227	3.78	1.46	5.51
7	Takamisakari *	5.78	0.6667	3.86	1.38	5.32
8	Kakizoe	6.57	0.5926	3.89	1.29	5.02
9	Roho	7.32	0.5238	3.83	1.23	4.72
10	Tamakasuga *	5.85	0.5342	3.13	1.50	4.69

* Fully qualified rikishi.

Some figures could seem inaccurate because the spreadsheet calculates unrounded numbers.

Explanation of the Terms:

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REI (Raw Elevator Index): $MOQ \times AFQ$.

LF (Longevity Factor): $1.xx$ (xx = number of basho in qualifying string).

EI (Elevator Index): $REI \times LF$.

For a detailed description, see the [Rules](#).

Elevator Rules

THE GENERAL PROCEDURE:

These components are used in determining a rikishi's position in the Ranking:

- 1 *Move On Quotient (MOQ)*: The average number of banzuke spots moved per basho (currently 42 spots on the makuuchi banzuke): Starting with the 2nd basho in the string, count the number of spots moved – whether up or down – from the previous basho, and do this for each basho, through the final basho in the string. Total all those figures counted and divide by the number of figures used. This is the MOQ, and is expressed as a number with two decimal places., e.g., 6.25.
- 2 *About Face Quotient (AFQ)*: The percentage of time the rikishi changed direction on the banzuke: Starting with the 2nd basho in the string and going down, record a plus (+) if the rikishi moved up the banzuke from the previous basho, and record a minus (-) if the rikishi moved down (no mark is made if there was no movement). Then, starting with the 3rd basho in the string, determine if there was a change of direction from the previous basho or not. e.g., after a plus (+) is recorded, a change of direction occurs with the next minus (-), and vice versa. Finally, divide the total number of direction changes by *the total number of times a direction change was actually possible* (i.e., number of basho in the string, minus 2). This percentage is the AFQ, and is expressed as a decimal in four places, e.g., .6315.
- 3 *Raw Elevator Index (REI)*: Simply multiply the MOQ by the AFQ.
- 4 *Longevity Factor (LF)*: 1.xx, with xx equal to the total number of basho in a rikishi's qualifying string. e.g., if a rikishi has 45 basho in his string, his LF is 1.45. When a rikishi's LF reaches 1.50, it

will go no higher, but remain at 1.50 for the remainder of his career. This is to prevent a rikishi from posting a large Elevator Index (EI) based more on his longevity than on his movement up and down the banzuke.

- 5 *Elevator Index (EI)*: Multiply the REI by the LF.

Rikishi are then ranked according to their Elevator Index, highest on top.

SPECIFIC RULES:

- 1 A rikishi must have an unbroken string of at least 30 consecutive qualifying basho in order to be listed in the all-time Ranking.
- 2 A rikishi's string is assumed to start with his first makuuchi appearance and end with his last – with these exceptions:
 - When a string begins with the first makuuchi appearance, in order for it to remain unbroken, as you count down the list of basho, the total number of makuuchi appearances must at least equal the total juryo or below appearances. At any point, when this is not true, that string is broken, and a new string is assumed to begin with the second makuuchi appearance, with the same test applied. The string actually begins with the first makuuchi appearance where the test is passed.
 - If using the above exception produces a string with less than 30 basho because the string doesn't start with the first makuuchi appearance, just start the string with the next oldest makuuchi appearance – going back in time – until you've gone up far enough back for a 30-basho string. If this exception is used to create a 30-basho string, it will be disregarded

when and if it's no longer required.

- If the last makuuchi appearance is immediately preceded by at least three consecutive juryo or below appearances, the string will not end with that appearance. Instead, the string ends with the last makuuchi appearance that is not *immediately* preceded by at least three juryo or below appearances.
- 3 If a rikishi doesn't accumulate a string of at least 30 consecutive qualifying basho under these rules, his string will simply begin with his first makuuchi appearance and end with his last. If there are still less than 30 basho in the string, it will begin with his first makuuchi appearance and continue until he retires. As long as the string has at least 30 basho, he will qualify to be listed in the Ranking.
 - 4 In calculating the Move On Quotient (MOQ), a rikishi is credited with zero banzuke spots moved for any demotion to juryo, and for the first makuuchi basho when transiting back from juryo – regardless of how many actual spots were moved. i.e., In counting the number of banzuke spots moved from any one basho to another, both basho must be in makuuchi. Similarly, no credit is given for a change of direction when transiting to and from juryo.
 - 5 All sanyaku ranks other than East are considered West, e.g., S2e, S2w are both counted as Sw. *
- * Note: Trying to be exact in accounting for more than two spots for each sanyaku rank (in the cases where that occurred) required a system which sometimes produced nonsensical outcomes further down the banzuke, such as rikishi going from M6e to M7e, yet being credited with a 0 or a 1 count in spots moved, even though two spots were actually moved.