

# Natsu Henka Summary

by Lon Howard

Henka kingpin Roho added two more henka to his growing mound in Natsu, but because of his frenetic pace, his perpetrator rate actually decreased – unbelievable! The slippage from 16.60 to 16.53 was negligible, so he is still poised for bigger – if not better things. Despite his voracious penchant for sumo on the sly, I've got to hand it to the guy. His back is killing him, to say nothing about his lame elbow that had surgery earlier this year, so he's doing what he has to do. It's not manly but I'll propose no one's ever done it better.

Aminishiki played straight up in Natsu, winning ten bouts with no sidelights so he gives the runner-up spot back to Hakurozan. Not that Hakurozan made a big henka splash in Natsu, but his one misdeed was good enough to reclaim second place behind his brother. On the down side, it was a brief return engagement to makuuchi, as his own physical ills kept his win total to four.

There was no change in positions 4-6, as Hokutoriki, Kotooshu and Yoshikaze joined the fun and held their ground (a strange activity for henka men...), Hokutoriki being the only one of the three to double his pleasure.

Kakuryu made the biggest move up the list of perpetrators, coming from completely off the top ten list to sit at number 7. His rate surged from 2.90 to 4.58 as a result of his triple henka dip, two of them winners. Unfortunately, he could only gather three additional wins against the joi-jin and he'll resume his rank-and-file career in July.

Asasekiryu's two henka increased his rate but he moved one position

down to 8th place due to Kakuryu's larger move. Ama and Kotomitsuki round out the top ten, with Ama being the other newcomer to the list.

The major activity off the list came from Wakanoho, who joined Kakuryu this time with a three-bagger of his own. He's only off the list because he has just 62 makuuchi bouts. When he reaches 100 bouts he's a lock to go on the list because even if he doesn't offend at all for the next 38 bouts, his henka rate will still stand at 9.00%, a guaranteed number 2 position. Of course we all remember that he promised after the Hatsu Basho that he wouldn't henka anymore, a vow that lasted just one basho.

When his name does come on the list, it's possible that only two of those names will be Japanese, with five of them being eastern Europeans.

Here's the current top ten list of henka perpetrators, ranked in order of the *percentage of their total bouts in which they have henka'd*. Again, only the bouts receiving a majority yes vote are used in these calculations:

Roho	16.53
Hakurozan	6.87
Aminishiki	6.67
Hokutoriki	5.91
Kotooshu	5.12
Yoshikaze	5.00
Kakuryu	4.58
Asasekiryu	4.30
Ama	3.33
Kotomitsuki	3.33

Only those with a henka rate of over five per cent should be looked at as being overly prone to henka,

since the average henka rate for all bouts since the beginning of our study in Nagoya 2005 is 3.07%.

Kotooshu still leads the top ten men in henka winning percentage, winning 92 per cent of his henka bouts, followed by Aminishiki and Ama at 89, and Hokutoriki at 86. Kakuryu needs the most henka practice, with only 57 per cent of his bouts winners.

The entire breakdown can be seen on the henka database [here](#). The perpetrator and target lists are completely sortable by anyone on their own computer.

Nine of the names on the top ten list of henka targets after Haru are still on it, with the names just shuffled around. Hokutoriki is still on top by a huge margin, even though he was ignored in Natsu. Miyabiyama stayed at number 2 but made up some ground as he was sought out twice, losing one of those. Dejima was again seen as most desirable, but he was on the alert, dumping his sideswipers two of three times. Adding three to his target total moved him past Kotooshu into 3rd place. Chiyotaikai and Kisenosato each moved up two spots, to numbers 5 and 6, while Tosanoumi made the largest move, coming from off the list up to 7th place. Baruto, Iwakiyama and Kotomitsuki round out the list.

Asasekiryu was the only other man picked on twice, oddly enough the very first basho he was hit on since the beginning of the study.

Tosanoumi continues to amaze anyone who has followed his career, when it comes to the subject of henka. When Henka

Sightings began, if you had asked any or every fan whose name would be at the top of any list showing percentage of bouts lost as a henka target, he would surely have been the people's choice, as his penchant for falling on his face is legendary. This frailty though obviously applies to action that takes place after the tachiai. His 30% of bouts lost (3-10) is the third lowest of any rikishi who has been targeted at least twice (Takamisakari (1-7), Toyonoshima 0-5). His numbers may be the most impressive of those three though because he has been involved in more bouts as a target.

Here's the current top ten list of targets, 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	10.13
Miyabiyama	6.49
Dejima	5.93
Kotooshu	5.12
Chiyotaikai	4.47
Kisenosato	4.44
Tosanoumi	4.35
Baruto	4.20
Iwakiyama	4.18
Kotomitsuki	4.07

There weren't any aberrations this time when it comes to nominations, henka or win percentages, etc. – 35 nominations, 20 voter-verified henka, with 12 of the 20 henka being winners. The overall

percentage of bouts won by the henka perpetrators holds steady at 71%, which means that is also the percentage of bouts lost by the henka targets, which puts Tosanoumi's 30 per cent in an even more amazing light.

Finally, after a two-basho hiatus, here's an update of the overall win percentage from the subcategories. This is where the win rate is segmented out, first based on all bouts regardless of the number of votes received, and then by only those bouts receiving ten or more votes. Within each of those categories, the win percentage is calculated for the bouts where the yes-no vote disparity was at least 2-1, 3-1, and unanimous. In the 10 + vote category, if there is just a single no vote, it's still counted as unanimous, on the idea that there are some people who will never vote yes. It covers all 335 bouts that have been voted as henka, from the very beginning of our study.

Yes-No Vote Disparity	Win% Any # Votes	Win% 10 + Votes
2-1	72	77
3-1	75	76
Unanimous	77	83

It's interesting that when the subcategories were first calculated after only four basho, there were 14 percentage points between the 2-1 and Unanimous categories under 'Any # Votes,' and 25

percentage points between those two categories under '10 + Votes.' Now, those differences are only 5 and 6 percentage points respectively. This seems to say that – as the data from more and more basho are added – the law of large numbers is doing what it usually does, and that is to reduce the disproportionate divergence of results produced by studying insufficient data. Even the one anomaly is evening out – that being the drop of 77% to 76% from the 2-1 to the 3-1 categories under 10 + Votes. In that first calculation, the drop was from 75% to 72%. I would venture that two years from now, the 3-1 win percentage will be at least 1% more than the 2-1 percentage under 10 + Votes.

In sum – after 18 basho studied – it's looking more and more true that the likelihood of a henka perpetrator winning a particular match increases in proportion to the increase in percentage of yes votes, regardless of the number of votes cast. But as more votes are cast, the overall likelihood grows higher.

So please keep sending those votes in. Without them, I'd have to make all the calls myself, and of course nobody would buy that. Thanks and thanks some more. If there are any suggestions about how to make the process easier, please send them to me at [itsulon@wavecable.com](mailto:itsulon@wavecable.com). Enjoy the rest of the spring, and sharpen up those eyes for Nagoya.