

# Elevator Ride

by Ben Doolan

The Aki banzuke brought a mixed bag for our intrepid elevator rikishi. Hokutoriki extended his Elevator Index (EI) lead at the top of the active rikishi list, having plummeted 13 places after a good gain in the last banzuke. His closest rival, Takekaze, didn't fair so well on the EI front, falling for the third consecutive banzuke, and only a small drop for that. However, as he managed to post a 9-6 record in Aki Basho, he'll increase his About Face Quotient (AFQ) and start his EI rising again once again.

Futeno was the top performer on the list, recording a 15-place drop from his maegashira 3 spot due to a 3-12 record. This puts him back at third on the list, and his 11-4 result in the Aki Basho is likely to see him gain even more ground on the top two. It will likely also set him up for another fall from near the top of the maegashira ranks.

Kyokutenho also had a big turn

around on the Aki banzuke, posting a gain of 15 places having come off a large fall. Another 6-9 make koshi in Aki Basho means that he'll be falling down the banzuke, but his EI will keep moving up.

With the end of Roho's sumo career, a spot was left open on the active top 10 list, and who better to take the spot than Baruto. In the Aki Basho, the Estonian giant posted his 15th eligible basho to finally be included on the list, and he did it in style. An 11-place jump up the banzuke, having come off an 8 place drop in the previous one, gave him an EI high enough to put him in 7th place. However, if Baruto manages to become a sanyaku regular, he might experience a very short-lived stint on the top 10 list.

The current active top ten list is [here](#).

Hokutoriki managed to reclaim

19th spot on the all-time top 20 list. The banzuke makers are likely to be very generous for his 8-7 kachi koshi in Aki Basho, and his jump might be bigger than normally expected due to the general poor records of those ranked from maegashira 1 through to maegashira 8. If this move sets him up for another big fall after Kyushu Basho, then when the dust settles, the Hatsu banzuke might possibly find him as high as 13th place on the all-time list. Only time will tell how high he can climb from there.

The all-time top 20 list is [here](#), along with the Elevator [Rules](#).

Hokutoriki, Takekaze and Futeno's likely positions on the next banzuke seemingly hand Futeno the chance to steam ahead with his elevator career. Whether he does and continues to make up ground on the other two will be something to tune in for next time for.

## 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	<b>Hokutoriki</b>	8.84	0.7297	6.45	1.39	8.97	
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 *	8.84	0.7297	6.45	1.39	8.97
2	Takekaze *	7.31	0.7500	5.48	1.30	7.13
3	Futeno	7.19	0.6923	4.97	1.28	6.37
4	Kyokutenho *	6.61	0.6182	4.08	1.50	6.13
5	Asasekiryu *	7.67	0.5938	4.55	1.34	6.10
6	Tamanoshima *	7.15	0.5435	3.89	1.48	5.75
7	Baruto	7.86	0.6154	4.84	1.15	5.56
8	Takamisakari *	5.72	0.6579	3.76	1.40	5.27
9	Kakizoe *	6.37	0.5862	3.73	1.31	4.89
10	Aminishiki *	6.18	0.5208	3.22	1.50	4.83

\* Fully qualified rikishi.

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

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**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.