

Haru Henka Summary

by Lon Howard

None of the leading henka perpetrators got into the act in the Haru Basho; in fact only two of those on the active top-ten list committed even one sidestep. Leading the charge – or lack of one – was the fledgling ozeki Harumafuji. With only five wins in hand after nine days, and five ozeki/yokozuna still on his plate, he fired off three henka the rest of the way to secure his 10-5 record, including one against his obviously crippled counterpart, Chiyotaikai. This came after Chiyotaikai had already fallen to two henka in the basho. The three henka boosted Harumafuji from seventh to fifth on the list.

Chiyotaikai also fell victim to a henka by Kakuryu, the other perpetrator on the top ten list, who added two of his own in being awarded the Gino Sho technique prize; verry interesting there. Kakuryu advanced from fifth to third on the list.

Chiyotaikai's remaining henka loss came on day 7 at the hands of a newcomer to the list, Kotoshogiku, who was off to a 1-5 start. Although the affectionately dubbed 'Shogun' added another henka win later on, he still won only six bouts in the basho, and seems to have a serious confidence issue.

The active top-ten list of perpetrators is still headed by Aminishiki and Yoshikaze, although neither added a henka to their totals this time out. Two newcomers to the henka realm continued to add to their totals,

although neither has enough total makuuchi bouts yet to be listed. The more prolific of the two is Aran, who rushed to four henka in the first six days. He won only two of those, though, and then won seven of his last nine bouts with straight-on tachiai, so maybe he'll stay on the high road for a while. The other newbie, Kimurayama, added no henka but six nominations. This gives him 17 henka nominations in the last three basho, with only four of those getting a majority yes vote. Although his henka-to-nomination ratio of 28% is second-lowest among those with at least five nominations, his actual henka rate of nearly 11 per cent would still put him on top of the list if he had enough total bouts. If he stays in makuuchi for three more basho, I'll probably add him on.

Kasugao remains on the list for now even though he's been out of makuuchi for a while, but only because of the total number of bouts he accumulated before he fell, and he does remain within shouting distance of returning.

Note that once again, two former henka leaders, Hokutoriki and Kotooshu, failed to add to their totals. In fact, Hokutoriki has gone five basho without even a nomination.

Here is the active top ten list again, ranked in order of the *percentage of their total bouts in which they have henka'd* since the beginning of the study in the 2005 Nagoya Basho. Of course, only the henka bouts that received a

majority of yes votes are counted.

Aminishiki	8.58
Yoshikaze	5.09
Kakuryu	4.93
Asasekiryu	4.83
Harumafuji	4.64
Hokutoriki	4.49
Kotooshu	3.95
Kasugao	3.41
Kotoshogiku	3.22
Kotomitsuki	2.94

No one other than Chiyotaikai was targeted more than once and so the list is nearly identical to last time, the exceptions being Chiyotaikai moving from sixth to fourth, and Baruto being added in ninth place.

Here's the current active 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 henka bouts receiving a majority yes vote are used in these calculations:

Hokutoriki	8.01
Dejima	6.67
Miyabiyama	5.93
Chiyotaikai	5.61
Kotooshu	5.17
Tosanoumi	5.12
Kasugao	4.55
Iwakiyama	4.53
Baruto	4.12
Kaio	4.08

Of course, all this information is gleaned from the henka database, which can be seen [here](#). The perpetrator and target worksheets

include all makuuchi bouts since the beginning of the study, and all categories therein are completely sortable on one's own computer. As posted, the perpetrator list is sorted by Henka to Bouts % (H/Bouts %) and the target list is sorted by Target to Bouts % (Target %).

Overall, there were 34 henka nominations in the Haru Basho, with only 13 getting a majority yes vote. If the slightly shifty

Kimurayama remains in makuuchi, he may skew the henka to nomination percentage downward all by himself.

Ten of the thirteen henka perpetrators won their bouts, not enough to raise the overall winning percentage of the perpetrators from 71%. Specifically, there have been 424 voter-validated henka bouts since the beginning of the study, and the perpetrators have won 301 of

them.

The level of voting picked up a little compared the last three basho, but the average votes per bout of nearly 7 per cent was still below the overall average of 11 per cent. Again, if there are any suggestions for increasing the level of voting, please send them to me at itsulon@wavecable.com. Thanks again for your support, and now it's back to the Kokugikan for the Natsu Basho.