

Nagoya Henka Summary

by Lon Howard

Hey, the henka traveling road show is now a brother act, as Hakurozan whizzed up the list of top ten active henka masters in record time. He leapt from 7th to 2nd in just one basho in Nagoya, recording four henka out of five nominations on Henka Sightings. His henka rate ballooned from 5.33 to 7.07 but he's still got a long row to hoe to catch his brother Roho, who still sits atop the pile at 10.29. Unfortunately for Hakurozan, he could only win two of those four henka matches and finished at 6-9. As for Roho, his back problems forced him off the dohyo after Day 3, and with no henka to that point, his henka rate barely changed.

Jumonji still treads water at #3, as he falls further down the juryo banzuke, followed as before by Aminishiki, Kotooshu and Hokutoriki, all of whom continue to steadily increase their own henka rates. Here is the new top ten list, ranked in order of *the percentage of their total bouts in which they have henka'd*.

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|-------------|-------|
| Roho | 10.29 |
| Hakurozan | 7.07 |
| Jumonji | 6.76 |
| Aminishiki | 6.67 |
| Kotooshu | 6.15 |
| Hokutoriki | 5.56 |
| Tokitsuumi | 4.35 |
| Kyokutenho | 3.61 |
| Kaio | 3.59 |
| Kotomitsuki | 3.59 |

As a reminder, only the bouts that were voted as henka with a majority yes vote are used in the calculations. Also, the record-keeping began with the 2005 Nagoya Basho and exist only for makuuchi bouts – primarily

because the nominator lives outside the country and can't see the lower division bouts. If he *could* see them, then he'd have to offer that he has another life.

The other big henka doings in Nagoya were engineered by Asasekiryu, who fashioned a henka trifecta: three nominations, three henka and three wins. With that, he nearly doubled his henka rate from 1.81 to 3.31, and is now in 11th place. Funny, I've always thought of him as a henka guy, but he's never really emerged until now. Other than Hakurozan and Asasekiryu, only Aminishiki, Kotooshu and Yoshikaze recorded more than one henka, with two each.

Toyozakura's name has been removed from the top ten list because he's been in juryo for the last three basho and won't return in September either. His frozen henka rate would normally be good for 5th place right now, but if he can't become a makuuchi regular anymore, then he probably won't reappear on the list.

So now let's look at the henka targets. Hokutoriki already had a healthy lead over Miyabiyama on the active top ten list, and after Nagoya, the lead got genki-er, as he was had on the final two days by Otsukasa and Asasekiryu, after entering Day 14 with a 10-3 record. As implied, he lost both of those matches and ended being targeted three times, losing all of them. He's now been a henka target in over 8% of his bouts and leads 2nd place Miyabiyama by over two percentage points. Kotooshu, Dejima and Kasugao continue to occupy the next three spots, although Kasugao escaped

the cross hairs this time. The largest jump up the list was made by Tosanoumi – from 6th to 9th, being hit on twice in Nagoya. He only lost one of those bouts though, and currently has lost only two of eight times. Apparently, his repete for falling on his face only applies after the tachiai, not during it.

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:

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|---------------|------|
| Hokutoriki | 8.64 |
| Miyabiyama | 6.42 |
| Kotooshu | 5.64 |
| Dejima | 5.64 |
| Kasugao | 5.56 |
| Tosanoumi | 4.73 |
| Kasuganishiki | 4.59 |
| Kisenosato | 4.10 |
| Kotoshogiku | 4.10 |
| Roho | 4.00 |

Overall in Nagoya, 33 bouts were nominated, and 22 received a majority yes vote, a little above the overall rate, which is barely over a 50%. The perpetrators won 17 of the 22 henka bouts, which is also slightly over the 70% overall win rate.

For the real numbers freaks, I've included the entire henka database online, and it may be seen [here](#). Rather than include cliff notes, I'll just post it as is, as I believe the ones who might have an interest are the types who can figure it out anyway, with the help of the worksheet labels and column headers, etc. As is readily apparent, I'm no spreadsheet guru

– there are no result-grabbers... it's just write the results down and crank them in... just a few elementary formulas. The Excel workbook has six worksheets at the bottom. Just click on each of them to view them, or to resort columns, etc. The Perpetrator and Target tables are currently sorted

by the henka rate and target rate respectively, but you may sort them every which way, if desired.

If there are any questions regarding the spreadsheet, please direct them directly to me at itsulon@wavecable.com. And the most important part, if anyone has

any suggestions that would make it less work for me, by all means, send them my way.

Well, that's the henka report for Nagoya. As usual, there'll be a more detailed version next time. Thanks much for your interest, and enjoy the Aki Basho!