

Letters to the Editor

Each issue, we will feature a letter from one of our readers. The sender will receive a sumo-related prize of our choosing.

Eric Blair,

Referring to:

http://www.sumofanmag.com/content/Issue_13/Eric_Evaluates.htm

You rascal, I'm one of those "much older" sumo fans you refer to in somewhat derisive tones. I started my sumo fandom in the early 60's when Taiho and, then, Kashiwado were first promoted to Y. The Hakuho-era was very exciting times for me and for the sumo world as the record shows.

Then I was back to Japan in time to see Taiho retire from the ring. That was almost a national tragedy (in my fuzzy memory - due to my age).

So quit picking on us "old guys". There's a few of us around who actually saw Taiho and Kashiwado wrestle and it was something to see. Taiho, on top of all, was a real gentleman in the ring and as a yokozuna. He had all the technical tools, the charisma and the fan support. It was a great time in sumo.

Best regards for an interesting and sure to be controversial article. I enjoyed your view point and wonder what DID happen.

Tamagoyama
(Jack Gartin-Kobe)

Mr. Gartin,

Thank you very much for your

feedback on the Eric Blair article in our last issue.

I know Eric, like all contributors enjoys knowing what the readers and fellow sumo fans think about the work we / he produce(s) irrespective of agreement and constant world harmony – at least he will when he gets back from his summer hols and is able to read it.

In answering on behalf of SFM though, you do have a slice of my own personal envy in that I was never able to witness the 'Hakuho-jidai' myself and am resigned to video and DVD footage.

Best wishes.
Mark Buckton, SFM

Hi,

I'm Nita from Indonesia. Now I'm studying at Gadjah Mada University.

I'm interested in subject of sumo for my thesis. I have difficulties to find sources for this subject so I'm looking forward for your help to give me information about history of Sumo before and after (the) Meiji Period, and also (about) Sumo today, (a) comparison between Sumo in the past and today, the importance of Sumo for Japan and also, why Sumo can survive until today.

I really need this information so I hope you can help me to overcome my problem. I'm looking forward for your reply

Thank you
Regards, Nita

Hello Nita,

Thank you very much for your e-mail.

You have asked several questions about sumo that really take a few years to accumulate knowledge of and thus, to answer, would perhaps take so long as to make a single e-mail rather cumbersome.

Might I recommend the book - 'Sumo - From Rite to Sport,' by P.L. Cuyler for starters?

If you have any specific questions I am sure we could help you further but the questions you asked are so large in scope that, in addition to the book I mention above, I would say, read as much as possible on the Sumo Fan Magazine site (archives included) as well as various other sites out there on the net. Wikipedia is a good place to start in English and they have many useful links from the main site.

Sumo is really about 'feeling' and only by searching yourself for these answers will you really understand that 'feeling' - I hope, with time, this makes sense.

For now I hope this is of some use but please contact us again if need be.

Best wishes from Tokyo,
Mark Buckton, SFM