



Kokugi Konnections The French Connection(s)!

by Denis Chaton

SFM Issue 15 is tipping its hat to acknowledge and pay our respects to our ever increasing numbers of French readers out there by letting this version of KK focus solely on French language sites out there on the WWW.

In addition, with this being edited in the days after the French rugby team has defeated New Zealand's All Blacks, all the very best to France for the remainder of their 2007 Rugby World Cup – and to the French fans of sumo for the remainder of the year.

Info-sumo

(<http://www.info-sumo.net>)

Info-sumo.net is one of the two major websites for the French speaking sumo fans out there, and is quite easy to navigate. At the center of the front page, visitors will find sumo related news articles (daily (basho) summaries, Kyokai news, etc.) written by the webmaster or his contributors. On the right of this page stands a list of archived pieces. The main menu bar is to be found on the left. After passing the front page, you'll find a short presentation on sumo including its basic rules and etiquette. The next link opens on a selection of sumo books with reviews by fans. The «articles» links is an interesting aspect designed for the fans themselves interested in proposing specific articles that might be enjoyed by the whole sumo following community. This is followed by the traditional «link» listing various

sumo sites (including SFM), a link to the NHK stream (can't we petition for it to be wound-up earlier?). Last but not least, the link to the site's forum; which is without doubt the most prominent French-speaking sumo community in the world (I will not dare to say «French forum» as other French-speaking communities, particularly the Swiss, are well represented...). Sumo games most hardcore of fans will find Trio at this point.

To sum up, Info-sumo is THE reference website for any French speaking or reading sumo fan.

Kaio

(<http://membres.lycos.fr/kaiou/>)

THE ultimate website for Kaio fans. After the front page, you will face a very useful site on the ozeki. The five yusho portraits this dai-ozeki has featured in are in the center of the page as is a message written by Kaio himself in the last year to thank his fans for their numerous messages of support - sent by way of the webmaster. Six menus can be seen at the top of the page with, from left to right, the personal profile of Hiroyuki Koga, including a constantly refreshed biography; career torikumi records; a video/photo bonanza area constantly updated with particularly focus on 'uwatnage' moves displaying thirty videos, a tegata portion, and finally, the traditional links and guestbook to sign. This complete website is a precious little

diamond that will fill any of Kaio's fans with joy. The site dedicated to one of the best ozeki in sumo history – a man who also happens to be one of the best examples of sumodo around – is definitely worth a visit.

Sumofr

(<http://www.sumofr.net/>)

The center of Sumofr's opening page is full of tournament news, the new banzuke, etc. etc. etc. The main menu bar can be found on the left and the site, in covering each and every aspect of the sport, provides us with complete and illustrated explanations of sumo's origins, and of any other aspect of this sport perhaps unclear for a newbie: banzuke, the organization of professional sumo, sumo food, training techniques, the mawashi, ceremonies and bouts are all covered. The "lutteurs" (wrestlers) icon contains the current banzuke, details of every active wrestler and many retired names of the past in addition to heya and oyakata facts too. The results icon offers an illustrated view of the results of any wrestler in any honbasho since 1984 whilst the following icon offers-up a view of the 82 kimarite, most often with the help of a video. The next two menus provide us with links to the main French-speaking sumo sites, as well as links to most of the sumo game site. The last pair of icons contain documents and archives as well as a number of French translations of various sumo related articles and books.

