



Kokugi Konnections

by Alexander Herrmann

German Sumo Forum

<http://tipspiel.sumofan.net>

This site was actually only created as an emergency platform for the German Tipspiel when Miki's Forum suddenly disappeared (you can still recognize it by the subdomain). Soon it expanded and THE sumo forum in German was reborn. In the section "Ozumo" all happenings on the other side of the globe are reported. Two hardworking ladies translate articles from the Japanese press and the English forum to keep the German fans up to date. The honbasho discussions are not about sekitori only but also include threads like "Die Azubis" ("The Apprentices" – some successful young rikishi).

In the section "Sumospiele" ("Sumo Games") there are many opportunities to pit oneself against other sumo fans with the German Tipspiel (DTS) leading the way. One highly recommended column in the section "Diverses" is "Das Wort der Woche" ("The Word of the Week"), in which Watashi gives us very enjoyable Japanese lessons. The forum is the place to go for all people who have questions on sumo on their mind or who are just looking for kindred

souls. You don't need to search for souls but for some information in the following little exercise: The old Miki forum was saved and is hidden in the new forum now. Where?

Sumoinfo.de

<http://www.sumoinfo.de>

This site collects data and statistics of all active and many retired sekitori. Besides the bare numbers, the stories of the wrestlers are told, too. On the main page you will find links to the data of all current makuuchi rikishi, and a click on "Die Banzuke zum ... Basho" will give you the juryo rikishi. In the sections "Aktive Ringer" ("active wrestlers") and "Legenden" you will find interesting, instructive and also unusual background information on the sumotori (the part "Legenden" not only contains dai-yokozuna but also links to "minor" yokozuna, ozeki and remarkable makuuchi rikishi). The section "Ex-Rikishi" covers the careers of the alumni rikishi, and in "Basho" and "Trivia" you can find summaries of all basho since 1984 and little things worth knowing. The site is rounded off by a "Sumo Lexikon" and "Links". As a whole, this is a very nice site

that invites you on rainy Sunday afternoons to bury yourself in it.

German Wikipedia: category Sumo

<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kategorie:Sumo>

First of all, a little warning: "Wikipedia is not the end of your search but only the beginning." Wikipedia is a free system that can be a victim of trolls at any time (as happened with the Asashoryu article shortly after his suspension). False information is detected and deleted pretty fast, but you could still stumble over errors. That said, there are positive sides to the German Wikipedia – and there are many, believe it! The German Sumo category isn't as big as those on the Japanese or English sister sites yet, but it is growing. Standing out is the main article "Sumo", which has even made it into the list of featured articles. There are also many pages about current and past rikishi, and about the details of the whole schmear. What is bintsuke? How long is a mawashi? Are there only sanyaku ranks in Sumo? As for the two other pages, you should have a lot of free time when you visit it. Click succeeds click, and soon many hours have passed by.

