

Kokugi Konnections

by Todd Lambert

Each issue of SFM, Todd Lambert – our man online – will bring you a review of some sumo related sites to be found on the World Wide Web. Enjoy.

Chiyotaikai's Official Blog

<http://ameblo.jp/chiyotaikai/>

Aging ozeki he may be, but few could doubt Chiyotaikai's place up there amongst the greats of sumo history over the past century. With several championships to his name, the (Hokkaido) / Oita native will soon be calling it a day, and will then, in all likelihood, vanish into a long term waiting room as Kokonoe ages and approaches his mid 60s.

Hopefully, this hiatus from the active 'in yer face' sumo he is known for will give him time to look at his blog - for it is truly awful - and is only really worth viewing as an example of how NOT to put together a blog. With a lack of consistency here, 'coming soon' signs there, and more links and attempts at publicizing others than you can shake the proverbial stick at everywhere - Taikai's blog deserves a wide berth indeed - but now that I've said this, you'll head over and take a look - won't you?

Toki Susumu – remember him?

<http://tokitoki.free.fr/index.html>

It certainly doesn't seem like two years ago that the great 'sideboarded' one retired – does it? And it need not – if you head on over to this fan generated site (some familiar names to longer term sumo fans out there). One of the best, easiest to maneuver through fan sites out there on the WWW – even if the subject matter is a tad old now.

Just keep on looking left and you'll work your way through this admirable collection of pics and stats, stats and pics. Hope the big guy is doing well and enjoying his family time?

Michinoku Beya's northern outpost

http://members.at.infoseek.co.jp/mitinoku_yamagata/

Northern Japan was hit pretty hard by an earthquake earlier this month with Iwate and Miyagi

prefectures taking much of the force of one of the fastest recorded earthquakes in Japanese history in gals (980 gals = 1G).

Anyway, I digress, just across the mountains, and an area that certainly felt much of the force Mother Nature dealt up that day is Yamagata – a mountainous area long known for its connections to Ozumo – and the perfect example of how much sumo means to those outside the big cities – in this case by way of the link they have to Michinoku Beya.

The page isn't the most visually stimulating in the world, and would benefit from some pics scattered here and there, but for those proficient in (reading) Japanese, this will raise a few eyebrows and reveal the entrance to the national psyche on sumo in the sticks. Good on you Tohoku – keep smiling.