



## Let's Hear From You! What Made You A Fan?



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Not a lot of my friends like sumo, and when I was younger, I didn't like it either. My parents were always watching sumo on TV at the time that my brother and I wanted to watch manga.

I started liking sumo when I went to see it live in Ryogoku for the first time. I must have been five or six years old. The wrestlers were very powerful and it was joyful for me to watch the famous Hanada

brothers, Waka and Taka. I enjoyed it so much that I went back three or four times after that.

I think nowadays, many people my age don't understand sumo, and that's because they never go to see it. Unless you get close to the event and see it live, you will never know what it really means. The Kokugikan has such a special atmosphere and I had never felt so Japanese. It was a strange and

special experience for me.

Now, my favourite wrestler is Kisenosato. He is about the same age as me. I think he is a strong young man who could make ozeki one day. When I see him fight, I feel that he is representing young people like me – like Waka and Taka used to do. I hope that one day Hagiwara-san (that's Kise's real name) will become a yokozuna.