



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



by Yae Takahashi, a schoolteacher from Saitama

I first became interested in sumo back in the 1970s when I was at high school. Sumo had a real magnetic pulling power back then. The reason I liked it was simple: Takanohana, the Prince of Sumo.

He was probably the most popular wrestler ever. I remember well when he won the playoff against Kitanoumi in September 1975, and so many zabuton were thrown that you could barely see anything. It was a truly magical sumo moment which I will surely never see again.

Recently, the Nihon Sumo Kyokai has been issuing two DVDs every month about the Golden Years of Sumo. I was only interested in one DVD, though, and that was Takanohana's. The fact that the Kyokai chose to release his DVD first out of over 20 shows just how incredibly popular he was. Of course I cried when he retired in 1980, and the NHK announcer cried too.

I don't know why, but my sumo fever abated once I started

working – probably because I didn't have time to watch the sport on TV. But, in May 2010, I returned to the Kokugikan for the first time in around two decades and realised that my passion had never gone away. As I sat there, taking in the atmosphere, watching the warm-ups and the thunder-claps of colliding flesh, I remembered instantly how crazy I was about sumo in high school. I made sure that my students at school knew exactly how happy I was to have seen sumo again.