

Ones To Watch – Nagoya 2010

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Looking back at the last six basho, we saw nine names appearing in the list of sansho, the three prizes for Fighting Spirit, Outstanding Performance and Technique which are contested by everyone from maegashira to sekiwake. One of them is [Baruto's](#) (adding four to an overall tally of seven and getting the only Shukun-sho – “Outstanding Performance Award” – in the last six basho), and it would surely be disappointing if he were to get another chance to compete for a sansho – i.e. get demoted again. So let's turn our attention to the other eight names and their chances to get one more of the coveted prizes in 2010. These eight names have collected 35 sansho altogether now – a fine total, but amazingly still two short of the combined total of the two record holders, [Akinoshima](#) (current Takadagawa-oyakata, 19 sansho) and [Kotonishiki](#) (current Hidenoyama-oyakata, 18 sansho).



Tochinoshin

[Tochinoshin](#) won two Kanto-sho (“Fighting Spirit Prizes”) in Kyushu 2009 and Natsu 2010 (his

only ones so far) for his enormous fighting spirit. His promotion to the lower sanyaku ranks might well drive him to even higher spirits; if not, he will slide down the banzuke far enough to rally back and get a sansho for that feat. Either way, he is a red-hot candidate for another special prize in 2010, and most likely it will be another Kanto-sho.

A first Kanto-sho and sansho went to bearded Russian [Aran](#) in Natsu 2010. He has been a makuuchi rikishi for only ten basho now, and already it looks like he will transform into a typical elevator rikishi. Going by that pattern he will have one more basho in the nether regions of makuuchi in 2010. As he isn't exactly known for his technical abilities or “good” sumo, he will probably need a jun-yusho to get his hand on another Kanto-sho.

A good 15th place in the all-time sansho lists is occupied by [Aminishiki](#) with five Gino-sho “Technique Awards” (two thereof in the last six basho), four Shukun-sho and a Kanto-sho. Although he is already 31 years old he has still got fire in him, and I can see him collecting some more sansho. Whether it will be this year is another question, but he will definitely be at banzuke positions from which he can shine with technique and get the sixth Gino-sho of his career.

[Toyohibiki](#) is one of the rikishi who have won only Kanto-sho so far. Quite frankly, it is rather difficult to imagine him winning one of the other two sansho. Of

course, there is the chance that he will have a break-out basho and show an outstanding performance, but his good results have all been achieved at the lower end of makuuchi so far. He might get there within the next three basho, but just like Aran he will probably also need a jun-yusho to be considered a sansho candidate again.



Toyohibiki

An evenly distributed six sansho can be found under [Toyonoshima's](#) mawashi. Most of them came in his best years 2007 and 2008, but lately it has been pretty quiet around him (sansho-wise). However, his July banzuke position means he is perfectly-placed to show his abilities and get another sansho. I would not be too surprised if he gets a Gino-sho in the next three basho.

Nine years after his demotion from



Miyabiyama

the ozeki rank, [Miyabiyama](#) is

still active and he has collected four sansho during that period, the latest a Kanto-sho in Kyushu 2009. Intriguingly he got the same number of sansho in the two years before his promotion. He is the oldest rikishi in this column, and despite the fact he shows some fighting spirit every so often, his days of sansho eligibility are heavily numbered. Nothing for him in 2010.

Three of [Kakuryu's](#) four Gino-sho came in the last eight basho. He finished the other five basho with a make-koshi. (This suggests that as soon as he starts posting kachi-koshi again, he'll win his fifth sansho). Joking aside, he is a serious contender for another

Gino-sho in 2010. He will definitely be low enough on the Nagoya banzuke to get the necessary positive score.

[Shotenro](#) will have to return to makuuchi first before he can think of winning a sansho again. His promotion chances for Nagoya are not too good for starters. It looks like his Kanto-sho one year ago will stay his only sansho achievement for a long while, maybe even for the remainder of his career. Nevertheless he is a rikishi that you should watch as he knows his game in the juryo division pretty well.

Enjoy the Nagoya Basho!