

Letters to the Editor

Dear SFM,

Do you know of any sumo associations or sumo wrestlers in Canada?

Leonard Pearl,
Canada

SFM Editor's reply
Dear Len,

We are happy to put out a general call for anybody connected with sumo in Canada to get in touch with us at this address. At the moment, internet activity appears pretty limited for Canadian sumo.

There are no professional

Canadian sumotori at present, but you may know of the name John Tenta, who enjoyed a brief but highly successful sumo career in the mid-80s. Tenta joined sumo under the name of Kototenta – a play on his family name – and burned through the bottom three divisions in just four tournaments, staying unbeaten the whole way. Just before he died five years ago, I got the chance to ask him via his fan website how he managed to achieve such a wonderful unbeaten run. He said that his opponents were scared stiff when they saw the sheer size of his 192-centimetre 180-kilogram frame.

Tenta retired after the May tournament of 1986, and later joined the professional wrestling

circuit in both Japan and the US. After joining the WWF, the forerunner of WWE, he assumed the name Earthquake, under which he garnered most fame. Interestingly, during his pro-wrestling days, he found himself on equal terms with Kitao Koji, who was a sumo yokozuna and thus at least 300 ranks above him at the time of his retirement. The two sometimes clashed, and had one memorable “shoot,” entering a verbal slanging match totally unscripted. Let's hope there's a future John Tenta out there somewhere in Canada.

Best regards

Chris Gould, Editor
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