

# AMERICAN FEBRUARY 2024 SUMO

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ON  
ALL THINGS SUMO WRESTLING

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Multi-time national champ Jose Galindo returns at the SoCal Open  
Photo by Owen Francis

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AMERICAN SUMO IS PRESENTED BY GRAND SUMO BREAKDOWN





**SUMO** is a traditional combat sport originating in ancient Japan. The rules are simple: force your opponent out of the ring or force them to touch the ground with anything other than the soles of their feet. Professional Japanese tournaments are held 6 times a year. The 2-week long tournaments take place every odd-numbered month, with each wrestler fighting once per day and the wrestler with the best record wins.

**AMA-ZUMO** short for Amateur Sumo, is practiced in gyms, parks, and backyards around the world. In the US, tournaments are held throughout the year all across the country. Sumo is a sport for everyone, and no matter who or where you are, we can help connect you with someone who wants to share it with you.

**NEXT PRO TOURNAMENT:**  
**HARU BASHO**  
Osaka, Japan  
Mar. 10-24th

**NEXT AMATEUR TOURNAMENT:**  
**SAKURA CUP**  
Nashville, TN  
Apr. 6th

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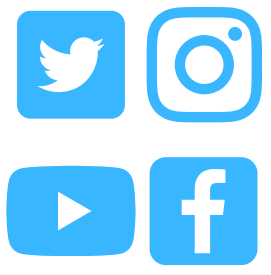
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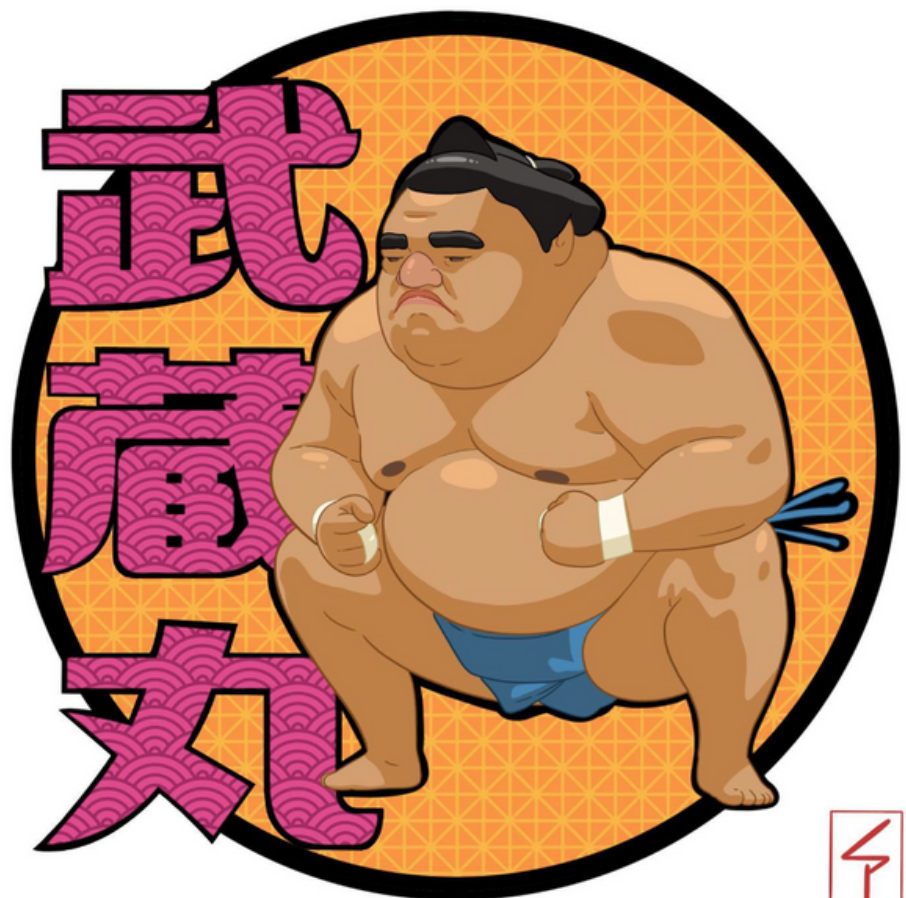
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GSB is a podcast for all things sumo, covering everything from professional and amateur tournaments to interviews with athletes. We are here to keep you informed and help you run sumo events. Find us on your favorite podcast apps and reach out to us on social media.



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**FEATURED COMMUNITY ART**



**MUSASHIMARU**  
by Noah Wellbrock-Talley





# HATSU BASHO, TOKYO JAPAN

## JAN. 14-28TH 2024

The Hatsu basho was defined by the dominance of the rikishi at the top of the banzuke, but the powerful and talented Ozeki and Sekiwake were dwarfed by the power of the returning Yokozuna. Terunofuji (13-2, Yusho) returned to the dohyo for the first time since July 11th, 2023 and proved that he is still the final boss of sumo. He got off to a bit of a shaky start with losses to Wakamotoharu (10-5, Outstanding Performance Prize) and to Shodai (4-11), but as the days went on it was clear that Terunofuji was only getting stronger.

The schedule worked out so that after Day 12, 1) the top 4 rikishi remaining on the banzuke had the best records, 2) were the only ones that had a chance to win the Yusho, and 3) would all face each other over the final three days. The contenders were Terunofuji, Ozeki Kirishishima (11-4), Ozeki Hoshoryu (10-4-1), and Sekiwake Kotonowaka (13-2, Jun Yusho, Technique Prize).

On Day 13 Terunofuji dispatched the sole leader at the time, Kotonowaka, to move into a tie for the lead. Kirishima would join the pair at 11-2 after his victory over Hoshoryu that day. Hoshoryu came into the basho with a knee injury that he had suffered in the week prior to the start of the tournament. This clearly hampered him in the first week as he was continuously pushed to the tawara and found miraculous ways to win from the edge. But after suffering back-to-back losses on Days 5 and 6 his sumo seemed to turn around and he was looking like a dominant Ozeki. That was until his injured knee got twisted in his loss to Kirishima and he was forced to pull out of his Day 14 matchup against Terunofuji. This gave Terunofuji a free pass to Day 15 where he was guaranteed to be tied for the lead.

Also on Day 14 was a matchup between Ozeki hopeful Kotonowaka and Yokozuna hopeful Kirishima. Kirishima was 11-2 at this point in the basho and with 2 days left he still had a very real chance at a Yokozuna promotion if he could manage to win the Yusho. But it was not to be for Kirishima this basho, as he would lose to Kotonowaka, unable to move the larger rikishi with a nodowa (neck thrust). The Yokozuna Deliberation Council has expressed that they would like to see Kirishima brought to them for Yokozuna consideration if he were to win a strong Yusho in Haru, but the Japan Sumo Association expects Kirishima to begin his Yokozuna run from scratch.

On Day 15 it was essentially down to just Terunofuji and Kotonowaka. Due to Hoshoryu's injury, Kotonowaka fought Maegashira 4 Tobizaru (7-8) on the final day and was able to defeat a rikishi that typically gives him some trouble. This left Terunofuji to try to beat the desperate Kirishima. If Terunofuji won it would lead to a playoff. If he lost, the Yusho would go to Kotonowaka. The match was no contest. This was the Yokozuna at full strength, showing what it means to be Yokozuna. He was going up against an Ozeki that had won 2 of the previous 5 Yusho, and Terunofuji quickly overpowered him and threw him out of the dohyo like he was a non-salaried rikishi.

This set up a playoff between Terunofuji and Kotonowaka to determine the Yusho winner. Kotonowaka would put up a decent fight, but it wasn't enough to overcome the Yokozuna who picked up his 9th career Yusho. This moves Terunofuji into a tie for 15th most Yusho of all time, alongside recent Yokozuna Harumafuji and three others.

Kotonowaka's efforts this basho fell just short of him picking up the Yusho, but it was good enough for him to be promoted to the rank of Ozeki. This was Kotonowaka's third basho as a Sekiwake and in his three basho as Sekiwake he racked up 33 total wins, 2 Jun Yusho, 1 Fighting Spirit Prize, and 1 Technique Prize. Kotonowaka is a third generation rikishi following his father (Current Sadogatake Oyakata and former Sekiwake Kotonowaka) and his maternal grandfather (53rd Yokozuna Kotozakura). It was expected that Kotonowaka would change his shikona to his grandfather's upon ascent to Ozeki, but he has decided to keep the Kotonowaka shikona for one basho as an Ozeki so that his father's shikona can be associated with the rank of Ozeki. He is expected to take up the shikona Kotozakura for the May basho.

Onosato (11-4, Fighting Spirit Prize) made his much anticipated top division debut in just his 5th ever basho and he made quite the impression. He was able to win 8 of his first 9 matches against lower ranked Maegashira before being thrown into the deep end to go up against Hoshoryu, Kotonowaka, and Terunofuji. Onosato would lose all of these matches, but it was still valuable experience that most rikishi do not get in their first year of sumo.

Also making his top division debut was Shimazuumi (9-6) who fell just short of a Fighting Spirit Prize himself, but his energetic style of sumo left an impression on fans and he seems like someone who can stick around for a little while.

Result	East	Rank	West	Result
13-2 Y	Terunofuji	Y		
11-4	Kirishima	O	Hoshoryu	10-4-1
		O	Takakeisho	2-2-11
13-2 JG	Kotonowaka	S	Daieisho	9-6
2-4-9	Takayasu	K	Ura	6-9
10-5 S	Wakamotoharu	M1	Atamifuji	6-9
5-10	Midorifuji	M2	Abi	8-7
5-10	Gonoyama	M3	Hokutofuji	4-5-6
7-8	Tobizaru	M4	Shodai	4-11
3-12	Ryuden	M5	Nishikigi	8-7
7-8	Kinbozan	M6	Shonannoumi	4-11
5-10	Ichiyamamoto	M7	Asanoyama	9-3-3
2-4-9	Hokuseiho	M8	Hiradoumi	8-7
6-9	Mitakeumi	M9	Meisei	9-6
8-7	Tamawashi	M10	Sadanoumi	6-9
9-6	Tsurugisho	M11	Oho	10-5
10-5	Takanosho	M12	Myogiryu	5-10
7-8	Churanoumi	M13	Endo	5-10
9-6	Kotoshoho	M14	Onosho	10-5
5-10	Tomokaze	M15	Onosato	11-4 K
6-9	Takarafuji	M16	Bushozan	4-11
9-6	Shimazuumi	M17	Aoiyama	0-7-8
5-10	Kitanowaka	M17		

**BY RYAN SMITHMAN**



# KUMA BASH II

## JAN. 27TH, NASHVILLE, TN

# KUMA BASH RESULTS



**YOUTH LIGHTWEIGHT**  
1st: Ben Shutko - IMS

**YOUTH HEAVYWEIGHT**  
1st: Gabe Alvarado - AHS  
2nd: Lucas Boudoin - AHS  
3rd: Verland Cañas - AHS

**YOUTH OPENWEIGHT**  
1st: Gabe Alvarado - AHS  
2nd: Verland Cañas - AHS  
3rd: Lucas Boudoin - AHS

Antioch, Tennessee felt the collision of four Juniors at the KUMA SUMO BASH II on January 27, 2024. This was the second year that the Antioch Sumo Bears hosted the only Juniors-only tournament in America. Starting off the year strong, the event began with a training session led by former Maegeshira Sumotori Yamamotoyama, who is now running Show Me Sumo Club out of St. Louis. Training included members of the Antioch High Sumo Club, Iron Mountain Sumo Club, and Tennessee Sumo Association.



A pre-match meeting with the athletes and judges



Lucas executing an underarm throw on Verland

After many matawari, shiko, and fine-tuning chirichoazu, the tournament began. With only two full divisions present, Ben Shutko took the Junior Lightweight gold. The action ramped up in Heavyweight with three competitors: Gabe Alvarado, Lucas Boudoin, and Verland Cañas. With a watchful eye, Thomas Griffin served as gyoji, and Zach Sparkman, Thomas Harding, and Nathaniel Hudson held roles as corner judges, with Yama serving as head judge. We saw Gabe win over Verland in the opening bout by Oshidashi, after evading several throw attempts. This set precedence for the rest of the heavyweight matches with Gabe taking gold with a 6-0 victory. Lucas landed at second place going 2-4 and Verland at third with 1-5.



Verland lands a Sotokomata, or outside thigh lift

Openweight saw the same dominant style from Gabe getting a 6-1 winning record to earn gold for Openweight, after a play off with Verland, who won silver with a 5-2 record. Third place came down to a final match between Ben of Iron Mountain and Lucas of Antioch. After clashing at the tachiai, Lucas grabbed Ben's mawashi, circled, and forced Ben out - Yorikiri victory for third. Yama presented medals and congratulated the Junior Sumotori, providing specific feedback for our rising athletes. The day ended with a much deserved meal of hotpot and rice. The Sumo community in America should prepare to see more Junior competitors in future competitions!

**BY K. PIERCE**



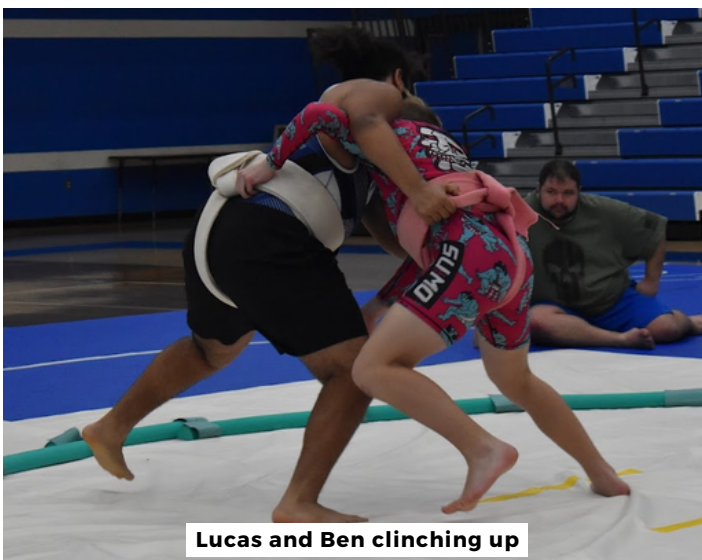
Gabe utilizing his size and strength to push forward



Coach Yama in his element



Gabe, Verland, Ben, and Lucas



Lucas and Ben clinching up



# METT RESULTS

## WOMEN'S TEAM

**1st: The Violent Vaqueras**  
Etan Perez - DAL  
Caitlin Jones - DAL  
Luce Garza - DAL

**2nd: The Black Widows**  
Tiffany Perez - DCS  
Eri Midorikawa - DCS  
Alicia Fishweicher - DCS

**3rd: The Misfits**  
Jessica Hopper - MES  
Liesel Rickhoff - DCS  
Rachel Gates - DAL

## MEN'S TEAM

**1st: The Towering Texans**  
Jared Parham - DAL  
Jared Tadlock - DAL  
Hayden Southall - DAL

**2nd: The Dark Nights**  
Chad Neu - DCS  
Justin Kizzart - DCS  
Colton Runyan - IND

**3rd: Florida Sumo**  
Cornelius Booker - IWS  
Alex Santana - IWS  
Dustin Hawkins - IWS

## WOMEN'S OPEN

1st: Etan Perez - DAL  
2nd: Luce Garza - DAL  
3rd: Jessica Hopper - MES

## MEN'S OPEN

1st: Cornelius Booker - IWS  
2nd: Edobor Konyeha - RAI  
3rd: Jay Scriven - MES

**FIGHTING SPIRIT**  
Rachel Gates - DAL  
Mike Wisham - SHO

**TECHNIQUE**  
Eri Midorikawa - DCS  
Edobor Konyeha - RAI

**OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE**  
Luce Garza - DAL  
Zach Schramm - MES

# MIGHTY EAGLE TEAM TOURNAMENT

## FEB. 10TH SAN ANTONIO, TX



## Do You Want to Be on My Sumo Team? By Sabrina Pacella of Sumo Punx

Sumo isn't the type of sport that people unfamiliar with it would typically associate with teams. Nonetheless, Mighty Eagle Sumo Club has been hosting a tournament dedicated to just that for the past three years. This year the Mighty Eagle Teams Tournament (M.E.T.T.) had wrestlers from all over the country forming three-member teams to battle it out at the Asian New Year Festival in San Antonio, Texas.

The tournament started with three women's teams and culminated in victory for the Violent Vaqueras, a team formed by Etan Perez, Luce Garza, and Caitlin Jones, all from Dallas Sumo Club. The ten men's teams were a round robin between two pools of five teams. The top two teams from each pool went on to four playoff rounds until the Towering Texans (Jared Parham, Jared Tadlock, and Hayden Southall, also from Dallas) came out on top. The open weight competition was saved for last, with Etan Perez of Dallas and Cornelius Booker of Iron Wave Sumo taking home the gold.



Edobor and Jay facing off



Luce ready to fire



I asked Matt Jim, Dallas Sumo Club member, M.E.T.T. competitor, and host of Sumo Punx Podcast, what kind of strategy goes into forming a sumo team. "Being on a team forces you to take inventory of your strengths and opportunities for improvement," he said. "Your teammates are doing the same for themselves and for you. Planning a strategy together allows you to maximize each member's skillset. You have the Senpo, the first position, who is the one to set the tone for the entire match. Then you have the Chuken, or second position. Some people like to have a strong, experienced Chuken, and some prefer to put the less experienced ones there. Then your Taisho, or third position. They're there to be the anchor, to give that final push. Who you choose to be in each position can greatly affect the outcome for your team. It's fun to test your team's strategy against others. It can be very unpredictable, but it also builds comradery."

"Sometimes teams may be hesitant to submit their official list of team members for fear that they will miss out on an opportunity to entice a highly skilled wrestler to join them," explains Caleb Baccus, one of the head coaches at Mighty Eagle and organizer of the tournament. He said he was pleased with how smoothly everything went this year and was glad to see that fewer individual wrestlers showed up without a team, which can delay the start of the tournament as new teams are formed at the last minute. "The two things I want to see most for next year are more youth teams and more women's teams."

When organizing a teams tournament for sumo, Caleb gives the following advice: "It's very important to get all the wrestlers and staff together and give a run down of the schedule and what everyone can expect during the tournament. Giving each team a different color zekken (a patch worn on the front of the mawashi) makes it so much easier to keep track of them. And don't forget to always have some fingernail clippers handy!"



Paul G and Ben M locking up



Chad's thrusting attack against Paul A



Liesel holding on against Caitlin's oshi-zumo



# **SOCAL OPEN**

## **FEB. 24TH SAN DIEGO, CA**

# **SOCAL RESULTS**



**Justin Kizzart ties up with tournament organizer JJ Jones as Sumo Dan looks on**

## **By Mika Grimmer of Rain City Sumo**

A festive atmosphere filled the City Heights Performance Annex in San Diego, California on February 24, 2024, where 250 spectators filled the stands to cheer on the ninety-three men, women, and children from all corners of the United States—from Puerto Rico to Washington State—who gathered to take part in the second annual SoCal Open hosted by Honu Sumo.

The opening ceremonies were conducted by the City Council president, and none other than JJ Jones and Christina Griffin-Jones of Honu Sumo. Christina began by acknowledging that the event was taking place on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Kumeyaay People. Then she spoke briefly on black history month and the involvement of members of the black community in sumo. For more information about this important part of sumo history, check out Honu Sumo's "Black in Sumo" podcast on the Maximum Effort Studios YouTube channel. Once the opening ceremonies were complete, it was time for the competitors to take to the dohyo and show what they could do under the watchful eye of head referee, Sumo Dan.

With ninety-three competitors the competition was fierce, and even though I wish I could highlight all the men and women who fought their hearts out as each and every one of them deserves a shout-out, I am going to limit myself to just a few.

First up, Ashley Smallwood, or Smashley as her friends affectionately cheered when she went up on the dohyo, signed up the day of the tournament, and took first in the women's middleweight category despite it only being her second time ever doing sumo. Moving on to Men's middleweight where despite it being his first tournament, Christian Pryfogle not only took second, but he defeated national champion Justin Kizzart multiple times to gain his spot on the podium.

Women's light heavyweight was an intense battle of endurance as the three fighters participated in a grueling triple round robin. In the end, Paulina Jimenez came out on top to snatch the first-place prize, but I would be remiss in not mentioning both Aileen Meriales who fought hard for second place, and Cassandra Briano who fought with equal fighting spirit for her third place slot on the podium. While in the men's light heavyweight division, their first-place champion, Kohsei Imada, is a new face in the amateur sumo world. Despite being the son of a sumo wrestler, he only recently started training with JJ Jones (with additional advice from Konishiki). He might be new to sumo, but he's not new to the world of combat sports as he is a black belt in judo.

**WOMEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT**  
1st: Nancy Quidachay - HON  
2nd: Lia Signaevskaia - IND

**MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT**  
1st: Maxim Luganskiy - SIN  
2nd: Edobor Konyeha - RAI  
3rd: Matt Hudlow - OCS

**WOMEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT**  
1st: Ashley Smallwood - IND  
2nd: Leah Mancillas - HON  
3rd: Emily Alvendia - RCS

**MEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT**  
1st: JJ Jones - HON  
2nd: Christian Pryfogle - HON  
3rd: Justin Kizzart - DCS

**WOMEN'S LIGHT HEAVY**  
1st: Paulina Jimenez - HON  
2nd: Aileen Meriales - RCS  
3rd: Cassandra Briano - HON

**MEN'S LIGHT HEAVY**  
1st: Kohsei Imada - HON  
2nd: Danny Avila - CAL  
3rd: Eric Huynh - RAI

**WOMEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT**  
1st: Kellyann Ball - CAL  
2nd: Christina Griffin-Jones - HON  
3rd: Yaleidy Toro Graniela - BSC

**MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT**  
1st: Jose Galindo - BSC  
2nd: Gilberto Delatorre - CAL  
3rd: Angel Delatorre - CAL

**WOMEN'S OPENWEIGHT**  
1st: Kellyann Ball - CAL  
2nd: Yaleidy Toro Graniela - BSC  
3rd: Paulina Jimenez - HON

**MEN'S OPENWEIGHT**  
1st: Jose Galindo - BSC  
2nd: Eric Huynh - RAI  
3rd: Angel Delatorre - CAL

**BEST PERFORMANCE**  
Kellyann Ball - CAL

**FIGHTING SPIRIT**  
Angel Delatorre - CAL

**TECHNIQUE**  
Maxim Luganskiy - SIN





**Raijin's Eric sent flying by California's Danny**



**Danny in turn taken down by Raijin's Edobor**

If there was any doubt of her skills on the dohyo, Kellyann Ball took home gold in women's heavyweight and remained undefeated in open weight enabling her to take home not just two more medals to add to her already impressive collection, but the best performance special prize as well.

The list of names of the heavyweight men who stepped on the winner's podium after their heroic bouts will be familiar to anyone who has followed amateur sumo for any length of time. Jose Galindo won gold in both men's heavyweight and the men's open. Gilberto Delatorre snatched up second place and his brother Angel Delatorre claimed the third-place spot on the men's heavyweight podium as well as the Fighting Spirit prize.

The second SoCal Open was undoubtedly a highly successful tournament, and I for one am looking forward to joining the folks of Honu Sumo this June for nationals to have another chance to do sumo with some of the finest and friendliest athletes in the amateur sumo world.

## YOUTH RESULTS

**KIDS 5-7**  
 1st: Noah - HON  
 2nd: Grayson  
 3rd: Rhys

**KIDS 8-11 A**  
 1st: Pablo - HON  
 2nd: Steven - HON  
 3rd: Kaysie - HON

**KIDS 8-11 B**  
 1st: John - HON  
 2nd: Emiliano - HON  
 3rd: Matteo - HON

**KIDS 12-13**  
 1st: Logan  
 2nd: Pedro - HON  
 3rd: Lex - HON

**TEENS DIVISION**  
 1st: Aiden - CAL  
 2nd: Gio - OCS  
 Micah - HON



**Sin City's Maxim controlled by Raijin's Eric**



**Kellyann remains on top of the amazumo world**



**Training partners Ashley and Leah share a post-match laugh**



# CHANKONABE

Chankonabe, or simply chanko, is the staple meal of the professional sumo wrestler. Though it is always a hearty stew heavy in protein, it is otherwise unique to the person making it. There is no right or wrong recipe for chanko.

A professional sumotori's day starts with intense training first thing in the morning with no breakfast. They train hard for hours on end, with the junior wrestlers generally training first and the seniors joining in later. When the younger and/or lower ranked men are finished with training, they are the ones tasked with preparing lunch for the rest of the team.

Chanko is usually started with a dashi or chicken broth base in one big pot. From there, the cooks will add basically anything they can to fill out the stew. Chanko broth is often enhanced with seasonings like soy sauce, kombu, mirin, or sake. Vegetables get chopped up and tossed in as well, such as bok choy, carrots, radishes, mushrooms, or whatever else is available in the kitchen.

Chicken, beef, seafood, and tofu are common proteins to include in chankonabe. Chicken is especially used during tournament time, since it is considered bad luck to use meat from animals that walk on four legs, i.e. a sumo wrestler wants to stay upright like a chicken rather than touch the ground with their hands like a cow.



Chanko is loaded with healthy ingredients, but what makes it special to sumo is the vast quantities in which it is consumed. Wrestlers chow down on enormous portions of chanko, rice, noodles, and beer after training every day to pack on the pounds they need to succeed in sumo.

Chanko has a place in amateur sumo as well. Since amateur clubs generally don't live together and may only train a few times per week or per month, it is always a good idea to find other activities to help the club bond and learn about sumo together.

Shogeki Sumo in Houston has a closer relationship with chanko than most clubs. Per coach Nick Ton, Shogeki has always made a point of gathering for a chanko night at least semi-regularly, and they are working on incorporating chanko into their demonstrations and seminars with the public. We all know schedules can make it tough sometimes, but getting together to cook is a great excuse to hang out, talk sumo, and refine the club recipe!

Special thanks to Nick of Shogeki and Corbin of Iowa Sumo for their pictures and help on this article.



Yama and Corbin prepping ingredients



Chicago Sumo Club enjoying the results



**Meeting Hakuho**



**Post-training with Asakayama-beya**



**Siggy with Tochinoshin**

# DALLAS IN JAPAN

Dallas Sumo Club remains on the forefront of connecting the American amateur community with our sumo heroes in Japan. Last year, Dallas brought Gagamaru to the Rollertown Showdown tournament, and this year Oyakata Corey Morrison and Okamisan Siggy Sauer travelled to Japan for a whirlwind ride through the world of ōzumo. Between attending the Dream Girls and Hakuho Cup youth tournaments and being guests at the retirement ceremony of former ōzeki Tochinoshin, they were able to visit and even train with several professional sumo stables.

Fellow Texan and former rikishi Wakaichiro was also in Japan at the same time, and helped Corey and Siggy meet some of the coaches and wrestlers he used to work with, leading to training and dining with rikishi from Ikazuchi, Oshima, and Asakayama heyas.

Their friend Gagamaru was able to introduce them to many other sumo legends during the trip, from Hakuho to Tochinoshin. Come to Celina, Texas for the 2024 Rollertown Showdown this April to meet and train with Gaga and Dallas Sumo Club!



**Backstage with Terunofuji and Kiribayama**



**Corey testing Tamawashi's muscles**



# SUMO ESSENTIALS WITH TOM ZABEL

## GYOJI BASICS PART 2: THE MATCH

Figure 1



During the bout, the gyoji must always try to be in the best position to easily observe the outcome of a match and maintain a posture suitable for delivery of a verdict.

The gyoji must take care not to step on the straw bags (**tawara**) forming the perimeter of the dohyo (**shodu-dawara**) or on the fine sand just outside the dohyo (**janome**). (This is not as critical for an inside, portable dohyo.)

During the match, a gyoji may encourage the rikishi. These phrases are called kakegoe. "**Nokotta, nokotta!**" - said at the tachiai and when a rikishi is executing a technique. "**Yoi, hake-yoi!**" - encouraging rikishi to try harder and to get out of an immobile state.

When a mawashi comes loose, the gyoji may halt the bout by shouting "**Matta**" (wait) and putting a hand on each rikishi to signal them to stop. This is called a "mawashi matta."

Both rikishi should remain in the exact position of when the gyoji touches them. The gyoji will then tighten the mawashi and restart the match. The match is restarted by the gyoji placing a hand on each rikishi. When the gyoji lifts his hands and shouts "**Hakke-yoi**" (Go) the rikishi may begin again.

If the rikishi move out of position and cannot satisfactorily be repositioned, the head judge (**shinpan**) may order the match to be restarted.

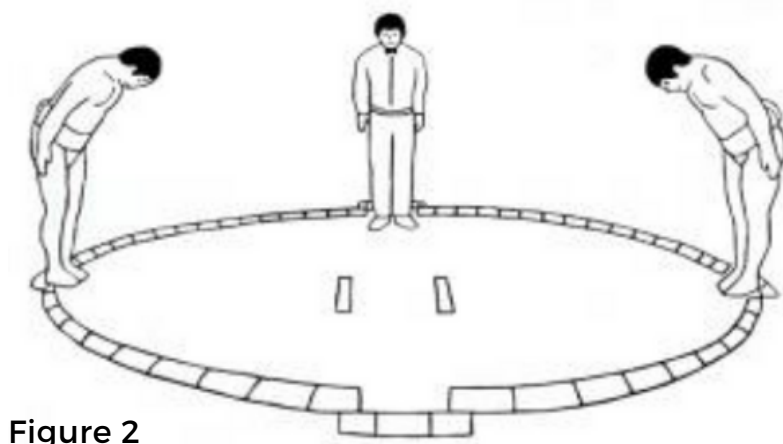


Figure 2

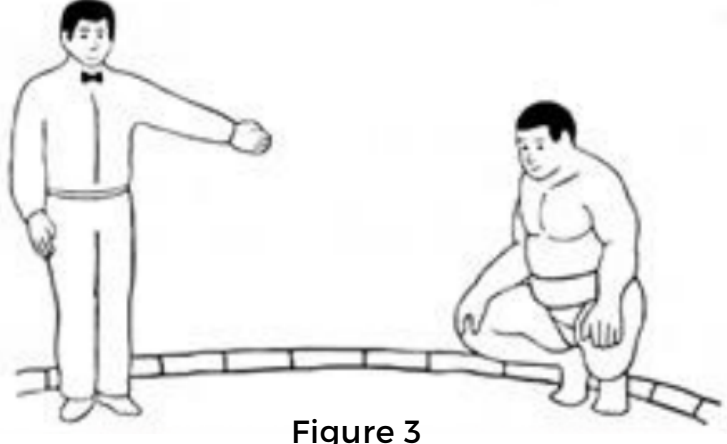


Figure 3

The gyoji makes the initial decision of who won, upon completion of the match.

At the end of the match, the gyoji immediately shouts "**Shobu atta**" (the contest is over), and indicates with his arm the East or West winning rikishi (depending on the side from which they entered. (see Figure 1)

When the match is over the rikishi and the gyoji return to their starting positions just inside the toku-dawara. The gyoji says, "**Rei**" (bow), to which the rikishi respond to by bowing to each other. (see Figure 2)

If there are no objections by the shinpan, the gyoji then makes a formal declaration of the winner by saying "**Nishi (Higashi) no kachi**" (West [East] is the winner), and signaling with his arm in the direction of the winning rikishi. (see Figure 3)

Note: Higashi (East) is always to the gyoji's right; Nishi (West) is always to the gyoji's left.

The loser takes a step back and out of the dohyo. The winning rikishi assumes the sonkyo position to receive the decision.



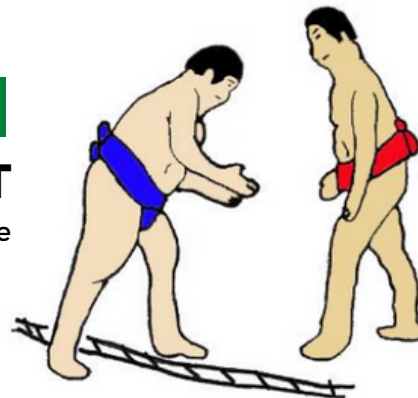
# KIMARITE KORNER

# 決まり手 BY TOM ZABEL

**Hiwaza** are ways that a wrestler loses a match by committing a default action. These are not considered a technique, but an unfortunate act or reaction by your opponent. As the “attacker”, you do not do anything in particular to cause your opponent to fall, touch down, or step out. However, you do get credit in the “win” column. These five (5) defaults are listed outside the official list of winning techniques.

## FUMIDASHI REAR STEP OUT

“Fumi” is “step”, “dashi” is “out”. A rikishi accidentally steps back over the edge of the towaru without his opponent initiating any kind of technique.



## ISAMIASHI

### FORWARD STEP OUT

“Isami” means “going further than proper”, “ashi” is “foot”. A wrestler steps out of the dohyo unintentionally or by mistake, giving the victory to his opponent.



## KOSHIKUDAKE

### INADVERTANT COLLAPSE

“Koshi” means “weak-kneed”, “kudake” is “fall or crumble”. A rikishi falls over backward without his opponent attempting any technique, often the result of a rikishi overcommitting to an attack.



## TSUKIHIZA

### KNEE TOUCH DOWN

“Tsuki” means “thrust”, or in this case “dash against”, “hiza” is ‘knee’. A rikishi stumbles without any real contact with his opponent and loses by touching down with one or both knees.



## TSUKITE

### HAND TOUCH DOWN

“Tsuki” means “thrust”, or in this case “dash against”, “te” is “hand”. A rikishi stumbles and loses by touching down with one or both hands. The match is considered over even if it is only the finger tip(s) that touch the dohyo.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

USSF SANCTION #10908

**SUMO TOURNAMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

THE INAUGURAL  
**SAKURA CUP**

APRIL 6, 2024

OUTDOOR SUMO TOURNAMENT  
@ **MUSIC CITY MUSCLE GYM**  
HOSTED BY THE  
TENNESSEE SUMO ASSOCIATION  
PART OF **JAPAN WEEK 2024**




USSF SANCTION #10917


FRIDAY APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> & SATURDAY APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>

2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
**Rollertown SHOWDOWN**  
SUMO TOURNAMENT  
EAST VS WEST

ローラータウン対決相撲大会!

SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES:  
ROLLERTOWN@DALLASSUMOCLUB.ORG

EVENT INFO & SIGN-UP: [WWW.DALLASSUMOCLUB.ORG/ROLLERTOWN](http://WWW.DALLASSUMOCLUB.ORG/ROLLERTOWN)



## DOWN THE ROAD IN 2024:



# SUMO 411

**2024 US NATIONALS**  
San Diego, CA - 6/1/24

**Consulate's Cup**  
Austin, TX - 8/31/24  
Sanction #10884

**2024 SUMO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
Krotoszyn, Poland  
9/6 - 9-8/24

**US SUMO OPEN**  
SAT MAY 11, 2024  
WALTER PYRAMID, CAL STATE LONG BEACH

USSF SANCTION #10945

24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL



Contact the editors to get your club or event added and find more event information at [sumo411.com](http://sumo411.com)!



# AMERICAN SUMO FEBRUARY 2024 PAGE 15

**Rain City SUMO**  
SEATTLE, WA  
@raincitysumo@gmail.com

**SALT CITY SUMO**  
SALT LAKE CITY, UT  
@saltcitysumo

**GRAND RAPIDS SUMO CLUB**  
Grand Rapids MI  
gabrielunick@gmail.com

**ROCK CITY SUMO**  
METRO DETROIT, MI

**NEW YORK SUMO CLUB**  
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**New York Sumo Beya**  
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**ZOWA SUMO CLUB**  
DES MOINES, IA

**CHICAGO SUMO CLUB**  
chicagosumoclub  
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**APPALACHIAN SUMO CLUB**  
PITTSBURGH PA

**PHOENIXVILLE SUMO CLUB**  
PHOENIXVILLE PENNSYLVANIA

**DC, MARYLAND, NORTHERN VA METRO**

**PORTLAND SUMO**  
PORTLAND, OR

**RED KINGDOM SUMO**  
KANSAS CITY, MO  
REDKINGDOMSUMO@GMAIL.COM

**Ohayo Sumo Indiana**  
BLOOMINGTON IN

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**OHAYO SUMO DAYTON**  
@OhayoSumoDayton

**RAIJIN SUMO**  
RALEIGH, NC  
@ncsumo

**SEQUOIA SUMO CLUB**

**Sin City Sumo Club**  
LAS VEGAS, NV

**901 SUMO**  
Memphis, TN  
901-314-9278  
robertdaniel313@yahoo.com  
@901\_Sumo

**TN Sumo**  
NASHVILLE, TN  
@TNSUM022  
TNSUM022@GMAIL.COM

**Iron Mountain Sumo Club**  
ELIZABETHTON, TN

**HOSTESS CITY SUMO**  
SAVANNAH, GA  
HOSTESSCITYSUMO@GMAIL.COM

**OC SUMO CLUB**  
TUSTIN CA  
OCSUMO@GMAIL.COM

**DARK CIRCLE SUMO**  
Austin, TX  
@darkcirclesumo.com

**DALLAS SUMO CLUB**  
dallasumoclub.org

**ANTIOCH SUMO BEARS**  
NASHVILLE, TN

**GEORGIA SUMO CLUB**  
ATLANTA, GA

**GORILLA SUMO-BEYA**  
DAYTONA BEACH, FL  
sportsmarkj@aol.com

**HONU SUMO CLUB**  
San Diego, CA  
Keiko (Sumo Practice) Every Saturday at 11am  
@HONU BJJ  
4310 Orange Ave., SD, CA 92105  
Contact honusumo@gmail.com for more info  
@honusumo  
HONU Bierd Studios

**Mighty Eagle SUMO**  
SAN ANTONIO TX  
@mightyeaglesumo.com

**SHÖGEKI**  
HOUSTON, TX

**浪人 RONIN SUMO**  
Defuniak Springs, FL  
roninsumo@gmail.com  
850-629-9074  
@roninsumo

**IRONWAVE SUMO**  
PANAMA CITY BEACH & ORLANDO, FL  
IRONWAVESUMO@GMAIL.COM  
850-774-4798

**Boriken Sumo Club**  
Mayaguez, Puerto Rico  
Boriken.sumoclub@gmail.com  
(626)627-2994 or 3807



**Mighty Eagle Sumo leading a demonstration at San Antonio's Otaku Food Festival**

Photo by Mighty Eagle Sumo

# COMING UP IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:

- **Tournament Coverage:**
  - Haru Honbashi
  - 4/6/24 Sakura Cup
  - 4/13/24 Rollertown Showdown
- **Previews and Features**
  - 2024 Nationals

# CLUB ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS ISSUE:

<b>ABR:</b>	<b>Club Name:</b>	<b>Out of:</b>
AHS	Antioch High School Bears	Nashville, TN
BSC	Boriken Sumo Club	Mayaguez, PR
CAL	California Sumo	Los Angeles, CA
DAL	Dallas Sumo Club	Dallas, TX
DCS	Dark Circle Sumo	Austin, TX
HON	Honu Sumo	San Diego, CA
IMS	Iron Mountain Sumo	Elizabethton, TN
IWS	Iron Wave Sumo	Orlando, FL
MES	Mighty Eagle Sumo	San Antonio, TX
OCS	OC Sumo Club	Tustin, CA
RAI	Raijin Sumo	Raleigh, NC
RCS	Rain City Sumo	Seattle, WA
SHO	Shogeki Sumo	Houston, TX
SIN	Sin City Sumo	Las Vegas, NV
IND	Independent/Unaffiliated	