



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



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I first became a sumo fan in my childhood, growing up in Hiroshima. During that time, Taiho was the strongest wrestler – virtually unbeatable.

I started wrestling myself while at university, more freestyle than sumo, so I could get a real appreciation of the skills and strength deployed by the top sumo stars. I always favoured grappling rather than pushing, so obviously I came to admire Chiyonofuji. Now, I admire Harumafuji. I think his body and physique is identical to Chiyonofuji's, and I am sure that when he gets a little heavier, he

will be a yokozuna. But he has to change his style though. He needs to work on the mae-mitsu grip that Chiyonofuji perfected all those years ago.

While working for a financial company in the 1980s, much of my work was based in the Kinshicho area of Tokyo, very close to Ryogoku. I had many meetings with members of the Nihon Sumo Kyokai, including the former Sadogatake-oyakata, yokozuna Kotozakura. He struck me as a gentleman. I was overawed when meeting him, but I could not ask for an autograph as I was working.

Now, I don't go to the Kokugikan so much and prefer to watch on TV. But as my daughters grow up, they take part in more and more child sumo festivals in Chiba, which are even attended by professional sumo wrestlers.

I like teaching sumo to my daughters, and they are very keen to learn from me. One of them has mastered the art of pushing really well, but the other is a little small and gets lifted out easily. When they get older, I will teach them belt-sumo, as you have to push before you can grapple.