



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



*by Gaiun, 40, Salesman, Tokyo*

I was born in Saitama but my parents were born in Fukuoka, so I have a special affection for the Fukuokan sumo wrestlers. Obviously the hero in my parents' home town is Kaio. He is consistently strong, even at such an advanced age. When the Fukuoka basho is on, the town is littered with sumo posters, and Kaio's face is always the biggest. He is a great ambassador for our city, and I am so pleased he has the record for makuuchi career wins.

Although most Fukuokans support

Kaio, I actually favour Kakizoe. You know this guy? He's very short but he's very technically skilled and looks very strong to me. He is a great example of sumo's fighting spirit. I think he made komusubi once and he is doing alright now. I should explain: Kakizoe comes from Oita, which is near Fukuoka, so he has a lot of support down there. I remember his match against Aran in 2008 – that was one of the greatest tsuppari battles ever, and everybody in the arena wanted him to win. I heard that Kakizoe once had a tsukebito from Tonga. I'd love to have met this

guy and practised my English upon him.

Now, I'm working hard in my office job so I don't get a chance to watch sumo on TV. Furthermore, I will be transferring to Seattle in May, so my chances to watch sumo will become even fewer in number.

I was really impressed with Baruto in the last basho, and I think he is now stronger than Kotooshu. I don't know if he can make yokozuna but he will certainly provide much excitement now that Asashoryu has gone.