

Ones To Watch – Kyushu 2010

*Text by Alexander Herrmann
Photos by Chris Gould*

Come Kyushu, come the time for rumors of **Kaio**'s pending intai. He is the second oldest sekitori at the moment, and there are some other rikishi in their late-/mid-30s who will be featured in this issue of OTW. Kaio himself is part of another piece in this issue, so he will not be mentioned in the lines to follow.

Five months older than Kaio is **Tosanoumi**, heir apparent to Isenoumi-beya and on the professional dohyo since 1994. His 2-13 in Aki was a real disappointment as he should still be strong enough to keep pace with lower makuuchi and/or upper juryo. He is set bow out right after next Aki Basho (when his stablemaster retires) so he has one last chance to finish Aki with a kachi-koshi. On the way to that basho there are five others, and I'm curious as to where on the banzuke he will stand in the end.

Next on the list is **Tochinonada** at 36 years. He is still good enough to stand his ground in the lower half of makuuchi and there



Tochinonada

are still some years left in his body. His result in Aki will propel him up into the region M9/M10 which is a very dangerous one: he might face some joi-jin from there and rack up too many losses to stay in makuuchi. He has been yo-yo-ing for one year already and this might well continue.

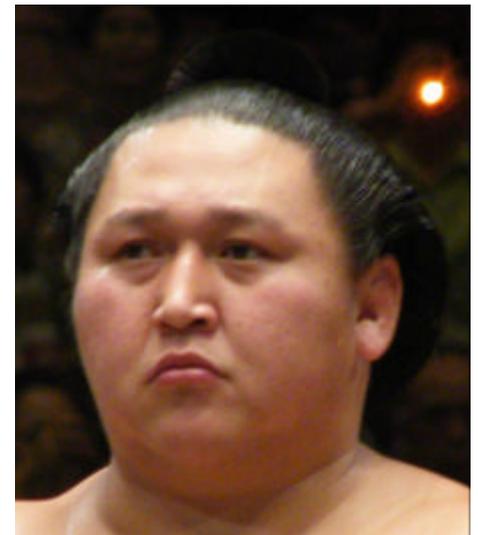


Toyozakura

Number four in the list of oldest sekitori is **Toyozakura**, whose future stay in Ozumo is not clear at the moment yet. Granted he won't retire too soon but there seems no kabu yet reserved for him. His trip to M17 thanks to the betting--scandal-based suspensions was simply too much for him, and he

will return to his usual mid-juryo grounds. There he is still a force to be reckoned with.

Another rikishi with a secure post-dohyo career is **Kyokutenho**, who will inherit Oshima-beya in 2012. His 4-11 at M3 was expectable, but he still does his best to leave the top guys scratching their heads. And his serenity can still hardly be matched by any other maegashira. Watch him in November, when he once again becomes a stumbling block for the big ranks and young turks.



Kyokutenho

The youngster in this list at "only" 34 years of age is **Asofuji**, another one of the juryo regulars. Despite his advanced age I still see so much potential in him, and every time when he is at a high juryo position I think: "NOW! is the time he finally makes another makuuchi stint." He probably won't, but that's no reason not to keep your fingers crossed for him (and see him promoted to makuuchi again in 2015 *wink, wink*).

Enjoy the Kyushu Basho!