

Letters to the Editor

Dear SFM,

I am happy to see that some of my thoughts about the latest problems in sumo are becoming reality. The Kyokai threw all those guys out. I feel sorry for them, but they asked for it. The JSA did not give them much of a chance: retire now (with benefits) or you will be expelled (without benefits), and no time to think about it. Great! Yahoo! Banzai! Good deal for sumo, but I think there are more of them out there. I like the way the JSA are handling the May Basho. It seems they are doing a lot of things right, but only time will tell. Ask the American Congress about the phrase "time will tell."

Getting back to sumo, I think it needs more outside help. The riji also have stables to run. It is most difficult to work two full-time jobs at the same time. Maybe they should utilize the talents of retired rikishi who do not own elder stock. Has a former member of juryo ever been a riji? I wonder what the banzuke will look like for the next two basho.

So now with hazing, drugs, gambling, and match fixing, what else can they do wrong? Now is the time to start making good decisions.

Ron Kloess

SFM Editor's reply:

Dear Ron,

Great to see you have been following events so closely from outside Japan. I hope that the action the JSA has taken will be enough to appease disenchanted fans. It will be interesting to see if the investigation continues, as many searching questions remain unanswered this time around. Hope your enthusiasm for coming to a basho in Japan remains strong as ever.

Regards,
Chris Gould, Editor
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