



Araibira's Video Vault

My top three vids of the 2012 Hatsu Basho



by Alden Alayvilla

The 2012 Hatsu basho was filled with high drama and shocking moments. In the Sandanme division, Russian giant Orora took on diminutive Ohara in a circus like bout, which was entertaining and interesting to say the least. Also, the curse of the winter basho continued to plague Hakuho, the king of the dohyo, who lost three of his last six bouts. Lastly, the first basho of the year produced a deserving Estonian champion, whose spotlight bout delivered knockout results. Ladies and gentlemen: I present to you my top three videos of the 2012 Hatsu basho.

[Ohara vs Orora](#) was a bout pitting two very opposite sized opponents. 75 kg Ohara battled 273 kg leviathan Orora in a true open weight bout. It conjured nostalgic memories of [Mainoumi fighting Konishiki](#). These are the kinds of

matches that breed delight and entertainment amongst all sumo enthusiasts.

After twenty previous attempts against Yokozuna grand champion Hakuho, Sekiwake Kakuryu struggled and failed to capture a win against his Mongolian counter-part. However, all of that changed when the grand champion slipped, lost his focus and allowed Kakuryu to deliver the most important and spectacular victory of his career. Day eleven of the 2012 Hatsu basho, which featured [Hakuho vs Kakuryu](#), will go down as turning points in the careers of both men in this grandeur, grueling and highly competitive sport.

The gyoji, sumo's referees, are often overlooked in a sport that is towered by giants. These men worked diligently their entire lives,

starting as early as fifteen years of age, officiating the grappling gods of the dohyo. Kimura Shozaburo is as tough and griddy as they come; for years now, he has battled cancer, while (amazingly) still officiated bouts. On day four, the sumo world witnessed to the most shocking footage ever documented: [Kimura Shozaburo knocked unconscious](#).

As the Haru basho looms like the early morning sunrise before the break of night, we as fans are blessed and privileged to be a part of one of the earliest and fiercest combative sports known to man. Will history be made in Osaka as Baruto vies for the title of Yokozuna? Will Hakuho bounce back into prestige, unbeatable form? Whatever is in store for us in Osaka, it will be thrilling and dynamic. SUMO!!