



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

by Denis Chaton

*Each issue of SFM, We'll ask you to tell us something about you and sumo. Think you have something readers would like to know? Write our letters section! Enjoy.*

*SFM's French translator extraordinaire - the man responsible for making our stock articles available to the French speaking fans around the world*

One lazy night, in the deepest wilderness of the Ardennes region of France, with nothing much to be seen on TV, I ended up on Eurosport and tuned into the broadcast of quite a strange sport.

Two massive, humongous guys, were about to rumble and I was particularly amazed by one of them. There was such a feeling of quietness, of serenity, emitting from him, that you would have believed you were in front of a meditating Buddha. The other wrestler was more tanned but didn't seem to be aggressive either. Even bigger than the man who initially drew my attention, his bulbous eyes made him look like he was just bored. Throughout these tense seconds both men gave the same impression of retaining a great deal of energy and determination.

I'll skip the details of the bout, that would be too long, and is now a little bit fuzzy in my memory but the thing I will never forget, is the face of Takanohana - as it is the former yokozuna I am talking about here – when he won a kettei-sen on one knee against Musashimaru. Takanohana's was a



face on which pain and joy were completely intermingled. That was one of those precious moments – for a man who, for myself at least, remains the perfect ascetic in sumo – when emotion was bigger than self-control.

This bout was a sort of revelation but even more importantly led to my discovering a number of sumo sites on the Internet. Initially there were the websites info-sumo.net (French) and Sumo Forum (English) which both impressed upon me a particular interest in the historical aspects of sumo, thanks to the highly respected

fonts of so much knowledge that are Hoshifransu and Jonosuke (Joe Kuroda of SFM).

This led me to go eventually further my passion for sumo, in becoming a collaborator for *Le Monde du Sumo*, and the translator for the French version of *Sumo Fan Magazine*. Aside from these two posts here, when I happen to have time, I also try to translate into French some of the major English language books on sumo; my next target being Takamiyama's biography.

