



HIGHEST RANK. Estonian Ozeki Baruto, right, falls down as he is thrown out of the ring by Kakuryu in this March 14, 2012 file photo taken in Osaka, western Japan. Kakuryu, of Mongolia, has been promoted to yokozuna, becoming the sixth foreign-born wrestler to reach sumo's highest rank. The 28-year-old Kakuryu won the Spring Grand Sumo Tournament last month with a 14-1 record en route to his second career title and was unanimously voted to become the 71st grand champion. Kakuryu, whose real name is Mangaljalav Anand, joins fellow Mongolians Hakuho and Harumafuji as the three wrestlers at the top rank. He becomes the fourth Mongolian to reach yokozuna. Asashoryu, who retired in 2010, was the first. Sumo has not had a Japanese grand champion since Takanohana retired in 2003. (AP Photo/Kyodo News, File)

Bulgarian sumo wrestler Kotooshu retires

TOKYO (AP) — Bulgaria-born sumo wrestler Kotooshu, the first European to win the prestigious Emperor's Cup, has announced his retirement.

The 31-year-old Kotooshu, whose real name is Karoyan Ando, was promoted to sumo's second-highest rank of *ozeki* in 2005 and won the Emperor's Cup in 2008 for his only championship at the elite level.

"I was at my limit physically and mentally," Kotooshu said. "I've had so many injuries recently, but I have no regrets because I gave it my utmost over 12 years. I am glad that I was able to be a sumo wrestler."

He was relegated to the third-highest rank of *sekiwake* for this year's New Year tournament in January where he finished with a losing record and was unable to regain his *ozeki* status. Battling a series of injuries, Kotooshu lost nine straight bouts in the ongoing spring tournament.

A Japanese citizen, Kotooshu said he plans to instruct junior wrestlers as an elder of the Japan Sumo Association. He ends his career with a record of 537 wins and 337 losses.



KOTOOSHU RETIRES. A girl reacts while playing at a stadium in Tokyo with sumo wrestler Kotooshu during an event for children who survived the March 11, 2011 tsunami, in this April 15, 2011 file photo. Bulgaria-born Kotooshu, the first European wrestler to win an Emperor's Cup, has decided to retire. The 31-year-old, whose real name is Karoyan Ando, was promoted to sumo's second-highest rank of *ozeki* in 2005 and won the Emperor's Cup in 2008 for his only championship at the elite level. (AP Photo/Koji Sasahara, File)

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