Nakatani, rising star in Japanese boxing, determined to knock out Inoue

BY YURI KAGEYAMA ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAGAMIHARA, Japan — One is known as "The Monster," the other "Big Bang."

The bout between champion boxers Naoya Inoue (30-0-0, 27 KOs) and Junto Nakatani (31-0-0, 24 KOs) is already being billed as Japan's "fight of the century." And the date hasn't even been set.

Sports pundits are hailing what's happening these days as the golden age of Japanese boxing. And this is a nation that has produced its share of Hall of Famers.

For a period last year, all four division bantamweight champions were Japanese. The Ring magazine's latest Top Ten pound-for-pound ranking has three Japanese fighters, including Inoue and Nakatani.

Both Nakatani and Inoue have at least one fight before their dream match. But no one is expecting either of them to lose.

"That's the way boxing works. Inoue has a story, and I have a story. When these stories clash, people are moved and gain courage. That's where it is fun," Nakatani said in an interview with The Associated Press at M.T Boxing Gym southwest of Tokyo.

"For me, boxing is what you show in the ring all that you worked for and built every day. It's a place where you express the life you have lived," he said.

Nakatani smiles often, exuding a kindness that strikes a contrast to his almost scientific brutality in the ring.

If you ever get angry, you will lose, he said. One must keep control, as boxing is a contest of minds and strategies, doing exactly what your opponent does not want you to do.

Earlier this year, Inoue, the first Japanese fighter to be No. 1 in the poundfor-pound rankings, which evaluates boxers taking their weight and size into account, defended his super bantamweight title against Ramon Cardenas at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas.

Inoue gave his fans a fright by getting knocked down in the second round but came back to soundly stop the fight in the eighth.

It was Inoue's second fight in Las Vegas, with his debut coming four years ago in a seventh-round knockout of Australian Jason Moloney.

Inoue, one of only three male boxers in the four-belt era to unify at two weight classes, is scheduled for a September showdown in Tokyo against Murodjon Akhmadaliev of Uzbekistan.

Nakatani's next opponent isn't decided yet. But speculation is rife it might be Cardenas, allowing fans to analyze how Nakatani fares compared to Inoue.

The buzz is spreading to associated with boxing in Japan, like women and children.

These are fighters who draw long lines for their Tshirts and other merchandising, inspire manga, or Japanese comics, and pop up on hair product ads.

Boxing fever was hot with the packed crowd of 10,000 at the Ariake Coliseum for the WBC and IBF bantamweight unification title match between Nakatani and

Ryosuke Nishida last month. People are still talking about the fight, in which Nakatani came on fierce from for me to retire, I want to the first round. Nishida's eye became swollen, his shoulder was dislocated, and the fight was stopped after the sixth round.



Louise Delmotte/AP photo

Junto Nakatani trains at a gym in Sagamihara City, Kanagawa Prefecture on Tuesday.



Junto Nakatani wraps his hands before a training session at a gym in Sagamihara City, Kanagawa Prefecture on Tuesday.

against Inoue. The strategy was carefully planned with his Mexican American trainer Rudy Hernandez especially for Nishida.

"He is an athlete who has everything. He has outstanding boxing skills and so he is hard to beat. But even then, there are possibilities," Nakatani said of Inoue, vowing to beat him by knockout.

Inoue, who was at ringside to witness Nakatani's win, said afterward in a tweet: "Welcome to the super bantamweight battle front. Can't help but get excited when there's a Japanese this good."

Both Nakatani and Inoue started out learning karate as children.

Nakatani's father sent him to karate school when he was in third grade because he was always playing video games. He later switched to boxing, where he fared better because of the weight classes. He stopped playing

Nakatani's walkout music a fan base previously not is a defiant rendition by aging rocker Tsuyoshi Nagabuchi, vowing to give up a smug existence and instead be brave and selfless like the World War II kamikaze

> Nakatani said he chose that song to express gratitude to past generations, who sacrificed so much to give his generation peace. It happens to be one of his dad's favorite songs.

> Nakatani is taking it a step at a time. But he is already thinking about the legacy he will leave behind.

> "When the time comes end my career as the kind of boxer whom everybody loves," he said.

Yuri Kageyama is on Threads:

Nakatani said he won't https://www.threads. be taking the same strategy com/@yurikageyama

YOUR CUSTOMER JUST READ THIS AD. ADVERTISE WITH US.

Temporary Position for Shelby County

FSA is looking for temporary office assistance to help deliver "The American Relief Act of 2025," which was signed into law on Dec. 21, 2024 and provided the U.S. Department of Agriculture with more than \$30 billion to deliver disaster recovery assistance for farmers and livestock producers. This position will help support the implementation of the Emergency Livestock Relief Program and the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program which will provide assistance to producers for necessary expenses due to losses due to weather related events in 2023 and 2024. Resumes can be submitted to the Shelby County office at 65 Breighton Blvd, Ste 1, Shelbyville, KY 40065 or by email to Kara.McIntosh@usda.gov through the close of business on Wednesday,

- July 16, 2025. All applicants shall
- 1. Be citizens of the United States
- Be a High School Graduate or have a GED.
- 3. Have a Social Security Number.
- 4. Be at least 18 years of age or 17 years of age for a high school graduate. Have typing and/or keyboard experience.
- Submit a Resume including your SSN, your country of Citizenship, education, and work experience

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Candidates will be considered without discrimination for any non-merit reason such as race, color, national origin, gender, religion or non-membership in any employee organization. This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-



ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE PROBATE DIVISION OF SHELBY DISTRICT COURT IN THE ESTATE OF Donald Albert Wilkinson DECEASED, WHO RESIDED IN SHELBY COUNTY, KY. Mitchell D. Wilkinson WAS APPOIN-TED Executor OF THE ESTATE ON June 30, 2025. ALL PER-SONS HAVING CLAIM AGAINST SAID ESTATE ARE NOTI-

FIED TO PRESENT Mitchell D. Wilkinson 4105 Turn Berry Ln, Shelbyville KY, 40065 NO LATER THAN December 30.2085.

CASE NUMBER 25-P 0018

ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE PROBATE DIVISION OF SHELBY DISTRICT COURT IN THE ESTATE OF Jennifer Armstrong DECEASED, WHO RESIDED IN SHELBY COUNTY, KY. Ray Armstrong WAS APPOINTED Executor OF THE ESTATE ON June 30, 2025. ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIM AGAINST SAID ESTATE ARE NOTIFIED TO PRESENT Ray Armstrong 3801 Bose Lane, Crestwood KY 40014 NO LATER THAN December 30 2005. SAID ATTORT-NEY FOR ESTATE IS Virginia L. Harrod 310 Court Street, New Castle KY 40050

CASE NUMBER 25-P-0018

ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE PROBATE DIVISION OF SHELBY DISTRICT COURT IN THE ESTATEOF Glenna Kaye Meals DECEASED, WHO RESIDED IN SHELBY COUNTY, KY. Roy T. Armstrong WAS APPOINTED Executor OF THE ESTATE ON June 30 2025 ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIM AGAINST SAID ESTATE ARE NOTIFIED TO PRESENT Roy T. Armstrong 3801 Rose Lane, Crestwood, KY 40014 NO ATER THAN December 30.2025. SAID ATTORTNEY FOR ES TATE IS Virginia L. Harrod 36 Court Street, New Castle KY

CASE NUMBER 25-P-00185 ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE PROBATE DIVISION OF SHELBY DISTRICT COURT IN THE ESTATE OF Sandra Kay Spies Jones DECEASED, WHO RESIDED IN SHELBY COUNTY, KY. Amanda Atchison WAS APPOINTED Executrix OF THE ESTATE ON June 30 2025. ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIM AGAINST SAID ESTATE ARE NOTIFIED TO PRESENT Amanda Atchison 2025 Castle Highway, Eminence KY 40019 NO LATER THAN December 30, 2025. SAID AT-TORTNEY FOR ESTATE IS Virginia L. Harrod 36 Court Street New Castle, KY 40050

CASE NUMBER 25-P-00182

FINAL NOTICE OF PROBATE SETTLEMENTS FINAL/ GUARDIANSHIP PERIODIC THE FOLLOWING SET-TLEMENT HAS BEEN FILED AND SET FOR HEARING ON Juy 28 05AT 10:30AM ESTATE OF:TIDA Lillian Clark ATTORNEY: Mark Davio Dean EXECUTOR/EXECUTRIX Lisa Browning CASE NUMBER 24-P00293



Junto Nakatani trains at a gym in Sagamihara City, Kanagawa Prefecture on Tuesday.



Louise Delmotte/AP photo

Junto Nakatani wraps his hands before a training session at a gym in Sagamihara City, Kanagawa Prefecture on Tuesday.



NOTICE

SHELBY CIRCUIT COURT
NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE By virtue of orders of the Shelby Circuit Court in the below listed actions, I shall proceed to offer for sale, at public auction, the real estate described herein to the highest and best bidder at the Shelby County Judicial Center, Shelbyville, Kentucky, FRIDAY, July 18, 2025, AT 10:00 A.M., EDT, which real estate is located

ALE NO. 1 ADS TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC V. EDWARD LEE PEYTON; LINDA PEYTON; ALICE FAYE PEYTON; UN-KNOWN SPOUSE OF ALICE FAYE PEYTON; DARLENE AN-NETTE PEYTON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DARLENE AN-NETTE PEYTON; REX TAX LIENS, LLC; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING THROUGH THE FARMERS HOME AD-MINISTRATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRI-CULTURE; COUNTRYSIDE TAX SERVICE, LLC; CITY OF SHELBYVILLE, KENTUCKY: AND COUNTY OF SHELBY KENTUCKY, ET. AL., Civil Action No. 24-CI-00022, 317 Memorial Drive, Shelbyville, Kentucky, Shelby County (for more specific and detailed description, refer to Deed Book 216, Page 106, in the Shelby County Clerk's Office. Parcel No: S3-05-011). Plaintiff's Attorney: Michael P. Bartlett

SALE NO. 2 ADS TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC V. UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF LINDA L. STOOPS; UNKNOWN HEIRS, DE-VISEES & LEGATEES OF LINDA STOOPS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE(S) OF THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES & LEG-ATEES OF LINDA STOOPS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TINA TURNER; UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES & LEGATEES OF TINA TURNER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE(S) OF THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISÉES & LEGATEES OF TINA TURNER; CHRIS-TOPHER TURNER; MARK TURNER; KIM TURNER; ROY BARNES; TIFFANY BARNES; AND COUNTY OF SHELBY, KENTUCKY, ET. AL., Civil Action No. 24-CI-00097, 1742 Lakeside Drive, Shelbyville, Kentucky, Shelby County (for more specific and detailed description, refer do Deed Book 379, Page 726, in the Shelby County Clerk's Office. Parcel No: S2-03

Plaintiff's Attorney: Michael P. Bartlett

Each of the foregoing parcels of real estate shall be sold on terms of cash deposit, cashier's check, certified check or personal check in the amount of the purchase price, or 10% down at the time of sale and the balance thereof due and payable in 30 days after date of sale. The purchaser of said real estate shall have the right to pay all or any part of the purchase price on the day of sale by cash, cashier's check, certified check or personal check. If the purchaser does not elect to pay the entire purchase price, the Master Commissioner shall take from the purchaser the sum of 10% down and a good and sufficient bond WITH SURETY ACCEPTABLE TO THE MASTER COMMISSIONER for the balance of said purchase price and bearing interest from date of sale as stated in the court order until paid in full.

SALE NO. 1 The Plaintiff shall recover an in rem judgment in the sum of 7,760.29 together with interest at the statutory rate of 6% per annum from the date of entry of this judgment until paid, plus any continuing costs or attorney's fees, including reasonable post-judgment costs and attorney's fees

SALE NO. 2 The Plaintiff shall recover an in rem judgment in the sum of \$7,997.80 together with interest at the statutory rate of 6% per annum from the date of entry of this judgment until paid; plus, any continuing costs or attorney's fees

MASTER COMMISSIONER'S NOTES

All prospective purchasers are advised to fully understand and consider the following: 1. All properties are sold strictly "as is with no warranties expressed or implied". Properties shall be sold at the Judicial Cen-

ter. No prior inspections are arranged by the Court or the Commissioner in that properties are often occupied as of the day of

Risk of loss to improvements to real estate shifts to purchaser as of the date of sale. Insurance should be placed immediately

3. All properties sold for less than two-thirds the appraised value are subject to current owner statutory right of redemption pursu-

ant to Kentucky Revised Statutes 4. Rights of possession given to purchaser with deed, but hold-

over occupants of real estate may require additional Court action by purchaser to obtain actual possession 5. Master Commissioner's deed warrants title only so far as au-

thorized by the judgment, order, and proceedings of the Court, but no further. Independent title examination by successful purchaser is recommended prior to confirmation of sale.

If the successful purchaser is an LLC, a certificate of good standing must be presented with a resolution allowing member to Third Party Surety must be presented at sale. Any questions about the surety must be directed to the Master Commissione

prior to sales date CHARLES S. TICHENOR, MASTER COMMISSIONER SHELBY CIRCUIT COURT P.O. BOX 509

TAYLORSVILLE, KY 40071 PHONE (502) 477-6412/ FAX (502)477-2169