

## **EPIC Anegawa 1570**

In early 1570, Oda Nobunaga marched against the Asakura clan. This forced his brother-in-law, Asai Nagamasa, to make a difficult choice between honouring a long held alliance with the Asakura or his family tie to the Oda. He chose to remain loyal to the Asakura, and Nobunaga made a hasty retreat to Kyoto to avoid being trapped between two enemy armies. Enraged by what he saw as Nagamasa's betrayal, he returned with a combined Oda-Tokugawa army in July 1570 and advanced on Nagamasa's home at Odani Castle. Learning that a combined Asai-Asakura army was moving to intercept him, Nobunaga laid siege to the Asai mountain castle of Yokoyama with a small detachment and positioned the remainder of his army on the southern bank of the shallow Ane River, near Lake Biwa in Omi Province.

The two armies met across the Ane, with the Tokugawa on the Oda left flank facing the Asakura, and the Oda on the right flank, facing the Asai. Both sides waded into the shallow river, where desperate fighting ensued. Tokugawa Ieyasu personally led his troops against the Asakura and gained the initiative when he ordered Honda Tadakatsu to flank the enemy troops, surrounding their commander Asakura Kagetage and threatening a rout. This was prevented by the heroism of an Asakura samurai named Makara Jurozaemon, who stood in the river and challenged any of the enemy to personal combat. This challenge was accepted by a number of the Tokugawa samurai and although Jurozaemon was eventually defeated, the diversion allowed the Asakura to withdraw in good order across the river. They fought a successful rearguard action but were forced from the field and the Tokugawa now crossed the Ane and turned to threaten the Asai's right flank.

On the Oda right flank, the Asai were having the better of Nobunaga's troops. One Asai samurai named Endo Kizaemon had resolved to take Nobunaga's head and came close to penetrating as far as the Oda headquarters, where a vulnerable Nobunaga had chosen to enter the battle unarmoured. Seeing the Oda plight, Tokugawa Ieyasu, who had crossed the Ane River after defeating the Asakura, drove into the Asai's right flank. The Oda reserve, led by Inaba Ittetsu, simultaneously struck the Asai left flank and even the Oda detachment at Yokoyama Castle left the siege to join the battle. The Asai were defeated and driven from the field. Although Asai Nagamasa escaped with the remnant of his army to Odani Castle, the Oda destroyed both the Asakura and Asai clans in 1573.

### **Asakura-Asai Samurai Army (Red)**

Command Cards – 6

Dragon Cards – 4

Honor & Fortune - 13

### **Oda-Tokugawa Samurai Army (Yellow)**

Command Cards – 6

Dragon Cards – 4

Honor & Fortune – 12

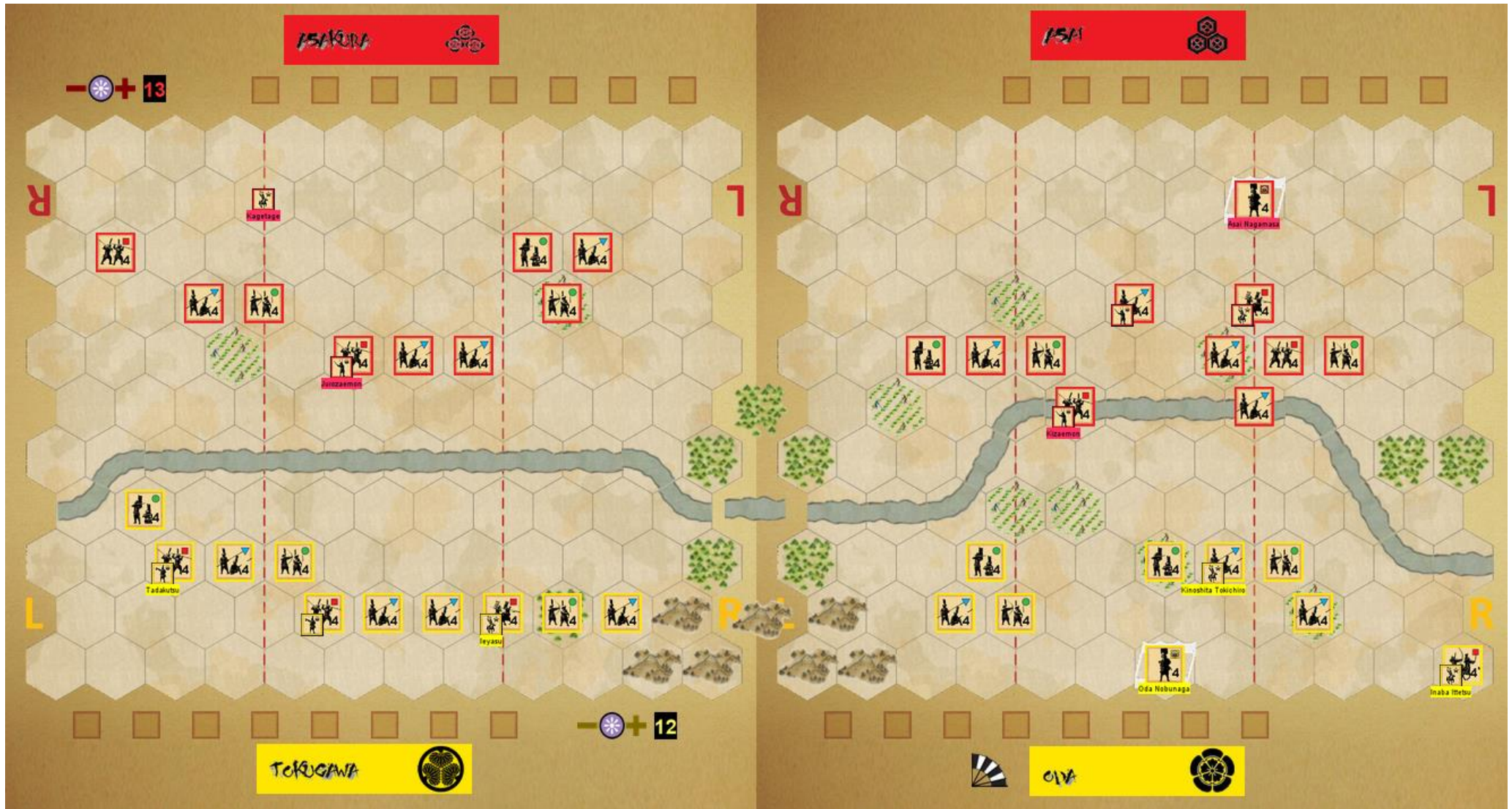
Move First

### **Victory**

12 banners

\* 1 Victory Banner for each unit or leader eliminated

\* Each Command Tent hex is worth 3 Victory Banners



### Special Rules

- The River is fordable