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THE JAPAN RACING ASSOCIATION (JRA)

DATE: December 7, 2008

**SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 9TH JAPAN CUP DIRT (G1)**



The Japan Cup Dirt which established itself as the dirt race version of the Japan Cup international contest commemorates its ninth anniversary since Wing Arrow (JPN) won the race in 2000. Lord Sterling (USA) was the first foreign contender to finish third in the inaugural running while Fleetstreet Dancer (USA) became the first foreign winner of the race in 2003. Twenty one foreign runners from not only North America but also from France, Germany, Great Britain and Hong Kong have participated in the race in the past although none ran in 2006.

The grade-one race which had traditionally been held at Tokyo Racecourse on the same weekend as the Japan Cup (turf) race, has been shifted to the following Sunday and at Hanshin Racecourse as one of four G1 events along with the Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup (G1, 2,200m), Mile Championship (G1, 1,600m) and Japan Cup (G1, 2,400m), to form the “Japan Autumn International” race festival (JAI) starting this year. The distance has also changed from 2,100m to 1,800m and run clockwise (right-handed).

The inaugural running of the renewed Japan Cup Dirt initially included three foreign contestants from U.S.A.—Frost Giant (USA) who had come with a record of two wins including the Suburban Handicap (G1, USA, 2,000m, dirt) in June; Tin Cup Chalice (USA) who had come off a win in the Indiana Derby (G2, USA, 1,700m, dirt); and Hollywood Gold Cup (G1, USA, 2,000m, AW) winner Mast Track (USA)—but, unfortunately, he was scratched from the race due to lameness in his right shoulder on the race day.

The Japanese opposition included defending champion, Vermilion (JPN) who was undefeated in his past six races in Japan and Kane Hekili (JPN) who made his bid to claim his second title in this race after having won the 2005 Japan Cup Dirt. Also in the line-up was Casino Drive, who was making only his second start in Japan and sixth overall, while claiming a grade-race title in the U.S. when winning the Peter Pan Stakes (G2, USA, 1,800m dirt).

**THE 9TH JAPAN CUP DIRT (G1):** 3-year-old & up, 1,800 meters (about 9 furlongs), dirt, right-handed

Sunday, December 7, 2008 Hanshin Racecourse 11th Race Post Time: 15:20

Total prize money: ¥ 277,900,000 (about US\$2,416,000 < US\$1 = ¥115 >)

Winner's prize: ¥ 130,000,000 (about US\$1,130,000 < US\$1 = ¥115 >)

3-y-o 55 kgs (about 121 lbs), 4-y-o & up 57 kgs (about 126 lbs), 2 kgs allowance for Fillies & Mares,

2kgs allowance for Southern Hemisphere horses born in 2005

Safety Factor: 16 runners (Foreign Trained Horses: 8)

FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	5	10	Kane Hekili (JPN)	H6	57.0	Fuji Kiseki Life Out There	C. Lemaire K. Sumii	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co. Ltd. Northern Farm	1:49.2 (36.4)	9.8 (4)
2	3	5	Meisho Tokon (JPN)	H6	57.0	Mayano Top Gun Lunar Sphere	S. Fujita I. Yasuda	Y. Matsumoto Niikappu Hashimoto Bokujo	Head (35.9)	25.7 (7)
3	3	6	Vermilion (JPN)	H6	57.0	El Condor Pasa Scarlet Lady	Y. Iwata S. Ishizaka	Sunday Racing Co. Ltd. Northern Farm	Neck (36.2)	2.2 (1)
4	2	3	Sunrise Bacchus (JPN)	H6	57.0	Hennessy Real Sapphire	T. Sato H. Otonashi	T. Matsuoka Yanagawa Bokujo	1-3/4 (36.3)	22.4 (6)
5	6	12	Blue Concorde (JPN)	H8	57.0	Fusaichi Concorde Ebisu Family	H. Miyuki T. Hattori	Blue Management Co.Ltd. E. Kawakami	Head (36.6)	36.3 (11)
6	6	11	Casino Drive (USA)	C3	56.0	Mineshaft Better Than Honour	K. Ando K. Fujisawa	H. Yamamoto Shell Bloodstock	3/4 (36.9)	7.1 (3)
7	7	14	Furioso (JPN)	C4	57.0	Brian's Time Fursa	K. Tosaki M.Kawashima	Darley Japan Farm Co. Ltd. Niikappu Hashimoto Farm	1 (37.2)	47.6 (12)
8	4	7	Success Brocken (JPN)	C3	56.0	Symboli Kris S Success Beauty	N. Yokoyama H. Fujiwara	Tetsu Takashima Tanigawa Bokujo	Nose (37.3)	4.4 (2)
9	1	1	Wonder Speed (JPN)	H6	57.0	King Glorious Wonder Heritage	F. Komaki T. Hatsuki	N.Yamamoto Fukuda Farm	1-3/4 (36.7)	28.2 (9)
10	8	15	Wild Wonder (JPN)	H6	57.0	Brian's Time Waltz Dancer	M. Ebina T. Kubota	T. Kusama Fujikawa Bokujo	Nose (37.2)	28.4 (10)
11	8	16	Bonneville Record (JPN)	H6	57.0	Assatis Daiwa Stan	H. Uchida M. Horii	K. Shioda Y. Hamamoto	3-1/2 (37.2)	50.1 (13)

12	1	2	Frost Giant* (USA)	H5	57.0	Giant's Causeway Takesmybreathaway	C. Velasquez R. Dutrow	IEAH Stable, A.Cohen&Pegasus Holdings Group Stable J.M.J. Stables Corporation	4 (38.0)	56.6 (14)
13	4	8	Tin Cup Chalice* (USA)	G3	56.0	Crusader Sword Twice Forbidden	E. Prado M. Lecesse	S. Van Laer M. Lecesse	Neck (38.9)	21.2 (5)
14	5	9	Admire Fuji (JPN)	H6	57.0	Admire Vega Admire Lapis	Y. Kawada M. Hashida	R. Kondo Tsuji Bokujo	4 (39.1)	26.1 (8)
15	2	4	Meisho Battler (JPN)	M8	55.0	Meisho Homura Meisho Hagoromo	Y. Fukunaga S. Takahashi	Y. Matsumoto A. Mikita	Distance (41.3)	103.3 (15)
			Mast Track* (USA)	C4	57.0	Mizzen Mast Nawal	G. Gomez R. Frankel	R. Frankel R. Frankel	Scratched	

PP=Final Position BK=Bracket Number PP=Post Position B=Blinkers L3F=Time of Last 3 Furlongs (600m)

NOTE1: \*=Foreign Horse

NOTE2: Figures quoted under **Odds** are Win Odds, which show the amount of money you get back per single unit (100yen), and **Fav** indicates the order of favorites.

WINNING TIME: 1:49.2

GOING: Standard

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥16,129,982,200

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥24,053,088,400

ATTENDANCE: 48,766

#### PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.10	¥980	PLACE	No.10	¥300
BRACKET QUINELLA	3 - 5	¥860		No.5	¥500
QUINELLA	5 - 10	¥11,710		No.6	¥120
EXACTA	10 - 5	¥21,570	QUINELLA PLACE	5 - 10	¥3,090
TRIO	5- 6 - 10	¥7,090		6 - 10	¥500
TRIFECTA	10 - 5 - 6	¥69,460		5 - 6	¥890

#### 1. KANE HEKIRI (JPN), chestnut, horse, 6-year-old

Fuji Kiseki / Life Out There (Deputy Minister)

Breeder: Northern Farm Owner: Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd.

Trainer: Katsuhiko Sumii Jockey: Christophe Lemaire

16 Starts, 9 Wins

Added money: ¥133,570,000 Career earnings: ¥611,624,700

#### 2. MEISHO TOKON (JPN), dark bay or brown, horse, 6-year-old

Mayano Top Gun / Lunar Sphere (Jade Robbery)

Breeder: Niikappu Hashimoto Bokujo Owner: Yoshio Matsumoto

Trainer: Isao Yasuda Jockey: Shinji Fujita

#### 3. VERMILION (JPN), dark bay or brown, horse, 6-year-old

El Condor Pasa / Scarlet Lady (Sunday Silence)

Breeder: Northern Farm Owner: Sunday Racing Co., Ltd.

Trainer: Sei Ishizaka Jockey: Yasunari Iwata

Fourth favorite **KANE HEKILI** partnered with Christophe Lemaire recaptured his Japan Cup Dirt title—which he claimed in 2005 in record time—in his second start after his long layoff of more than two years due to injury. This marked his fifth G1 and sixth grade-race victory. Last year's fourth-place finisher **MEISHO TOKON** finished a close second, followed by race favorite **VERMILION** who renewed **KANE HEKILI**'s race record when he won last year's Japan Cup Dirt.

The race broke off with U.S. raider **TIN CUP CHALICE** surging out from draw 8 to take the lead, pressed by Japanese frontrunners **SUCCESS BROCKEN** and **FURIOSO**. While last year's defending champion **VERMILION** traveled fourth from the rear, Lemaire settled **KANE HEKILI** in midfield around sixth from the front, and seventh pick **MEISHO TOKON** trailed the field in the very rear. With **SUCCESS BROCKEN** overtaking the lead from **TIN CUP CHALICE** along the backstretch, the field swung for home and spread wide to make a bid. Entering the homestretch right behind the frontrunner, **KANE HEKILI** surged out with Lemaire's urgings, nailed the front 200 meters out, and continued to gather speed before the cheering fans. **MEISHO TOKON**, coming from well behind, turned wide through the last two corners right behind **VERMILION** and rallied fiercely with the defending champion in the final stretch to challenge the leader. **KANE HEKILI**, however, stretching persistently in the last 100 meters, managed to hold off the strong challenges and crossed the wire a head in front of **MEISHO TOKON** who pulled away from the race favorite right before the wire to finish a neck in front in second.

**TIN CUP CHALICE** (USA) partnered with Edgar Prado took the lead, was overtaken coming into the backstretch and dropped back in the homestretch to finish 13th. "I wanted to race the horse just off the pace but we had to run in the front as there were no other horses willing to take the lead. I think I was able to race him well. The surface was a bit soft but he didn't seem to mind. He had only raced against three-year-olds before, so this is just a beginning for him," commented Prado.

**FROST GIANT** (USA) mounted by Cornelio Velasquez raced in midfield towards the rear and was never a contender. "He was already quite nervous at the paddock and never settled down, jumping repeatedly in the gate. I was unable to control him throughout the race," commented Velasquez.

- 3 **SUNRISE BACCHUS**: raced well behind, followed Meisho Tokon along the outside
- 12 **BLUE CONCORDE**: raced 2 lengths in front of Vermilion, gamely at stretch.
- 11 **CASINO DRIVE**: gradually edged forward from mid-division while racing wide throughout, overtaken by the leaders midstretch.
- 14 **FURIOSO**: among leaders up to mid-stretch but even paced.
- 7 **SUCCESS BROCKEN**: pressed pace and inherited the lead along backstretch. Used up
- 1 **WONDER SPEED**: good jump from gate saved ground, never a threat.
- 15 **WILD WONDER**: raced mid-division, followed winner coming into final turn but nothing left in final furlong.
- 16 **BONNEVILLE RECORD**: forced to race behind from outside stall. Lost momentum.
- 9 **ADMIRE FUJI**: mid-division two wide, outrun early.
- 4 **MEISHO BATTLER**: mid-division along rail, never a factor.

Fractional Time (sec./furlong): 12.4 - 11.2 - 13.1 - 11.7 - 11.8 - 12.4 - 12.0 - 12.1 - 12.5  
 Last 4 furlongs: 49.0 Last 3 furlongs: 36.6

Positions at each corner: 1st corner 8(7,14)9(4,**10**,11)(1,15,12)(2,6)-(3,16,5)  
 2nd corner (7,\*8,14)(4,9,**10**,11)(15,12)(1,2,6)(3,16)5  
 3rd corner (\*7,8)(**10**,14,11)(4,15,12)(9,6)(1,2)(3,16,5)  
 4th corner (\*7,8,14)11(**10**,6)(15,12,5)3,2,9(1,16)4

Note1: **Underlined bold number** indicates the winning horse

Note2: horse numbers are indicated in the order of their positions at each corner, with the first position listed first. Two or more horses inside the same parentheses indicate that they were positioned side by side. Hyphens between the horse numbers indicate that there is distance between the former and the latter. The asterisk indicates a slight lead.

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