

2006 Trainer or Jockey Interview Report

~Japanese Horses~

(after the Wednesday (Nov. 22) workout)



November 2006

The Japan Racing Association



Deep Impact (JPN), Bay, C4

Triner: Yasuo Ikee Jockey: Yutaka Take



Interviewee: Trainer, Yasuo Ikee

Q: How was the condition of the horse, after returning from a strenuous race in France and going through an exhausting transportation?

A: He arrived here in good form without any damage, and has continued his training at Tokyo Racecourse after passing the quarantine.

Q: Then I assume he's settled down well by now.

A: Yes. After returning to Ritto, he seems to have realized that he's back at his usual training environment and regained his eagerness to run. He's really raring to go, perhaps a bit too much...

Q: He was worked out on a woodchip course a week ago. Were you meaning to give him a good strong workout?

A: He's been gradually shifting into high gear after returning here. He did a fast time despite running on his own so I think he's maintained in an extremely good condition.

Q: How was his condition right after the workout?

A: His breathing was back to normal after the workout, and we checked his weight and everything was in good order. He seemed refreshed and had a healthy appetite.

Q: This will be a chance to settle the score with his rival, Heart's Cry, who defeated him last year.

A: I just hope that he will be able to run in his usual style and give everyone a performance to remember in the Japan Cup. We are doing our best to prepare him for this race and I believe that he will respond to our expectation. We look forward to your support.

Interviewee: Jockey, Yutaka Take

Q: Were you instructed to gallop him alone today?

A: Yes I was. I was instructed to gallop him alone.

Q: How did he feel?

A: He ran really well. I could feel that he's in good condition.

Q: It's been a week since his last workout. How has he tuned up?

A: He seemed to be more settled and better in many ways than last week. Being on his own, he galloped well—able to run at his own pace.

Q: What did you think of his condition in terms of breathing, etc., after the workout?

A: He seemed to be in real good condition. He's been doing very well without any problems after returning from France. I think he's returned to his form in good timing for the race this weekend.

Q: This will be your chance to settle the score with Heart's Cry, to whom he was defeated in last year's Arima Kinen.

A: Yes, it's been a year since, and we'll be clashing on the same stage. But it's not just him or any other horse in the field. I just want to concentrate on letting Deep Impact run in his own style. That's all that matters.

Q: This will be the race in Japan that the Japanese fans have been waiting for. Please give your message to the fans.

A: We are just as eager to run in this race as you are—the feeling is mutual between all the staff members connected to Deep Impact. We will challenge the race with our best efforts. To do our best and achieve the best result, that's all we're hoping for.

Meisho Samson (JPN), Bay, C3

Trainer: Tsutomu Setoguchi Jockey: Mamoru Ishibashi



Interviewee: Trainer, Tsutomu Setoguchi

Q: His two starts in fall were close defeats. On hindsight how would you assess the run in the 3000-meter Kikuka Sho?

A: He was a bit overweight and the race development did not suit him so well.

Q: What do you think of his weight increase, which went up from 512kg to 518 this fall?

A: His weight increase is probably part of maturing but his best weight is below 510kg. He weighed 526kg yesterday and 530kg today and I can't figure out why...

Q: So, he would be a bit overweight even after transportation?

A: Yes, I'm hoping that he will lose some weight in his travel for this race.

Q: What kind of instruction did you give Jockey Mamoru Ishibashi at the workout?

A: I was hoping for him to run 1,200 meters at around 80 seconds with a kick in the last furlongs. The overall pace was fast but the last three furlongs were 12.8 seconds, so I would have liked a bit more effort. The jockey said that he felt lighter and keener than last time.

Q: As a winner of the two legs of the Triple Crown, he will be contesting against older horses, some of them are quite strong...

A: It seems like a high hurdle to race against older horses, but with a favorable race development I think he can run a good race.

Interviewee: Jockey, Mamoru Ishibashi

Q: Having raced twice in his fall campaign, do you feel anything different about him—do you feel he's matured in anyway?

A: Physically, he's grown into a bold—that's probably the biggest difference.

Q: Looking back on his fourth place finish in the Kikuka Sho. How would you judge his performance?

A: He was in hand and settled well within the pace but in the end the race developed to a match between the late chargers which is not his style.

Q: Five weeks since his last start, how has he recovered from his race and is he up to giving another go in the coming big event?

A: If he was feeling any fatigue, we wouldn't be doing such strong workouts as we've been doing in the past two weeks. So, that's not a concern.

Q: Did your trainer give any instructions regarding his workout today?

A: Like last week. To drive him to the fullest in the last furlong.

Q: And how did he respond?

A: Better last week than the week before, better today than last week—he's improving with each workout.

Q: How would you rate him in his current form against his older rivals?

A: I'm aware that we're facing a very strong field of older horses. But then I'm also looking forward to how competitive he'll turn out to be in the race. The only real concern as of now is to let him give his best shot.

Cosmo Bulk (JPN), Bay, H5

Trainer: Kazunori Tabe Jockey: Fuyuki Igarashi



Interviewee: Trainer, Kazunori Tabe

T. We did a final gallop at Meiwa Farm on the 15th. Since it was a very strong gallop, our training today (19th) was a bit light, but the fraction time taken today wasn't bad at all. He seems to be as eager to go as he was last year, maybe even more. He's in much better form this time.

Q. Could you review the Tenno Sho?

T. I thought the pace was a bit slow—I was surprised to see the fast time. Despite the soft turf from the rain the day before, he ran amazingly, closing in right before the wire. It gave me the feeling that a 2,400m race would suit him better than a 2,000m race. The Japan Cup is full of incredible contenders. We're hoping that our horse will get a piece of the action, beat as many horses as possible and make the board. He was 2nd the year before last. If he can just do it again, it would take his fans especially the one's in Hokkaido over the moon. He's in such good condition, I'm sure our jockey Fuyuki Igarashi will show us his divine skills. This will be Cosmo Bulk's third Japan Cup challenge and we're hoping to show a race our fans will be proud of.

Seeking the Dia (USA), Bay, H5

Trainer: Hideyuki Mori Jockey: Yutaka Take



Interviewee: Trainer Hideyuki Mori

Q: How have you conditioned your horse since his last start?

A: His races were rather close in between so he only needed routine work.

Q: And his progress is going smoothly?

A: He's going through the same kind of program as last year.

Q: Did you give any instructions regarding his workout today?

A: He's rather fit and ready as it is and he's developed through his races so...just so that he's able to give a good kick in the end.

Q: And did your gallop go as planned?

A: Yes. The time was more or less what I'd expected.

Q: So how has he pulled up from his gallop?

A: He's always pulled up well after his workouts. He's a tough horse.

Q: He's race performance has been impressive both over a mile and 2100 meters.

A: Yes. He seems to like the course at Fuchu.

Q: How would you like the race to develop?

A: I'd like a good solid pace.

Q: What about the weather and the track condition?

A: When he was running over turf, rain was a concern as he wasn't good over soft turf—like his mother. But as far as dirt is concerned—it doesn't make much difference either way.

Q: Is there anything that would be of concern?

A: He tends to lack that last kick and has been just short of reach or pinned at the wire at the end. I trust that our jockey will make sure he gives a good effort until the end.

Q: His fans are really looking forward to seeing him win a GI title. Is there any message for the race-fans?

A: I think he deserves a GI before he retires and we'll give it a good try this time.

Vermilion (JPN), Dark Bay, C4

Trainer: Sei Ishizaka Jockey: Christophe Lemaire



Interviewee: Trainer Sei Ishizaka

Q: Vermilion has not been raced since the Tokai Stakes (GII) in May. How has he been conditioned during this time?

A: He was turned out to pasture immediately after his disastrous defeat in the Tokai Stakes. It took longer than we had expected, but we managed to bring him back for the Japan Cup Dirt.

Q: You mentioned a week earlier after his workout that his mental condition has yet to improve.

A: I don't think he was quite ready, mentally, for a workout last week, but he was completely different today. He was in good form and hitting fast time.

Q: How did you think of his run?

A: He usually lacks the last kick but today, he showed good effort till the end.

Q: What do you think of the 2,100-meter dirt track at Tokyo?

A: He's suited to middle distances, so I think he has the ability to exert his strength at this distance.

Q: We have a strong field this year.

A: Vermilion has shown good performances in the past and I'm sure he will do well, provided that his condition is fully recovered.

Q: So, his condition will be the key to his performance?

A: His physical condition is recovering steadily, so it will depend on his mental condition. He will do well if he can show a strong fighting spirit at the race.

Alondite (JPN), Dark Bay, C3

Trainer: Sei Ishizaka Jockey: Hiroki Goto



Interviewee: Trainer Sei Ishizaka

Q. Four consecutive wins from the Tokyo meet in June is incredible.

A. I agree. It's a winning streak after a long break. The more he races the more he learns about the game and his constitution strengthens, which is the reason why he's doing so well.

Q. What was the most drastic change after last June?

A. His first two maiden starts were a disaster. He just drifted out greenly afraid of the whole ordeal but gradually he adjusted, and now he's grown up mentally-enough to challenge any kind of race development.

Q. I saw that this morning's training was conducted on the sloped track again.

A. Last week we did some strong training abreast his partner. Today we galloped him without any other horses, but he's the type that doesn't really give his best when he's alone. We have him quite tuned up already from last week's training, so today's gallop should be enough.

Q. Can you say that he's physically fit now?

A. Yes. He just gets better every time he races so I'm not worried at all. I am a bit concerned on how he'd do in an Open race, but he's become extremely versatile so he probably won't have any problems in adapting.

Q. Don't you think the 2,100m Tokyo dirt course suits him?

A. Both of his two attempts there turned out to be pretty good. It's not a matter of the location of the track or whether the course is left-handed or right-handed, but like I mentioned before I'm just wondering if he's capable and made for an Open race. That's all. He still continues to develop so I'm looking forward to seeing him show us some kind of undisclosed power that will connect to good results.