

**For Immediate Release**

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THE JAPAN RACING ASSOCIATION  
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**TRIPLE CROWN WINNER DEEP IMPACT  
NAMED 2005 HORSE OF THE YEAR**

Deep Impact, the first colt to claim all three Triple Crown races while still undefeated since Symboli Rudolf 21 years ago, has been named the near-unanimous winner of the Japan Racing Association's 2005 Horse of the Year award, collecting 285 out of 291 votes. Heart's Cry, the year's Best Older Colt Or Horse and the only opponent to beat Deep Impact, by a half-length in the year-end Arima Kinen (50th The Grand Prix, GI), was the only other contestant considered for the year's top award. Deep Impact's historic achievements during the year also earned him unanimous selection as Best Three-Year-Old.

Cesario and Hat Trick, who both turned in strong performances in overseas racing, were named Best Three-Year-Old Filly and Best Sprinter/Miler, respectively. Cesario also won the award for Best Horse by Home-Bred Sire.

Katsuhiko Sumii claimed the Best Trainer (Money Earned) title, having trained not only Cesario and Hat Trick, but also Kane Hekili, who enjoyed his own extremely successful three-year-old season by rivaling the achievements of Deep Impact on dirt and proving himself a worthy opponent of older GI racers. Sumii, who has trained for just six seasons, has already made an international name for himself with two GI victories overseas and is expected to vie for JRA awards for years to come.

All but one of nine awards to horses were received comfortably, with each winner receiving well above 200 votes. The only closely contested award was Best Three-Year-Old Filly. Cesario claimed the title by just nine votes over Rhein Kraft, who captured two GI titles, including a victory against older male runners in the NHK Mile Cup.

Tsutomu Setoguchi, who trained Rhein Kraft, won Best Trainer (Races Won) for the first time. Setoguchi had saddled many outstanding JRA award winners in past seasons, including Oguri Cap ('90 Horse of the Year, Best Older Colt or Horse, '88 Best Three-Year-Old Colt), God Speed ('99 Best Steeplechase Horse) and Neo Universe ('03 Best Three-Year-Old Colt).

Kazuo Fujisawa, who has dominated the trainers' titles in recent several years, was named Best Trainer (Training Technique), based on winning percentage, number of starts, win rates and earnings per stall.

Yutaka Take renewed his JRA record by winning an eighth Grand Prize Jockey award after another spectacular season that was made all the more memorable by taking part in Deep Impact's historic year as the colt's only jockey. Take also established a single-season record for GI titles with 11, and reached 200 wins for the third consecutive year.

The Equine Culture Award, which recognizes noteworthy achievements and contributions to Japanese equine culture, was presented to NHK Broadcasting Station for its documentary "Gallop to Glory," which generated increased interest in Deep Impact's extraordinary season.

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\* All information including ages and race performances provided in this release is as of December 31, 2005, unless otherwise indicated.

**Attachment**

**Details of 2005 JRA Awards**

***Part 1: Racehorses***

**HORSE OF THE YEAR:**

**and**

**BEST THREE-YEAR-OLD COLT:**



**DEEP IMPACT (JPN)  
3-year-old colt, bay**

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):  
Sunday Silence / Wind In Her Hair (Alzao)  
Owner: Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co. Ltd.  
Breeder: Northern Farm  
Trainer: Yasuo Ikee  
Wins / Starts in 2005: 6 / 7  
Career Wins / Starts: 7 / 8  
Earnings in 2005: ¥676,063,000  
Career Earnings: ¥683,063,000

Principal Wins in 2005: Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, GI), Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, GI), Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger, GI), Kobe Shimbun Hai (GII), Hochi Hai Yayoi Sho (GII)

Deep Impact won 97.9 percent of total votes for this year's Horse of the Year, and was also the unanimous pick as Best Three-Year-Old Colt, a fitting climax to his historic streak of seven wins out of seven races while winning the Triple Crown.

A winner from the beginning of his career as a two-year-old, during which he won his debut by four lengths, the Sunday Silence colt landed his first grade-race victory in his third career start. In the first leg of the Triple Crown, the Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, GI), he won by 2-1/2 lengths despite a slow break. A formidable five-length victory in the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, GI) turned Deep Impact into a national celebrity, and sparked high expectations for the three-year-old bay to capture the Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger, GI), the last leg of the Triple Crown. Despite overwhelming pressure, champion jockey Yutaka Take and Deep Impact won with a first-class performance and turned even-odds win tickets into valuable souvenirs.

Deep Impact was finally defeated in his last start of the season, the Arima Kinen (GI), his first challenge against top GI racers, even though he placed second by just a 1/2 length. Nevertheless, the colt had a huge impact on racing and is expected to continue his spectacular career next season as a four-year-old.

### **BEST TWO-YEAR-OLD COLT:**



#### **FUSAICHI RICHARD (JPN)** 2-year-old colt, gray

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):  
Kurofune / Fusaichi Airedale (Sunday Silence)  
Owner: Fusaro Sekiguchi  
Breeder: Northern Farm  
Trainer: Kunihide Matsuda  
Wins / Starts in 2005: 4 / 5  
Career Wins / Starts: 4 / 5  
Earnings in 2005: ¥115,892,000  
Career Earnings: ¥115,892,000  
Principal Wins in 2005:  
Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes (GI),  
Tokyo Sports Hai Nisai Stakes (GIII)

Fusaichi Richard, having inherited the extraordinary speed of his sire, Kurofune, captured the Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes, the GI championship race for two-year-olds, after three consecutive wins, including a record victory in the Tokyo Sports Hai Nisai Stakes (GIII).

Fusaichi Richard is the most successful runner among the first crop from Kurofune, who made a great impact during his short career by winning six out of ten starts, including GI victory in the 2001 Japan Cup Dirt in record time. His owner, Fusaro Sekiguchi, has also known success in the U.S. as the owner of 2000 Kentucky Derby winner Fusaichi Pegasus.

Fusaichi Richard's trainer is Kunihide Matsuda, who trained his dam and multiple-grade-race winner, Fusaichi Airedale, early in his career. Matsuda has high expectations for the gray colt's three-year-old campaign and is hopeful of capturing the first two legs of the Triple Crown, the Satsuki Sho and Tokyo Yushun, as well as the NHK Mile (GI), next spring.

### **BEST TWO-YEAR-OLD FILLY:**



#### **T M PRECURE (JPN)** 2-year-old filly, dark bay or brown

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):  
Paradise Creek / Feriado (Stately Don)  
Owner: Masatsugu Takezono  
Breeder: Taniguchi Bokujo  
Trainer: Tadao Igarashi  
Wins / Starts in 2005: 3 / 3  
Career Wins / Starts: 3 / 3  
Earnings in 2005: ¥78,603,000  
Career Earnings: ¥78,603,000  
Principal Wins in 2005:  
Hanshin Juvenile Fillies (GI)

T M Precure rightly secured her claim to the Best Two-Year-Old Filly Award by winning the Hanshin Juvenile Fillies (GI) to conclude an undefeated debut season.

Sired by Paradise Creek, the Turf Male award winner in 1994 Eclipse Awards, T M Precure was purchased at a yearling sale for 2.5 million yen by owner Masatsugu Takezono, who adds his initials (family name first) to his horses' names. Takezono enjoyed considerable success with T.M. Opera O and T.M. Ocean in 2000 and 2001, but T M Precure was unlike these prizewinners of well-proven pedigree, who commanded much higher prices.

T M Precure started the championship GI for two-year-old fillies as the eighth favorite, but turned in a surprisingly solid race to win. No one celebrated more than trainer Tadao Igarashi, whose first grade-race victory gave him the joy of training a JRA award-winning runner. The victory also gave breeder Taniguchi Bokujo of Hokkaido its first GI winner.

**BEST THREE-YEAR-OLD FILLY:**

and

**BEST HORSE BY HOME-BRED SIRE:**



**CESARIO (JPN)**

**3-year-old filly, black**

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):  
Special Week / Kirov Premiere (Sadler's Wells)  
Owner: U. Carrot Farm  
Breeder: Northern Farm  
Trainer: Katsuhiko Sumii  
Wins / Starts in 2005:  
4 / 5 (including 1 start overseas)  
Career Wins / Starts:  
5 / 6 (including 1 start overseas)  
Earnings in 2005: ¥267,433,400  
Career Earnings: ¥274,433,400

Principal Wins in 2005: American Oaks (USA-G1), Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks, GI), Jiji Press Hai Flower Cup (GIII)

After her GI victory in the Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks GI), Cesario became the first Japanese-bred runner to claim a G1 title in the U.S. by capturing the 2005 American Oaks (USA-G1, 2,000m), which also made her a double-Oaks winner. Voting for the Best Three-Year-Old Filly was closely contested between the Special Week filly and rival, Rhein Kraft, who defeated her in the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas, GI, 1,600m) and gave sound performances in GI and GII events throughout the season. While the ballots for Best Three-Year-Old Filly were split nearly evenly, 147 to 138, Cesario's achievement in the U.S. marked a new milestone for Japanese-bred-and-trained thoroughbreds overseas and gave her the clear edge in voting for the title of Best Horse by Home-Bred Sire.

Coming off a three-win streak from her debut, Cesario was sent to post favorite for her first Classic challenge in the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas), and she missed by only a head to Rhein Kraft. A heavy favorite again in following Japanese Oaks, the black filly exploded from far behind to surpass Air Messiah by a neck, landing an inaugural GI title in just her fifth career start. Her next race was the American Oaks at Hollywood Park. Starting from an outside draw, Cesario swiftly secured a good position, was the clear leader by the third corner and continued to widen the gap, crossing the wire four lengths in front.

Though her sire, Special Week (JPN, by Sunday Silence) did not have much success with his first crop, since his second season he has sired Cesario, Inti Rami and some two-year-olds that are showing much promise. The former multiple GI winner is first in line to follow his father, Sunday Silence, as one of Japan's top sires.

Cesario missed her GI campaign in the fall season due to leg problems discovered upon returning from the USA. But she is likely to be a late developer judging from bloodlines on her dam's side, so much is expected from the gifted filly next season, including another overseas success.

### **BEST OLDER COLT OR HORSE:**



### **HEART'S CRY (JPN)**

**4-year-old colt, bay**

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):  
Sunday Silence / Irish Dance (Tony Bin)  
Owner: Shadai Race H.  
Breeder: Shadai Farm  
Trainer: Kojiro Hashiguchi  
Wins / Starts in 2005: 1 / 6  
Career Wins / Starts: 4 / 16  
Earnings in 2005: ¥377,772,000  
Career Earnings: ¥555,731,000  
Principal Wins in 2005: Arima Kinen (GI)

Although the talent of Heart's Cry had been evident, the Sunday Silence colt had missed out on major GI opportunities three times: the Tokyo Yushun as a three-year-old, the Takarazuka Kinen (GI) in the following spring and the Japan Cup (GI) in November—the latter two resulting in defeats by a mere neck and three centimeters, respectively. But Heart's Cry ended the year by capturing the all-star event of the season, the Arima Kinen (GI), against undefeated champion Deep Impact, who had passed up the Japan Cup especially for the Arima, as well as 2004 Horse of the Year Zenno Rob Roy and champion stayer Delta Blues.

French jockey Christophe Lemaire contributed much to the bay colt's success, making a bold decision to position the come-from-behind runner well within the pace from the start to ensure a good head start against heavy favorite Deep Impact, who held off the pace in way behind. Lemaire's clever tactics facilitated a powerful charge by Heart's Cry, enabling him to finish the last three furlongs in 32.8 seconds and deny a late charge by Deep Impact.

Lemaire—already a regular face in Japanese racing—scored his first GI title in Japan and secured a spot for himself in the history of Japanese racing.

### **BEST OLDER FILLY OR MARE:**



### **SWEEP TOSHO (JPN)**

**4-year-old filly, bay**

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):  
End Sweep / Tabatha Tosho (Dancing Brave)  
Owner: Tosho Sangyo  
Breeder: Tosho Sangyo Corporation Tosho Bokujo  
Trainer: Akio Tsurudome  
Wins / Starts in 2005: 2 / 6  
Career Wins / Starts: 7 / 16  
Earnings in 2005: ¥293,802,000  
Career Earnings: ¥572,020,000  
Principal Wins in 2005: Takarazuka Kinen (GI),  
Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup (GI)

Sweep Tosho attracted 255 votes as the overwhelming winner of the Best Older Filly or Mare title. The End Sweep filly concluded her spring and fall campaigns each with a GI victory. Her last win of the year, the Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup, boosted her career earnings to ¥572,020,000, making her the top earner among all fillies and mares currently in training.

After winning two out of three starts as a two-year-old, Sweep Tosho progressed well during her three-year-old season with a win in one of three major GI events for three-year-old fillies, the Shuka Sho, a GIII win and a runner-up in the Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks GI) classic.

Facing older male opponents from the beginning of the 2005 season, the gallant filly used her speed and stamina for an impressive runner-up effort in the Yasuda Kinen, beating Hong Kong's top sprinter Silent Witness and top miler Bullish Luck. She then captured her first GI victory in the Takarazuka Kinen, a neck in front of Heart's Cry, the subsequent Arima Kinen winner and 2005 Best Older Colt/ Horse.

With Sweep Tosho having confirmed she is the best female runner in the Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup, in addition to her strong showings against male runners, owner and breeder Tosho Sangyo plans to keep her in training for GI events in 2006.

### **BEST SPRINTER OR MILER:**



### **HAT TRICK (JPN)**

**4-year-old colt, dark bay or brown**

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):  
Sunday Silence / Tricky Code (Lost Code)  
Owner: U. Carrot Farm  
Breeder: Oiwake Farm  
Trainer: Katsuhiko Sumii  
Wins / Starts in 2005:  
4 / 8 (including 1 start overseas)  
Career Wins / Starts:  
8 / 13 (including 1 start overseas)  
Earnings in 2005: ¥288,542,100  
Career Earnings: ¥337,050,100

Principal Wins in 2005: Hong Kong Mile (HK-G1), Mile Championship (GI), Tokyo Shimbun Hai (GIII), Sports Nippon Sho Kyoto Kimpai (GIII)

Hat Trick proved himself to be a champion miler both in Japan and Hong Kong, winning two prestigious GI mile events this season to merit the title of Best Sprinter or Miler.

The Sunday Silence colt, who started his career winning his first two races, marked a four-race winning streak in the last two races of three-year-old season and first two GIII runs in 2005. After a period of winless starts in mid-season, he bounced back in the Tenno Sho Autumn (GI), demonstrating a powerful turn of foot with his fastest time, 32.6 seconds, over the last three furlongs, although he was unable to reach the leaders with his late charge. But then he promptly won the Mile Championship in a record 1:32.1 seconds at Kyoto Racecourse. He turned in another outstanding performance in Hong Kong against a world-class field, which included six-time European G1 winner Rakti, as well as Hong Kong top miler Bullish Luck.

U. Carrot Farm is the proud owner of two JRA award winners this year, the other being Cesario, who brought the Farm its first classic victory and another GI title in the USA this year.

Hat Trick will no doubt be one of the key players in the expanded 2006 Asian Mile Challenge series, which has added races in Dubai and Australia,.

## **BEST DIRT HORSE:**



### **KANE HEKILI (JPN)** 3-year-old colt, chestnut

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):  
Fuji Kiseki / Life Out There (Deputy Minister)  
Owner: Makoto Kaneko Holdings Co., Ltd  
Breeder: Northern Farm  
Trainer: Katsuhiko Sumii  
Wins / Starts in 2005: 7 / 9  
Career Wins / Starts: 7 / 11  
Earnings in 2005: ¥319,685,000  
Career Earnings: ¥320,785,000

Principal Wins in 2005: Japan Cup Dirt (GI), Derby Grand Prix (GI), Japan Dirt Derby (GI), Unicorn Stakes(GIII)

Kane Hekili (which means "spirit of thunder" in Hawaiian) won overwhelming endorsement as Best Dirt Horse after winning all but one of eight dirt races this season.

Purchased at the Select Sale for 20 million yen, Kane Hekili was winless in his two starts on turf as a two-year-old, but kicked off his three-year-old campaign with two wins on dirt. After one more unsuccessful GIII attempt on turf in March, he returned to dirt racing for the rest of the season.

Regularly referred to as the "Deep Impact of Dirt," Kane Hekili notched six straight wins on dirt, including two major GI events for three-year-olds. Only a stumble at the start of the Musashino Stakes (GIII) cost him his winning streak, even though he ended the race in second. But he came back very strong in the Japan Cup Dirt (GI), beating the best older horses in a record time of 2:08.0 over 2,100 meters.

Kane Hekili is trained by Katsuhiko Sumii, who also saddled Cesario and Hat Trick to victories in the American Oaks (USA-G1) and Hong Kong Mile (HK-G1), respectively. There is a good possibility that the talented Fuji Kiseki colt will run overseas in the 2006 season. Makoto Kaneko, also the proud owner of Horse of the Year and Best Three-Year-Old, Deep Impact, sent To the Victory to the 2001 Dubai World Cup (UAE-G1), where she finished second.

## **BEST STEEPLECHASE HORSE:**



### **T M DRAGON (JPN)** 3-year-old colt, bay

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):  
Admire Vega / Yae Shiraoki (Maruzensky)  
Owner: Masatsugu Takezono  
Breeder: Masatsugu Kamada  
Trainer: Sadahiro Kojima  
Wins / Starts in 2005: 3 / 10  
(includes 0 / 7 in flat races)  
Career Wins / Starts: 3 / 12  
Earnings in 2005:  
¥141,862,000 (¥139,312,000 in jump races)  
Career Earnings:  
¥142,562,000 (¥139,312,000 in jump races)  
Principal Wins in 2005:  
Nakayama Daishogai (J-GI), Kyoto High Jump (J-GII)

T M Dragon reached the pinnacle of success in Japanese steeplechase despite only three starts over jumps. After racing twice as a two-year-old, the three-year-old colt was winless in seven starts on the flat this season before switching to obstacle races in the fall.

Proving to be a natural jumper, the Admire Vega colt won his debut jump race in late October by five lengths, then proceeded to win by a comfortable four-length margin in his following J-GII event, which qualified him for the Nakayama Daishogai. Sent to post as the second favorite, T M Dragon took the obstacles and up-down hills in stride to overwhelm his opponents with a nine-length margin of victory.

This was trainer Sadahiro Kojima's first GI victory as a trainer. As a jump jockey, however, he won the Nakayama Daishogai, spring (now known as the Nakayama Grand Jump, J-GI) with King Point in 1982.

Still considerably young for a jumper, T M Dragon appears to have a fine career ahead of him.

## ***Part 2: Trainers and Jockeys***

### **BEST TRAINER (RACES WON):**

#### **TSUTOMU SETOGUCHI**



Age: 69 (November 3, 1936)  
Trainer's license: 1973  
First race: March 8, 1975 (Hoshu Etan; 5th)  
First win: May 10, 1975 (Hoshu Rich)  
Principal Wins in 2005: Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas, GI; Rhein Kraft), NHK Mile Cup (GI; Rhein Kraft)  
Wins / Starts in 2005 (winning percentage): 54 / 364 (14.84%)  
Career Wins / Starts: 818 / 7,765  
Earnings in 2005: ¥1,303,923,000

Setoguchi emerged as the national champion trainer in total victories after alternating the lead with star rivals Kazuo Fujisawa and Hidetaka Otonashi over the last few weeks of the 2005 season. Setoguchi eventually won by a margin of six victories, and his ¥1,303,923,000 in purses put him on the short list for Best Trainer (Money Earned).

Setoguchi entered horse racing as a jockey and scored 329 wins out of 2,534 rides between 1959 and 1973. His major wins included the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas, 1963) classic with Miss Masako, and Japan's most prestigious steeplechase event, the Nakayama Daishogai (1961), on Tosa King.

Acquiring his trainer's license immediately after retiring as a jockey, Setoguchi captured his first major victory with steeplechaser Tukasa Power in the 1980 Hanshin Shogai Spring Stakes. His big break came with Oguri Cap (by Dancing Cap), a dream horse that began its career at a minor regional racecourse (NAR, Kasamatsu) but eventually became a national hero after his JRA debut, guided by Setoguchi, winning multiple GI races and finishing unplaced only three times in 20 starts between 1987 and 1990.

Setoguchi has consistently scored more than 30 wins each year since the late 1990s. He has produced prominent runners such as Neo Universe, who won two Triple Crown races in 2003, and multiple grade-race winner Sunning Dale. But he exceeded even his own high standards in 2005, considering his additional successes with able filly Rhein Kraft (by End Sweep), who captured the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas, GI) and the NHK Mile Cup (GI).

### **BEST TRAINER (WINNING AVERAGE):**

#### **YUJI ITO**



Age: 68 (January 14, 1937)  
Trainer's license: 1966  
First race: March 13, 1966 (Maggio, 6th)  
First win: March 27, 1966 (Mindō Sony)  
Principal Wins in 2005: Shuka Sho (GI; Air Messiah)  
Wins / Starts in 2005 (winning percentage): 34 / 172 (19.77 %)  
Career Wins / Starts: 1,130 / 7,283  
Earnings in 2005: ¥ 794,524,000

A regular name on the short list for JRA trainer awards, Yuji Ito picked up his seventh title for winning percentage, following 1987, '93, '95, '98, 2000 and '02. He has also earned titles for wins ('87) and money earned ('87, '91 and '93).

A former jockey with 72 wins out of 535 rides between 1959 and the mid-1960s, Ito captured his first victory within a month of becoming a trainer. He scored 20 wins out of 115 starts on the flat, and captured his first classic title with Hard Verge in the Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, GI) in 1977.

Despite the pressure of maintaining his status as a first-class trainer, Ito has not altered his training philosophy from his years, which includes never starting a horse when it is not ready and never pushing a horse's training beyond its ability. He has delayed horses' debuts if necessary, as with multiple GI winner and sprinter Daiichi Ruby, who had to wait until her four-year-old season due to her slow-developing bone structure. But his patience, said to be the reason behind his high winning percentage, has paid off well, especially with fillies and mares that often need careful handling and judgment. Some of his best runners have included '87 Oaks winner Max Beauty and top sprinter Daiichi Ruby, '97 Horse of the Year Air Groove, '02's Best Three-Year-Old Filly Fine Motion and 2005 GI winner Air Messiah.

### **BEST TRAINER (MONEY EARNED):**

### **KATSUHIKO SUMII**



Age: 41 (March 28, 1964)

Trainer's license: 2000

First race: March 11, 2001 (Seto McQueen; 5th)

First win: March 24, 2001 (Sky Andrew)

Principal Wins in 2005:

Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks: GI, Cesario), American Oaks (USA-G1; Cesario), Mile Championship (GI; Hat Trick), Japan Cup Dirt (GI; Kane Hekili), Hong Kong Mile (HK-G1; Hat Trick)

Wins / Starts in 2005 (winning percentage): 36 / 267 (13.48%)

Career Wins / Starts: 122 / 1,075

Earnings in 2005: ¥ 1,351,048,500

In only his sixth season as a trainer, Katsuhiko Sumii has made a name for himself with not just one but three outstanding GI winners. Having trained four JRA award-winning horses, including 2004 classic winner and Best Horse by Home-Bred Sire, Delta Blues, he now can added Best Trainer (Money Earned) to his growing list of accomplishments.

Sumii worked for three years on a breeding farm in Hokkaido before becoming an assistant trainer for Kentaro Nakao's yard in 1986. He later worked for Kunihide Matsuda, trainer of 2005 Best Two-Year-Old Colt Fusaichi Richard. Sumii set up a training stable after acquiring his training license in 2000.

Sumii's first grade-race winner was Blue Eleven (by Soccer Boy), who won the Tokyo Sports Hai Nisai Stakes (GIII) as a two-year-old and later captured another GIII event in 2004. Delta Blues (by Dance in the Dark) gave him his first GI and classic title in the 2004 Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger), and also finished a good third behind Zenno Rob Roy in the 2004 Japan Cup, bringing the trainer into the spotlight as an up-and-coming horseman.

Sumii doubled his previous high for wins in 2005, and his number of career grade-race titles soared from three to 14, including two G1 wins overseas and five GI victories. He became the first Japanese trainer to saddle a Japanese bred/trained GI winner in the U.S., Cesario, and enjoyed another overseas G1 victory in Hong Kong with Hat Trick in December.

The internationally-minded trainer plans to take his talented runners to Dubai for the Dubai World Cup, Dubai Duty Free, Dubai Sheema Classic and Dubai Derby.

## **BEST TRAINER (TRAINING TECHNIQUE):**

### **KAZUO FUJISAWA**



Age: 54 (September 22, 1951)

Trainer's license: 1987

First race: March 12, 1988 (Keiai Power; 3rd)

First win: April 24, 1988 (Galdan)

Principal Wins in 2005:

Epsom Cup (GIII; Suzuno March), St. Lite Kinen (GII; Kings Trail), Fuji Stakes (GIII; Win Radius)

Wins / Starts in 2005 (winning percentage): 48 / 321 (14.95%)

Career Wins / Starts: 815 / 4,235

Earnings in 2005: ¥1,319,625,500

## **BEST JOCKEY (RACES WON):**

### **YUTAKA TAKE**



Age: 36 (March 15, 1969)

Jockey's License: 1987

First race: March 1, 1987 (Agnes Dictor; 2nd)

First win: March 7, 1987 (Dyna Bishop)

Principal Wins in 2005:

Triple Crown races with Deep Impact: Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas: GI), Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby: GI), Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger: GI), Takamatsunomiya Kinen (GI, Admire Max), Shuka Sho (GI, Air Messiah), Japan Cup Dirt (GI; Kane Hekili),

Wins / Starts in 2005 (winning percentage): 223 / 898 (24.8%, including 212 JRA and 11 NAR wins)

Career Wins / Starts: 2,792 / 13,362

Earnings in 2005: ¥5,030,579,500

While it was nothing new for Yutaka Take to dominate all three JRA awards (races won, winning percentage, money earned) for jockeys, and thereby claim his eighth Grand Prize Jockey title, the 2005 season was a special year in which Take became a Triple Crown winner together with Deep Impact. Take, in fact, has ridden Deep Impact in every win since the colt's debut as a two-year-old.

It was another record-making season for Take in 2005, during which he captured an unprecedented 11 GI titles and exceeded 200 wins for the third straight year.

The third son of jockey-turned-trainer Kunihiko Take, Yutaka started riding at 10 and has been a star from the very beginning of his career, winning three graded races in his first season and capturing his first GI and classic title with Super Creek in the Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger, GI) in 1988. Starting with over 100 wins in his debut season, he has continued to win year after year in Japan, while also gaining international recognition with GI victories in Europe and regular appearances in major races in Hong Kong, Dubai and the USA.

He reached the top of the national standings for the first time in 1989, dominated all three categories for the Grand Prize in 1997 and has reigned as champion jockey every year since, except in 2001, when he moved to France and rode for John Hammond.

**BEST JOCKEY (WINNING AVERAGE):**

**YUTAKA TAKE** (see above)

**BEST JOCKEY (MONEY EARNED):**

**YUTAKA TAKE** (see above)

**GRAND PRIZE JOCKEY** (all three jockey titles):

**YUTAKA TAKE** (see above)

**BEST STEEPLECHASE JOCKEY:**

**YOSHIYUKI YOKOYAMA**



Age: 31(March 19, 1974)

Jockey's License: 1992

First race: March 1, 1992 (Sun River Kamehameha; 15th)

First win: March 7, 1992 (Center Green)

Principal Wins: The Nakayama Grand Jump (2000, 2001, J-GI, Gokai)

Wins / Starts in 2005: 13 / 59 (steeplechase only)

Career Wins / Starts: 62 / 405 (steeplechase only)

Earnings in 2005: ¥229,011,000 (steeplechase only)

Yoshiyuki Yokoyama registered 13 steeplechase race wins to claim his first JRA title as Best Steeplechase Jockey.

Debuting with 20 wins on the flat in 1992, Yokoyama was named Rookie of the Year by the Commercial TV Racing Press Club. Though riding jumpers in between his flat races since the beginning of his career, his devotion to obstacle racing increased after landing his first major victory in one of the most prestigious steeplechase events, the Nakayama Daishogai (now a J-GI race) with Victory Up in 1998.

His success with multiple-grade-race jumper Gokai (JPN, by Judge Angelucci) in 1999 and 2000 confirmed his aptitude for jump races. The pair won the international Nakayama Grand Jump (J-GI) in both 2000 and 2001, then finished second in 2002.

His other career highlights include the 2002 Niigata Jump Stakes (J-GIII) with Onward Meteor (JPN, by Criminal Type) and the 2003 Tokyo Autumn Jump (J-GIII) with Tenby Ace (JPN, by Tenby).

**BEST JOCKEY (NEWCOMER):**

**None selected**

## *Part 3*

### **JRA EQUINE CULTURAL AWARD:**

Nominees for the 2005 JRA Equine Cultural Award included publications, cultural events and art exhibitions either published or held between November 2004 and October 2005. A committee of journalists and others from academic and artistic fields chose six finalists, later paring it down to two publications and a TV documentary.

In the end, they awarded the JRA Equine Cultural Award to the NHK special documentary “Gallop to Glory.” The judges cited the program for its thorough, high-quality research and interviews to present racing icon Deep Impact from birth to his charge down the stretch of the Triple Crown’s final leg, when he fulfilled the dreams of millions both inside and outside racing.

NHK special documentary: Galloping to Glory  
(TV documentary produced by NHK Broadcasting Corporation)

The program was televised nationwide on October 29, a week after Deep Impact’s achievement of Triple Crown, capturing the last leg of three-year-old classic races, Kikuka Sho. Obviously, Deep Impact received 2005 Horse of the Year award.

“It’s like he’s soaring through the air” is how jockey Yutaka Take describes the way he and Deep Impact appear to fly past their foes down the homestretch. What is the secret behind the power of Deep Impact, who became the first horse in 21 years to capture all three legs of the Triple Crown while remaining undefeated overall?

The documentary examines the horse’s physique and body movement, as well as efforts ranging from breeding and training to shoeing by the many people who have played vital roles in Deep Impact’s road to glory.

The program’s extensive behind-the-scenes coverage of this national hero and his connections, who combined to make history despite enormous pressure, was highly rated for its skillful analysis from both technical and general perspectives.

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\* All information including ages and race performances provided in this release is as of December 31, 2005, unless otherwise indicated.