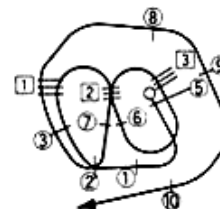


FROM: Kiyohiro Yokoyama,
General Manager, Media & Publicity Department
THE JAPAN RACING ASSOCIATION (JRA)

DATE: April 14, 2007



SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 9TH NAKAYAMA GRAND JUMP (J-G1)

JRA launched a new project for holding an international invitational event for steeplechasers in 2000, aiming at enhancement of the standards of Japanese steeple chasing through exchange on an international level and, at the same time, promoting obstacle races as a new form of excitement to the Japanese race-goers. The race features twelve jumps, which include three hurdles, set on the outside turf towards the final stretch, as well as five up-and-downs over banks. Since its inaugural year as an international race, the event proved a success in attracting first class contenders from abroad. BOCABOCA (IRE, by Mandulas) from France was second in its first year as an invitational event while ST. STEVEN (NZ, by Hula Town) beat GOKAI, winner of the 2nd and 3rd Nakayama Grand Jump, to become the first foreign-trained winner of the event in 2002. BLANDICES (JPN, by Sakura Bakushin O) won the 2004 Nakayama Grand Jump in record 4:47.0 before Australian raider KARASI (IRE, by Kahyasi) became only the second horse to win back-to-back titles in 2005 and 2006 after GOKAI who won in 2001 and 2002.

This year, 12-year-old KARASI has returned to challenge an unprecedented third title in the race and have proved promising again this year having finished third in the Pegasus Jump last month to MERCI A TIME (JPN, Chief Bearhart). KARASI's trainer, Eric Musgrove has another starter PERSONAL DRUM (NZ, by Personal Escort) who finished 11th in his previous start in the Pegasus. New Zealand-trained NO HERO (NZ, Heroicity) and REAL TONIC (NZ, Victory Dance) didn't have as much luck in their Pegasus Jump start finishing 12th and 13th respectively.

THE 9TH NAKAYAMA GRAND JUMP (J-G1)

4-year-old & up, 4,250 meters (about 2 and 2/3 miles), turf

Saturday, April 14, 2007

Nakayama Racecourse

11th Race

Post time: 15:35

Total prize money: ¥ 170,400,000 (about US\$ 1,481,000< US\$ 1 = ¥ 115>)

4-y-o: 62kg (about 137lbs), 5-y-o & up: 63.5kg (about 140lbs), 2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares

Safety factor: 16 runners (foreign trained horses: 8)

FP	BKT	PP	Horse	S&A	Weight (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin	Odds (win)
1	5	9B	Karasi* (IRE)	G12	63.5	Kahyasi Karamita	B. Scott E. Musgrove	P. Morgan His Highness the Aga Khan's Studs S.C.	4:50.4	2.2
2	7	13	Reward Present (JPN)	C4	62.0	Matikanefukukitar u Dance Ginny	Y. Igarashi T. Fujiwara	Saeko Miyazaki Motomichi Bokujo	3/4	8.6
3	3	4	Merci A Time (JPN)	H5	63.5	Chief Bearhart Machikane Carmen	T. Kosaka K. Take	Y. Nagai H. Tanaka	2-1/2	4.3
4	4	7	Three Operator (JPN)	C4	62.0	Opera House Three Cape	M. Hayashi T. Hashimoto	Nagai Shoji Nobuoka Bokujo	2-1/2	9.6
5	4	6	Storm Seiko (USA)	H6	63.5	Charismatic Micheline	T. Hokari S. Masuzawa	H. Takekuni Peter Van An del	3	32.9
6	7	12	Personal Drum* (NZ)	G10	63.5	Personal Escort Tympanum	C. Durden E. Musgrove	I. Stephenson MrBJ & Mrs LE Anderton	1-1/4	83.3
7	8	15	Capital Gain (JPN)	M7	61.5	Tight Spot Sunday Rich	K. Oba K. Sakamoto	M. Iide Chiyoda Farm Shizunai	4	166.2
8	2	2	Phantom Suzuka (JPN)	H6	63.5	Benny the Dip Fantasy Suzuka	S. Kitazawa M. Hashida	K. Nagai Tsuji Bokujo	1-3/4	61.8
9	8	14 B	Real Tonic* (NZ)	G11	63.5	Victory Dance Bantan	J. Riddell J. Wheeler	J. Wheeler Paramount Lodge Ltd	1/2	49.2
10	1	1	Mejiro Hustler (JPN)	H5	63.5	Carnegie Mejiro Natasha	Y. Imamura I. Okada	Mejiro B. Mejiro Stud	3	89.7
11	5	8	Mount Fountain (JPN)	H7	63.5	Housebuster Fujino Chitose	Y. Yokoyama Y. Ishige	K. Yoshihashi Tanikawa Farm	6	49.1
12	6	10	No Hero* (NZ)	G11	63.5	Heroicity Fair And Square	I. Lupton P. Nelson	C. Nelson Mrs C & Mr P S Nelson	9	74.2
13	2	3B	Tosho Trick (JPN)	H7	63.5	Black Tie Affair Sovereigna Tosho	Y. Eda N. Abe	Tosho Sangyo Tosho Bokujo	10	188.8
14	6	11	Telegenic (JPN)	G7	63.5	Sakura Bakushin O Show Up	M. Kaneko S. Yano	Shadai Race H. Oiwake Farm	Neck	24.5
	3	5	Agnes Hat (JPN)	G5	63.5	Dance in the Dark Nocona	T. Tanaka H. Nagahama	T. Watanabe Nakagami Farm	FF	6.2

FP= Final Position BKT = Bracket Number PP = Post Position B = Blinkers * = Foreign contender

FF= Fail to Finish

NOTE: Figures quoted under WIN ODDS show the amount of money you get back per single unit (100yen).

WINNING TIME: 4:50.4

GOING: FIRM

WEATHER: FINE

Turnover for the race alone:

¥1,890,292,900

Turnover for the day:

¥8,853,327,300

Attendance:

34,381

PAY—OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	NO.9	¥220	PLACE	No.9	¥110
BRACKET QUINELLA	5-7	¥1,020		No.13	¥120
QUINELLA	9-13	¥1,140		No.4	¥150
EXACTA	9-13	¥1,560	QUINELLA PLACE	9-13	¥420
TRIO	4-9-13	¥1,160		4-9	¥190
TRIFECTA	9-13-4	¥5,240		4-13	¥490

- KARASI** (IRE), bay, gelding, 12-year-old
 Kahyasi / Karamita (Shatung)
 Breeder: His Highness the Aga Khan's Studs S. C.
 Owner: Pearse Morgan
 Trainer: Eric Musgrove
 Jockey: Brett Scott
 91 Starts, 16 Wins
 Career Earnings: About ¥352,078,000
 Added money: ¥80,532,000
- REWARD PRESENT** (JPN), chestnut, colt, 4-year-old
 Machikanefukukitaru / Dance Ginny (The Minstrel)
 Breeder: Motomichi Bokujo
 Owner: Saeko Miyazaki
 Trainer: Tatsuo Fujiwara
 Jockey: Yusuke Igarashi
- MERCI A TIME** (JPN), bay, horse, 5-year-old
 Chief Bearhart / Machikane Carmen (Thrill Show)
 Breeder: Hiroyuki Tanaka
 Owner: Yasuo Nagai.
 Trainer: Kohei Take
 Jockey: Tadashi Kosaka

Karasi and Brett Scott made history as the pair crossed the finish to accomplish an unprecedented feat of winning the Nakayama Grand Jump for the third year running. Eric Musgrove and his stable staff were well rewarded for their careful conditioning of the twelve-year-old gelding specifically aimed towards winning their third crown in this race. **Karasi's** stable-mate, **Personal Drum** also showed improved on his first run in the Pegasus finishing sixth.

All broke well except for **No Hero** who stumbled at the gate and Craig Durden kept **Personal Drum** from jumping out of the gate letting the others well past them before releasing the bay to run on his own. Third favorite **Agnes Hat** was out of the race after losing his rider immediately after the first obstacle while **Storm Seiko** led the early part of the race with **Mount Fountain** close behind on the outside and **Three Operator** quickly advancing in third. **Merci A Time** and **Karasi** was rated in mid-field with **No Hero** and **Real Tonic** racing side by side just behind **Karasi**. **Personal Drum** trailed in the

rear. **Mount Fountain** took over the lead before the second dip and **Three Operator** joined the leaders at obstacle six and led the rest of the journey until **Merci A Time** took over just before fence eight.

Karasi, who constantly kept close to the rails in mid-division, made his move as the field changed hands for the second time after fence seven taking an economic route and already positioned himself closest to the leader along the rails. It was a perfect trip designed by his rider Brett Scott who skillfully made transitions to stay by the rails throughout the race on either direction.

Merci A Time made the first move swiftly making headway along the outside approaching fence number eight. The Pegasus Jump Stakes winner took command around the third corner towards fence nine, but **Karasi** drew even as the two jumped neck to neck over the second last obstacle and drew off to jump the last fence a length ahead.

Under continuous left-hand encouragement from Brett Scott, **Karasi** sped towards pulling off a hat-trick of the Nakayama Grand Jump although **Reward Present** made an impressive late charge from close the margin with **Merci A Time** holding on well another 2-1/2 length in third.

Real Tonic and **No Hero** both had nothing left in the final stages after tracking the winner and finished ninth and twelfth respectively.

“It’s a great feeling. It’s hard to believe he’s won three in a row. I’m just happy to be sitting on top of him. He’s a very strong horse, the win today was one of his toughest to **Karasi**’s credit, for a horse of his age he showed a lot of heart he really found when he had to win.” Commented Brett Scott on his terrific win.

“That’s how you have to ride him—you have to drop him out the back on his own. I was happy with the run. He came into it but from the home turn he just one batted a bit. Overall I thought he ran super. It was a big improvement on his last run.” Commented Craig Durden of **Personal Drum**.

“The pace was very very fast. **Real Tonic** had a good start and he had a good position in the inside. He gave his best but a little more rain could have helped.” Commented Jonathan Riddell.

“He stumbled at the gate. He traveled well in the first half but couldn’t keep up later in the race.” Commented Isaac Lupton of **No Hero**.

Fractional Time (sec./furlong): Last 4 furlongs –52.6 Last 3 furlongs –39.5 (1 mile:1:48.0)

Positions at each corner	(2nd lap):	1st corner	7-(9,6)-8,10(14,13)(15,11)(12,4,2)-1-3
		2nd corner	7-(9,6)(8,10,13)(14,4)(11,12,2)15-1-3
		3rd corner	(9, *4)6(7,12)13-(14,10,2)-1(8,15)11=3
		4th corner	(*9,4)-(7,6)(13,12)-14-2,10(15,1)8=11=3

Note: 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.