



Exclusive Topics for JAPAN CUP 2007 and JAPAN CUP DIRT 2007 – 1st Edition –

Deep Impact's victory in the 2006 Japan Cup provided a suitably dramatic performance for a milestone year in which the JRA, following a quarter-century of internationalization, was named a Part I Country by the International Cataloguing Standards Committee (ICSC), taking effect from the 2007 season.

Less than two months earlier, on October 1st, **Deep Impact (5h, by Sunday Silence, JPN)** debuted on the international stage in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1, FRA, 2,400m). His challenge was strongly supported by the entire Japanese nation, not just racing circles, so his disappointing result—third—was all the more difficult to take. Being overtaken for the first time in his career was humiliating enough, but it was not nearly as shocking as his subsequent disqualification for testing positive for Ipratropium.

Just ten days after his official disqualification, **Deep Impact** appeared in the 2006 Japan Cup under intense scrutiny. The race, featuring a record-low two runners from abroad, plus nine domestic runners, broke off with **Deep Impact** sitting in his usual spot behind the field. He then made his move after the third corner and split horses at the stretch and opened a two-length lead over runner-up **Dream Passport (4c, by Fuji Kiseki, JPN)** for his sixth G1 title. He then won his final Arima Kinen (G1, 2,500m) by three lengths before retiring to start a new career at Shadai Stallion Station in Hokkaido beginning this year. He has been syndicated at 85 million yen x 60 shares for a staggering total of 5.1 billion yen (about US\$43.5 million). His first crop is expected to debut in 2010.

2007 Japan Cup Preview

— Status of last year's field —

Among other runners in last year's Japan Cup, **Heart's Cry (6h, by Sunday Silence, JPN)** (10th) and **Yukino Sun Royal (10h, by Sunday Silence, JPN)** (11th) have also retired from racing. **Heart's Cry**, who captured the Dubai Sheema Classic (G1, UAE, 2,400m) in March last year, was found to have wind problems prior to his start in the Japan Cup and was retired to stud at Shadai Stallion Station after his defeat in the race. **Yukino Sun Royal** also retired in September this year and will soon be seen at Tokyo Racecourse as a lead pony.



Dream Passport (2nd), currently on the disabled list with a fracture, finished second in the Hanshin Daishoten (G2, 3000m) this March. He will not return until next season. **Cosmo Bulk** (6h, by **Zagreb, JPN**) (4th) has not been consistent since finishing 11th in the Arima Kinen last December. He was 8th in the Osaka Hai (G2, 2,000m) and could not defend his title in the Singapore Airlines International Cup (G1, SIN, 2,000m), finishing second to another Japanese runner, Shadow Gate. This autumn, when a breakout of equine flu put a stop to JRA/NAR exchange races, **Cosmo Bulk** started on dirt for the first time in three years at his home ground at Hokkaido and was defeated to third in the Mizuho Sho (2,100m, dirt) at Asahikawa.

Fusaichi Pandora (4f, by **Sunday Silence, JPN**) (5th), who gave an impressive performance for a three-year-old filly in the 2006 Japan Cup, did not start off well this spring, finishing 9th, 9th and 12th in the Nikkei Sho (G2, 2,500m), Miler's Cup (G2, 1,600m) and Victoria Mile (G1, 1,600m), respectively. After a summer break, however, she won wire-to-wire in the Sapporo Kinen (2,000m) in September. There is a good chance that we will see her again in this year's Japan Cup.

The most-watched runner this year is **Meisho Samson** (4c, by **Opera House, JPN**) (6th), who won two of the Triple Crown titles in last spring. Although failing to live up to expectations in the latter half of his three-year-old campaign, **Meisho Samson** has proved successful so far as a four-year-old, having pinned down Shadow Gate in his kickoff start in the Osaka Hai and landing his third G1 title in this year's Tenno Sho Spring (G1, 3,200m) after rallying in a hard-fought race with Erimo Expire and Tokai Trick. Plans to challenge the Arc de Triomphe were cancelled after he tested positive for equine flu during quarantine at Miho Training Center. His connections have altered his racing schedule to focus on the Tenno Sho Autumn (G1, 2,000m), Japan Cup (G1, 2,400m) and Arima Kinen (G1, 2,500m).

2007 Japan Cup Dirt Preview

— Status of last year's horses —

With key players having been sidelined by injury, it is unclear how many of the runners, who did so well last year, will appear in the 2007 Japan Cup Dirt.

Last year's winner, **Alondite** (4c, by **El Condor Pasa, JPN**), has always been a frail horse requiring long spells of rest. He returned for training for his first start since the Japan Cup Dirt and then ran in the Sirius Stakes (G3, 2,000m, dirt) in September, finishing 4th. The son of El Condor Pasa is gradually returning to normal and, in preparation to return as a defending champion, is expected to run in the JBC Classic (2,100m, dirt) in November.



Seeking the Dia (6h, by Storm Cat, USA) (2nd) has been below form this year, finishing third, ninth and fifth in the Tokyo Daishoten (2,000m, dirt), February Stakes (G1, 1,600m, dirt) and Teio Sho (2,000m, dirt), respectively. He is currently turned out to make a fresh start.

Field Rouge (5h, by Croco Rouge, JPN) (3rd) has been consistent in five starts since the end of last season, scoring successive wins in the Onuma Stakes (1,700m, dirt) and Marine Stakes (1,700m, dirt), both open races. His comeback race this fall is expected to be the Musashino Stakes (G3, 1,600m, dirt) in October.

Vermilion (5h, by El Condor Pasa, JPN) (4th), a stablemate to Alondite, won the Nagoya Grand Prix (2,500m, dirt) after the Japan Cup Dirt and landed his first G1 victory in his kickoff start this year in the Kawasaki Kinen (2,100m, dirt). He then took on international competition in the Dubai World Cup (G1, UAE, 2,000m, dirt). Although defeated by a considerable margin by Invasor, the leader of the World Thoroughbred Racehorse Rankings (2006–2007), he finished a respectable fourth. Now back in training, his next start is expected to be the JCB Classic.

Sunrise Bucchas (5h, by Hennessy, JPN) (5th), after a runner-up effort in this year's Heian Stakes (G3, 2,000m, dirt), produced a strong charge from mid-division in the February Stakes to join the ranks of G1 winners. His performances were weaker in the following Kashiwa Kinen and Teio Sho (2,000m, dirt), where he finished fifth and third, respectively. Nevertheless, he possesses a fine turn of foot and was strong enough to fend off 2005 JRA Best Dirt Horse Kane Hekili in the 2005 Musashino Stakes at Tokyo Racecourse. Kane Hekili subsequently won the Japan Cup Dirt that year.

Blue Concorde (7h, by Fusaichi Concorde, JPN) (9th) has proved consistent after capturing his first G1 title in the Tokyo Daishoten, which followed his start in last year's Japan Cup Dirt. This year, although second in his kickoff in the February Stakes and then third in the Nagoya Daishoten (1,900m, dirt), he gave a strong performance in the Kashiwa Kinen to beat multiple G1 winner Adjudi Mitsuo by 1-1/2 lengths. His latest start, the Teio Sho in June, was a 1-1/2 length second to Bonneville Record. After a summer break, he made remarkable start in his fall campaign by winning the Mile Championship Nambu Hai (1,600m, dirt). The son of Fusaichi Concorde has now shown versatility in distances beyond his usual 1,200 and 1,400 meters. If all goes well, he could be a key player in this year's Japan Cup Dirt.

Note: All ages are as of October 2007.