



## JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE 27th running of the Japan Cup

November 22, 2007 (Thursday)

**Questions asked on behalf of the Press:**

**Mr. Kazuaki Watanabe (Radio Nikkei)**

**\*\* Please note that due to recording problems, some quotes were inaudible and are omitted from the text**

### ARTISTE ROYAL (IRE, 6h, bay)

**Owner: David Heerensperger**

**Trainer: Neil Drysdale**

**Q:** When did you decide on running him in the Japan Cup?

**T:** We were planning on coming to Japan in August, but obviously he had to prove to us that he warranted the trip, so by winning the group one in Oak Tree we felt that it was a valid trip and that we should accept the very kind invitation from the JRA. We felt the horse would be competitive and we hope he will be competitive.

**Q:** How do you feel about his suitability to the track at Tokyo Racecourse?

**T:** I've been here before in other years and I feel that the ground this year is in excellent condition. I don't feel that Artiste Royal will have any trouble with the ground. I don't know whether he likes it soft, this will only be his third start for our team, so we'll go from there.

**Q:** What kind of training did you plan for him today and how did he handle it?

**T:** Well this morning he just did a light canter because the day before yesterday he worked at Kyoto. So he came in, just more or less this morning to look around. We'll do more with him tomorrow. I felt that he was moving over the ground very well.

**Q:** How do you feel about his draw number 8?

**O:** We were very happy with the number 8 draw today. I think it's the perfect place for him to be--there's a little speed, we can pick our spot and go from there.

**Q:** What is your impression of the races in Japan?

**O:** It's very very impressing, as I told the TVG people in an interview this morning that the USA could learn a lot from the hospitality and the way that you're taking care of all of us. It's first class and we're just so happy to be invited.



- Q: How would you rate his current condition out of 100(percent) when he was at his best back home?
- T: Well actually I feel that he's improved since he arrived to Japan. I feel that he's more limber and looser, and is moving very well.
- Q: Is there any horse that you would consider as your rival in this race?
- T: All of them, of course.
- Q: Is there any specific instruction that you will be giving to the jockey?
- T: He's a very talented rider and he has natural ability and he'll be able to figure it out by himself, I think.
- Q: What are his outstanding points?
- T: Well he's bred to go a mile and a half.

Today's training;

-walked 1/2 lap, jogged 3/4 lap, walked 1/4 lap (on turf)

(Exercised from 8:45 to 8:58, ridden by M. Olguin)

### **HALICARNASSUS (IRE, 3c, bay)**

**Trainer: Michael Roger Channon**

**Jockey: Darryll Holland**

- Q: What made you decide to run in the Japan Cup and when?
- T: I can't exactly say when we planned but we were kindly invited here and we're very pleased to be invited here. Halicarnassus is a relatively young horse and he's still in what I would call the improving stage. He was a very good two year old, he won a group 2 as a two year old--he's only had three runs in that campaign and this year he's been progressive all year. And you know it's really just all falling into place. We're delighted to be here--this horse has improved all season for us and we're just pleased to have a go at the Japan Cup this year.
- Q: What kind of training did you plan for him this morning and how did you feel about his work?
- T: If he wasn't fit before he came here, he certainly wouldn't be fit enough to win the Japan Cup so, it's basically a very straight forward preparation and you know it's a team game, and Leslie and Dave have done a tremendous job getting here and we've been in quarantine obviously as you would know.



Darryll sat on him this morning, he's a smashing horse to train, he's very straight forward, very laid back and he's done everything we can ask of him. This morning it wasn't a question of putting any fitness into him because if he's not fit he wouldn't be ready to run anyway. It was just a question of his well being and seeing this very impressive racecourse you got here, there's lots of new things and he is a very young horse and it's just a part of his progression. I think just letting him see the stand, breeze up the straight was all we wanted to do and we'll probably just do the same certainly tomorrow. I could only be very pleased with the way the horse has taken his preparation.

Q: How would you rate him out of 100 percent (his best form)?

T: Oh he's a hundred percent. If anyone knows in England, we don't just send horses to the races just for their health. We send them there to be competitive and compete and he's certainly a hundred percent fit and he's ready to run for his life and we're obviously very hopeful.

Q: So how would you assess his current condition?

J: The horse seemed well this morning, it's just a case of getting used to the environment and going underneath the track in the tunnels and stuff like that. He just basically had a canter and just let him stretch up on the straight, nothing serious.

Q: You've drawn stall 17 which is very much on the outside.

J: Ideally I would have liked a draw in single figures but as it transpired, he's drawn 17, you know he's a horse that gets a little bit back in his races any way. So we'll give him a chance, I think there's going to be plenty of speed in the race so we'll just position him where we feel fit on the day. He finishes up his race off very well so I'm not really concerned about the draw. If it was a horse that raced on the speed, then obviously the draw will be a bigger factor so it's not really going to bother us.

Q: Do have any particular rivals in mind? and what are your strategies towards this race?

J: I don't really have any tactics. We'll just do what we know, what he knows best and he's a horse that travels very well in his race. You don't really know that when you jump out your stall and you see whether all the other jockeys go forward or sit in mid-div we're just going to have to ride him how we normally ride him and see what the pace is like in the race. If it's slow we'll go a bit forward, if it's fast then we'll just give him a bit of a chance.



- Q: He's only three going into a big race. How would you describe his characteristics.
- J: His character... he's very laid back and if anybody saw him this morning, he was first out on the track and it was something new to him but he took to it very well. He cantered around there, he did really well I think. His character is laid back but he's very tough and genuine and that's what you need in a good horse to be competitive.
- Q: So are you confident and looking forward to the coming race?
- J: It's a fantastic race. It's an honor and a privilege to be invited here by the JRA and it's a world class race. It's fantastic if you can contest any group one and win them. I'm really looking forward to it. I've been here many times to Japan. We always have a good welcome and it would be nice to go back with a prize.
- T: One thing's for sure. All I can say about our horse is that there will be no excuses about the ground, about the draw or anything else. The way the race develops is basically down to Darryll or anyone's jockey, but nothing frightens us and it wouldn't matter how the race was run. Our horse, he is a little bit of a character, and he takes a little bit of time to warm up but he usually finishes his races well and as I say the ground would be perfect for him, should suit him, the draw is Darryll's problem but I don't really see that a problem either. I'd be very optimistic that we should run a real big race.

Today's training;

-walked 1/4 lap, cantered lightly (stronger on the stretch) (on turf)

(Exercised from 7:50 to 8:05, ridden by D. Holland)

### **PAPAL BULL (GBR, 4c, bay)**

**Jockey: Ryan Moore**

- Q: How was his training this morning?
- J: I didn't ride him this morning. I'm going to sit on him tomorrow morning. He didn't do much on today, just a canter and he seems to be in good order and looks great. He has traveled real well and the lads are happy with him. He can be a bit tricky and funny when comes to traveling and things like that but seemed to have settled real well.



- Q: How will he suit the surface at Tokyo Racecourse?
- J: Well this racetrack—it's very big and it's fair. Ground looks like it's going to be on the fast side. And with 18 runners I think there should be a good pace which will definitely suit him. You know he stays very well so the climb to the line actually will be in his favor as well.
- Q: You've drawn barrier seven which is next to Artiste Royal.
- J: I'm pretty happy with the draw. He's probably a horse that doesn't make a whole lot of difference to what he's drawn, but you know I can't complain with that draw—at least we've got good options from where we are.
- Q: Can you give us his outstanding points?
- J: He is very talented. He's been called a few names in the past—his form has been a bit in and out. But when he get's his head together, he's got an engine and he's probably just as talented as any horse in the race but it's just everything coming together and going his way on the day.
- Q: You yourself have come to Japan a number of times. What is your impression of the races here in Japan?
- J: As everyone said already, the standard of horse racing is real high. And there are very good horses in this race on Sunday, Meisho Samson, the filly Vodka that won the Derby and you've got Delta Blues and Pop Rock and then you've got Admire Moon—he's a very good horse when he stays and everything—and I think you've got a key horse coming out Inti Raimi, and I'm not really sure about the rest of them, Dream Passport may be one of them, but it looks like a very good race and my horse is going to need a career best by a long way to be winning, but I think he is well capable of running a good race.
- Q: Do you have any strategy in this race?
- J: He's a horse you don't really have much tactics with. You got to kind of leave it to him when he is ready to run—he'll go then. I just kind of got to ride him without bullying him and you've got to be looking to come quite late but it's up to the horse really.

Today's training;

-light cantered 1 lap, strong canter 1 lap (on turf)

(Exercised from 8:04 to 8:37, ridden by P. Jones)



**SADDEX (GBR, 4c, bay)**

**Trainer:** Peter Rau

**Jockey:** Torsten Mundry

Q: When did you decide on running Saddex in the Japan Cup?

T: I can't say exactly when but I would say quite early in the season, we were considering going to either Japan or Hong Kong.

Q: What is your impression of the Tokyo Racecourse, and will it suite your horse?

T: The grass track is magnificent and there are some factors of this course that would work to the advantage of my horse whereas some horses would find it a problem. So I'm very much looking forward to the race.

Q: How did you feel about his training this morning?

T: Considering what he had been through with the long travel here, he has taken some time to get acclimated to his new surroundings and today, he was a little bit nervous. However, he should be fine in a day or two.

Q: How would you rate your horse's condition out of 100 (percent)?

T: This may not be a direct answer to your question but I am hoping he will bounce back from his set back during quarantine in a couple of days and return to his good form, hopefully finishing within the first five in the race.

Q: How did you feel riding the horse today?

J: Well this morning, like the trainer said, he was a little bit nervous and because he moved yesterday from Shiroi to Tokyo, and he ate well last night but this morning he was a little bit nervous with a lot of new things come to him. But he moves well—we didn't do lot of work because we don't want to lose too much weight.

Q: Your impression of the racecourse and Japanese racing?

J: Well yes, everybody said Japanese racing is of high standard—I agree with this. Last year, the horse grow here and we have many good horses in this race, it's very competitive. Saddex is a very good horse. He was three-years-old, still a baby. Four years old, the first three runs he never had to give one hundred percent, the first time in the Arc, and he was not so far beaten and so we hope if he calms down he will run a big race. The Tokyo Racecourse, as the trainer said, had some issues to get good tactics even with this draw, and we hope we will find it.

Q: How do you feel about your outside draw?



J: We wish we had a better draw—a little bit more inside—but now we have number 16 and we have to make our best out of it.

Q: Who would you consider to be your rival?

J: I think number 10, Meisho Samson and three-year-old filly Vodka, and Admire Moon are very very good horses and I think these are the horses to beat at the end.

Q: How about the foreign horses?

J: I think the foreign horses are also very strong but the horses here in Japan, I think they have a little bit of a home-ground advantage.

Today's training;

-strong canter 6 furlongs from 1<sup>st</sup> corner (on turf)

(Exercised from 7:54 to 8:08, ridden by T. Mundry)

## **8th running of the Japan Cup Dirt**

### **STUDENT COUNCIL (USA, 5h, bay)**

**Trainer:** Vladimir Cerin

**Jockey:** Richard Migliore

Q: What was the biggest reason that you decided to enter him in the Japan Cup Dirt and when was it that you decided to run him in the race?

T: After the Pacific Classic we wanted to try the horse on the dirt one more time because he ran on an artificial surface and the choice was following the Hawthorne Gold Cup to either run in the Breeders' Cup or the Japan Cup. We wanted to showcase this horse. It seemed that the deeper surface of the Japan Cup would be more suitable to him than the fast surface of Monmouth Park.

Q: What is your impression of the Japanese Racecourse here at Tokyo?

T: Tokyo Racecourse is the most amazing facility I've ever been to and I've been to Dubai, to Hong Kong—I've never seen a racetrack this size run this well—It's amazing, it's quite a sight.

Q: Do you think it will suit your Horse?

T: The surface should fit my horse quite well—he gallops over it very strongly, he's quite powerful—I, especially think he'll enjoy the uphill part the first 300



meters in the final stretch.

Q: How would you rate the condition of your horse out of 100 (percent)?

T: I was really concerned about traveling here—it's a 12-hour airplane ride—and I thought he would lose a lot of weight, but upon seeing him here it seems the horse has gained weight, he's absolutely flourishing, he loves it in Japan and if I were to give a rating of what kind of shape he's in I would say he's at least a 100 percent.

Q: What is your impression of Japanese racing and which horse would be your rival?

T: The third, fourth and fifth finishers from Japan Cup Dirt of last year are back in this race and I would assume that they've only improved so I would say they would be very strong competition. Jack Sullivan and Kandidate come in with strong credentials and I think the horse that looks the most interesting to me is Dragon Fire—he's a three-year-old Japanese horse that's very consistent, very strong finisher and I would say he's the horse to figure. And of course the Student Council may have a lot to say about the outcome of this race.

J: I have a very healthy respect for everybody in the race and you have to be everybody to get to the winner's circle, I think Vladimir gave a really good assessment and obviously Dragon Fire seems to be in a really good form and I do expect my horse to run very well though.

Q: What is your impression of the Tokyo racecourse?

J: Tokyo race course is a wonderful race course. I was fortunate enough to be here to ride in the very first Japan Cup in 1981 and I was very young and was a bit overwhelming so it's nice to come back years later with more experience and be able to take it all in, in a more calm matter-of-fact fashion than when I was much younger.

Q: What is your sales point of your horse and eagerness to run in this race?

J: I think my horse has the strength that the fact that he has a high cruising speed but he has so much stamina. He has bred to run long and he has shown me that a mile and quarter and beyond is very well within his scope actually relishes it. I'm very excited about the prospect Saturday and it's an honor to take part in such a great event and it's even nicer to come with a horse that does things the way he does them. He is very calm, mentally and physically, is the kind of constitution to take to traveling as well as he has. Like Vladimir said, he seems to be in really good order and I'm looking forward to Saturday.



- Q: What was the biggest reason that you decided to enter him in the Japan Cup Dirt and when was it that you decided to run him in the race?
- T: After the Pacific Classic we wanted to try the horse on the dirt one more time because he ran on an artificial surface and the choice was following the Hawthorne Gold Cup to either run in the Breeders' Cup or the Japan Cup. We wanted to showcase this horse. It seemed that the deeper surface of the Japan Cup would be more suitable to him than the fast surface of Monmouth Park.
- Q: What is your impression of the Japanese Racecourse here at Tokyo?
- T: Tokyo Racecourse is the most amazing facility I've ever been to and I've been to Dubai, to Hong Kong—I've never seen a racetrack this size run this well—It's amazing, it's quite a sight.
- Q: Do you think it will suit your Horse?
- T: The surface should fit my horse quite well—he gallops over it very strongly, he's quite powerful—I, especially think he'll enjoy the uphill part the first 300 meters in the final stretch.
- Q: How would you rate the condition of your horse out of 100 (percent)?
- T: I was really concerned about traveling here—it's a 12-hour airplane ride—and I thought he would lose a lot of weight, but upon seeing him here it seems the horse has gained weight, he's absolutely flourishing, he loves it in Japan and if I were to give a rating of what kind of shape he's in I would say he's at least a 100 percent.
- Q: What is your impression of Japanese racing and which horse would be your rival?
- T: The third, fourth and fifth finishers from Japan Cup Dirt of last year are back in this race and I would assume that they've only improved so I would say they would be very strong competition. Jack Sullivan and Kandidate come in with strong credentials and I think the horse that looks the most interesting to me is Dragon Fire—he's a three-year-old Japanese horse that's very consistent, very strong finisher and I would say he's the horse to figure. And of course the Student Council may have a lot to say about the outcome of this race.
- J: I have a very healthy respect for everybody in the race and you have to be everybody to get to the winner's circle, I think Vladimir gave a really good assessment and obviously Dragon Fire seems to be in a really good form and I do expect my horse to run very well though.
- Q: What is your impression of the Tokyo racecourse?



J: Tokyo race course is a wonderful race course. I was fortunate enough to be here to ride in the very first Japan Cup in 1981 and I was very young and was a bit over whelming so it's nice to come back years later with more experience and be able to take it all in, in a more calm matter of fact fashion than when I was much younger.

Q: What is your sales point of your horse and eagerness to run in this race?

J: I think my horse has the strength that the fact that he has a high cruising speed but he has so much stamina. He has bred to run long and he has shown me that a mile and quarter and beyond is very well within his scope actually relishes it. I'm very excited about the prospect Saturday and it's a honor to take a part in such great event and it's even nicer to come with a horse that does things the way he does them. He is very calm, mentally and physically, is the kind of constitution to take to traveling as well as he has. Like Vladimir said, he seems to be in really good order and I'm looking forward to Saturday.

Today's training;

-jogged 1/2 lap, cantered lightly 1/2 lap, cantered (stronger on the stretch) (on turf)

(Exercised from 7:54 to 8:15, ridden by J. Marquez)

### **JACK SULLIVAN (USA, 6g, chestnut)**

**Owner:** Michael Deegan (The International Carnival Partnership)

**Trainer:** Gerald Butler

**Jockey:** Edward Ahern

Q: What was the biggest reason that you decided to enter him in the Japan Cup Dirt and when was it that you decided to run him in the race?

O: Jack Sullivan has run for us in Dubai and in the Breeders' Cup in New York, and it was natural progression that we should try and get him to Japan. We decided to enter him in mid-September. He has a proven pedigree for dirt racing and we look forward to getting him on the surface, which is slightly different to what he's run on before here in Japan.

Q: What is your impression of the Tokyo Racecourse and do you think it would suit your horse?

T: I've been very impressed of what I've seen so far. The professionalism that's employed is of the highest caliber. The track itself looks in very very good condition. The surface is a little bit different than what Jack Sullivan is used to



but I think he still handled it pretty well.

- Q: How about the condition of the horse. How would you rate your horse out of a hundred (percent)?
- T: His condition is very very good. He traveled over very nicely and he took to his new surroundings very very well. His condition is hopefully 110 (percent) but he needs to be competitive for Saturday.
- Q: What is your impression of the Japanese racing and who would be your biggest rival in the race?
- J: Lot of the horses in the race, I probably wouldn't know anyway and the USA horses would definitely be a big contender—I know a lot about Kandidate and the Japanese horses are always very quick horses and they're very talented horses. But I'm a little bit disappointed that I've drawn so wide.
- Q: So what are the outstanding points of your horse?
- J: I'm very looking forward to the race. It's a big step up from some of the races that he's run in before. I'm looking forward to seeing how he's going to react to the kick-back in the race because it is a different surface and it's a lot deeper to what I'm used to riding him on. But he's bred to run in the dirt and the trip is I think ideal for him but it is a tough race.
- Q: Your impression of the course as well as your eagerness to run in this race?
- T: Like I said the track is a little deeper than what he's used to but he seems to get through it very very well. I watched quite a few replays of the race of the last few weeks and the times are always very fast—I would say the tracks rides fast even though it seems a bit deep. My impression of the race would be that you know the American horse, Student Council, he'd probably set the standard as the Japanese horses are always very very competitive. They travel strong and they maintain their gallop all the way to the line so they all would be very very tough—we ran against Utopia a few years ago in Dubai and he was an outstanding performer that day. Well going into the race we'd probably be an outsider but the horse, he's been training very nicely and we're full of hope—I'm sure he'll give a very good account of himself.

Today's training;

-jogged 1/4 lap, cantered lightly 1/2 lap, cantered 3/4 lap (increasing speed gradually) (ondirt)

(Exercised from 7:52 to 8:09, ridden by E. Ahern)



**KANDIDATE(GBR, 5h, bay)**

**Trainer: Clive Brittain**

**Jockey: Ryan Moore**

Q: What was the biggest reason that you decided to enter him in the Japan Cup Dirt and when was it that you decided to run him in the race?

T: Well there's a very good reason we were training for this race last year, but unfortunately I wasn't 100 percent happy with the way the horse was--there wasn't a lot wrong with him but it wasn't in my opinion fit to get on the plane and coming to run a big race--so we didn't bring him. But the experience we had preparing him for the dirt race worked later on in Dubai--he went to Dubai and ran a great race on dirt and I could expect him to do something very similar on Saturday.

Q: How did you feel about his training this morning?

T: Well answer workout this morning was down to Ryan --he'd know more about the horse and the feeling he gave him, but to my eye the horse looked very much relaxed and as horses put on an extra year on their age, they tend to get a little stiff in the morning, so they need an extra warm up but Ryan was very pleased with the horse when he came back and I was certainly very pleased with what I saw.

Q: How would you rate your horse's condition out of 100 (percent)?

T: I'm actually really delighted with the condition of the horse--Desmond and Sonia, the staff, are more important than me with the horse being here. They've done all the hard work and produced the horse for me to look at this morning and in tip-top condition--thank you very much you two.

Q: How did you feel on the horse this morning?

J: Yeah, he's in good order. Moving well--takes a while to warm up. He's chilled out you know, he settles in quite well when he goes abroad now--he's pretty much used to it. He worked out quite nicely yesterday. He goes as good as he did in Dubai in the winter so hopefully he's back to where he was in his last run in Europe in a group three on the grass--it was a good run-- I was very pleased with that. So we'll see how he goes.

Q: Your impression on Japan racing and any rivals?

J: I've only got a quick look through the program there--I'd say Vermilion. You'd obviously bring in the best horse in this race, so, I really haven't had a good



chance to proof form yet. We've got a nice draw. We're racing in top class and we need to improve on what he's done recently but if he comes back to his best form and things go his way he'll be thereabouts.

Q: Your impression of the dirt surface in Japan and your feelings about your draw number 3?

J: Well the dirt--it's not what we've got in England where we race on the polytrack—it's probably a little bit more similar to Dubai--it probably rides a little bit slower, but pretty quick as well. It's kind of.. I don't know I haven't really got to the grip of it yet but... the draw is OK I would rather maybe have drawn a little wider but it's better than drawing wider outside so I can't complain about that. We'll see how he goes.

Q: What are the outstanding points of the horse?

J: Horse races, you just have to take as you find it, can't really make much or plan, when the gates are open usually changes, so hopefully make a good break and sit very prominent and if he stays well with enough pace and just hope he runs a big race.

Q: Your enthusiasm and message to the Japanese fans.

T: Well, I'm always very enthusiastic as of my feelings but, message to the fans, the horse is in tip-top condition, his racing weight for dirt is in my opinion needed to be ten kilos lighter than it would be racing on turf. Desmond and Sonia got the horse spot on. His racing weight will be 496 had we been running in the Japan Cup. I would expect him to be 506, so everything is as far as the horse condition is, according to the plan. I've got the top jockey with a lot of confidence in the horse and after we saddle the horse, I give the reins to Ryan then the race is up to him. It's his responsibility. I'm out here.

J: Nice to be here riding a horse with chance, so see what happens.

Today's training;

-jogged 1/2 lap, light canter 3/4 lap, strong canter 1 lap, jogged 1/4 lap (on dirt)

(Exercised from 7:54 to 8:10, ridden by R. Moore)