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THE JAPAN RACING ASSOCIATION (JRA)

DATE: November 24, 2007

SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 8TH JAPAN CUP DIRT (G1)

The Japan Cup Dirt which established itself as the dirt race version of the Japan Cup international contest commemorates its eighth anniversary since Wing Arrow (JPN) won the race in 2000. Lord Sterling (USA) was the first foreign contender to finish third in the inaugural running while Fleetstreet Dancer (USA) became the first foreign winner of the race in 2003. Nineteen foreign runners from not only North America but also from France, Germany, Great Britain and Hong Kong have participated in the race in the past although last year's race was contested without a single foreign runner for the first time. This year, two British-trained runners—Jack Sullivan (USA) and Kandidate (GB)—who have proved useful over polytracks in England as well as the dirt in Dubai, and Student Council (USA), winner of the G1 Pacific Classic Stakes from the USA will join in the field of 16 runners that includes Sunrise Bacchus (JPN), the winner of the February Stakes (G1), Vermilion (JPN) who has just come off a win in one of the main dirt races, JBC Classic, in October, and Dragon Fire (JPN) an upcoming dirt three-year-old. The race record of 2:05.9 set by Kurofune (USA) in 2001 is still yet to be broken although Kane Hekili (JPN) holds the fastest record over the renovated course in 2005.

THE 8TH JAPAN CUP DIRT (G1): 3-year-old & up, 2,100 meters (about 10.5 furlongs), dirt, left-handed
Saturday, November 24, 2007 Tokyo Racecourse 11th Race Post Time: 15:20

Total prize money: ¥ 277,900,000 (about US\$2,416,000 < US\$1 = ¥115 >)

Winner's prize: ¥ 130,000,000 (about US\$1,130,000 < US\$1 = ¥115 >)

3-y-o 55 kgs (about 121 lbs), 4-y-o & up 57 kgs (about 126 lbs), 2 kgs allowance for Fillies & Mares,
2kgs allowance for Southern Hemisphere horses born in 2004

Safety Factor: 16 runners (Foreign Trained Horses: 8)

FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	4	7	Vermilion (JPN)	H5	57.0	El Condor Pasa Scarlet Lady	Y. Take S. Ishizaka	Sunday Racing Co. Ltd. Northern Farm	2:06.7R (36.2)	2.3 (1)
2	6	11	Field Rouge (JPN)	H5	57.0	Croco Rouge Mejiro Romer	N. Yokoyama M. Nishizono	K. Chida H. Nakata	1-1/4 (36.5)	16.4 (6)
3	1	1	Sunrise Bacchus (JPN)	H5	57.0	Hennessy Real Sapphire	K. Ando H. Otonashi	T. Matsuoka Yanagawa Bokujo	3-1/2 (36.8)	17.8 (7)
4	4	8	Meisho Tokon (JPN)	H5	57.0	Mayano Top Gun Lunar Sphere	K. Take Isao Yasuda	Y. Matsumoto Niikappu Hashimoto Bokujo	1-1/4 (36.8)	9.5 (4)
5	3	6	Wild Wonder (JPN)	H5	57.0	Brian's Time Waltz Dancer	Y. Iwata T. Kubota	T. Kusama Shizunai Fujikawa Bokujo	Neck (37.6)	18.5 (8)
6	6	12	Dragon Fire (JPN)	C3	55.0	Brian's Time Magical Woman	K. Tanaka T. Kubota	Y. Kubota Chiyoda Farm Shizunai	1-1/4 (37.2)	5.6 (2)
7	7	13	Blue Concorde (JPN)	H7	57.0	Fusaichi Concorde Ebisu Family	H. Miyuki T. Hattori	Blue Management Co. Ltd. E. Kawakami	1-3/4 (38.3)	26.5 (10)
8	1	2	Student Council* (USA)	H5	57.0	Kingmambo Class Kris	R. Migliore V. Cerin	Millennium Farms W. S. Farish	2-1/2 (38.4)	7.2 (3)
9	5	10	Wonder Speed (JPN)	H5	57.0	King Glorious Wonder Heritage	F. Komaki T. Hatsuki	N. Yamamoto Fukuda Farm	Neck (38.2)	46.2 (11)
10	2	4B	Furioso (JPN)	C3	55.0	Brian's Time Fursa	H. Uchida M. Kawashima	Darley Japan Farm Co. Ltd. Hashimoto Farm	2-1/2 (39.0)	20.3 (9)
11	7	14	Fusaichi Ho O (JPN)	C3	55.0	Jungle Pocket Admire Sunday	O. Peslier K. Matsuda	F. Sekiguchi Northern Farm	Dist** (39.8)	16.1 (5)
12	8	15	Jack Sullivan* (USA)	G6	57.0	Belong to Me Provisions	E. Ahern G. Butler	International Carnival Partnership Hermitage Farm LLC	1-3/4 (40.9)	123.4 (15)
13	5	9	Eishin Lombard (USA)	H5	57.0	Victory Gallop Pacific City	Y. Fukunaga K. Kozaki	T. Hirai Brilliant Stables Inc. Morris Brothers & Elliott Walden	Neck (42.2)	80.2 (12)
14	8	16	Bonneville Record (JPN)	H5	57.0	Assatis Daiwa Stan	Y. Shibata M. Horii	K. Shioda Y. Hamamoto	Neck (40.7)	86.2 (14)
15	2	3	Kandidate* (GB)	H5	57.0	Kabool Valleyrose	R. Moore C. Brittain	A. Richards Proton Partnership	2-1/2 (42.7)	82.8 (13)
16	3	5	Cafe Olympus (USA)	H6	57.0	Grand Slam Cognac Lady	H. Goto Y. Matsuyama	K. Nishikawa Mt. Brilliant Farm LLC	10 (42.8)	172.4 (16)

PP=Final Position BK=Bracket Number PP=Post Position B=Blinkers L3F=Time of Last 3 Furlongs (600m)

**Dist=Distance

NOTE1: *=Foreign Horse

NOTE2: Figures quoted under Odds are Win Odds, which show the amount of money you get back per single unit (100yen), and Fav indicates the order of favorites.

WINNING TIME: 2:06.7 (Course Record) GOING: Standard WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥10,211,305,400

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥16,775,592,200 ATTENDANCE: 56,052

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.7	¥230	PLACE	No.7	¥130
BRACKET QUINELLA	4 - 6	¥380		No.11	¥250
QUINELLA	7 - 11	¥1,350		No.1	¥420
EXACTA	7 - 11	¥1,800	QUINELLA PLACE	7 - 11	¥450
TRIO	1 - 7 - 11	¥4,400		1 - 7	¥670
TRIFECTA	7 - 11 - 1	¥16,310		1 - 11	¥1,850

1. VERMILION (JPN), 57kg, horse, dark bay or brown, 5-year-old
El Condor Pasa / Scarlet Lady (Sunday Silence)
Breeder: Northern Farm Owner: Sunday Racing Co., Ltd.
Trainer: Sei Ishizaka Jockey: Yutaka Take
20 Starts, 9 Wins
Added money: ¥133,612,000 Career earnings: ¥571,569,500
2. FIELD ROUGE (JPN), 57kg, horse, bay, 5-year-old
Croco Rouge / Mejiro Romer (Lindo Shaver)
Breeder: Hideki Nakata Owner: Katsumi Chida
Trainer: Masato Nishizono Jockey: Norihiro Yokoyama
3. SUNRISE BACCHUS (JPN), 57kg, horse, dark bay or brown, 5-year-old
Hennessy / Real Sapphire (Real Shadai)
Breeder: Yanagawa Bokujo Owner: Takao Matsuoka
Trainer: Hidetaka Otonashi Jockey: Katsumi Ando

Race favorite **VERMILION** measured up to the expectation of the fans to claim the eighth running of the JAPAN CUP DIRT, marking his seventh grade-race win, and giving his jockey Yutaka Take his fourth Japan Cup Dirt title. Saving ground and settling in mid-division around 11th from the front, the son of El Condor Pasa made his move through the last two corners as Y. Take steered him to the outside and steadily accelerated in the homestretch. Overtaking the front horses one by one on his way, he displayed further speed after nailing the front one furlong out and crossed the wire in 2:06.7, renewing the course record over the renovated course held by Kane Hekili.

The field of 16 broke smoothly with **EISHIN LOMBARD** eventually taking the lead as expected, followed by **BLUE CONCORDE** and British raider **KANDIDATE**. The three horses set a fast pace, leading the remaining field by 2-3 lengths in the backstretch. Last year's third-place finisher and sixth favorite **FIELD ROUGE** settled around eighth position by the rail while seventh pick **SUNRISE BACCHUS** traveled third from the rear. As the field spread wide turning for home, **KANDIDATE** was the first to take the front, but the lead was soon overtaken by **WILD WONDER** then **FIELD ROUGE**, who had threaded between horses from the inside and surged out with a powerful speed. The bay held on well but was pinned by **VERMILION** in the last furlong, finishing 1-1/4 lengths behind the winner. **SUNRISE BACCHUS** also demonstrated an impressive effort, coming from the rear and edging forward in the homestretch to finish another 3-1/2 lengths behind in third.

Third favorite **STUDENT COUNCIL** (USA) partnered with Richard Migliore broke smoothly and settled around fifth from the front but was unable to quicken in the homestretch and finished eighth. "I was able to run him as planned until the last corner, but he had nothing left in the homestretch," commented Migliore.

JACK SULLIVAN (USA) ridden by Edward Ahern hugged the rail in mid-pack and raced wide through the last two corners and flattened out at the stretch finishing 12th. "The distance was no problem but the dirt track at Tokyo racecourse did not seem to suit the chestnut," said Ahern, disappointedly.

KANDIDATE (GB) with Ryan Moore on board kept within the pace in third and took the front before the turn for the homestretch but dropped drastically from the 400-meter pole to finish second from last. "He dislikes the sand kicked back

in his face, so I had to race him in the front. The pace was too fast for the bay,” remarked Moore.

8 **MEISHO TOKON**—displayed powerful leg in homestretch and advanced to 4th from racing well behind the pace.

6 **WILD WONDER**—traveled towards front in 2nd pack, edged up from inside in homestretch to 5th place.

12 **DRAGON FIRE**—traveled in rear pack, turned wide around last two corners, accelerated to 6th.

13 **BLUE CONCORDE**—keen in 3rd in early stage, one paced at stretch, overtaken by rivals.

10 **WONDER SPEED**—held back at backstretch, showed effort.

3 **FURIOSO**—within the pace till 4th corner, faded in homestretch.

14 **FUSAICHI HO O**—trailed most of the way.

9 **EISHIN LOMBARD**—set fast pace till 4th corner, nothing left in homestretch.

16 **BONNEVILLE RECORD**—never a contender.

5 **CAFE OLYMPUS**—fifth early, used up after 3rd corner.

Fractional Time (sec./furlong): 07.1 - 10.7 - 11.9 - 11.7 - 11.5 - 11.9 - 12.6 - 12.3 - 12.5 - 12.0 - 12.5

Last 4 furlongs: 49.3 Last 3 furlongs: 37.0

Positions at each corner: 1st corner 9(3,4,13)-(2,5,10)(15,16)11(6,7)12,(1,14)8

2nd corner 9(3,13)4-2(6,5)10,11,15,7,16,12(1,14)-8

3rd corner (*9,3,13)-(6,4)2-(11,10)(7,5,15)(1,12,16)8-14

4th corner (9,*3)13(6,4)2(11,10,7)(1,12)(8,15)(5,16)-14

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.

The 8th Japan Cup Dirt

Post Race Interview to the winning Trainer/Jockey

Winning Trainer: Sei Ishizaka Winning Jockey: Yutaka Take

Trainer: Sei Ishizaka

He had been a talented horse from the beginning of his career and having won a grade-race on turf in his two-year-old season, we high hopes towards challenging the Triple Crown at three. However, we were unable to figure out the reason why he wasn't able to race up to his form during that time. Hindsight, he was still immature at that time. Since his international GI challenge in the Dubai World Cup--in which he finished fourth--he showed visible improvement in giving his best effort right up to the finish line (whereas if it were Vermilion in his younger years, he would have been last) and that's when I felt that he had really matured both mentally and physically and that he would make this a step to becoming an even a stronger horse. Just as I thought, he finished very strongly in his last start in the JBC Classic, and I am truly happy that he was finally able to prove best among dirt horses in the Japan Cup Dir and becoming a JRA GI horse. Still a horse that has room for even more improvement, he has provided me with a dream to seek a higher level of competition perhaps on an international stage.

Jockey: Yutaka Take

He's not the best starter but made a very satisfactory break for him in this race and I was able to settle him nicely in mid-division as a number of others made their bid to set the pace. From there up to the last corner, everything worked our way and he finished very strongly.

The JBC Classic was his first start after his return from Dubai and according to the stable staff, he was still not back to his best form though he won the race very strongly. This time he was in better form and I was able to come into the race with more confidence, although, with a strong field including GI horses from abroad--you could never be sure about the outcome. I had ridden him a number of times since his debut, and although he is an honest horse and an easy ride, he has been troubled by leg problems and had been difficult to condition to his best, therefore unable to perform his best in some of his starts. I feel that he was at his strongest and up to his true form in this race.

RESULTS OF OTHER RACES RIDDEN BY VISITING FOREIGN JOCKEYS

November 24, 2007 (Sat) at TOKYO RACECOURSE (Weather: Fine / Turf: Firm, Dirt: Standard)

Edward Ahern (GB)

2nd race: Two-year-olds (dirt, 1,400m), maiden-10 ran

7th on Suzuka Neil (JPN), 8th favorite

Joe Talamo (USA)

7th race: Three-Year-Olds & Up) (dirt, 1,600m)-13 ran

9th on Fight Spirits (USA), 3rd favorite
