



For Immediate Release

FROM: Mr. Miki Mizuta, General Manager, Media & Publicity Department
The Japan Racing Association
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DEEP IMPACT AWARDED HORSE OF THE YEAR FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR

Deep Impact (JPN) collected 97.9 percent of the total votes in winning the 2006 JRA Horse of the Year Award for the second year in a row. He received 287 out of 289 possible votes, exceeding his total of 285 out of 291 in 2005. The Sunday Silence colt is the fourth horse in JRA history to claim the Horse of the Year title for two consecutive seasons, joining Hoyo Boy (1980/1981), Symboli Rudolf (1984/1985) and Symboli Kris S (2002/2003).

After a remarkable three-year-old season in 2005, when he claimed all three Triple Crown races and was undefeated in all but the Arima Kinen (GI, 2,500m), Deep Impact kicked off his four-year-old campaign with three wins (two GI and one GII start). He then went to race in Europe and, though he was unable to give his best performance overseas, he returned to Japan and scored convincing victories in his last two runs—the Japan Cup and the Arima Kinen—before retiring. Deep Impact was also just one vote short of a unanimous selection as the JRA's Best Four-Year-Old Colt. The lone vote was cast for Daiwa Major, who captured two GI titles during the year and was named the season's Best Sprinter or Miler title with 200 votes.

Tsutomu Setoguchi trained two award winners in 2006, his last season before retirement. He saddled Best Three-Year-Old Meisho Samson (JPN) to victory in two of the Triple Crown races and also captured the principle steeplechase event with Best Steeplechase Horse, Maruka Rascal (JPN).

Nine out of 11 awards given to horses this year were won by vote totals exceeding 200. The only marginally close vote was for Best Dirt Horse, won by Alondite (143 votes) over runner-up Blue Concorde (94 votes), who also was a GI winner, but was defeated to ninth to Alondite in the Japan Cup Dirt.

No Special Award was presented this year, although two horses were carefully considered. One was Heart's Cry (JPN), who defeated Deep Impact in last year's Arima Kinen and turned in an outstanding victory in the Dubai Sheema Classic (G1, UAE), as well as finished third among top handicap horses in the King George IV and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes (G1, GB). The other Special Award candidate was Delta Blues (JPN), who became the first Japanese horse to claim the Melbourne Cup (G1), the most prestigious G1 in the Southern Hemisphere. After thorough consideration of these achievements in light of past winners, however, it was finally decided that a Special Award was not merited this year.

Trainer Hideyuki Mori captured his fourth JRA annual award, while fellow trainers Yasutoshi Ikee and Hiroyoshi Matsuda received their first awards. Jockey Yutaka Take, although unable to extend his streak of over 200 victories to four seasons, was the clear winner among national jockeys with 184 wins and nearly 4.8 billion yen in purses. He has earned at least one JRA award in 17 different years, since being named the Best Newcomer Jockey in 1987, and has claimed nine JRA Grand Prize Jockey awards for leading in wins, winning percentage and purses.

The Equine Culture Award, which recognizes noteworthy achievements and contributions to Japanese equine culture, was presented to two works: "80 Episodes of the Breeding Region—A View of Japanese Horse Racing from Hidaka," a book that gives deep insight into Japan's breeding industry, and "What the Snow Brings," a fictionalized film about draft horse racing and the people involved.

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Note: All information, including ages and race performances, are as of December 31, 2006, unless otherwise indicated.

Attachment

2006 JRA Awards

Part 1: Racehorses

HORSE OF THE YEAR and BEST OLDER COLT OR HORSE:

DEEP IMPACT (JPN)

4-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 2006: 5 / 6 (incl. 1 overseas)

Career Wins / Starts: 12 / 14

Earnings in 2006: ¥771,488,000

Career Earnings: ¥1,454,551,000



Principal Wins in 2006: Tenno Sho Spring (GI), Takarazuka Kinen (GI), Japan Cup (GI), Arima Kinen (GI), Hanshin Daishoten (GII)

Japanese racing in the 2005 and 2006 seasons was centered directly around Deep Impact, and the great colt never fell short of expectations. Showing exceptional talent from his debut, the son of legendary Sunday Silence seemed destined to become a Triple Crown winner with his inborn competitiveness, extraordinary turn of speed and superb pedigree. Kicking off his career in 2004 as a two-year-old with a four-length victory, in 2005 the colt took six wins out of seven starts—including five grade-race titles and the Triple Crown title—to win Horse of the Year and Best Three-Year-Old Colt.

Now a national hero, in 2006 he proved himself against older GI-caliber racehorses with three wins in the spring campaign, including the Tenno Sho Spring (GI, 3,200m) and the Takarazuka Kinen (GI, 2,200m). He was then shipped abroad to compete in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1, FRA, 2,400m) and finished third, but later was disqualified.

Despite the setback, Deep Impact's huge following remained solidly behind their hero, and their loyalty was rewarded with victories in his two remaining GI starts—the Japan Cup (GI, 2,400m) and the final Arima Kinen (GI, 2,500m). Concluding a spectacular career with 12 wins and a record-tying seven GI victories, Deep Impact stands first in the line of Japan's legendary racehorses. His new career as Japan's most prized stud will be another story worth following closely.

BEST TWO-YEAR-OLD COLT:

DREAM JOURNEY (JPN)

2-year-old colt, bay

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):

Stay Gold / Oriental Art (Mejiro McQueen)

Owner: Sunday Racing Co., Ltd.

Breeder: Shiraoi Farm, Shadai Corporation
Trainer: Yasutoshi Ikee
Wins / Starts in 2006: 3 / 4
Career Wins / Starts: 3 / 4
Earnings in 2006: ¥92,508,000
Career Earnings: ¥92,508,000

Principal Win in 2006: Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes (GI)



Dream Journey capped his debut season by winning the two-year-old championship GI in an eye-catching manner—coming from the back of a field of 15 to fly past his rivals to a 1/2-length victory. He is the son of Stay Gold, a successful overseas middle-distance GI winner who took both the Dubai Sheema Classic (G2, UAE, 2,400m) and the Hong Kong Vase (G1, HK, 2,400m) in 2001.

Dream Journey won his first start in September and scored another win before his first grade-race challenge in the Tokyo Sports Hai Nisai Stakes (GIII, 1,800m), where he finished a 1/2 length short in third after covering the last three furlongs in the fastest time, 33.7 seconds. He then proved himself in the following GI event with a victory against this year's two-year-olds, concluding his 2006 season with three wins and a third out of four starts. Trainer Yasutoshi Ikee, who captured his first grade-one victory with the petite bay colt in only his third season as a trainer, and was also the recipient of the JRA award of the season for Best Trainer (winning percentage), expressed his high hopes for Dream Journey in the three-year-old classics in 2007.

BEST TWO-YEAR-OLD FILLY:

VODKA (JPN)

2-year-old filly, bay

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
Tanino Gimlet / Tanino Sister (Rousillon)
Owner: Y. Tanimizu
Breeder: Country Bokujo
Trainer: Katsuhiko Sumii
Wins / Starts in 2006: 2 / 3
Career Wins / Starts: 2 / 3
Earnings in 2006: ¥72,390,000
Career Earnings: ¥72,390,000



Principal Win in 2006: Hanshin Juvenile Fillies (GI)

Vodka claimed 271 votes out of a total of 289 for Best Two-Year-Old Filly by winning her debut in the Hanshin Juvenile Fillies (GI, 1,600m)—the two-year-old championship GI event—and taking two out of three starts overall. The filly demonstrated her versatility in her second start, traveling well in mid-division. In her third race, however, her first GI challenge, she won by a neck after a fierce duel with the runner-up along the extended stretch of Hanshin Racecourse. Her sire, Tanino Gimlet, was a Derby victor who won six times and finished within the first three in eight career starts during 2001 and 2002.

BEST THREE-YEAR-OLD COLT:

MEISHO SAMSON (JPN)

3-year-old colt, bay

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
Opera House / My Vivien (Dancing Brave)
Owner: Yoshio Matsumoto
Breeder: Koki Hayashi
Trainer: Tsutomu Setoguchi
Wins / Starts in 2006: 3 / 8
Career Wins / Starts: 6 / 15
Earnings in 2006: ¥447,523,000
Career Earnings: ¥504,659,000



Principal Wins in 2006: Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, GI), Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, GI),
Fuji TV Sho Spring Stakes (GII)

A total of 284 voters confirmed that Meisho Samson was a well-deserved Best Three-Year-Old for winning two of the season's Triple Crown races. Performing consistently from the beginning of his career, the Opera House colt won three out of seven starts as a two-year-old and was in the money in all but one of his remaining starts. He kicked off his 2006 season with a second in a GIII event and landed his first grade-race victory in March, then captured the Satsuki Sho (GI, Japanese 2000 Guineas, 2,000m) in April. He proceeded to win the Tokyo Yushun (GI, Japanese Derby, 2,400m) and had high expectations to become the next Triple Crown horse after Deep Impact, but finished fourth in the final leg, the Kikuka Sho (GI, Japanese St. Leger, 3,000m). After adjusting to competition against older GI racehorses, he concluded his 2006 campaign with three wins and two seconds out of eight starts. His award was a going away present in the final season for trainer Tsutomu Setoguchi, who himself won Best Trainer (races won) in 2005. Meisho Samson's training will be taken over by Shigetada Takahashi.

BEST THREE-YEAR-OLD FILLY and BEST HORSE BY HOME-BRED SIRE

KAWAKAMI PRINCESS (JPN)

3-year-old filly, bay

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
King Halo / Takano Secretary (Seattle Slew)
Owner: Mitsuishi Kawakami Bokujo Co., Ltd.
Breeder: Mitsuishi Kawakami Bokujo
Trainer: Katsuichi Nishiura
Wins / Starts in 2006: 5 / 6
Career Wins / Starts: 5 / 6
Earnings in 2006: ¥255,670,000
Career Earnings: ¥255,670,000



Principal Wins in 2006: Shuka Sho (GI), Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks, GI)

Kawakami Princess fell just two votes short of being the unanimous Best Three-Year-Old Filly after a stellar debut season in which she was undefeated in all six starts, although she was demoted for interference in her last GI event in November. Unraced as a two-year-old, the King Halo filly was an immediate success in winning her first race by a comfortable 1-1/4 length margin. Due to her late debut, she was unable to qualify for the Oka

Sho (GI, Japanese 1000 Guineas, 1,600m), but promptly landed her first GI title in the Yushun Himba (GI, Japanese Oaks, 2,400m). She extended her winning streak to five in her next GI event, the Shuka Sho (GI, 2,000m). She then crossed the wire first by 1-1/2 lengths in the Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup (GI, 2,200m), her first contest against older GI fillies/mares, including last year's top older mare, Sweep Tosho. In her last start, Kawakami Princess's perfect score was blemished by a steward's ruling that demoted her to 12th for interference. The bay filly also claimed 177 votes for Best Horse by Home-Bred Sire. Melbourne Cup winner Delta Blues and Japan Cup runner-up Dream Passport followed with 55 and 40 votes, respectively. Kawakami Princess will continue her training in 2007, aiming for further GI titles beginning with the Victoria Mile (GI, 1,600m).

BEST OLDER FILLY OR MARE:

DANCE IN THE MOOD (JPN) 5-year-old mare, dark bay or brown

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
Sunday Silence / Dancing Key (Nijinsky)
Owner: Shadai Race H.
Breeder: Shadai Farm
Trainer: Kazuo Fujisawa
Wins / Starts in 2006: 2 / 8 (1 win in 2 starts overseas)
Career Wins / Starts: 6 / 25 (1 win in 4 starts overseas)
Earnings in 2006: ¥242,572,900
Career Earnings: ¥602,018,700



Principal Wins in 2006: Victoria Mile (GI), Cash Call Mile (G3, USA)

Dance in the Mood bounced back from a low-key 2005 campaign with a GI title in the Victoria Mile in May and extremely consistent performances over eight starts throughout 2006. The JRA's champion three-year-old filly of 2004 claimed her first GI victory in the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas, 1,600m) during a three-race winning streak from her debut, and was also runner-up in the American Oaks (G1, USA, 2,000m) that same year.

She was competitive against top GI company of the opposite gender, including runner-up performances against Zenno Rob Roy and Durandal in the Tenno Sho Autumn (GI, 2,000m) and Mile Championship (GI, 1,600m), respectively.

After a slump for most of 2005, Dance in the Mood recovered nicely to score two grade-race victories and three seconds in 2006. In her first start, the Mile Championship (GI, 1,600m), in which she finished only a neck behind Best Sprinter/Miler Daiwa Major, she showed an especially impressive turn of speed from behind. But in her final start before retirement, the Hong Kong Mile (G1) in December, she was a disappointing 12th. Dance in the Mood will now start a new career at Shadai Farm, her birthplace.

BEST SPRINTER OR MILER:

DAIWA MAJOR (JPN) 5-year-old horse, chestnut

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
Sunday Silence / Scarlet Bouquet (Northern Taste)
Owner: Keizo Oshiro
Breeder: Shadai Farm
Trainer: Hiroyuki Uehara



Wins / Starts in 2006: 4 / 8
Career Wins / Starts: 7 / 21
Earnings in 2006: ¥473,360,000
Career Earnings: ¥732,676,000

Principal Wins in 2006: Tenno Sho Autumn (GI), Mile Championship (GI), Mainichi Okan (GII)

Daiwa Major bested all candidates for 2006 Best Sprinter or Miler with a commanding 200 votes. During the year, he proved to be a versatile racehorse in distances beyond his specialty, finishing a good third—only 3/4 length behind runner-up Pop Rock, who was three lengths behind Deep Impact—in the 2,500m Arima Kinen at the end of the year.

Though having won the Satsuki Sho (GI, Japanese 2000 Guineas, 2,000m) as a three-year-old, surgery to correct a wind problem hampered his form in the latter half of 2004, so Daiwa Major's talent has really just begun to surface. The Sunday Silence colt turned in consistent performances throughout his four-year-old season, but his connections had to endure a series of frustrating second-place finishes.

Teaming up with veteran jockey Katsumi Ando in the beginning of his 2006 campaign, Daiwa Major renewed his taste for victory with his fourth grade-race victory in the Mainichi Okan (GII, 1,800m) in October, then back-to-back GI victories in the prestigious Tenno Sho Autumn (GI, 2,000m) and the Mile Championship (GI, 1,600m), before the Arima Kinen. Now training for the 2007 season, he has been nominated to run in Dubai in March.

BEST DIRT HORSE:

ALONDITE (JPN)

3-year-old colt, dark bay or brown

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
El Condor Pasa / Catherine Parr (Riverman)
Owner: U. Carrot Farm
Breeder: Northern Farm
Trainer: Sei Ishizaka
Wins / Starts in 2006: 5 / 6
Career Wins / Starts: 5 / 8
Earnings in 2006: ¥180,699,000
Career Earnings: ¥180,699,000



Principal Win in 2006: Japan Cup Dirt (GI)

Alondite secured his claim to Best Dirt Horse with a victory in the 2006 Japan Cup Dirt (GI, 2,100m). The win, his fifth in a row, capped a convincing three-year-old season of five wins and a third out of six starts. Sired by El Condor Pasa (USA, by Kingmambo), the '98 Japan Cup victor and a GI winner in both France and Japan, who passed away after just three years of stud service, Alondite was among the last crop of the great turf horse and was initially trained with high expectations of following in his father's footsteps on turf.

However, his first two starts as a two-year-old suggested otherwise and the colt was tested on dirt in May. The dark bay colt thrived, breaking his maiden in his second dirt race at Tokyo Racecourse by an overwhelming 8-length margin. He continued his winning ways leading up to his first grade-race challenge, the Japan Cup Dirt. Carefully conditioned by trainer Sei Ishizaka, who took special note of the colt's 540 kg weight so as not to damage his legs, Alondite was sent to post seventh favorite for the big event—his first test against a grade-race winner—and gave a solid performance deserving of the GI title. His agenda in 2007 includes an inaugural overseas endeavor in Dubai.

BEST STEEPLECHASE HORSE:

MARUKA RASCAL (JPN)

4-year-old colt, dark bay or brown

Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):

Grass Wonder / Tre Ensemble (Tony Bin)

Owner: Kawacho Sangyo

Breeder: Shadai Farm

Trainer: Tsutomu Setoguchi

Wins / Starts in 2006: 3 / 5 (3 / 3 in jump races)

Career Wins / Starts: 7 / 22 (4 / 5 in jump races)

Earnings in 2006: ¥117,211,000 (all jump races)

Career Earnings: ¥163,089,000 (¥127,811,000 in jump races)



Principal Win in 2006: Nakayama Daishogai (J-GI)

Maruka Rascal captured this year's JRA title for Best Steeplechase Horse, giving Tsutomu Setoguchi a second JRA award in his final season as a trainer. The four-year-old colt was the first GI winner produced by sire Grass Wonder (USA, by Silver Halk), a flat racing champion, Two-Year-Old Colt of 1997 and two-time winner of the Arima Kinen (Grand Prix), who retired with nine wins out of 15 starts, including four GI victories between 1997 and 2000.

The Grass Wonder colt's dam, Tre Ensemble, is by Tony Bin, and his grand dam, Dyna Actress (JPN, by Northern Taste), was a multiple grade-race winner and a third-place finisher to Le Glorieux (FRA) in the 1987 Japan Cup. Though finishing within the money in all four starts as a two-year-old, including a win in his fourth start, he was inconsistent throughout his following season with two wins out of 11 starts.

Transferring to jump races in December 2005, he debuted with a third by 1/2-length, and then won his second start by an astounding 2.9-second margin. He kicked off his 2006 season with two more wins against open company. In the Nakayama Daishogai (J-GI, 4,100m), which is run over the same course as the Nakayama Grand Jump (J-GI, 4,250m) won by Australian jumper Karasi two years in a row, Maruka Rascal led throughout the 4,100m course and produced an impressive six-length victory. The GI event also included proven jumpers such as Merci A Time and Telegenic.

Part 2: Trainers and Jockeys

BEST TRAINER (RACES WON):

and

BEST TRAINER (TRAINING TECHNIQUE):

HIDEYUKI MORI



Age: 47 (March 12, 1959)

Trainer's license: 1993

First race: September 25, 1993 (Mitsuru Masaru; 9th)

First win: October 24, 1993 (Mitsuru Masaru)

Principal Wins in 2006:

Musashino Stakes (GIII, Seeking the Best), R.F. Radio Nippon Sho St. Lite Kinen

(GII, Tosen Shana O), Keisei Hai Autumn Handicap (GIII, Suteki Shinsukekun),

Kokura Kinen (GIII, Swift Current), Arlington Cup (GIII, Suteki Shinsukekun)

Wins / Starts in 2006 (winning percentage): 63 / 459 (13.73%)

Career Wins / Starts: 527 / 3,794

Earnings in 2006: ¥1,511,128,000

Mori captured his third and fourth JRA awards in two of the four categories for trainers. Already positioned as one of the top trainers in the JRA, having won his first awards in '94 for winning percentage and training techniques, Mori has also helped to pioneer the internationalization of Japanese horseracing. Mori received his trainer's license in '93 at the age of 34, quite young for Japan, after assisting the late Tameo Toyama for 12 years. He took over a string of Toyama's horses and trained one of them, Legacy World, to victory in the Japan Cup (GI) in his first year. In his second year, he took Fujiyama Kenzan to the Hong Kong Cup (G2) and finished fourth, then ran two more times, the second of which brought him a victory in the '95 Hong Kong Cup (G2). This will be remembered forever in JRA history as the first time a Japanese horse had won a grade race abroad. Mori's international racing efforts again drew headlines in '98, this time in Europe, where he saddled Seeking the Pearl to victory in '98 Prix Maurice de Gheest (G1, FRA), the first time for a Japanese-trained horse to win a G1 race in Europe. Mori added two more G1 victories in Europe with Agnes World in the Prix de l'Abbaye (G1, FRA) in 1999 and the Darley July Cup (G1, GB) in 2000, becoming the first Japanese trainer with multiple G1 wins abroad. He has also maintained his win totals in Japan and steadily added to his grade-race victories, which now stand at 36.

BEST TRAINER (WINNING AVERAGE):

YASUTOSHI IKEE



Age: 37 (January 13, 1969)

Trainer's license: 2003

First race: March 20, 2004 (Sonic Surpass, 1st)

First win: March 20, 2004 (Sonic Surpass)

Principal Win in 2006: Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes (GI; Dream Journey)

Wins / Starts in 2006 (winning percentage): 36 / 196 (18.37 %)

Career Wins / Starts: 62 / 414

Earnings in 2006: ¥600,278,700

Yasutoshi Ikee captured this year's JRA award for best winning percentage in his third season as a trainer. His 2006 season was doubly memorable in that he captured his first grade-race victory with Dream Journey (JPN), whose sire Stay Gold was a favorite ride during his assistant trainer days. The son of Yasuo Ikee, who saddled

Deep Impact to a glorious career, Yasutoshi grew up in Ritto, where most racehorse people and their families reside. Being the same grade in school as Yutaka Take, the two have been close friends for over 20 years. While Take followed the footsteps of his jockey father, Yasutoshi Ikee chose to become a trainer. After graduating a six-month training course (stable management) at the JRA's jockey school, he began as a groom and later assistant trainer for Kuniichi Asami's yard. He then worked under his father's stable before learning the art of training in England and USA under top trainers Sir Michael Stoute and Neil Drysdale, respectively. With his experience abroad, he played a major role as assistant trainer in his father's overseas endeavors with To the Victory (JPN), who finished second in the Dubai World Cup (G1, UAE), and Stay Gold (JPN), who won the Hong Kong Vase (G1, HK) and the Dubai Sheema Classic (G1, UAE) in 2001. Although he opened his own yard in 2003, he supported his father when Deep Impact traveled to France, while he took his own Picaresque Coat (JPN) along to run in the Prix Daniel Wildenstein (G2, FRA), finishing second.

BEST TRAINER (MONEY EARNED):

HIROYOSHI MATSUDA



Age: 60 (January 29, 1946)
 Trainer's license: 1981
 First race: March 19, 1983 (Hatsushige; 14th)
 First win: April 23, 1983 (Bold Smith)
 Principal Wins in 2006:
 Kobe Shimbun Hai (GII, Dream Passport), Rose Stakes (GII, Admire Kiss),
 Sapporo Kinen (GII, Admire Moon), Yayoi Sho (GII, Admire Moon)
 Wins / Starts in 2006 (winning percentage): 41 / 261 (15.71%)
 Career Wins / Starts: 476 / 4,265
 Earnings in 2006: ¥1,591,070,700

Hiroyoshi Matsuda had one of the best seasons of his fine career, scoring eight grade-race titles on his way to becoming the year's top earner. A former jockey with a record of 188 wins out of 1,037 rides between 1965 and 1979, he won two major titles (now listed as GII races) on the flat and six titles over jumps. After acquiring his trainer's license in 1981, he focused mainly on training jumpers, resulting in his first major victory with Bull King in the '83 Hanshin Shogai Stakes Autumn. However, his interest in flat racing soared after a victory with Cosmo Dream in his first G1, the Japanese Oaks (GI, 2,400m) classic. Since then, he has trained a number of outstanding G1 winners, including Vega ('93 Oaks, '93 Oka Sho, Japanese 1000 Guineas), Admire Don ('01 Asahi Hai Futurity S., '04 February Stakes) and Time Paradox ('04 Japan Cup Dirt). In total, he has accumulated 36 grade-race wins.

GRAND PRIZE JOCKEY:



YUTAKA TAKE

Age: 37 (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 2006:
 Arima Kinen (GI, Deep Impact), Japan Cup (GI, Deep Impact), Takarazuka Kinen
 (GI, Deep Impact), NHK Mile Cup (GI, Logic), Tenno Sho Spring (GI, Deep Impact),
 February Stakes (GI, Kane Hekili)
 Wins / Starts in 2006 (winning percentage): 184 / 828 (22.22%, including 178 JRA,
 5 NAR and 1 overseas)
 Career Wins / Starts: 2,976 / 14,190 Earnings in 2006: ¥4,783,869,900

Yutaka Take remains absolutely unrivaled in Japan. In 2006, he claimed 19 grade-race victories (six GI titles), while devoting much of his energy to the success of his extraordinary partner, Deep Impact. 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 (GI, Japanese St. Leger, 3,000m) 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 scored at least 200 wins for three consecutive years in 2003 to 2005. He reached the top of the national standings for the first time in 1989, dominated all three jockey categories to win his first 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. As of the end of 2006, Take had 236 grade-race victories, including 57 GI wins (JRA only).

BEST JOCKEY (RACES WON):

YUTAKA TAKE (see above)

BEST JOCKEY (WINNING AVERAGE):

YUTAKA TAKE (see above)

BEST JOCKEY (MONEY EARNED):

YUTAKA TAKE (see above)

BEST STEEPLECHASE JOCKEY:

MAKOTO NISHITANI



Age: 30 (October 15, 1976)
Jockey's License: 1995
First race: March 4, 1995 (Top Leader; 5th)
First win: March 5, 1995 (Radish Power)
Principal Win in 2006: The Nakayama Daishogai (J-GI, Maruka Rascal)
Wins / Starts in 2006: 13 / 57 (steeplechase only)
Career Wins / Starts: 73 / 539 (steeplechase only)
Earnings in 2006: ¥318,681,000 (steeplechase only)

Nishitani debuted as stable jockey for Tsutomu Setoguchi in 1995 and, though scoring more than 10 wins in about 200 mounts in his first two seasons on the flat, from '98 he increasingly began to concentrate on obstacle racing—perhaps due to his tall frame for a jockey, well over 170cm. His ability in jumping, already well noted in his debut year, really shined in '98 and '99 when he partnered with Godspeed (JPN), who gave him his first major victory in the Hanshin Shogai Stakes Spring and then the '99 Nakayama Daishogai (J-GI, 4,100m), the latter earning Godspeed the JRA award for Best Steeplechase Horse of '99. His other top horses have included Onward Meteor (JPN), winner of the '02 Tokyo High Jump (J-GII), and T M Dragon (JPN), winner of the '05 Kyoto High Jump (J-GII).

BEST JOCKEY (NEWCOMER):

None selected

Part 3: JRA EQUINE CULTURAL AWARD

Nominees for the 2006 JRA Equine Cultural Award included publications, cultural events and art exhibitions either published or held between November 2005 and October 2006. A committee of journalists and other distinguished people from the academic and artistic fields chose four finalists for further screening. In the end, they awarded the JRA Equine Cultural Award to two equally outstanding nominees: “80 Episodes from a Horse Breeding Region—A View of Japanese Horse Racing from Hidaka” written by Toru Iwasaki, and the film “What the Snow Brings.”

“80 Episodes from a Horse Breeding Region—A View of Japanese Horse Racing from Hidaka” by Toru Iwasaki (Hokkaido University Press)

“80 Episodes from a Horse Breeding Region—A View of Japanese Horse Racing from Hidaka” introduces thoroughbred breeding in Japan and the struggle to succeed against ever-growing competition. It also describes the Japanese horseracing industry, including its history, the life of a racehorse, the racing business (breeding, marketing, etc.), and the economics of the industry. The author, Toru Iwasaki, a professor of economics at Sapporo University, in discussing the major problems facing the breeding industry, does not fail to offer positive solutions and suggestions and give Hokkaido breeders cause to be optimistic.

Toru Iwasaki

Birth: Yokohama, Japan, 1943
Current Position: Professor, Faculty of Economics, Sapporo University, Japan
Education: BA in Agriculture, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Japan
Doctor of Agricultural Science, Tohoku University, Japan
Major Publications: “The Racing World as a Reflection of Japan's Economy—Problems of Internationalization and Horse Breeding Regions” (Gensosha, 2002), “Agricultural Problems: Learned and Taught” (Hokkaido Kyodo News, 2003), “Agricultural Employment and the Regional Labor Market, editor” (Hokkaido University Press, 1997)

“What the Snow Brings,” movie produced by Be Wild Co., Ltd.

Based on the novel “Banba” (draft racehorse) by Sho Narumi, the movie “What the Snow Brings” begins with the homecoming of the leading character, whose business has failed in Tokyo. He is reunited with his elder brother, who leads a slow life working for a stable of Banei-Keiba, racing a draft horse in sledge racing, a form of racing held only in Hokkaido. Accurately depicting the sport with actual race horses and races, the film is filled with scenes of slow-moving draft racehorses pulling heavy sledges over humps. Horses sometimes stop to rest and other times run up hills, both tactics that are part of the strategy for winning races, as well as being metaphors for how life can be both leisurely and hard, but always better when there is determination to reach a goal. The movie claimed four prizes at the Tokyo International Film Festival in 2005: Sakura Grand Prix (best movie), Best Director, Best Actor and the audience favorite.

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Note: All information, including ages and race performances, is as of December 31, 2006, unless otherwise indicated.

Results of the 2006 JRA Awards (Total Votes:289)

Horse of the Year

Place	Horse	Votes
1	Deep Impact (JPN)	287
2	Daiwa Major (JPN)	1
	None eligible	1
Total		289

Best Two-Year-Old Colt

Place	Horse	Votes
1	Dream Journey (JPN)	211
2	Fusaichi Ho O (JPN)	76
	None eligible	2
Total		289

Best Two-Year-Old Filly

Place	Horse	Votes
1	Vodka (JPN)	271
2	Aston Machan (JPN)	16
3	Daiwa Scarlet (JPN)	1
	None eligible	1
Total		289

Best Three-Year-Old Colt

Place	Horse	Votes
1	Meisho Samson (JPN)	284
2	Dream Passport (JPN)	3
3	Amberjack (JPN)	1
3	Song of Wind (JPN)	1
Total		289

Best Three-Year-Old Filly

Place	Horse	Votes
1	Kawakami Princess (JPN)	287
2	Fusaichi Pandora (JPN)	2
Total		289

Best Older Colt/Horse

Place	Horse	Votes
1	Deep Impact (JPN)	288
2	Daiwa Major (JPN)	1
Total		289

Best Older Filly/Mare

Place	Horse	Votes
1	Dance in the Mood (JPN)	257
2	Sweep Tosho (JPN)	15
3	She is Tosho(JPN)	2
4	Meisho Battler (JPN)	1
	None eligible	14
Total		289

Best Horse by Home-bred Sire

Place	Horse	Votes
1	Kawakami Princess (JPN)	177
2	Delta Blues (JPN)	55
3	Dream Passport (JPN)	40
4	Kane Hekili (JPN)	5
4	Blue Concorde (JPN)	5
6	She Is Tosho (JPN)	1
6	Balance of Game (JPN)	1
6	Fusaichi Ho O (JPN)	1
6	Logic (JPN)	1
	None eligible	3
Total		289

Best Sprinter or Miler

Place	Horse	Votes
1	Daiwa Major (JPN)	200
2	Orewa Matteruze (JPN)	37
3	She is Tosho (JPN)	10
4	Blue Concorde (JPN)	2
5	Dance in the Mood (JPN)	1
	None eligible	39
Total		289

Best Dirt Horse

Place	Horse	Votes
1	Alondite (JPN)	143
2	Blue Concorde (JPN)	94
3	Kane Hekili (JPN)	37
4	Adjudi Mitsuo (JPN)	1
4	Seeking the Dia (USA)	1
4	Time Paradox (JPN)	1
4	Fifty Oner (USA)	1
4	Utopia (JPN)	1
	None eligible	10
Total		289

Best Steeplechase Horse

Place	Horse	Votes
1	Maruka Rascal (JPN)	206
2	Spring Ghent (JPN)	60
3	Koei Try (JPN)	5
4	T M Dragon (JPN)	3
5	Telegenic (JPN)	1
	None eligible	14
Total		289

Results of the 2006 JRA Awards (2)

Best Trainer (races won)

Place	Name	Wins
1	Hideyuki Mori	63
2	Kazuo Fujisawa	58

Best Jockey (races won)

Place	Name	Wins
1	Yutaka Take	184
2	Yasunari Iwata	143

Best Trainer (winning percentage)

Place	Name	%
1	Yasutoshi Ikee	18.37
2	Kazuo Fujisawa	17.58

Best Jockey (winning percentage)

Place	Name	%
1	Yutaka Take	22.22
2	Katsumi Ando	19.20

Best Trainer (winning percentage)

Place	Name	Purses/yen
1	Hiroyoshi Matsuda	1,591,070,700
2	Yasuo Ikee	1,576,886,000

Best Jockey (money earned)

Place	Name	Purses/yen
1	Yutaka Take	4,789,744,900
2	Yasunari Iwata	3,123,938,500

Best Trainer (training techniques)

Hideyuki Mori

judged by points based on winning frequency, purses and starts per stall

Best Steeplechase Jockey

Place	Name	Wins
1	Makoto Nishitani	13

Best Jockey (newcomer)

None selected