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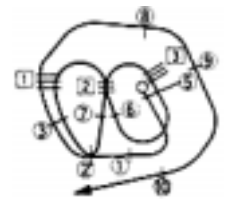
SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 11TH NAKAYAMA GRAND JUMP (J-G1)

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** (NZL, by Hula Town) beat **Gokai**, who was the winner of the 2nd and 3rd Nakayama Grand Jump, to become the first foreign-trained winner of the event in 2002. Australian raider **Karasi** (IRE, by Kahyasi) became the only horse to win three consecutive titles in 2005, 2006 and 2007. This year's only foreign contender comes from Australia. **Ginolad** (AUS, by Perugino) who won two major jump races in Australia was tenth in his prep race in Japan (the Pegasus Jump Stakes) over a shorter distance. **Stan** (NZL) and **Starzaan** (IRE) were also initially nominated to run in this year's Nakayama Grand Jump but later withdrew their entries making **Ginolad** the lone foreign starter in the race.

Blandices (JPN, by Sakura Bakushin O) set the record when winning the 2004 Nakayama Grand Jump in 4:47.0.

THE 11TH NAKAYAMA GRAND JUMP (J-G1)

4-year-old & up, 4,250 meters (about 2 and 2/3 miles), turf
 Saturday, April 18, 2009 Nakayama Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40
 Total prize money: ¥ 170,400,000 (about US\$ 1,893,000< US\$ 1 = ¥ 90>)
 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	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin	Odds (Fav)
1	7	13	Spring Ghent (JPN)	H9	63.5	Opera House Spring Madonna	Y. Shirahama A. Nomura	H. Kato H. Hiroyasu	4:49.1	3.2 (2)
2	6	10	King Joy (JPN)	H7	63.5	Marvelous Sunday Princess Able	J. Takada Y. Masumoto	T. Matsuoka Kawakami Bokujo	Neck	2.1 (1)
3	5	8	Open Garden (JPN)	H5	63.5	Gokai Dance Fontaine	Y. Eda H. Gohara	K.Yoshihashi F. Terai	Distance	23.4 (8)
4	8	14 B	Croisade (JPN)	H7	63.5	Tamamo Cross Takeno Pansy	S. Kitazawa S. Sakuta	K. Hidaka Breeders Union Takeoka Bokujo	9	73.7 (12)
5	4	7	D'Or Riviere (JPN)	H5	63.5	Helissio Tai Princess	Y. Kuroiwa H. Yoshioka	S. Hattori Meitai Bokujo	1-1/4	36.1 (9)
6	2	3	Ginolad* (AUS)	G9	63.5	Perugino High Royale	C. Durden A. Purcell	J. Purcell Mayfields Proprietors SA	6	21.6 (6)
7	2	2	T M Toppazure (JPN)	H6	63.5	T.M.Opera O T.M.Charmant	H. Sakuma A. Shikato	M. Takezono T M Bokujo	1/2	23.3 (7)
8	3	4	Koyo Wave (JPN)	H5	63.5	Tanino Gimlet Minagawa Jewel	Y. Igarashi Y. Sugawara	M.Terauchi Tanigawa Bokujo	2	50.5 (11)
9	7	12	T M Ace (JPN)	H6	63.5	T.M.Opera O T.M.Season	S. Kikuchi A. Shikato	M. Takezono T M Bokujo Niikappu	1/2	11.6 (4)
10	6	11	Starka (JPN)	C4	62.0	Marvelous Sunday Elegant Picot	T. Hokari K. Kayano	K. Hidaka Breeders Union Keiyu Farms Ltd.	3-1/2	43.9 (10)
11	5	9	Battle Brave (JPN)	H7	63.5	Genuine Universe	M. Nishitani M. Honda	A. Miyagawa K. Nishimura	6	21.6 (5)
12	3	5	Towa Hiyoshimaru (JPN)	C4	62.0	New England Towa Madonna	T. Kosaka M. Sayama	S. Saito Muramoto Bokujo	5	10.7 (3)
13	4	6	Crotalaria (JPN)	M6	61.5	Dehere Blue Blossom	S. Ishigami Y. Asano	K. Iguchi Kawagoe Farm	1/2	207.7 (15)
14	8	15	Gran Turismo (JPN)	G5	63.5	Tayasu Tsuyoshi Purple Avenue	N. Hamanoya T. Fujiwara	M. Iida Chiyoda Farm Shizunai	Distance	126.2 (14)
15	1	1	Meikei Green (JPN)	G5	63.5	Dance in the Dark My Green	K. Idetsu K. Kihara	Nagoya Keiba M.Terakoshi	Distance	104.9 (13)

FP= Final Position **BK** = Bracket Number **PP** = Post Position **B** = Blinkers **FF**= Fail to Finish **Dist**=Distance

*= Foreign contender

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: 4:49.1

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE:

¥ 1,655,362,700

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY:

¥ 7,947,871,200

ATTENDANCE: 31,986

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.13	¥320	PLACE	No.13	¥130
BRACKET QUINELLA	6-7	¥290		No.10	¥110
QUINELLA	10-13	¥370		No.8	¥390
EXACTA	13-10	¥810	QUINELLA PLACE	10-13	¥180
TRIO	8-10-13	¥2,060		8-13	¥1,120
TRIFECTA	13-10-8	¥8,450		8-10	¥740

1. **SPRING GHENT (JPN)**, bay, horse, 9-year-old

Opera House / Spring Madonna (Nippo Teio)

Breeder: Hiroyasu Hori

Owner: Haruo Kato

Trainer: Akihiko Nomura

Jockey: Yuzo Shirahama

44 Starts, 10 Wins

Career Earnings: About ¥335,141,000 Added money: ¥80,532,000

Principal Race Performances: '06 Kyoto High Jump (J-G2) 1st

'06 Tokyo High Jump (J-G2) 1st

'06 Kyoto Jump Stakes (J-G3) 1st

2. **KING JOY (JPN)**, bay, horse, 7-year-old

Marvelous Sunday / Princess Able (Jade Robbery)

Breeder: Kawakami Bokujo

Owner: Takao Matsuoka

Trainer: Yutaka Masumoto

Jockey: Jun Takada

3. **OPEN GARDEN (JPN)**, bay, horse, 5-year-old

Gokai / Dance Fontaine (Dance in the Dark)

Breeder: Fumihide Terai

Owner: K. Yoshihashi

Trainer: Hiroyuki Gohara

Jockey: Yusuke Eda

Although this year's race missed two prominent J-G1 winners, Maruka Rascal, currently sidelined with leg problems, and Merci A Time, who was unable to condition himself in time for this year's race, the 11th Nakayama Grand Jump was contested among a field of fifteen that included four of the top five finishers of the J-G2 Hanshin Spring Jump (March 14), **Towa Hiyoshimaru** (1st), **Spring Ghent** (2nd), **King Joy** (4th) and **T M Ace** (5th), while **Open Garden** who had come off his most recent win in the Pegasus Jump Stakes three weeks ago. **Gran Turismo**, **Croisade**, and **Crotalaria**, who finished fifth, sixth and seventh respectively in the Pegasus Jump Stakes—the step race in which lone foreign contender, **Ginolad**, finished tenth—also made their bid to capture their first J-G1 title.

The race resulted in a match between the top two favorites who had already separated themselves well away from the rest of the field soon after fence No.8. As the two alternated for the lead from there towards the last turn, **Spring Ghent** took advantage of saving ground most of the way while making headway from traveling off the pace in mid-division coming out of the figure eight after jumping obstacle No.2 for the second time and held off the tenacious rally from JRA's Best Steeplechase award winner of 2008, **King Joy**, for a neck victory. It was the first J-G1 victory for the nine-year-old who

was regarded as a prominent jumper with six straight wins including three graded victories during 2006 but missed his entire season during 2007 and most of 2008 due to injury before making his comeback in October 2008 and finishing a respectable fourth in the Nakayama Daishogai (J-G1) in December.

For jockey, Yuzo Shirahama, the victory marked his sixteenth career grade-race win, the most grade-race wins over jumps in JRA history including his previous J-G1 title with T M Dragon in the Nakayama Daishogai. It was also the first Nakayama Grand Jump title for trainer, Akihiko Nomura, who has six other grade race titles over obstacles and a career grade-race win of 25.

King Joy, who began the journey around third from the rear, was more aggressive in his tactics and advanced to around fourth place as the field changed direction along the diagonal towards the 160 cm. brush (No.6) and took command as **Koyo Wave**, finally unable to maintain the gap from the chasers, succumbed the lead along the backstretch before jumping fence No.8. However, **Spring Ghent** ended up with just a little more gas from reserving his energy in the early stages to hold off the son of Marvelous Sunday although the **King Joy** gave a tremendous effort until the very end for second place.

Open Garden, who kept his own pace, second from the rear, for the first half of the trip, smartly placed himself three wide around the final turn from gradually improving positions, but was far from reaching the top two finishers although besting the others by nine lengths for third place.

Ginolad was positioned further behind than in the Pegasus Jump Stakes around eleventh and gradually improved positions as the early front runners began to tire, finishing sixth and 5.5 seconds from the winner.

“I’m happy with how he raced and he jumped well, but the winner was better suited the surface and the pace was very fast. Now that I’ve had the experience, I know what kind of horse I should bring for this race next time” commented trainer Aaron Purcell after the race.

Jockey Craig Durden was also pleased with **Ginolad**’s performance saying, “He settled down nicely during the trip and jumped well. He gave his best and did well within himself, but the Japanese horses were too tough to beat”.

- 4th—14. **Croisade** reserved near the back during most of trip, won out rally for fourth place.
- 5th—7. **D’Or Riviere** from racing far back, best stride late
- 6th—3. **Ginolad** was reserved behind, no threat while improving position
- 7th—2. **T M Toppazure** was positioned well around 5th to last corner, failed to respond at stretch
- 8th—4. **Koyo Wave** won out rally for lead, clear leader for most, gave way to winners but ran gamely
- 9th—12. **T M Ace** even paced
- 10th—11. **Stark** from mid-division kept mark on King Joy, out of gas before the final stretch from stalking the winners
- 11th—9. **Battle Brave** chased leaders in second group, lost momentum after taken over rivals after fence No,8
- 12th—5. **Towa Hiyoshimaru** made effort to edge forward from mid-division, soon faded after the third corner (2nd lap)
- 13th—6. **Crotalaria** trailed throughout
- 14th—15. **Gran Turismo** broke sharply, tired after chasing leader up to second corner (2nd lap)
- 15th—1. **Meikei Green** used up from early effort

Fractional Time (sec./furlong): Last 4 furlongs: 52.4 Last 3 furlongs: 39.3 (1 mile: 1:48.4)

Positions at each corner	(2nd lap):	1st corner	4=15,10,11(<u>13</u> ,1)-2-9(3,5)-12-8,7-14-6
		2nd corner	4=(<u>13</u> ,10)-(15,11)-2,1-(9,5)(3,12)-8-7-14-16
		3rd corner	(<u>13</u> ,*10)=11,4-2,8-3(12,7)5=(14,9)-6-15-1
		4th corner	<u>13</u> ,10=8(4,11)-2,3,7-(12,14)-5,9,6=15=1

Note1: **Underlined bold number** indicates the winning horse
 Note2: 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.