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SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 59TH YASUDA KINEN (G1) - The Final Leg of Asian Mile Challenge -

The YASUDA KINEN, a race to determine the best miler of the spring season, has welcomed over 40 foreign-trained horses since it was designated an international race in 1993, including 1995 champion *Heart Lake* from the U.A.E., 2000 winner *Fairy King Prawn* from Hong Kong and the winner of the 2006 Champions Mile-Yasuda double, *Bullish Luck*. The race which was one of the first two races to comprise the “Asian Mile Challenge” together with the Champions Mile (G1) held by the HKJC (Hong Kong Jockey Club) in 2005, became the final leg of the world’s richest four-race series with the addition of two attractive G1 races held by the Melbourne Racing Club of Australia (Futurity Stakes) and the Dubai Racing Club (Dubai Duty Free) in 2006. The project has succeeded in attracting outstanding milers from around the globe in their bid to prove their ability abroad.

The 2008 champion *Vodka*, who gave a spectacular performance in dominating the field by 3-1/2 lengths returned to defend her title, while John Size from Hong Kong has two to challenge this year—*Armada*, who although beaten by the filly, demonstrated his suitability to both the pace and surface at Tokyo finishing second last year, and the new Champions Mile champion *Sight Winner*, who came into the race with a chance to pocket a million dollar bonus for winning two titles of the Asian Mile Challenge series.

Yasuda Kinen’s race record was set by *Agnes Digital* (USA, by Crafty Prospector), who covered the mile distance in 1:32.1 in 2003.

THE 59TH YASUDA KINEN (G1) - The Final Leg of Asian Mile Challenge -

3-year-old & up, 1,600 meters (about 1 mile), turf, left-handed

Sunday, June 7, 2009

Tokyo Racecourse

11th Race

Post Time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥213,000,000 (about US\$2,366,000 < US\$1 = ¥90 >),

3-y-o: 54kg (about 119lbs.), 4-y-o & up: 58kg (about 128lbs.), 2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares,

1kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere horses born in 2005, 2kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere horses born in 2006

Safety Factor: 18 runners. (Foreign Trained Horses: 9)

FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	2	3	Vodka (JPN)	M5	56.0	Tanino Gimlet Tanino Sister	Y. Take K. Sumii	Y. Tanimizu Country Bokujo	1:33.5 (35.7)	1.8 (1)
2	3	6	Deep Sky (JPN)	C4	58.0	Agnes Tachyon Abi	H. Shii M. Kon	T. Fukami Kasamatsu Bokujo	3/4 (35.5)	3.7 (2)
3	2	4	Faridat (USA)	C4	58.0	Kingmambo Believe	K. Ando S. Matsumoto	K. Maeda North Hills Management	1 (35.3)	52.0 (10)
4	5	9	Company (JPN)	H8	58.0	Miracle Admire Brilliant Very	N. Yokoyama H. Otonashi	Hideko Kondo Northern Farm	Nose (35.5)	20.6 (4)
5	4	7	Live Concert (IRE)	G5	58.0	Singspiel Dance Lively	R. Wada T. Shirai	Green Fields Co. Ltd. J. Chandris	1-1/2 (35.8)	139.1 (15)
6	8	18	Sight Winner* (NZ)	G6	58.0	Faltaat Kinjinette	B. Prebble J. Size	Wing Kun Tam Westbury Stud Ltd	1 (36.2)	48.3 (9)
7	7	13	Super Hornet (JPN)	H6	58.0	Rodrigo de Triano You Sun Polish	Y. Fujioka Y. Yahagi	M. Tajima Gerbera Park Stud	Nose (36.0)	6.8 (3)
8	8	16 B	Armada* (NZ)	G8	58.0	Towkay Dance In Time	D. Whyte J. Size	Yuk Lun Wong J.Fleming G.G.James & T.E.Jamison	1-1/4 (36.7)	95.1 (13)
9	1	2	Smile Jack (JPN)	C4	58.0	Tanino Gimlet She C'est Moi	Y. Iwata S. Kobiyama	Y. Saito Uemizu Bokujo	1-3/4 (36.4)	30.0 (5)
10	5	10	Tamamo Support (JPN)	H6	58.0	Tamamo Cross Answer Me	A. Tsumura K. Fujioka	Tamamo K. T. Tsushima	Nose (37.1)	163.8 (17)
11	6	12	Tosho Courage (JPN)	H7	58.0	Last Tycoon Rose Tosho	H. Uchida K. Ikezoe	Tosho Sangyo Tosho Sangyo Corporation Tosho Bokujo	Neck (36.8)	81.3 (11)
12	1	1	Suzuka Causeway (JPN)	H5	58.0	Giant's Causeway French Riviera	H. Goto M. Hashida	K. Nagai Grand Stud	1-1/4 (36.5)	43.7 (7)

13	4	8	Absolute (JPN)	H5	58.0	Tanino Gimlet Prime Stage	K. Tanaka Y. Munakata	H. Sonobe Shadai Farm	Neck (36.5)	44.3 (8)
14	7	15	Reserve Card (JPN)	H6	58.0	Sakura Bakushin O Dinner Time	K. Miura H. Kurita	Sunday Racing Co. Ltd. Northern Farm	Neck (36.8)	161.5 (16)
15	8	17	Laurel Guerreiro (JPN)	H5	58.0	King Halo Big Tenby	S. Fujita M. Kon	Laurel Racing Co. Ltd. Murata Bokujo	Neck (37.5)	30.9 (6)
16	7	14	Maruka Phoenix (JPN)	H5	58.0	Dance in the Dark Miss Kirsty	Y. Fukunaga M. Matsunaga	Kawacho Sangyo Hinode Bokujo	1/2 (37.3)	207.0 (18)
17	6	11	Kongo Rikishio (IRE)	H7	58.0	Stravinsky Principium	K. Tosaki K. Yamauchi	H. Kanaoka Pacello S. A. and A. Swersky and Associates	2-1/2 (38.1)	138.8 (14)
18	3	5	Hokkai Kanthi (JPN)	C4	58.0	Paradise Creek Shinko Ballerina	S. Ishibashi M. Shibata	U. Hokkai B. Hokkai Farm	1-3/4 (37.6)	92.3 (12)

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

NOTE 1: *=Foreign Horse

NOTE 2: 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: 1:33.5

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE:

¥ 19,073,137,000

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY:

¥ 27,977,083,600

ATTENDANCE: 83,135

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.3	¥180	PLACE	No.3	¥110
BRACKET QUINELLA	2-3	¥290		No.6	¥130
QUINELLA	3-6	¥290		No.4	¥620
EXACTA	3-6	¥460	QUINELLA PLACE	3-6	¥170
TRIO	3-4-6	¥4,100		3-4	¥1,300
TRIFECTA	3-6-4	¥10,000		4-6	¥1,920

1. **VODKA** (JPN), bay, mare, 5-year-old

Tanino Gimlet / Tanino Sister (Rousillon)

Breeder: Country Bokujo

Owner: Y. Tanimizu

Trainer: Katsuhiko Sumii

Jockey: Yutaka Take

22 starts, 9 wins

Added money: ¥103,822,000

Career earnings: ¥1,019,911,800

Principal race performances:

'09 Victoria Mile (G1) 1st

'08 Tenno Sho Autumn (G1) 1st

'08 Yasuda Kinen (G1) 1st

2. **DEEP SKY** (JPN), chestnut, colt, 4-year-old

Agnes Tachyon / Abi (Chief's Crown)

Breeder: Kasamatsu Bokujo

Owner: Toshio Fukami

Trainer: Mitsugu Kon

Jockey: Hirofumi Shii

3. **FARIDAT** (USA), dark bay or brown, colt, 4-year-old

Kingmambo / Believe (Sunday Silence)

Breeder: North Hills Management

Owner: Koji Maeda

Trainer: Shigeki Matsumoto

Jockey: Katsumi Ando

This year's YASUDA KINEN welcomed two overseas entries—last year's runner-up **ARMADA** and Champions Mile (G1, HK, 1,600m) winner **SIGHT WINNER**, both from Hong Kong. The match-up between past two Derby winners, **VODKA** and **DEEP SKY**, was the highlight of the race, with **VODKA** returning to defend her title in better form than last year, coming off a staggering 7-length victory in the Victoria Mile (G1, 1,600m) just three weeks ago. This was also a must-win

race for JRA's 2008 Best Three-Year-Old Colt, **DEEP SKY** who is preparing for his first endeavor towards the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Other leading contenders included **LAUREL GUERREIRO** who claimed his first G1 title in the Takamatsunomiya Kinen (G1, 1,200m), **SUPER HORNET**, the winner of the step race Yomiuri Milers Cup (G2, 1,600m), and four-time G2 winner **COMPANY**.

The overwhelming favorite **VODKA** defended her title in the 59th YASUDA KINEN, measuring up to the expectations of the fans that gathered at Tokyo Racecourse, and claimed her sixth G1 title to become the winningest mare in history. She also surpassed the 1 billion yen mark in career earnings, which places her as the highest prize winners among her gender in JRA history. She is the second horse in history to win the Yasuda Kinen for two consecutive years, after YAMANIN ZEPHYR who claimed the title in '92 and '93.

Close in second was 2nd pick **DEEP SKY**, followed by 10th choice **FARIDAT**.

The race broke off smoothly with **KONGO RIKISHIO** taking the front after alternating the lead with **LAUREL GUERREIRO** who eventually settled for second position. Yutaka Take rated **VODKA** in good position in midfield, around seventh from the front, while **DEEP SKY** mounted by Hirofumi Shii traveled several horses further behind.

As the field turned for home with **KONGO RIKISHIO** giving way and the field spreading wide, **DEEP SKY** was first to slip out from the pack around the 200-meter line and accelerated, aiming to capture his first G1 victory. **VODKA**, although crowded in and unable to find space in the early stretch, threaded through the narrow opening, and when finally reaching **DEEP SKY** in the last furlong, exploded with turbo speed and flew past her rival in her last three strides to a 3/4-length victory. **FARIDAT**, who raced in the very rear until the last corner, displayed a tenacious late charge, steadily overtaking the front horses in the homestretch and further accelerating behind **VODKA** in the last furlong to a third-place effort.

Ninth pick **SIGHT WINNER** partnered with Brett Prebble traveled 3 wide in midfield, and although displaying good effort in the early homestretch, the gelding tired in the last furlong to finish 6th. "We broke well but the pace was quite fast and the track condition wasn't so good," commented Prebble.

Last year's runner-up and 13th choice **ARMADA** mounted by Douglas Whyte broke well and settled within the pace in third. The horse rallied strongly in the early stretch but weakened in mid-stretch to an 8th-place finish. "He broke really well and I was able to race him in good position. I think he was able to do his best but perhaps he's getting a bit old..." said Whyte.

OTHER HORSES:

4th: (9) **COMPANY**- off the pace, wide 4th corner, good speed in stretch

5th: (7) **LIVE CONCERT**- traveled outside Vodka in mid-division, angled out 200 out, best strides late

7th: (13) **SUPER HORNET**- traveled wide in mid-division, tired after uphill

9th: (2) **SMILE JACK**- pinched back after break and again in mid stretch

10th: (10) **TAMAMO SUPPORT**- tracked leaders along rail, faded after uphill stretch

11th: (12) **TOSHO COURAGE**- mid-division, even paced at stretch

12th: (1) **SUZUKA CAUSEWAY**- hugged rail in rear group wide along stretch, passed tired rivals

13th: (8) **ABSOLUTE**- 2nd from last, way out and one paced at stretch

14th: (15) **RESERVE CARD**- traveled wide throughout

15th: (17) **LAUREL GUERREIRO**- first out of gate, alternated the lead then tired from early efforts

16th: (14) **MARUKA PHOENIX**- 2 out in mid-division, no response at stretch

17th: (11) **KONGO RIKISHIO**- aggressively railed for lead along backstretch, dropped out of contention early stretch

18th: (5) **HOKKAI KANTHI**- saved ground all the way, bumped at mid-stretch, lost momentum

Fractional Time (sec./furlong): 12.0 - 10.6 - 10.8 - 11.9- 12.1- 12.1 - 11.6 - 12.4
Last 4 furlongs: 48.2 Last 3 furlongs: 36.1

Positions at each corner: 3rd corner 11,17(10,16)(12,14)(3,7,18)(5,6,13,15)(1,9)(2,8)-4

4th corner 11,17(10,16)(**3**,14)12(6,18)(5,7,13,15)(2,9)(1,8)4

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.

Post race interview of winning connections;

Jockey: Yutaka Take

Q: Coming off the victory of the Victoria Mile, how did she feel coming into the race today?

A: I felt that she was in tip-top shape – as good as she was in the Victoria Mile.

Q: She looked magnificent and graceful in the paddock, could you say that she is full-fledged?

A: If this was the situation last year, she would have been more revved up. She has matured considerably during the past year and was settled entering the race today. She is in her top form but I think she still has room for improvement.

Q: Looking back at the race, you positioned her a little bit up front in mid-division. Was that the planned strategy?

A: I didn't have plans on any specific position but the horses from the outer stalls came up front as predicted, and I just took care not to be pulled along and was able to maintain a good rhythm in the race.

Q: After the fourth corner, Deep Sky who had been marking you throughout the trip came in front first and you were trapped behind horses. How was it like then?

A: Everything went well up to the last corner. After entering the stretch I found myself completely blocked, but my horse was in tip top condition and I had confidence in her that she would pull away once we found the right timing and opening. As a result we did and we were successful in pulling away.

Q: The fans were biting their nails worried sick that you would be too late to pull away. What was it like for you as you were waiting for the opening?

A: It was like being trapped in an over-crowded train, worried whether you could safely get off at your destination.

Q: Being in a disadvantage as you were in the straight, did you find Vodka a different horse with her ability and power improved?

A: As far as today's race is concerned, I can't say that I gave her my best ride and it was a tough race, but yes, I respect how she got out of the jam and I have reconfirmed the strength and ability she possess by seeing that today.

Q: The fans have witnessed two magnificent races, the Victoria Mile and the Yasuda Kinen, and many are hoping to see it repeated in the Takarazuka Kinen. How do you feel the chances are for it to be her next start?

A: The top priority in deciding whether she will run or not, would be the welfare and form of the horse and how she comes out of this race. It's up to the connections and what they decide so I can't say, but obviously I'd love the opportunity to challenge that race with her. If she's entered, it would naturally mean that she's in a good shape and in suitable form to run.

Trainer: Katsuhiko Sumii

Q: After dominating the Victoria Mile and now the Yasuda Kinen, how do you feel?

A: I'm very relieved.

Q: How did she look after the Victoria Mile?

A: She was coming up in her condition.

Q: Did you leave the strategy up to the jockey in this race?

A: Yes, it was all up to Take once he took the reins.

Q: Take mentioned he was left in suspense at the stretch when he was blocked by his rivals. How were you then?

A: Pretty much the same and I had my fingers crossed.

Q: To be honest, were you confident that she would be able to pull away with not so much distance left?

A: As a matter of fact, I can't say that I was.

Q: You must have more respect now with her outstanding power.

A: Yes, I'm just very grateful.

Q: Do you think there is still room for improvement, or can you say her form is complete?

A: Her current state is more than enough for me, and I'm afraid that if I push her too hard, I might damage her.

Q: Now having two Grade 1 victories under her belt, she is currently leading in the poles by the fans for the Takarazuka Kinen. Would you say that would be her next move?

A: We've just finished this race and I haven't discussed any future plans for her with her owners yet. So at this point I cannot say.

Results of other races ridden by Brett Prebble on June 7th:

4th race: Three-Year-Olds (turf, 2,500m) - 18 ran:

7th on Hakusan (JPN), 13th favorite

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