

# Japan Racing Journal

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Photo by Kiichi Yamamoto

## **Cesario Triumphs in American Oaks**

On Sunday July 3, Cesario added the GI American Oaks at Hollywood Park in California to her May Japanese Oaks victory under the reins of Yuichi Fukunaga. This 3-year-old filly by Special Week out of Kirov Premiere (by Sadler's Wells), trained at Katsuhiko Sumii's stable in Ritto Training Center. Her winning time of 1:59.03 over the 2,000-meter grass course was a stakes record, a crushing four lengths ahead of the second-place horse. This was the second time a Japanese horse had been entered in this race; Sunday Silence filly Dance in the Mood finished second in 2004. Cesario became the second overseas GI event winner bred and trained in Japan after 2001 Hong Kong Vase victor Stay Gold. She is the second Japanese horse to pick up an American GI win in 46 years following Hakuchikara's 1959 win in the Washington Birthday Handicap Stakes.

# Yasuda Memorial Shines in New Tieup Bonus Brings Out the Stars

by Barbara Bayer



Racing towards the goal of The Yasuda Kinen (GI). Silent Witness chases after Asakusa Den'en from the inside.

The 55th running of the Yasuda Memorial went off June 5 in typically international fashion, with three participants from Hong Kong joining 15 of Japan's top milers.

This year, however, the Yasuda was a crowd-draw like never before, as its new link to Hong Kong's Champions Mile at Sha Tin as the second leg of the new Asian Mile Challenge, served to give the race star appeal of the greatest magnitude.

The race went to the home team, with Japan's seventh-pick Asakusa Den'en beating 10th-pick Sweep Tosho over the line by a neck. With Hong Kong's trio claiming

the third, fourth, and 13th-place spots, fans on both fronts were able to go home with pride intact and, undoubtedly, a sense of having seen not only a

race well run, but a bit of history in the making.

Overall, the debut year of the Challenge was an organizer's dream, as



Mrs. Keiko Tahara, wife of the horseowner, receiving the winning cup.



Jockey Fujita's son atop the winning horse.

the million-dollar bonus offered to any horse who could sweep the two races brought both the winner of Hong Kong's May 14 Champions Mile, Bullish Luck, and runnerup, Silent Witness, to the Yasuda starting gate. Though Bullish Luck was favored for the win over the champion sprinter Silent Witness, the latter's loyal fans flocked to Japan from Hong Kong, with total numbers estimated at close to 400. While fans at home in Hong Kong pushed odds down to 2-to-1 on Silent Witness, fans in Japan enjoyed 9-to-1 odds to win and, undoubtedly, yet better odds to show.

The Hong Kong faithful were highly visible throughout the Fuchu venue, peppering the stands, museum and paddock with their red Asian Mile Challenge T-shirts and baseball caps, and waving flags to cheer on their favorite three, Silent Witness, Bullish Luck and Bowman's Crossing, who finished in that order.

Not only the fans came to show their support. The Hong Kong media made a strong showing, and droves of journalists and camera crews dogged connections, especially trainer of Silent Witness and Bullish Luck, former champion jockey Tony Cruz, and the flamboyant Archie da Silva, owner of Silent Witness.

Top officials of the Hong Kong Jockey Club as well joined their Japanese counterparts to take in the event in person. Ronald Arculli, chairman of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, was ringed by reporters as he looked out over the Tokyo course from the top of the main stand before the race. Arculli praised the bilateral racing tieup, saying, "The Asian Challenge helps us look out-

ward and not just at the formal level." Arculli spoke of the plans to expand the Challenge to a four-race event, adding races in the United Arab Emirates and Australia. "I think the key is really the bonus. I think that's very tempting," the chairman said.

The proposed expansion of the Asian Mile Challenge may include the Futurity Stakes, a GI event at Melbourne's Caulfield venue in early March. The race, now run over 1,400 meters, would be upped to a mile for the Challenge. In the UAE, the GI Dubai Duty Free at Nad Al Sheba, at March end, may boost the series to four as early as next year.

"The most important thing other than the owners are the fans. And they're traveling now," Arculli said in reference to the hundreds of Hong Kong fans who attended this year's Yasuda Kinen and to the scores of Japanese fans who make the trip to Hong Kong for the yearend international races.

In a bow to Japan's racing industry, Arculli said, "Over the years, the Japanese horses have really been leading us, overall, with their racing standards, the quality of their Thoroughbreds here. We've been sort of like playing catch-up."

"The Japanese are fortunate to be able to breed, to have a breeding industry. We can't," Arculli pointed out. "The only breeding we do is individuals, doing it overseas, on their own, with a syndicate, and that makes a little difference, because it gets very expensive. It has to be a business to stay in the game. But the Japanese are very encouraging of their owners as well, to look outward. I think if you look at Japan 15 years ago, they've come a long way. They're going overseas. The horses are going

overseas and also the fans are going."

Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, the Hong Kong Jockey Club's executive director of racing, was also on hand to see the climax of what was actually his brainchild. "I think it's going to be a tremendous success. The million-dollar bonus really entices horses to come. I think it's wonderful the way this race has created marketing, PR-wise, in Hong Kong and here. You will see tourists traveling from Japan next year, when top Japanese horses go to Hong Kong and vice versa. And this is what we think stimulates racing.

"Every other sport is going global and racing has to do the same. And I think both the JRA and Hong Kong have a similar philosophy. When you have this kind of internationalization, this exchange of horses, you get much better media coverage, you get much better fan response. In any other sport, the international competition outshines the national and I think this is part of the strategic marketing of the racing industry."

Engelbrecht-Bresges indicated that he would also like to see a deepening of the tieup between participants in the Asian Mile Challenge, namely, regarding betting. The German native said he hopes to see fans able to bet into each other's pools. Both Arculli and Engelbrecht-Bresges were looking forward with unabashed pleasure to being able to place their own wagers on the race.

After the results were in, Masayuki Takahashi, president and chief executive officer of the Japan Racing Association, added his comments to those made by the Hong Kong officials before the race. Takahashi expressed his satisfaction with the race and the event. "I am very happy that we were able to have three



Silent Witness



Bowman's Crossing



Bullish Luck



JRA President Masayuki Takahashi (left) and Hong Kong Jockey Club Chairman Ronald Arculli.



Silent Witness connections meet at the paddock.

horses from Hong Kong, including the winner and runnerup of the Champions Mile.

“The participation of Silent Witness, a hero of the Hong Kong people, has helped to attract a great deal of attention to the race and with it a great number of fans, including the large number of fans who made the trip from Hong Kong.

“The participation of the Japanese and Hong Kong horses made this a great race, one that has furthered goodwill and the racing of both countries, and, has, I believe, also led to the further development of racing worldwide.”

Indeed, this year’s Yasuda was a success in terms of both turnover and attendance. Over 75,000 fans made their way to the Tokyo venue for the race, with betting on the Yasuda alone nationwide topping last year’s revenue by nearly seven percent at over ¥21.4 billion.

Silent Witness won lavish praise from owner da Silva for his “bravery” in his third-place run in the Yasuda, one that won him some ¥24 million in prize money. “I’m really proud of him. I really am. He was so brave in that last 200 meters,” da Silva said. He indicated that he and his elite sprinter would be back. “You never know. We may come back to next year’s Yasuda. I’ve said in Hong Kong we’re going to run the Champions Mile again next year. After the Champions Mile we might come back to the Yasuda next year as a 6-year-old and, who knows, we might leave your horses in the dust. That would be fun, wouldn’t it?”

# The 30th Asian Racing Conference in Seoul

The 30th Asian Racing Conference was held in nearby Seoul, South Korea over a five-day period from May 22 to 26. South Korean racing has rapidly progressed since 1980 when the 15th conference was held there, and it was appar-

ent that the Korea Racing Association (KRA) — South Korea’s sole racing authority with more than 80 years of history — had made every effort to ensure the conference’s success.

The conference site at the Grand

InterContinental Seoul, located in central Seoul, was efficiently arranged, with the organizing committee, secretariat, and rooms for workshops and sectional meetings and committees all on the second floor. Exhibition booths were also set up on the same floor, making it easy to visit them during the breaks that took place in-between meetings. In addition to Asian Racing Federation members, the conference was attended by numerous participants from non-member countries such as China and Vietnam, as well as from Europe and North America. There were more than 700 overseas participants, the most ever. Including exhibitors, there were 86 participants from Japan.

In the lead up to the conference, the International Jockey Invitation Race was held at Seoul Racecourse on the 21st, and the ARF Memorial and Korean President’s Cup on the 22nd. Most of the conference delegates attended the races. The spectators’ room on the sixth floor





of LuckyVille had been arranged to accommodate 1,000 people who could watch the races while lunching, and a stage was set up in the middle of the room. Seoul Racecourse, 115,000 m<sup>2</sup> in size, was used for equestrian events at the 1986 Asian Games and 1988 Seoul Olympics and opened as a race track with a seating capacity of 70,000 and modern facilities in 1989.

The meetings that began on the 23rd were broadly divided into four categories — ARF executive council sessions, management committee meetings, workshops at which individual countries could discuss topics they have in common, sectional meetings for specialized fields, and closed sessions only for members — and each varied in scope, but were so well attended they were filled to capacity. Presentations covered a wide spectrum of topics, and question and answer sessions were energetic. Representatives from other countries highly praised the Japanese presentations and Japan is expected to play an increasing role.

At the ARF executive council and management committee sessions on the 22nd, the executive council re-elected Hong Kong's Lawrence Wong as chairman and Australia's Robert Charley and Japan's Naoaki Koike as vice-chairmen.

New KRA Chairman Woo-Jae Lee hosted the spectacular opening ceremony on the 23rd, attended by around 1,000 people, including 600 international participants, along with agriculture minister Hong-Soo Park and leading figures from South Korea's financial world. Representatives from ARF's 20 member countries and the executive council appeared on the main stage as Mr. Lee

offered opening remarks stressing the ties and cooperation among Asian nations, under the slogan "Asia's United Vision for World Racing."

We changed venues for the evening welcoming banquet, where an internationally renowned South Korean orchestra performed together with famous South Korean singers. There were also folk instrument performances, and all presentations combined to create a gorgeous production that showcased the great culture of South Korea.

There were also numerous social events during the conference such as golf, sightseeing around Seoul, South Korean cultural tours, and visits to Insadong, Changdeokgung Palace, Samcheonggak, and the War Memorial. There were also official tour events to Jeju Island Racecourse, the stud farm and training center, and a number of other optional tours that took place from the 27th following the conference.

The closing ceremony and evening farewell banquet were held at Seoul Racecourse on the 26th. The closing ceremony started with remarks by the chairman of the organizing committee, followed by a review by the ARF chairman. The ARF flag and trophy were presented

to Ziad Galadari, head of the delegation from the UAE, which is the site of the next conference. Mr. Galadari expressed appreciation that his country had been selected as the location for the next conference and said he looked forward to meeting everyone again in Dubai in 2007.

The farewell banquet began with a toast by a representative from the Seoul Racehorse Owners Association. Everyone immensely enjoyed their final evening at the banquet, whose performances featured South Korean folk dance, electric instruments and percussion, and female vocalists, and closed with a dance party.

The 30th Asian Racing Conference in Seoul was the largest ever and the conference has now taken on an aspect of a global meeting not limited only to Asia. Qatar, which was an associate member at the 2003 Auckland conference, became a full member during this conference, raising the number of members to 19 associations from 20 countries. The conference also covered a wide variety of topics and Japan's 13 presentations were the most given by Japanese representatives.

International cooperation could be described as having entered a new stage with all ARF member countries' signing the "good neighbor" pact proposed by Japan and Hong Kong and its incorporation into Article 28 of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities' International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering at its annual conference.

One major result of this conference was the introduction of the process of creating international rules for stewards, as proposed by Japan.

With responsibility for operating the conference, the Korean Racing Association meticulously prepared all the events and managed them splendidly. The members of the Japanese delegation would like to offer the South Korean staff our thanks and applause.



KRA Chairman  
Mr. Woo-Jae Lee



ARF Chairman  
Mr. Lawrence T. Wong



ARF Vice Chairman  
Mr. Robert Charley AO



ARF Vice Chairman  
Dr. Naoaki Koike

## Japanese Presentations

### 1. Workshop 1: The Future of Gambling and Horse Racing

Kenji Kominami, JRA Executive Councilor for Foreign Affairs: Countermeasures on the 3U-gambling and WTO Issues

### 2. Workshop 2: Strategies to Promote Racing in the 21st Century

Mitsuaki Akitani, Senior Technical Advisor, General Planning Department: Tokyo Racecourse Stand Construction Concepts

### 3. Workshop 3: Race Administration and Racehorses

Naoaki Koike, JRA Presidential Counselor for Foreign Affairs: Horse Racing's Development as an International Sport

#### Standardization of Basic Race Control Rules

Hiroyuki Kaneda, General Manager of Steward's Department: The Standards of Judgements of JRA Stewards

Yutaka Mizuno, JRA General Manager of Equine Department: Clinical Exercise Testing in Racehorses

### 4. Sectional Meeting 1: International Horse Racing

Hiroshi Ito, JRA Deputy Manager & Personal Secretary to Presidential Counselor and International General Planning Section: Status Report: The Future of the World Racing Series

Kazuhiro Bando, Deputy General Manager of Race Planning Department: The Importance of Blue Book Recognition

### 5. Sectional Meeting 2A: Careers and Training

Yoshio Tomioka, Manager of Stable Planning Division: JRA Horse Racing School

### 6. Sectional Meeting 2C: Safety and Welfare

Yoshio Tomioka, Manager of Stable Planning Division: Safety System for Jockeys in the JRA

### 7. Sectional Meeting 3: Production and Racehorse Auctions

Motoharu Kimura, Managing Director, Japan Race Horse Registry: Asian Stud Book Conference Overview

Hiroyuki Senba, General Manager of the Kyushu Stallion Station, The Japan Bloodhorse Breeders Association: The Role of Veterinary Practices in Improving Productivity

### 8. Racehorse Retirement (closed session)

Hiroshi Ito, JRA Deputy Manager & Personal Secretary to Presidential Counselor and International General Planning Section: Japan Status Report: Retired Racehorses

## 2005 Asian Racing Federation (ARF) Annual General Study Program



WINS (off-course betting facility) Shiodome

The 2005 ARF General Study Program was held from June 1 to 10. In 1993, JAIR took over JRA's training program for racing people from countries that are members of the Asian Racing Conference.

This year there were 10 participants from different countries and regions: Australia, Hong Kong, India, South Korea, Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore and South Africa.

**The schedule of the program was as follows:**

*June 1:* An orientation given by JAIR and lectures by JRA's General Planning, International, Race Planning Department

*June 2:* Lectures by JRA's Stewards, Customer Service Department and each participant gave a presentation on their country's racing status

*June 4:* A tour of the JRA collation center, Green Channel, WINS (off-course

betting facility) Shiodome, Plaza Equus Shibuya (Racing Museum)

*June 5:* A tour of Tokyo Racecourse to see operations on a racing day and to watch the Yasuda Kinen, one of the prestigious GI races

*June 6 and 7:* A tour of Shadai Stallion Station, JBBA Shizunai Stud Farm, JRA Hidaka Training Farm, Bloodhorse Training Center, Shimokobe Farm, Breeders's Stallion Station

*June 8:* A tour of JRA's Horse Racing School, Racing Feed & Fodder Co. Ltd., Japan Horse Motor Transport Co. Ltd.

*June 9:* A tour of JRA's Miho Training Center, a lecture by NAR at Ohi Racecourse and watching the night races.

By the last day, on June 10, the proposed schedule had been successfully completed, and participants received a certificate from JAIR President Kinya Okamoto. Filled with memories and experience, they returned to their countries.



Piles of grass at the Racing Feed & Fodder Co., Ltd.

### Here are some comments from the participants:

- “Regarding the ARF study program, all participants felt that cooperation among all ARC member countries was needed to deal with global issues, including changing the role of each country and Internet gambling.”
- “Education and sharing of information and technology among the racing countries in response to global changes is important. I think the ARF study program is functioning exactly as it should.”
- “I understand that the aim of the program is not only about commercial intentions to publicize JRA and the Japanese horseracing industry and to

seek new foreign markets in which to sell additional racing products. It is also about providing a place where ARC member countries can gather and share beneficial information, debate opinions for mutual development, and make friends with each other.”

- “A number of JRA managers spoke about the history of racing in Japan, but more importantly they outlined the role of Japan in working with ARF and other nations to tackle global issues such as betting exchanges and Internet gambling. There was a common message that these issues need global support and countries should work together to solve these problems.”
- “I have learned many things, but one thing that has very strongly influenced me is the commitment that is required from the top hierarchy of any organization to be successful. It is just not money and influence that is important, but also commitment and sincerity.”

One of the highlights of this program was visiting the breeding industry in Hokkaido. Even countries that have their own breeding facilities were impressed with the quality of Japan's breeding industry.

- “In my country, there are no stallions and stud farms. What I have learned about the breeding industry is only from videocassettes and my superior. Now, everything I saw in the videocassettes is right



before me, I can even touch them. Most things are more professional, so that it is totally different from what I previously learned.”

- “Coming from a country that is not involved in the breeding of horses, the program also provided me with a very comprehensive insight to the breeding industry in Japan. The facilities and equipment at the many stud farms we visited in Hokkaido were very comprehensive and the staff knowledgeable.”



Overlooking the homestretch at Tokyo Racecourse



Checking out the mock racing horse at the Horse Racing School.



Uphill Course at Miho Training Center

horses are comparable to any other foreign trained horse.”

Finally, every participant expressed his gratitude to those related to the study program, and it appeared in words like this:

“I would like to make one point about this program and that is how JRA as an institution has developed in such a professional way and understands the main ingredients that are required for successful racing.

“To make a good dish you have to have the right ingredients. Even if one thing is missing, you cannot have a good dish.

“Similarly, JRA has put together the

main ingredients and therefore they are enjoying the main dish.

“It has created the supporting units so beautifully over a period of time, such as the research wing, training facilities, and awareness, breeding, the international section, etc. When put together, you have quality racing, which in turn gives you high sales.”



Swimming pool at Miho Training Center.

• “Back in my country, horse owners and trainers would talk only about breeds from the USA, Australia and New Zealand. With what I saw at the Hidaka Training Farm, I can now say that Japanese breeding and trained

## Japanese Graded Race Results -2005-



Pari-mutuel handle: ¥31,352,299,800

On-course: 6.0% Off-course: 94.0%

### 55<sup>th</sup> running THE YASUDA KINEN (GI)

Tokyo Racecourse	June 5	Value of race: ¥184,920,000	3-Year-Olds & Up
1,600m	Turf Firm	1:32.3/10 (Course record 1:32/0)	18 Runners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Asakusa Den'en (Shinji Fujita, 58.0 kg), ch., h.6; Singspiel - Whitewater Affair by Machiavellian O - G. Tahara, T - Michifumi Kono, B - Fusao Sekiguchi, Winning money: ¥97,864,000  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sweep Toshō (Kenichi Ikezoe, 56.0 kg), b., f.4; End Sweep - Tabatha Toshō by Dancing Brave  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Silent Witness (Felix Coetzee, 58.0 kg), b., g.6; El Moxie - Jade Tiara by Bureaucracy  
 4<sup>th</sup> Bullish Luck (Gerald Mosse, 58.0 kg), b., g.6; Royal Academy - Wild Vintage by Alysheba  
 5<sup>th</sup> Company (Yuichi Fukunaga, 58.0 kg), b., c.4; Miracle Admire - Brilliant Very by Northern Taste  
 Margin: NK, HD, 1-1/4, NK, THE YASUDA KINEN only: ¥21,408,637,100, Attendance: 75,441



Pari-mutuel handle: ¥33,072,943,600

On-course: 4.4% Off-course: 95.6%

### 46<sup>th</sup> running THE TAKARAZUKA KINEN (GI)

Hanshin Racecourse	June 26	Value of race: ¥255,760,000	3-Year-Olds & Up, Entire Colts & Fillies
2,200m	Turf Firm	2:11.5/10 (Course record 2:10.9/10)	15 Runners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sweep Toshō (Kenichi Ikezoe, 56.0 kg), b., f.4; End Sweep - Tabatha Toshō by Dancing Brave O - Toshō Sangyō, T - Akio Tsurudome, B - Toshō Sangyō Corporation Toshō Bokujo, Winning money: ¥135,192,000  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Heart's Cry (Norihiro Yokoyama, 58.0 kg), b., c.4; Sunday Silence - Irish Dance by Tony Bin  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Zenno Rob Roy (Kent Desormeaux, 58.0 kg), dk.b., h.5; Sunday Silence - Romain Rachel by Mining  
 4<sup>th</sup> Lincoln (Yuichi Fukunaga, 58.0 kg), b., h.5; Sunday Silence - Grace Admire by Tony Bin  
 5<sup>th</sup> Sunrise Pegasus (Miko Matsunaga, 58.0 kg), ch., h.7; Sunday Silence - Higashi Brian by Brian's Time  
 Margin: NK, 1-1/4, 1/2, 2-1/2, THE TAKARAZUKA KINEN only: ¥25,057,682,300, Attendance: 65,958



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