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SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 28TH JAPAN CUP (G1)

The Japan Cup has continued to attract some of the top turf horses from around the world while a number of runners have made Japan Cup their starting point towards further international success in following years. Last year's field was joined by *Artiste Royal (IRE)* from U.S.A., *Saddex (GBR)* from Germany, *Halicarnassus (IRE)* and *Papal Bull (GBR)* from Great Britain who finished eighth, eleventh, seventeenth and seventh respectively. *Admire Moon (JPN, by End Sweep)* won the '07 title after having previously won the Dubai Duty Free (UAE, G1, 1,777m) as well as the Takarazuka Kinen (G1, 2,200m) in the same season while three-year-old derby winning filly, *Vodka* finished fourth.

This year's line-up featured last year's runner-up *Pop Rock*, third place finisher, *Meisho Samson* as well as *Vodka*, who after finishing fourth in the race last year, had come into this year's race with two added G1 victories in her challenge to become the first mare in 19 years and fourth overall to capture the Japan Cup title after *Mairzy Doates (USA)*, *Stanerra (IRE)* and *Horlicks (NZL)* in 1981, 1983 and 1989 respectively. *Deep Sky* and *Oken Bruce Lee*, after claiming one of the three-year-old Triple Crown title each, were also included in the line-up. The contestants from overseas included *Papal Bull (GBR)* who gave an impressive performance in his seventh place effort last year, two other challengers from England; 2007 Melbourne Cup (AUS, G1, 3,200m) runner-up, *Purple Moon* and multiple grade-race winner *Sixties Icon*. Unfortunately, this year's the Canadian International Stakes (CAN, G1, 2,400m) winner, *Marsh Side (USA)*, was scratched from the race due to illness.

Cumani-trained *Alkaased (USA)*, who won the race in 2005, is the record holder of this race at 2:22.1.

THE 28TH JAPAN CUP (G1)

3-year-old & up, 2,400 meters (about 12 furlongs), turf, left-handed

Sunday, November 30, 2008 Tokyo Racecourse 10th Race Post Time: 15:20

Total prize money: ¥ 533,500,000 (about US\$4,639,000 < US\$1 = ¥115 >)

Winner's prize: ¥ 250,000,000 (about US\$2,173,000 < US\$1 = ¥115 >)

3-y-o: 55 kg (about 121 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 57 kg (about 126 lbs), 2 kg allowance for Fillies & Mares

2 kgs allowance for Southern Hemisphere horses born in 2005

Safety Factor: 18 runners (Foreign Trained Horses: 10)

FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	8	16	Screen Hero (JPN)	C4	57.0	Grass Wonder Running Heroine	M. Demuro Y. Shikato	T. Yoshida Shadai Farm	2:25.5 (34.0)	41.0 (9)
2	5	9	Deep Sky (JPN)	C3	55.0	Agnes Tachyon Abi	H. Shii M. Kon	T. Fukami Kasamatsu Bokujo	1/2 (33.8)	3.4 (1)
3	2	4	Vodka (JPN)	F4	55.0	Tanino Gimlet Tanino Sister	Y. Iwata K. Sumii	Y. Tanimizu Country Bokujo	3/4 (34.3)	3.7 (2)
4	7	13	Maturida Gogh (JPN)	H5	57.0	Sunday Silence Paper Rain	M. Ebina S. Kunieda	F. Takahashi Okada Stud	Head (34.4)	8.0 (5)
5	1	1	Oken Bruce Lee (JPN)	C3	55.0	Jungle Pocket Silver Joy	H. Uchida H. Otonashi	A. Fukui Northern Farm	Neck (34.2)	7.3 (4)
6	1	2	Meisho Samson (JPN)	H5	57.0	Opera House My Vivien	M. Ishibashi S. Takahashi	Y. Matsumoto K. Hayashi	1-1/4 (34.4)	6.5 (3)
7	4	7	Never Bouchon (JPN)	H5	57.0	Marvelous Sunday	N. Yokoyama M. Ito	T. H. Co. Ltd. Hayata Farms	Neck (34.9)	112.1 (15)
8	7	15	Asakusa Kings (JPN)	C4	57.0	White Muzzle Croupier Star	C. Lemaire R. Okubo	K. Tahara Shadai Farm	3/4 (34.4)	12.9 (6)
9	3	6	Purple Moon* (IRE)	G5	57.0	Galileo Vanishing Prairie	J. Spencer L. Cumani	C. Bennett Gestut Shohrenhof	Nose (34.3)	54.8 (11)
10	4	8	Toho Alan (JPN)	H5	57.0	Dance in the Dark Hidden Dance	S. Fujita H. Fujiwara	Toho Bussan Co. Ltd. M. Maekawa	1/2 (34.2)	33.8 (8)
11	5	10	Osumi Grass One (JPN)	H6	57.0	Grass Wonder Hokko Oka	Y. Kawada Y. Arakawa	Osumi Co. Ltd. K. Samekawa	Neck (34.0)	58.5 (12)

12	8	17	Admire Monarch (JPN)	H7	57.0	Dream Well Split the Night	K. Ando H. Matsuda	R. Kondo Northern Farm	Neck (34.0)	119.1 (16)
13	6	11	Sixties Icon* (GB)	H5	57.0	Galileo Love Divine	J. Murtagh J. Nosedo	S. Roy & Norman Court Stud Lordship Stud	1-1/4 (34.4)	50.6 (10)
14	7	14	Papal Bull* (GB)	H5	57.0	Montjeu Mialuna	R. Moore M. Stoute	Papal Bull Syndicate B.H.and C.F.D.Simpson	1-1/2 (34.9)	26.0 (7)
15	2	3	Tosen Captain (JPN)	C4	57.0	Jungle Pocket Sunday Picnic	O. Peslier K. Sumii	T. Shimakawa Shadai Farm	Neck (34.4)	99.3 (13)
16	3	5	Daiwa Wild Boar (JPN)	C3	55.0	Agnes Tachyon Seigniorage	H. Kitamura H. Uehara	K. Oshiro Shadai Farm	1/2 (34.9)	127.0 (17)
17	8	18	Cosmo Bulk (JPN)	H7	57.0	Zagreb Iseno Toshio	M. Matsuoka K. Tabe	Big Red Farm Kano Bokujo	3 (36.2)	107.8 (14)
			Marsh Side* (USA)	H5	57.0	Gone West Colonial Play	J. Castellano N. Drysdale	R. Evans R. Evans	Scratched	

FP=Final Position BK=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: 2:25.5

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 31,294,859,400

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 22,165,857,600

ATTENDANCE: 107,904

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.16	¥4,100	PLACE	No.16	¥710
BRACKET QUINELLA	5-8	¥4,180		No.9	¥130
QUINELLA	9-16	¥7,620		No.4	¥140
EXACTA	16-9	¥25,160	QUINELLA PLACE	9-16	¥1,770
TRIO	4-9-16	¥6,410		4-16	¥2,260
TRIFECTA	16-9-4	¥68,950		4-9	¥230

1. SCREEN HERO (JPN), chestnut, colt, 4-year-old

Grass Wonder / Running Heroine (Sunday Silence)

Breeder: Shadai Farm

Owner: Teruya Yoshida

Trainer: Yuichi Shikato

Jockey: Mirco Demuro

17 Starts, 5 Wins

Added money: ¥ 253,864,000

Career earnings: ¥ 408,311,000

2. DEEP SKY (JPN), chestnut, colt, 3-year-old

Agnes Tachyon / Abi (Chief's Crown)

Breeder: Kasamatsu Bokujo

Owner: Toshio Fukami

Trainer: Mitsugu Kon

Jockey: Hirofumi Shii

3. VODKA (JPN), bay, filly, 4-year-old

Tanino Gimlet / Tanino Sister (Rousillon)

Breeder: Country Bokujo

Owner: Y. Tanimizu

Trainer: Katsuhiko Sumii

Jockey: Yasunari Iwata

Ninth favorite **SCREEN HERO** partnered with Mirco Demuro upset race favorite **DEEP SKY** and other strong contenders in the 28th running of the Japan Cup to register his first G1 victory. With only four starts this year after coming off an eleven-month break due to leg injury, the son of multiple G1 winner, Grass Wonder, accomplished an extremely fast improvement to win this big international stage. Coming in a close second was this year's Japanese Derby winner and race

The 28th running of the Japan Cup

Post Race Press Conference to the Winning Owner/Trainer/Jockey (Screen Hero)

Winning Trainer: Yuichi Shikato

Winning Jockey: Mirco Demuro

Trainer: Yuichi Shikato

Since opening my own yard only this year in March, I have been fortunate to have the support of the owners, as well as the people who have taken care of him at the farm and the stable staff that have put in their efforts to make this victory happen. I had always thought that Screen Hero was a gifted horse ever since he was trained by Mr. Susumu Yano before handing him down to me upon his retirement. Screen Hero was handed to me coming off a recovery from a bone fracture, and the colt made a speedy progress from an allowance-race horse to a grade-race runner in a short time since the summer. He was ridden by a number of different jockeys during his career, but all of them would comment that, “This horse will make it big.” I believed them—working out a racing program towards this day. He’s a horse that would put in a performance depending on the standard of his opponents, so I knew that if he was to face the best field, he would upgrade his performance accordingly, even if it were to be a learning process. Sure enough, when he broke out of the gate smoothly and blended into the flow of the pace, he responded—although I could not be sure until the very end as it was a very close race—holding off three derby winners. I was overwhelmed. Now that he’s won his G1 title over 2,400 meters, you could say that this is much his best distance, but I think that maybe he can handle a little extra. His racing plans after this will be decided after consulting with the owner.

Jockey: Mirco Demuro

It’s always a great moment to win a G1 race but having won the Japan Cup was special to me and having doing so in just a month being here (under short-term license)—it’s a good start for me. The race was slow-paced but I was able to position well from starting from an outside stall. I kept my mark on Maturida Gogh as I knew that that horse was also in good form and well positioned, and everything worked out as planned. I thought, “Oh My God!” when I saw the horse closing up from the outside but I know that Screen Hero is a “Fighter” and I believed in him as he finished well in his last start.