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SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 43RD SPRINTERS STAKES (G1)

The SPRINTERS STAKES, initially established in 1967 as a major 1,200-meter sprint race for three-year-old and up, was designated as a spring G3 event in conjunction with the new grading system implemented in 1984. It was then upgraded to G2 in 1987 before becoming a GI sprint race in 1990 with the date of fixture also shifted to the latter part of the season to position itself as the highest mark for sprinters together with the Takamatsunomiya Kinen (G1, 1,200m) held in spring.

One of the first few races to open its doors to foreign entrees, the race became part of the Global Sprint Challenge, an international sprint series on turf, launched jointly by Racing Victoria Ltd. (AUS), Ascot Racecourse Ltd. (GB) and the JRA in 2005. The race, which was the final leg of the series in its inaugural year, was won by Hong Kong's world class sprinter, *Silent Witness* (AUS, by El Moxie) who crossed the wire in 1:07.3 just 0.3 seconds short of the race record set by *Trot Star* (JPN, by Damister) in 2001.

Becoming a seven-race series with the addition of the Hong Kong Jockey Club's well established Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Sprint (G1, 1,200m) in the following year, the 2006 Sprinters Stakes welcomed four outstanding sprinters from Hong Kong, United Kingdom and Australia. The 2006 series champion, *Takeover Target* (AUS, by Celtic Swing), who was a runner-up in the Centaur Stakes, proceeded to win the Sprinters Stakes with dominating power.

Another prestigious sprint G1 event, The Darley July Cup Stakes (G1, United Kingdom) was added to the series in 2008, although the Sprinters Stakes was run without a foreign contender for two years during 2007 and 2008 which was won by *Aston Machan* and *Sleepless Night* respectively.

This year, Australia's Horse of the Year (2008/2009) *Scenic Blast* (AUS) came into this race as the GSC series leader, attempting to qualify for an added bonus of US\$1 million with his third G1 victory, while *Laurel Guerreiro* (JPN) who claimed the spring championship title for sprinters in the Takamatsunomiya Kinen was among the lineup in his bid to collect his second G1 of the season. Last year's winner and defending champion, *Sleepless Night* (JPN) was forced to retire with a tendon injury prior to this race.

THE 43RD SPRINTERS STAKES (G1): the sixth leg of 2009 Global Sprint Challenge

3-year-old & up, 1,200 meters (about 6furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, October 4, 2009

Nakayama Racecourse

11th Race

Post time: 15:45

Total prize money: ¥202,350,000 (about US\$2,248,000; US\$1 = ¥90)

3-y-o 55kg (about 121 lbs), 4-y-o & up 57kg (about 126 lbs),

2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 1kg allowance for southern hemisphere horses born in 2006

Safety Factor: 16 runners (Foreign Trained Horses: 8)



FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	7	13	Laurel Guerreiro (JPN)	H5	57.0	King Halo Big Tenby	S. Fujita M. Kon	Laurel Racing Co .Ltd. Murata Bokujo	1:07.5 (34.6)	13.8 (6)
2	5	9 B	B B Guldan (JPN)	H5	57.0	Chief Bearhart All the Chat	K. Ando M. Ryoke	Bando B. Bando Bokujo	Nose (34.3)	3.8 (2)
3	6	12	Kanoya Zakura (JPN)	M5	55.0	Sakura Bakushin O Woodmans Chic	F. Komaki K. Hashiguchi	K. Kanda Hamamoto Bokujo	1-1/4 (33.8)	20.0 (8)
4	4	8	I'll Love Again (JPN)	H7	57.0	El Condor Pasa Tokio Reality	A. Tsumura T. Tezuka	Y. Saito Northern Farm	Neck (34.7)	154.1 (16)
5	1	2	Ultima Thule (JPN)	M5	55.0	Fuji Kiseki Air Thule	M. Matsuoka M. Okuhira	Shadai Race H. Shadai Farm	Head (34.7)	3.7 (1)
6	2	3	Toreno Jubilee (JPN)	H6	57.0	Sakura Bakushin O Tenzan Kirari	Y. Iwata H. Fujiwara	T. Hirosaki Fujiwara Breeding Stud	Head (34.4)	16.1 (7)
7	8	15	Urbanity (JPN)	H5	57.0	Manhattan Cafe Legacy of Strength	N. Yokoyama M. Koga	Shadai Race H. Shadai Farm	Nose (34.8)	28.5 (10)
8	3	5	Maruka Phoenix (JPN)	H5	57.0	Dance in the Dark Miss Kirsty	Y. Fukunaga M. Matsunaga	Kawacho Sangyo Hinode Bokujo	Nose (34.1)	25.2 (9)
9	7	14	Sandalphon (JPN)	H6	57.0	Sakura Bakushin O Koyu Love	H. Shii M. Matsunaga	North Hills Management Co. Ltd. K. Takimoto	Head (34.4)	31.1 (11)
10	5	10	Soldier's Song (JPN)	H7	57.0	Sunday Silence Irish Caerley	H. Uchida I. Sameshima	Sunday Racing Co. Ltd. Shiraoi Farm.	1/2 (34.0)	39.8 (13)
11	6	11	Premium Box (JPN)	H6	57.0	Admire Vega Chatterbox	R. Sameshima H. Uehara	Shadai Race H. Shadai Farm	Neck (33.7)	36.1 (12)

12	2	4	Kinshasa no Kiseki (AUS)	H6	57.0	Fuji Kiseki Keltshaan	K. Miura N. Hori	K. Yoshida Arrowleave Joint Venture	Nose (34.6)	9.6 (4)
13	3	6	Grand Prix Angel (JPN)	F3	53.0	Agnes Digital Andante	S. Kumazawa Y. Yahagi	M. Kitagawa Uemura Stud	Neck (34.5)	10.1 (5)
14	8	16	Apollo Dolce (USA)	C4	57.0	Officer Summertime Val	M. Katsuura M. Horii	Apollo Thoroughbred Club Clarkland Farm	Neck (34.4)	60.7 (14)
15	1	1	Yamanin Emailler (JPN)	M6	55.0	White Muzzle Yamanin Xanadu	K. Tanaka H. Asami	H. Doi Nishikioka Farm	1/2 (34.2)	98.2 (15)
16	4	7	Scenic Blast* (AUS)	G5	57.0	Scenic Daughter's Charm	M. Zahra D. Morton	E. Galante Durham Lodge Thoroughbred Stud	3 (35.1)	6.9 (3)

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: 1:07.5

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE:

¥ 12,173,375,000

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY:

¥ 19,502,895,100

ATTENDANCE: 45,987

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.13	¥1,380	PLACE	No.13	¥430
BRACKET QUINELLA	5 - 7	¥1,580		No. 9	¥150
QUINELLA	9 - 13	¥2,140		No.12	¥470
EXACTA	13 - 9	¥5,630	QUINELLA PLACE	9 - 13	¥910
TRIO	9 - 12 - 13	¥11,660		12 - 13	¥3,020
TRIFECTA	13 - 9 - 12	¥66,890		9 - 12	¥1,260

1. **LAUREL GUERREIRO (JPN), dark bay or brown, horse, 5-year-old**

King Halo / Big Tenby (Tenby)

Breeder: Murata Bokujo

Owner: Laurel Racing Co., Ltd.

Trainer: Mitsugu Kon

Jockey: Shinji Fujita

26 Starts, 5 Wins

Added money: ¥98,486,000

Career earnings: ¥482,480,000

Principal Race Performances:

'09 Takamatsunomiya Kinen (G1)

1st

'08 Hankyu Hai (G3)

1st

'08 Tokyo Shimbun Hai (G3)

1st

2. **B B GULDAN (JPN), dark bay or brown, horse, 5-year-old**

Chief Bearhart / All the Chat (Westminster)

Breeder: Bando Bokujo

Owner: Bando B.

Trainer: Masazo Ryojo

Jockey: Katsumi Ando

3. **KANOYA ZAKURA (JPN), chestnut, mare, 5-year-old**

Sakura Bakushin O / Woodmans Chic (Woodman)

Breeder: Hamamoto Bokujo

Owner: K. Kanda

Trainer: Kojiro Hashiguchi

Jockey: Futoshi Komaki

Sixth choice **LAUREL GUERREIRO** avenged his 14th-place defeat in the Centaur Stakes just last month to win the 43RD SPRINTERS STAKES, the sixth leg of the Global Sprint Challenge, to prove that his victory in the Takamatsunomiya Kinen (G1, 1,200m) this spring was not a fluke. The son of King Halo became the third horses in JRA history to win both G1 sprint races in spring and autumn.

The race took off with **LAUREL GUERREIRO** from stall 13 and **ULTIMA THULE** from stall 2 surging out as expected to rally for the lead. Taking the lead toward the end of the backstretch, **LAUREL GUERREIRO** widened the gap to 3 lengths as he turned the corners and managed to run away, barely fending off the strong challenge of **B B GULDAN**, to a photo-finish victory.

Second pick **B B GULDAN**, after traveling in good position around 5-6th from the front in the backstretch, displayed powerful speed in the homestretch and challenged the leader with persistence till the last moment but finished just a flash of a second short.

Eighth pick **KANOYA ZAKURA**, last year's Centaur Stakes winner, also showed great effort in the homestretch, accelerating from toward the rear to close in on the leaders by 1-1/4 lengths at the wire.

Race favorite and this year's Centaur Stakes winner **ULTIMA THULE** traveled toward the front and fought tenaciously right behind the front horses in the homestretch but was overtaken by other horses just before the wire to finish 5th.

SCENIC BLAST, the only foreign contender from Australia, traveled in midfield through the backstretch but lost his drive after stumbling before the last turn and boxed in between horses—fading to last in the homestretch. “If not for the disadvantage in the 4th corner... that was the end of the race for us”, commented Mark Zahra with a tone of disappointment.

Other Horses:

4th:(8) **I'LL LOVE AGAIN**—traveled two out in fourth, followed B B Guldan final stages beaten by Kayano Zakura in the last minute.

6th:(3) **TORENO JUBILEE**—saved ground in fifth driven at stretch but unable to reach leaders

7th:(15) **URBANITY**—stalked the pace two out, made bid at stretch but outrun 100 meters out

8th:(5) **MARUKA PHOENIX**—from well off the pace, split horses for late charge

9th:(14) **SANDALPHON**—traveled in midfield, even paced at stretch.

10th:(10) **SOLDIER'S SONG**—3rd from rear, advanced inside Kayano Zakura, used up after last turn

11th:(11) **PREMIUM BOX**—trailed early stages, improved position

12th:(4) **KINSHASA NO KISEKI**—traveled inside behind leaders, lugged in. before turn, lost momentum

13th:(6) **GRAND PRIX ANGEL**—positioned mid-field, unsuccessful bid from inside at 4th corner

14th:(16) **APOLLO DOLCE**—sat in rear group, never a factor

15th:(1) **YAMANIN EMAILLER**—2nd from last throughout

Fractional Time (sec./furlong):	11.9 - 10.2 - 10.8 - 11.2 - 11.5 - 11.9
	Last 4 furlongs: 45.4 Last 3 furlongs: 34.6
Positions at each corner:	3rd corner <u>13</u> ,15(2,8)(4,9)(3,14)(6,7)16,5(1,10,12)-11
	4th corner <u>13</u> (2,15,9)(3,8)(4,14)6(5,7,16,12)(10,11)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.

Post race interview of winning connections;

Trainer: Mitsugu Kon

He was not in his best condition coming into this race and a little underweight. He deserves much credit for giving quality performance and proving himself fit as a G1 winner despite our concerns. Although he has joined G1-company from early in his career, he had not been able to actually win a G1 title until this season as a five-year-old and I am extremely happy that he will now be recognized for his true talent. Having won both the Takamatsunomiya Kinen (G1, 1,200m) and the

Sprinters Stakes, it is natural to take into consideration, an overseas challenge in the Hong Kong Sprint (G1, 1,200m) as a possible target and I am confident to have him in even a better state than he is at this stage.

Jockey: Shinji Fujita

To be honest, I thought the result would turn out to be a dead heat—or even perhaps closely beaten—I really didn't know, but I am happy for the horse for the victory, because he really gave a wholehearted effort despite being a little below form after a shocking defeat (14th) in his last start (Centaur Stakes, G2, 1,200m). He's a true 1,200m specialist and I agree that he should concentrate on this distance instead of trying for mile races for his next G1 challenge.

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