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DATE: November 29, 2009

SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 29TH 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. Our foreign contestants last year were **Purple Moon (IRE)**, **Sixties Icon (GBR)**, **Papal Bull (GBR)** from England, who finished 9th, 13th and 14th respectively, while **Marsh Side (USA)** from the U.S.A. ran a fever and was scratched from the race. The 2008 Japan Cup was won by **Screen Hero**. Ridden by Italian jockey Mirco Demuro, the ninth favorite claimed his first G1 victory, narrowly holding off race favorites, **Deep Sky** and **Vodka**. Six of the last year's contenders returned to the line-up again for 2009, including defending champion **Screen Hero** and 2008 Horse of the Year **Vodka**, while freshmen just coming off their outstanding performances in their Triple Crown races made their bid to challenge their older G1 counterparts. Our overseas guests for this year included M. Stoute-trained **Conduit (IRE)**, who had come off his second consecutive Breeders' Cup Turf win and **Scintillo (GBR)** from the U.K. while US-rider **Marsh Side (USA)** came back to challenge the title again. **Marsh Side** was joined by two other runners from the U.S., **Interpatation (USA)** and **Just as Well (USA)** for 2009. Cuman-trained **Alkaased (USA)**, who won the race in 2005, is the record holder of this race at 2:22.1.

THE 29TH JAPAN CUP (G1)

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

Sunday, November 29, 2009

Tokyo Racecourse

10th Race

Post Time: 15:20

Total prize money: ¥ 533,500,000 (about US\$5,927,000 < US\$1 = ¥90>)

Winner's prize: ¥ 250,000,000 (about US\$2,777,000 < US\$1 = ¥90>)

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

2 kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 2 kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere horses born in 2006

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	3	5	Vodka (JPN)	M5	55.0	Tanino Gimlet Tanino Sister	C. Lemaire K. Sumii	Y. Tanimizu Country Bokujo	2:22.4 (34.8)	3.6 (1)
2	5	10	Oken Bruce Lee (JPN)	C4	57.0	Jungle Pocket Silver Joy	H. Uchida H. Otonashi	A. Fukui Northern Farm	Nose (34.1)	4.7 (2)
3	3	6	Red Desire (JPN)	F3	53.0	Manhattan Cafe Great Sunrise	H. Shii M. Matsunaga	TokyoHorseRacing Co.Ltd Shadai Farm	1-1/2 (34.7)	9.6 (6)
4	8	16	Conduit* (IRE)	C4	57.0	Dalakhani Well Head	R. Moore M. Stoute	Ballymacoll Stud Ballymacoll Stud Farm Ltd	1-1/4 (35.0)	4.9 (3)
5	2	3	Air Shady (JPN)	H8	57.0	Sunday Silence Air Deja Vu	H. Goto M. Ito	Lucky Field Co. Ltd. Tsunebumi Yoshihara	1-1/4 (35.0)	44.8 (11)
6	2	4	Eishin Deputy (JPN)	H7	57.0	French Deputy Eishin McAllen	K. Tosaki A. Nomoto	T. Hirai Eishin Bokujo	1/2 (35.7)	39.0 (9)
7	4	7	Just as Well* (USA)	H6	57.0	A.P.Indy No Matter What	J. Leparoux J. Sheppard	J. Sheppard Augustin Stable	1/2 (35.2)	47.1 (12)
8	4	8 B	Meiner Kitz (JPN)	H6	57.0	Chief Bearhart Takara Kanna	M. Matsuoka S. Kunieda	K.Thoroughbred Club Ruffian Big Red Farm	Nose (34.9)	32.1 (7)
9	5	9	Reach the Crown (JPN)	C3	55.0	Special Week Crownpiece	Y. Take K. Hashiguchi	H. Usuda H. Usuda	1-1/2 (36.1)	8.6 (5)
10	1	2	Never Bouchon (JPN)	H6	57.0	Marvelous Sunday Pearl Necklace	H. Kitamura M. Ito	T.H.Co. Ltd. Hayata Farms	2 (35.9)	145.3 (18)
11	6	12	Scintillo* (GB)	C4	57.0	Fantastic Light Danseuse du Soir	G. Mosse R. Hannon	L. Lucas Woodcote Stud Ltd	Neck (36.1)	115.3 (15)
12	8	17	Cosmo Bulk (JPN)	H8	57.0	Zagreb Iseno Tosho	F. Igarashi K. Tabe	Big Red Farm Kano Bokujo	3-1/2 (36.3)	123.9 (16)

13	8	18	Screen Hero (JPN)	H5	57.0	Grass Wonder Running Heroine	M. Demuro Y. Shikato	T. Yoshida Shadai Farm	1/2 (36.9)	7.5 (4)
14	7	14	Inti Raimi (JPN)	H7	57.0	Special Week Andes Lady	C. Soumillon S. Sasaki	Sunday Racing Co. Ltd. Northern Farm	1/2 (36.9)	123.9 (16)
14	7	15	Interpatation* (USA)	G7	57.0	Langfuhr Idealistic Cause	D. Cohen R. Barbara	E. Mavorah Larry Cassaday & Jack O. Thompson	DH (36.6)	89.5 (14)
16	1	1	Asakusa Kings (JPN)	H5	57.0	White Muzzle Croupier Star	Y. Iwata R. Okubo	K. Tahara Shadai Farm	5 (38.0)	43.9 (10)
17	6	11	Marsh Side* (USA)	H6	57.0	Gone West Colonial Play	J. Castellano N. Drysdale	R. Evans R. S. Evans	1/2 (37.7)	33.0 (8)
18	7	13	Yamanin Kingly (JPN)	C4	57.0	Agnes Digital Yamanin Arena	Y. Shibayama H. Kawachi	H. Doi Nishikioka Farm	6 (39.1)	71.2 (13)

FP=Final Position **BK**=Bracket Number **PP**=Post Position **B**=Blinkers **L3F**=Time of Last 3 Furlongs (600m) **DH**=Dead Heat
NOTE 1: *=Foreign Horses

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: 2:22.4

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Cloudy

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 19,162,550,600

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 27,493,258,000

ATTENDANCE: 98,811

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.5	¥360	PLACE	No.5	¥140
BRACKET QUINELLA	3-5	¥460		No.10	¥160
QUINELLA	5-10	¥1,020		No.6	¥260
EXACTA	5-10	¥2,020	QUINELLA PLACE	5-10	¥360
TRIO	5-6-10	¥2,460		5-6	¥600
TRIFECTA	5-10-6	¥11,690		6-10	¥770

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

Tanino Gimlet / Tanino Sister (Rousillon)

Breeder: Country Bokujo

Owner: Y. Tanimizu

Trainer: Katsuhiko Sumii

Jockey: Christophe Lemaire

25 Starts, 10 Wins

Added money: ¥ 253,864,000

Career earnings: ¥ 1,333,565,800

Principal Races Performances:

2008, 2009 Yasuda Kinen (G1, Tokyo racecourse, turf 1,600m)

2009 Victoria Mile (G1, Tokyo racecourse, turf 1,600m)

2008 Tenno Sho Autumn (G1, Tokyo racecourse, turf 2,000m)

2007 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, Tokyo racecourse, turf 2,400m)

2006 Hanshin Juvenile Fillies (Hanshin racecourse, turf 1,600m)

2. OKEN BRUCE LEE (JPN), chestnut, colt, 4-year-old

Jungle Pocket / Silver Joy (Silver Deputy)

Breeder: Northern Farm

Owner: Akira Fukui

Trainer: Hidetaka Otonashi

Jockey: Hiroyuki Uchida

3. RED DESIRE (JPN), bay, filly, 3-year-old

Manhattan Cafe / Great Sunrise (Caerleon)

Breeder: Shadai Farm

Owner: TokyoHorseRacingCo., Ltd.

Trainer: Mikio Matsunaga

Jockey: Hirofumi Shii

Race favorite **VODKA** managed to barely fend off the powerful charge of **OKEN BRUCE LEE** by a nose to claim this year's Japan Cup, and avenged her third-place finish in last year's race. The mare marked her seventh G1 win to become the first Japanese-bred mare to claim the Japan Cup and the fourth horse to score seven JRA G1 titles after Symboli Rudolf, T. M. Opera O, and Deep Impact. Katsuhiko Sumii, trainer also for 2005 and 2008 Japan Cup Dirt champion Kanehekili, has become the second trainer after Hiroshi Matsuda to capture both the Japan Cup turf and dirt titles.

The race broke off with **ASAKUSA KINGS** taking the lead for the first 800 meters then passing over the front to **REACH THE CROWN** who set the pace until the top of the homestretch.

Coming out onto the track before the race, extremely quiet and composed, Japanese super-mare **VODKA** boarded by her new partner Christophe Lemaire broke smoothly and traveled 4-5 lengths behind the pacesetter in fourth. Lemaire kept her in hand, trying to pool her energy for the last straight. Although crowded by horses coming from behind at the top of the stretch, the Derby-winning mare accelerated smoothly through the horses and took the front 300 meters out to exert her usual late spurt.

Delivering an even more powerful charge from way back towards the rear was **OKEN BRUCE LEE** who swung wide around the last two corners after traveling third from last, and challenged **VODKA** right before the wire—running the last three furlongs the fastest in the field—to a photo-finish.

The other female horse and the only filly in the field, **RED DESIRE**, also fared well, from hugging the rail in midfield and accelerating well between rivals up the stretch to contention behind **OKEN BRUCE LEE** to finish 1-1/2 lengths behind in third.

Third favorite **CONDUIT** ridden by Ryan Moore broke slowly and traveled fifth from last. The chestnut colt tried to advance between horses at the top of the stretch but was met with traffic and had not enough left to challenge the winner to finish 2-3/4 length behind in fourth.

“He broke poorly—he didn't respond as he usually does. He may have been tired not having enough time from his last start.”(Ryan Moore)

Twelfth pick **JUST AS WELL** partnered with Julien Leparoux traveled in mid-division right outside the race favorite, and although crowded by horses through the last two corners, hung on well in the last straight to finish seventh.

“The horses on both sides closed in on between the 3rd and 4th corner and I didn't have room, but I'm pleased with the outcome (7th) in such a big race. I'm proud of finishing the best among the American horses too.”(Julien Leparoux)

Fifteenth choice **SCINTILLO** mounted by Gerald Mosse broke well and settled in good position, around seventh from the front. The colt, however tired in the last 300 meters to finish 11th.

“The horse broke well and we raced closed to Vodka. We were able to keep up with the fast pace down the stretch, but he just ran out of steam in the last 300m's.” (Gerald Mosse)

Fourteenth pick **INTERPATATION** boarded by David Cohen traveled fourth from last, and although the gelding improved his position coming into the stretch, he lacked speed to finish 14th.

“I wish we could've kept up with the pace, but he just didn't have the speed. The Tokyo course was wonderful.” (David Cohen)

Eighth favorite **MARSH SIDE** with Javier Castellano traveled wide in mid-pack and was outrun before approaching the turn.

“He was through 3 furlongs out and never responded after that. I don't know why.”(Javier Castellano)

OTHER HORSES:

- 5th: (3) **AIR SHADY**—traveled near rear, trapped but weaved through horses down stretch, accelerated well
- 6th: (4) **EISHIN DEPUTY**—broke well, sat in third on rail, made move while entering stretch, tired at furlong pole
- 8th: (8) **MEINER KITZ**—unhurried from start, sat near rear, fanned out at top of stretch, improved but no threat
- 9th: (9) **REACH THE CROWN**—took lead by 2nd turn, led 2 lengths on back stretch, used up setting early pace
- 10th: (2) **NEVER BOUCHON**—saved ground in 6th, turned for home in mid-pack, blocked, lacked needed kick
- 12th: (17) **COSMO BULK**—was in rear pack three wide, 3rd from last down stretch, never reached contention
- 13th: (18) **SCREEN HERO**—traveled in mid pack, in good striking position top of stretch, failed to respond
- 14th: (14) **INTI RAIMI**—settled around 7th and 3 wide, mid pack throughout, tired and gave way
- 16th: (1) **ASAKUSA KINGS**—brief lead, saved ground 2 lengths behind leader on back stretch, faded from contention
- 18th: (13) **YAMANIN KINGLY**—sat outside Vodka in 5th, 3rd at top of straight, came up empty

Fractional Time (sec./furlong): 12.7 - 10.5 - 12.0 - 12.0 - 11.8 - 12.2 - 12.1 - 12.0 - 12.0 - 11.4 - 11.4 - 12.3
 Last 4 furlongs: 47.1 Last 3 furlongs: 35.1

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

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.

**The 29th running of the Japan Cup
 Post Race Press Conference to the Winning Owner/Trainer/Jockey (Vodka)
 Winning Owner: Yuzo Tanimizu
 Winning Trainer: Katsuhiko Sumii
 Winning Jockey: Christophe Lemaire**

Owner (Yuzo Tanimizu)

Though Vodka has won many G1 titles, the Japan Cup was special to me in that, after having finished third and fourth (in '08 and '07 respectively) in this truly international and prestigious grade-race, somewhere in the back of my mind, there was always this unfinished job we had to finish. Credit goes to my trainer and especially the stable staff that have put such hard work into making this happen. Her plans from now on will be decided only after I discuss the matter with my trainer and the staff who knows her best and has the ability to acknowledge when the time (to decide when she's had enough) comes...but we take each race at a time and put in our best effort as well as observe her condition accordingly.

Trainer (Katsuhiko Sumii)

It was a close race and I was left in suspense. It was very moving for me, as well as the stable staff, to be able to share the glorious outcome in this race—even though many are the times when hard work does not end with a victory. The Japan Cup was a race which inspired me to choose my career so the victory in this race is very special for me. We had trained her towards the extra furlongs in this race, but I had requested the jockey (C. Lemaire) to keep up in a good position not far from the pace. (regarding jockey change) It may have paid off to have a rider who was unaware of her being a bit keen—he

rode her well.

Jockey (Christophe Lemaire)

When I was asked to ride Vodka, I was surprised, happy and honored to have been chosen to ride the champion. I had the impression that she was a mare with special qualities ever since seeing her win the derby (Tokyo Yushun) and the way she handled both mile to 1-1/2 mile distance—that is a sign of great quality—and it is no wonder that she is loved by the public and the racing circle alike. I was able to start from a very good draw which allowed me to place her in a very good position, and Yutaka Take (on Reach the Crown) set a nice pace which enabled me to have the mare relaxed during the trip. She was all ready to go at the head of the stretch, but knowing that the 2,400 meters was an extra distance for her, I kept her in hand until the last 1-1/2 furlong. I knew that the last 100 meters was going to be the toughest and also acknowledged a strong charge coming from behind so I gave her the whip and prayed her to hold on and she did—which proves what a fantastic mare she is. I wasn't sure of my victory after I hit the wire—I had already experienced a defeat in the race when on Heart's Cry and beaten by Alkaased (in 2005) and I was a little bit on the negative side, not having won last week and also this week until now—so I was very happy that I had won.