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DATE: December 6, 2009

SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 10TH JAPAN CUP DIRT (G1)



The Japan Cup Dirt, which has established itself as the dirt race version of the Japan Cup international contest, commemorates its ninth anniversary since *Wing Arrow (JPN)* won the race in 2000, the inaugural year. *Lord Sterling (USA)*, who finished third that year, was one of the first foreign contenders, while *Fleetstreet Dancer (USA)* became the first foreign winner of the race in 2003. Twenty four foreign runners from not only North America but also from France, Germany, Great Britain and Hong Kong have participated in the race in the past, although none ran in 2006.

The grade-one race, which had traditionally been held at Tokyo Racecourse on the same weekend as the Japan Cup (turf) race, has been moved to the following Sunday and at Hanshin Racecourse, as one of four G1 events along with the Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup (G1, 2,200m), the Mile Championship (G1, 1,600m) and the Japan Cup (G1, 2,400m), to form the "Japan Autumn International (JAI)" race festival starting from 2008. The distance has also been changed from 2,100m to 1,800m and run clockwise (right-handed).

This year's race included only one foreign contender, *Tizway (USA)*, who had come off a third place in the Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1, dirt 2,000m) in his previous start. Belmont Stakes winner *Summer Bird (USA)* was scratched from the race due to an injury a week before the race.

Meanwhile, the Japanese opposition included *Vermilion (JPN)*, who has not slowed down since winning the Japan Cup Dirt title in 2007, and had a career record of eight G1 wins coming into this race. Other race favorites were this year's February Stakes (G1) winner *Success Brocken (JPN)* and able four-year-old *Espoir City (JPN)*, who had beaten both *Vermilion* and *Success Brocken* in his past starts this year.

Kane Hekili (JPN) won the inaugural run at Hanshin, which also was his second Japan Cup Dirt title since 2005 run at Tokyo Racecourse. Run over a changed distance that year, *Kane Hekili* is the race record holder over the 1,800-meter course at 1:49.2.

THE 10TH JAPAN CUP DIRT (G1):

3-year-olds & up, 1,800 meters (about 9 furlongs), dirt, right-handed

Sunday, December 6, 2009

Hanshin Racecourse

11th Race

Post Time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 277,900,000 (about US\$3,087,000 < US\$1 = ¥90 >)

Winner's prize: ¥ 130,000,000 (about US\$1,444,000 < US\$1 = ¥90 >)

3-y-o: 56 kg (about 123-124 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 57 kg (about 126 lbs),

2 kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 2kg 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	1	1	Espoir City (JPN)	C4	57.0	Gold Allure Eminent City	T. Sato A. Adachi	Yushun Horse Ikuchise Bokujo	1:49.9 (37.1)	3.1 (1)
2	6	12	Silk Mobius (JPN)	C3	56.0	Stay Gold Channel One	H. Tanaka M. Ryoke	Silk Co.Ltd Morimoto Bokujo	3-1/2 (36.9)	13.5 (5)
3	5	9	Golden Ticket (JPN)	C3	56.0	King Kamehameha Agnes Chocolat	C. Lemaire H. Mori	Shadai Race H. Shadai Farm	1-1/4 (36.9)	42.7 (12)
4	1	2	Success Brocken (JPN)	C4	57.0	Symboli Kris S Success Beauty	H. Uchida H. Fujiwara	T. Takashima T. Takashima	Neck (37.6)	9.2 (4)
5	2	3	Admire Subaru (JPN)	H6	57.0	Admire Boss Admire Yell	M. Katsuura H. Nakao	R. Kondo Tsuji Bokujo	Nose (37.3)	51.1 (13)
6	8	16	Wonder Acute (JPN)	C3	56.0	Charismatic Wonder Heritage	R. Wada M. Sato	N. Yamamoto N. Yamamoto	2-1/2 (37.9)	8.2 (3)
7	3	6	Meisho Tokon (JPN)	H7	57.0	Mayano Top Gun Lunar Sphere	S. Fujita H. Takeda	Y. Matsumoto Niikappu Hashimoto Bokujo	Nose (37.2)	32.2 (10)
8	2	4	Vermilion (JPN)	H7	57.0	El Condor Pasa Scarlet Lady	Y. Take S. Ishizaka	Sunday Racing Co. Ltd. Northern Farm	Nose (37.6)	3.7 (2)
9	3	5	Makoto Sparviero (JPN)	H5	57.0	Brian's Time Makoto Shunrei	K. Ando I. Sameshima	A. Makabe A. Makabe	Nose (38.1)	20.2 (6)
10	4	8	Daisho Jet (JPN)	H6	57.0	Cryptic Rascal Duty Echo	Y. Shibayama H. Oneda	Y. Baba Yamada Farm	3/4 (37.9)	65.3 (14)
11	5	10	Bonneville Record (JPN)	H7	57.0	Assatis Daiwa Stan	F. Matoba M. Horii	K. Shioda Y. Hamamoto	Neck (37.7)	133.7 (15)
12	4	7	Tizway*	C4	57.0	Tiznow	R. Maragh	W. Clifton Jr.	Nose	35.3

		B	(USA)			Bethany	H. J. Bond	Whisper Hill Farm	(38.1)	(11)
13	6	11	La Verita (USA)	F3	54.0	Unbridled's Song Go Classic	Y. Iwata S. Matsumoto	K. Maeda Dell Ridge Farm	Neck (37.3)	20.6 (7)
14	7	13	Suni (USA)	C3	56.0	Soto Enabru	Y. Kawada N. Yoshida	K. Yoshida Highclere Inc.	3/4 (38.0)	32.0 (9)
15	7	14	Wonder Speed (JPN)	H7	57.0	King Glorious Wonder Heritage	F. Komaki T. Hatsuki	N. Yamamoto N. Yamamoto	Neck (38.4)	25.9 (8)
16	8	15	Marubutsu Lead (JPN)	H6	57.0	Afleet Scheherazade	S. Hamanaka H. Oneda	T. Osawa Showa Yamamoto Bokujo	2-1/2 (37.7)	258.2 (16)

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

NOTE1: *=Foreign Horse

NOTE2: 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: 1:49.9

GOING: Standard

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥15,180,947,600

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥23,241,578,100

ATTENDANCE: 40,226

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.1	¥310	PLACE	No.1	¥150
BRACKET QUINELLA	1-6	¥1,020		No.12	¥390
QUINELLA	1-12	¥1,940		No.9	¥890
EXACTA	1-12	¥3,160	QUINELLA PLACE	1-12	¥870
TRIO	1-9-12	¥32,660		1-9	¥2,340
TRIFECTA	1-12-9	¥131,960		9-12	¥5,720

1. ESPOIR CITY (JPN), chestnut, colt, 4-year-old

Gold Allure / Eminent City (Brian's Time)

Breeder: Ikuchise Bokujo

Owner: Yushun Horse

Trainer: Akio Adachi

Jockey: Tetsuzo Sato

17 Starts, 9 Wins

Added money: ¥133,570,000

Career earnings: ¥390,331,000

2009 Principal Races Performances:

March Stakes (G3)

Kashiwa Kinen

Mile Championship Nambuhai

2. SILK MOBIUS (JPN), bay, colt, 3-year-old

Stay Gold / Channel One (Polish Navy)

Breeder: Morimoto Bokujo

Owner: Silk Co., Ltd.

Trainer: Masazo Ryoke

Jockey: Hiroyasu Tanaka

3. GOLDEN TICKET (JPN), dark bay or brown, colt, 3-year-old

King Kamehameha / Agnes Chocolat (Sunday Silence)

Breeder: Shadai Farm

Owner: Shadai Race H.

Trainer: Hideyuki Mori

Jockey: Christophe Lemaire

Odds-on favorite **ESPOIR CITY** extended his grade-race winning streak to four—third consecutive G1 title—winning this year's JAPAN CUP DIRT wire-to-wire. The G1 title won by the chestnut colt was the fourth G1 win for Yushun Horse, also the owner of Tap Dance City who won the 2003 Japan Cup and 2004 Takarazuka Kinen.

With several horses rallying from the break to set the pace, the field proceeded through the first corner led by **ESPOIR CITY** followed by U.S. raider **TIZWAY**. Coming into the homestretch with 2 to 3-length lead, **ESPOIR CITY** still had enough speed left in the last uphill climb to easily fend off the subsequent chargers

training—he had problems of leaning on the bit—and I think the efforts have enabled him to put his full power to use.

As for his future plans, including possible overseas endeavor—that will have to be discussed with the owners.”

Jockey: Tetsuzo Sato:

“I am glad that the efforts that have been put into this horse towards the race have led to this victory. First of all, I was focusing only to have a smooth break and a clear path. As I saw that Tizway had taken the lead on my outside, I knew that I would have the chance to replace the lead if he (Tizway) got wide around the turn—which he did. He was able to cruise comfortably until the last turn at which point I was met with my next concern—which was his habit of leaning on the bit—but his training had paid off and I am really happy. It has always been my dream to challenge overseas—my latest chance with Tap Dance City to go to the Arc had been cancelled due to injury—and meeting up with Espoir City has revived my hopes. I know Espoir City has a lot more room for improvement, and with a little more experience racing in various positions—he doesn’t necessary have to lead—I know he can be competitive in big races overseas.”