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**SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 67TH ASAHI HAI FUTURITY STAKES (G1)**



Races for two-year-olds were held for the first time in 1946 at Tokyo. As the number of contenders increased, championship races—the Asahi Hai Sansai Stakes (predecessor to the Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes) and the Hanshin Sansai Stakes (predecessor to the Hanshin Juvenile Fillies)—which determined the top two-year-olds of the season in eastern and western Japan, respectively, were established in 1949. In conjunction with the new grading system implemented, the two races were designated G1 status in 1984.

In 1991, the two races were divided by gender into two separate G1 events; the Hanshin Sansai Himba Stakes for two-year-old fillies and the Asahi Hai Sansai Stakes for two-year-old colts and geldings, then renamed “Hanshin Juvenile Fillies” and “Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes”, respectively, in 2001. Since 2004, the Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes has been limited to non-gelded colts and fillies in view of the race being positioned as the two-year-old “classics”. The race, which started off as a 1,100-meter sprint, was extended to 1,200 meters in 1959 and again to 1,600 meters in 1962. In 2010, the race was opened to foreign runners. Due to the restructured racing program for two-year-olds, the venue was transferred from Nakayama to Hanshin Racecourse, the same location as the Hanshin Juvenile Fillies, in 2014 while no changes were made in the distance.

**Air Spinel** was sent off race favorite, having come off two wins in as many starts and the latter being a G2 victory in the Daily Hai Nisai Stakes (G2, 1,600m) on November 14, while **Leontes**, half-brother to 2014 Japan Cup winner Epiphaneia, was second favorite under Mirco Demuro in only his second career start in this G1 event after breaking his maiden in his November 22 debut. **Shuji**, who finished 3-1/2 lengths second to Air Spinel in the Daily Hai Nisai Stakes, had also won a graded stakes in the Kokura Nisai Stakes (G3, 1,200m) in September. **Ball Lightning** was also undefeated in two starts and the winner of the Keio Hai Nisai Stakes (G2, 1,400m; November 7) with **Admire Morale**, the runner up by 1-1/4 length, and **Shadow Approach**, a nose behind that in third. Other notable starters included **Immortal**, runner-up in the graded Saudi Arabia Royal Cup (1,600m) on October 10.

The 2004 Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes winner, *Meiner Recolte* (JPN, by Chief Bearhart) had been the race record holder for almost a decade, having covered the mile distance at Nakayama in 1:33.4, until the race was transferred to Hanshin Racecourse in 2014. Danon Platina (JPN, by Deep Impact) won the inaugural running of the renewed version of the race last year with the finishing time of 1:35.9.

### THE 67TH ASAHI HAI FUTURITY STAKES (G1)

2-year-old Colts & Fillies, 1,600 meters (about 8 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, December 20, 2015 Hanshin Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 146,600,000 (about US\$ 1,222,000 <US\$1=¥120>)

2-y-o: 55kg (about 121 lbs), 1 kg allowance for Fillies,

3 kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2013

Safety factor: 18 runners

FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	8	15	Leontes (JPN)	C2	55.0	King Kamehameha Cesario	M. Demuro K. Sumii	U. Carrot Farm Northern Farm	1:34.4 (33.3)	5.9 (2)
2	6	11	Air Spinel (JPN)	C2	55.0	King Kamehameha Air Messiah	Y. Take K. Sasada	Lucky Field Co., Ltd. Tsunebumi Yoshihara	3/4 (34.0)	1.5 (1)
3	7	13	Shadow Approach (JPN)	C2	55.0	Jungle Pocket Maruka Aichan	Y. Nakatani N. Sugai	Tomokazu Iizuka Shadai Farm	4 (34.7)	91.6 (11)
4	3	6	Yu Change (JPN)	C2	55.0	Swift Current Yu Carat	Y. Kawada H. Mori	K. Aitetsu Aitetsu Co. Ltd.	Neck (34.6)	85.9 (10)
5	6	12	Shuji (JPN)	C2	55.0	Kinshasa no Kiseki Kastria	Y. Iwata K. Hashiguchi	Koji Yasuhara Hamamoto Bokujo	Nose (34.8)	9.1 (3)
6	4	8	Two M Legend (JPN)	C2	55.0	French Deputy Princess Eve	K. Dazai K. Ikezoe	Masateru Mizutani Okada Bokujo	Neck (34.4)	167.9 (13)
7	5	10	Taisei Summit (JPN)	C2	55.0	Daiwa Major Vinedresser	A. Atzeni Y. Yahagi	Seiho Tanaka Shadai Farm	Nose (34.3)	43.8 (8)
8	2	3	Admire Morale	C2	55.0	Kinshasa no Kiseki	H. Tanabe	Riichi Kondo	1/2	54.0

			(JPN)			Katsura Driver	H. Uehara	Northern Farm	(35.2)	(9)
9	4	7	Immortal (JPN)	C2	55.0	Manhattan Cafe Shoah	K. Take N. Sugai	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	Neck (34.6)	14.6 (5)
10	2	4	Copano Deal (JPN)	F2	54.0	Empire Maker Risky Deal	F. Komaki H. Sakiyama	Sachiaki Kobayashi Ichikawa Bokujo	Neck (34.4)	247.2 (14)
11	5	9	Ball Lightning (JPN)	C2	55.0	Daiwa Major Definite	M. Ebina H. Miyamoto	Green Farm Nasuno Bokujo	2 (35.4)	13.8 (4)
12	7	14	Hallelujah Boy (JPN)	C2	55.0	Tosen Phantom Tosen Minerva	S. Hamanaka Y. Tamura	Takaya Shimakawa Takaya Shimakawa	1-1/4 (35.2)	39.5 (7)
13	8	16	Thrilla in Manila (JPN)	C2	55.0	Kinshasa no Kiseki Nights End	R. Wada R. Takei	Shinichi Koga Hideyuki Soda	1-1/2 (35.3)	284.7 (15)
14	1	2	Shonan Rise (JPN)	C2	55.0	Daiwa Major Go Carolina	K. Ikezoe H. Uehara	Tetsuhide Kunimoto Shimokobe Farm	2-1/2 (36.5)	18.5 (6)
15	1	1	Saimon Seele (JPN)	C2	55.0	Kinshasa no Kiseki Pole Position	H. Miyuki T. Umeda	Akinori Sawada Mishima Bokujo	1-1/4 (36.1)	312.0 (16)
16	3	5	Win Oscar (JPN)	C2	55.0	Screen Hero Glory Sandy	K. Matsuyama Y. Iida	Win Co., Ltd. Nakamoto Bokujo	1/2 (36.9)	118.4 (12)

FP=Final Position / BK=Bracket Number / PP=Post Position / Wgt=Weight / L3F=Time of Last 3 Furlongs (600m)

NOTE 1: No foreign contenders

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: 1:34.4

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 14,079,773,200

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 22,507,799,300

ATTENDANCE: 29,891

#### PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.15	¥590	BRACKET QUINELLA	6-8	¥460	QUINELLA	11-15	¥520
PLACE	No.15	¥180	QUINELLA PLACE	11-15	¥260	EXACTA	15-11	¥1,340
	No.11	¥110		13-15	¥5,170	TRIO	11-13-15	¥8,160
	No.13	¥780		11-13	¥1,610	TRIFECTA	15-11-13	¥38,560

#### 1. Leontes (JPN), dark bay or brown, colt, 2-year-old

King Kamehameha / Cesario (Special Week)

Owner: U. Carrot Farm Breeder: Northern Farm

Trainer: Katsuhiko Sumii Jockey: Mirco Demuro

2 Starts, 2 Wins

Added money: ¥ 71,162,000 Career earnings: ¥ 78,162,000

#### 2. Air Spinel (JPN), chestnut, colt, 2-year-old

King Kamehameha / Air Messiah (Sunday Silence)

Owner: Lucky Field Co., Ltd. Breeder: Tsunebumi Yoshihara

Trainer: Kazuhide Sasada Jockey: Yutaka Take

#### 3. Shadow Approach (JPN), chestnut, colt, 2-year-old

Jungle Pocket / Maruka Aichan (French Deputy)

Owner: Tomokazu Iizuka Breeder: Shadai Farm

Trainer: Naosuke Sugai Jockey: Yuta Nakatani

#### Leontes Claims Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes in Second Career Start

Second choice **Leontes** won the biggest title for the season's two-year-olds in only his second career start—he is the first colt in JRA history to accomplish the feat since the grade system was implemented in 1984. Out of Cesario, a G1 Oaks winner in Japan and the U.S., and half-brother to 2014 Japan Cup winner Epiphaneia, the King Kamehameha colt certainly lived up to expectations in his 2,000-meter debut against other two-year-olds with superb pedigrees four weeks back where he was forwardly positioned around sixth before drawing away to a 1-1/2

length victory and he did not disappoint in his leap in class against proven two-year-olds, giving trainer Katsuhiko Sumii and jockey Mirco Demuro, who had teamed up to win the Champions Cup with Sambista just two weeks ago another big title. **Leontes'** win this time marked the 23rd JRA-G1 victory—the first Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes title—for Sumii and the 14th for Demuro including two in this race in 2010 and 2012 with Grand Prix Boss and Logotype, respectively.

**Leontes** was positioned this time at the rear end of the 16-horse field after breaking from stall 15 and gradually made headway with 800 meters to go and approaching the last corner. Circling the whole field and wide into the homestretch, the dark bay colt unleashed a tremendous turn of speed that enabled him to mow down the whole field and pin down race favorite **Air Spinel** soon after the 100-meter marker then pull away to a 3/4-length victory.

“I had been told that this colt was powerful and he certainly showed that when I rode him in training on Wednesday—he was pretty keen but smart and an honest colt. It was his first time over a mile but he responded and really stretched well on the outside. He’s got a lot to look forward to in his three-year-old season. This really has been a great year for me to have won four G1 wins,” said Mirco Demuro in Japanese.

**Air Spinel** was rated in mid-division outside a rival, almost ten lengths behind pace-setter **Win Oscar**, edged closer to the leaders before the last turn, sprinted clear once taking command before the furlong pole and opened the gap before challenged and overtaken by the winner.

**Shadow Approach** kept a close watch on **Air Spinel** from early in the race, rated a few lengths behind the favorite in mid-field and while unable to make a sharp change of speed once entering the straight, maintained a strong pace that was unable to match the top two finishers but bested the rest of the field.

Other Horses:

- 4th: (6) **Yu Change**—raced in 6th, found little room at top of stretch, switched to right, ran willingly
- 5th: (12) **Shuji**—took keen hold early, chased leaders in 4th, quickened between leaders, outrun in final strides
- 6th: (8) **Two M Legend**—saved ground in mid-division, showed effort along rails at stretch
- 7th: (10) **Taisei Summit**—broke poorly, raced in rear group, met traffic 200m out, lost momentum
- 8th: (3) **Admire Morale**—stalked leader in 2nd or 3rd, ran gamely until 100m out
- 9th: (7) **Immortal**—traveled behind favorite, passed tired rivals at straight
- 10th: (4) **Copano Deal**—ran near rear along rail, quickened after final turn, met traffic 100m out
- 11th: (9) **Ball Lightning**—raced wide in 6th, advanced after 3rd corner, lacked needed kick
- 12th: (14) **Hallelujah Boy**—traveled in mid-pack, even paced at stretch
- 13th: (16) **Thrilla in Manila**—sat 3-wide toward rear, unable to reach contention
- 14th: (2) **Shonan Rise**—chased leader in 2nd or 3rd, sustained bid until 300m out
- 15th: (1) **Saimon Seele**—hugged rail in 5th early, showed little at stretch
- 16th: (5) **Win Oscar**—set pace, faded after 300m marker

Fractional Time (sec./furlong): 12.5 - 10.8 - 11.4 - 12.6 - 12.7 - 11.9 - 10.8 - 11.7  
 Last 4 furlongs: 47.1      Last 3 furlongs: 34.4

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

**NOTE 1: Underlined bold number** indicates the winning horse.

**NOTE 2:** 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.