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SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 46TH TAKAMATSUNOMIYA KINEN (G1)



The Takamatsunomiya Kinen, one of two G1 championship events for sprinters held by the JRA, was formerly named Takamatsunomiya Cup in honor of Prince Takamatsunomiya who presented the trophy to the winner in 1971. In 1996, the race was shortened from 2,000 meters to 1,200 meters and granted a Japanese Grade 1 status, thus becoming one of JRA's two prominent short-distance races together with the Sprinters Stakes (G1, 1,200m), which became an international event in 1994.

The Takamatsunomiya Kinen, which received its current name in 1998, was designated an international race in 2001, welcomed its first two foreign participants—*Disturbingthepeace* (13th) and *Echo Eddie* (17th)—from the U.S. in 2003 and became part of the Global Sprint Challenge, the international championship series for sprinters, in 2011. The first of 20 flat turf G1 events held annually, the Takamatsunomiya Kinen was temporarily shifted to Hanshin Racecourse in 2011 and was contested over the newly renovated track back at Chukyo in the following year with added challenges of an uphill stretch and a longer homestretch exceeding 400 meters.

Aerovelocity (NZ, by Pins), who had claimed last year's race as the first foreign participant in 12 years, returned this year to defend his title but, unfortunately, withdrew from the race six days ago due to colic.

This year's contestants coming off the Hankyu Hai (G3, 1,400m) in Feb. 28 were: winner **Mikki Isle** who was third in last year's Takamatsunomiya Kinen; and sixth-place finisher and the 2015 Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas, G1, 1,600m) champion **Let's Go Donki**. Those coming from the Ocean Stakes (G3, 1,200m) in Mar. 5 were: **A Shin Bullseye** who claimed his first grade-race title in the race; runner-up **Hakusan Moon** who was also second in last year's Takamatsunomiya Kinen; third-place finisher and 2014 Best Sprinter or Miler **Snow Dragon**; and fifth-place **Albiano** who had claimed last year's Swan Stakes (G2, 1,400m). Other participants were: last year's Keihan Hai (G3, 1,200m) winner **Satono Lupin**; last year's Sprinters Stakes runner-up **Sakura Gospel**; and **Big Arthur** with six wins and two runner-up efforts in nine starts over 1,200m under his belt.

THE 46TH TAKAMATSUNOMIYA KINEN (G1) —the 3rd leg of Global Sprint Challenge—

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

Sunday, March 27, 2016 Chukyo Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 212,280,000 (about US\$ 1,769,000 <US\$1=¥120>)

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

2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 1kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2012

Safety factor: 18 runners



FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	2	4	Big Arthur (JPN)	H5	57.0	Sakura Bakushin O Siyabona	Y. Fukunaga K. Fujioka	Akira Nakatsuji Bamboo Stud	1:06.7 (33.4)	3.9 (1)
2	3	6	Mikki Isle (JPN)	H5	57.0	Deep Impact Star Isle	K. Matsuyama H. Otonashi	Mizuki Noda Northern Racing	3/4 (33.8)	3.9 (2)
3	4	8	Albiano (USA)	F4	55.0	Harlan's Holiday Antics	C. Lemaire T. Kimura	Kazumi Yoshida Helen Alexander & Helen Groves Rev Trust	1-3/4 (33.4)	5.1 (3)
4	5	10	Active Minoru (JPN)	C4	57.0	Statue of Liberty Piena Amazon	K. Fujioka Y. Kitade	Minoru Yoshioka Fujiwara Farm	Head (33.6)	165.9 (16)
5	7	13	A Shin Bullseye (USA)	H5	57.0	Belgravia Miss Fear Factor	S. Ishibashi K. Nonaka	Eishindo Co., Ltd. Elijah Bailey	3/4 (33.3)	9.4 (5)
6	5	9	Teehaff (JPN)	H6	57.0	Storming Home Birjand	K. Ikezoe K. Nishiura	HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Darley Japan K. K	Neck (33.3)	95.4 (14)
7	3	5	Snow Dragon (JPN)	H8	57.0	Admire Cozzene Meine Caprice	T. Ono N. Takagi	Makio Okada Meiwa Iwami Bokujo	Head (33.7)	14.9 (6)
8	6	11	Let's Go Donki (JPN)	F4	55.0	King Kamehameha Marutoku	Y. Iwata T. Umeda	Hirosaki Toshihiro HD Co., Ltd. Shimizu Bokujo	1/2 (33.4)	31.2 (10)
9	6	12	Uliuli (JPN)	M6	55.0	Deep Impact Wikiwiki	K. Tosaki H. Fujiwara	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc.	Nose (33.7)	7.9 (4)

10	7	14	Earth Sonic (JPN)	H7	57.0	Kurofune Diamond Pierce	D. Vargiu K. Nakatake	Koji Maeda Niikappu Ito Bokujo	Nose (33.5)	198.9 (17)
11	8	18	Hakusan Moon (JPN)	H7	57.0	Admire Moon Ciliege	M. Sakai M. Nishizono	Goichi Kawasaki Shirai Stud Farm	1/2 (34.7)	20.0 (7)
12	8	17 B	Hiruno Devaro (JPN)	H5	57.0	Manhattan Cafe Deck	K. Dazai M. Kon	Hiruno Co., Ltd. Kamii Stud	Neck (33.7)	97.7 (15)
13	1	2	Ukiyono Kaze (JPN)	M6	55.0	On Fire Admire Dash	H. Shii T. Kikuzawa	Jun Kokubu Jun Kokubu	1/2 (33.1)	42.5 (12)
14	1	1 B	Bravissimo (JPN)	C4	57.0	Fastnet Rock May Kiersey	N. Yokoyama N. Sugai	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm	Neck (34.1)	39.7 (11)
15	8	16	Sugino Endeavour (JPN)	H8	57.0	Sakura Bakushin O Shining Pierce	K. Sameshima H. Asami	Tadakuni Sugiyama Mie Sugiyama	Neck (33.6)	345.5 (18)
16	7	15	Laurel Veloce (JPN)	H5	57.0	Sakura Bakushin O Halo Fuji	Y. Nakai Y. Iida	Laurel Racing Co., Ltd. Kyowa Farm Co., Ltd.	1/2 (35.2)	27.9 (9)
17	2	3	Sakura Gospel (JPN)	H8	57.0	Sakura President Sakura Blues	M. Katsuura T. Ozeki	Sakura Commers Sakura Commerce Co., Ltd.	1-1/2 (34.7)	92.1 (13)
18	4	7	Satono Lupin (JPN)	H5	57.0	Deep Impact Erimo Pixy	R. Wada A. Murayama	Hajime Satomi Excel Management	Neck (34.8)	26.5 (8)

FP=Final Position / **BK**=Bracket Number / **PP**=Post Position / **B**=Blinker / **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: 1:06.7 (course record) GOING: Firm
 TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 12,483,442,300
 TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 18,075,644,700

WEATHER: Cloudy

ATTENDANCE: 31,251

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.4	¥390	BRACKET QUINELLA	2-3	¥680	QUINELLA	4-6	¥890
PLACE	No.4	¥150	QUINELLA PLACE	4-6	¥370	EXACTA	4-6	¥1,730
	No.6	¥150		4-8	¥450	TRIO	4-6-8	¥1,740
	No.8	¥170		6-8	¥520	TRIFECTA	4-6-8	¥6,690

1. **Big Arthur (JPN)**, bay, horse, 5-year-old

Sakura Bakushin O / Siyabona (Kingmambo)

Owner: Akira Nakatsuji

Breeder: Bamboo Stud

Trainer: Kenichi Fujioka

Jockey: Yuichi Fukunaga

11 Starts, 7 Wins

Added money: ¥ 101,822,000

Career earnings: ¥ 239,887,000

2. **Mikki Isle (JPN)**, bay, horse, 5-year-old

Deep Impact / Star Isle (Rock of Gibraltar)

Owner: Mizuki Noda

Breeder: Northern Racing

Trainer: Hidetaka Otonashi

Jockey: Kohei Matsuyama

3. **Albiano (USA)**, bay, filly, 4-year-old

Harlan's Holiday / Antics (Unbridled)

Owner: Kazumi Yoshida

Breeder: Helen Alexander & Helen Groves Rev Trust

Trainer: Tetsuya Kimura

Jockey: Christophe Lemaire

Race Favorite Big Arthur Captures First Grade-race Title in the G1 Takamatsunomiya Kinen

Odds-on-favorite **Big Arthur**, who has been posted race favorite in ten out of 11 career starts, measured up to the expectation of the fans by claiming his first grade-race title in his first G1 challenge with record time. He has marked seven wins and two runner-up efforts in ten starts over 1,200 meters so far. Debuting in April of his three-year-old season, **Big Arthur** immediately marked a five-race winning streak then finished second in his first grade-race challenge, the Kitakyushu Kinen (G3, 1,200m) in August last year. He claimed another win then a

second and a third in the following Keihan Hai (G3, 1,200m) and Hanshin Cup (G2, 1,400m), respectively, before concluding his four-year-old season. He was fifth in the Silk Road Stakes (G3, 1,200m), his only race this year coming into this race. Trainer Kenichi Fujioka claimed his first JRA-G1 title and ninth grade-race win since opening his stable in 2002. Yuichi Fukunaga, who partnered with **Big Arthur** for the first time, marked his 19th JRA-G1 win following his Tenno Sho (Autumn) victory with *Just a Way* in 2013 and his second Takamatsunomiya Kinen title, which he won with *Sunningdale* in 2004.

Five-year-old **Big Arthur** broke smoothly from stall four and settled fourth behind the fast pace set by **Laurel Veloce** with **Hakusan Moon** and **Mikki Isle** in close pursuit. Turning wide through the corners, the son of *Sakura Bakushin O* burst out behind **Mikki Isle** who nailed the front around the 200-meter pole, and continued to unleash a strong burst of speed to overtake the lead 100 meters out then further accelerated to cross the wire 3/4 length in front.

“With the fast-pace track condition, we were able to break well and travel smoothly in perfect position. The frontrunners were persistent but my mount managed to fend them off. The horse has the form of a great sprinter and can also maintain speed. He will definitely be leading the sprinters going forward,” commented Yuichi Fukunaga.

Second pick **Mikki Isle** settled in good position behind the two frontrunners and slipped out at the top of the homestretch to nail the front in revenge of his third-place finish last year, but weakened in the last 100 meters to finish second.

Third favorite **Albiano** traveled wide in mid-division and, although crowded in at the top of the stretch, Christophe Lemaire skillfully guided his mount through a narrow gap, under which the four-year-old filly exerted a powerful kick in the last furlong, chasing the two leaders and holding off the strong challenge by **Active Minoru** before the wire to finish third.

Other Horses:

4th: (10) **Active Minoru**—chased winner in 7th, switched to outside for clear path at early stretch, quickened

5th: (13) **A Shin Bullseye**—sat toward rear, responded well after 200m pole, finished strongly

6th: (9) **Teehaff**—saved ground in 2nd from rear, quickened along rails in last 200m

7th: (5) **Snow Dragon**—raced in mid-group, showed effort until 100m out

8th: (11) **Let's Go Donki**—positioned toward rear, met traffic at furlong pole, then accelerated

9th: (12) **Uliuli**—traveled in mid-pack, quickened until 100m out, lacked needed kick

10th: (14) **Earth Sonic**—ran wide in mid division, improved position at straight

11th: (18) **Hakusan Moon**—pressed pace in 2nd, sustained bid until 200m out, weakened

12th: (17) **Hiruno Devaro**—traveled wide in mid-pack, passed tired rivals at straight

13th: (2) **Ukiyono Kaze**—trailed in rear, timed fastest over last 3 furlongs, was too late

14th: (1) **Bravissimo**—hugged rail in mid-division, found little room 200m out, lost momentum

15th: (16) **Sugino Endeavour**—ran 3rd from last, even paced at stretch

16th: (15) **Laurel Veloce**—set fast pace, sustained bid until 200m out, used up

17th: (3) **Sakura Gospel**—raced inside winner in 5th, met traffic 300m out, then outrun

18th: (7) **Satono Lupin**—stalked winner in 6th, dropped back after passing 200m marker

Fractional Time (sec./furlong): 11.7 - 10.1 - 10.9 - 10.8 - 11.1 - 12.1
Last 4 furlongs: 44.9 Last 3 furlongs: 34.0

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

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.