

FROM: Yoshiyasu Honda

General Manager, Media & Publicity Department, THE JAPAN RACING ASSOCIATION (JRA)

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SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 50TH 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 G1 sprint race in 1990 with the date of fixture also shifted to the latter part of the season. The race now positions itself as the highest mark for sprinters together with the Takamatsunomiya Kinen (G1, 1,200m) held in spring. As one of the first few races to open its doors to foreign entries, the race became part of the Global Sprint Challenge in 2005 and joined the Breeders' Cup Challenge Series this year, enabling its winners to earn automatic starting position and other benefits in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1, 1,300m).

Silent Witness (AUS, by *El Moxie*) from Hong Kong played the starring role in its inaugural year in 2005 while Australia's *Takeover Target* (AUS, by *Celtic Swing*) won the 2006 Sprinters Stakes, coming off a runner-up effort in the previous Centaur Stakes (G2, 1,200m), and ultimately earned the Global Sprint Challenge Champion title. Native Hong Kong trainer Poon Fai Yiu and jockey Hoi Wing Lai claimed the 2010 Sprinters Stakes title with *Ultra Fantasy* (AUS, by *Encosta de Lago*) who gave a tenacious performance to fend off some of the best G1 sprinters that were among the 16-horse field, and the race has continued to enjoy the company of some of the top sprinters from overseas in recent years. Hong Kong's *Rich Tapestry* (IRE, by *Holy Roman Emperor*) showed a sixth-place effort in last year's event however, there were no foreign contenders in the field this year. *Straight Girl* (JPN, by *Fuji Kiseki*), who claimed the title last year, went on to capture her second consecutive victory in the Victoria Mile (G1, 1,600m) in May before capping off her career in August.

This year's line-up featured **Big Arthur** who marked a wire-to-wire victory in the September 11 Centaur Stakes (G2, 1,200m) after landing his first G1 title in the Takamatsunomiya Kinen in March. Other runners coming off graded victories were; the CBC Sho (Jul. 3; G3, 1,200m) winner **Red Falx**; the Ibis Summer Dash (Jul. 31; G3, 1,000m) and 2016 Summer Sprint Series champion **Bel Canto**; and the Keeneland Cup (Aug. 28; G3, 1,200m) winner **Blanc Bonheur**, as where the 2015 Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas, G1, 1,600m) champion **Let's Go Donki** and the Hakodate Sprint Stakes (Jun. 19; G3, 1,200m) victor **Solveig** also finished third and fourth, respectively. The race also saw the participation of last year's runner-up **Sakura Gospel**, and **Mikki Isle** who hadn't raced since finishing second in the Takamatsunomiya Kinen earlier this year.

The race record of 1:06.7 was set by *Lord Kanaloa* (JPN, by *King Kamehameha*) in the first of his consecutive victories in this race in 2012 and 2013.

THE 50TH SPRINTERS STAKES (G1) -the 8th leg of the Global Sprint Challenge-

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

Sunday, October 2, 2016

Nakayama Racecourse

11th Race

Post time: 15:40

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

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-bred born in 2013

Safety factor: 16 runners



FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	7	13	Red Falx (JPN)	H5	57.0	Swept Overboard Vermouth	M. Demuro T. Ozeki	TokyoHorseRacing Co.,Ltd Shadai Farm	1:07.6 (33.5)	9.2 (3)
2	8	15	Mikki Isle (JPN)	H5	57.0	Deep Impact Star Isle	K. Matsuyama H. Otonashi	Mizuki Noda Northern Racing	Head (34.2)	8.2 (2)
3	2	4	Solveig (JPN)	F3	53.0	Daiwa Major As de Coeur	H. Tanabe I. Sameshima	G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm	Neck (34.0)	27.1 (9)
4	3	5	Shuji (JPN)	C3	55.0	Kinshasa no Kiseki Kastria	Y. Kawada N. Sugai	Koji Yasuhara Hamamoto Bokujo	Neck (34.1)	13.6 (5)
5	4	7	Snow Dragon (JPN)	H8	57.0	Admire Cozzene Meine Caprice	T. Ono N. Takagi	Makio Okada Meiwa Iwami Bokujo	Nose (33.4)	37.9 (12)
6	8	16	Nero (JPN)	H5	57.0	Johannesburg Nishino Takarazuka	H. Uchida H. Mori	Shigeyuki Nishiyama Nishiyama Stud	Head (34.1)	25.1 (8)
7	5	9	Satono Lupin (JPN)	H5	57.0	Deep Impact Erimo Pixy	R. Wada A. Murayama	Hajime Satomi Excel Management	Neck (34.0)	97.3 (14)
8	2	3	Teehaff (JPN)	H6	57.0	Storming Home Birjand	K. Ikezoe K. Nishiura	HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Darley Japan K. K	Nose (33.3)	105.6 (16)

9	6	12	Let's Go Donki (JPN)	F4	55.0	King Kamehameha Marutoku	Y. Iwata T. Umeda	Hirosaki Toshihiro HD Co., Ltd. Shimizu Bokujo	Neck (32.9)	19.7 (7)
10	3	6	Bel Canto (JPN)	M5	55.0	Sakura Bakushin O Celebrar	M. Ebina K. Tsunoda	North Hills Co., Ltd. Tadayoshi Doi	Neck (33.9)	37.8 (11)
11	1	2	Blanc Bonheur (JPN)	F3	53.0	Deep Impact Le Sucre	Y. Take K. Nakatake	Yoko Maeda North Hills Co., Ltd.	Neck (33.9)	14.0 (6)
12	1	1	Big Arthur (JPN)	H5	57.0	Sakura Bakushin O Siyabona	Y. Fukunaga K. Fujioka	Akira Nakatsuji Bamboo Stud	1/2 (34.2)	1.8 (1)
13	7	14	Uliuli (JPN)	M6	55.0	Deep Impact Wikiwiki	K. Tosaki H. Fujiwara	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc.	Head (33.1)	29.8 (10)
14	5	10	Red Arion (JPN)	H6	57.0	Agnes Tachyon Erimo Pixy	H. Kawasu S. Hashiguchi	TokyoHorseRacing Co.,Ltd Excel Management	Neck (33.4)	102.5 (15)
15	6	11	Dance Director (JPN)	H6	57.0	Aldebaran Mother Leaf	S. Hamanaka K. Sasada	Suzuko Ota Fujiwara Breeding Stud	Head (33.4)	10.9 (4)
16	4	8	Sakura Gospel (JPN)	H8	57.0	Sakura President Sakura Blues	N. Yokoyama T. Ozeki	Sakura Commers Sakura Commerce Co., Ltd.	1-1/4 (33.9)	92.8 (13)

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: 1:07.6

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 12,664,093,600

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 21,351,484,100

ATTENDANCE: 37,383

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.13	¥920	BRACKET QUINELLA	7-8	¥2,000	QUINELLA	13-15	¥4,490
PLACE	No.13	¥380	QUINELLA PLACE	13-15	¥1,470	EXACTA	13-15	¥8,240
	No.15	¥290		4-13	¥3,470	TRIO	4-13-15	¥42,230
	No.4	¥740		4-15	¥3,450	TRIFECTA	13-15-4	¥180,060

1. Red Falx (JPN), gray, horse, 5-year-old

Swept Overboard / Vermouth (Sunday Silence)

Owner: TokyoHorseRacing Co., Ltd Breeder: Shadai Farm

Trainer: Tomohito Ozeki Jockey: Mirco Demuro

18 Starts, 8 Wins

Added money: ¥ 101,360,000 Career earnings: ¥ 245,718,000

Principal Race Performances: '16 CBC Sho (G3, 1,200m) 1st

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. Solveig (JPN), chestnut, filly, 3-year-old

Daiwa Major / As de Coeur (Jungle Pocket)

Owner: G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Breeder: Shadai Farm

Trainer: Ippo Sameshima Jockey: Hironobu Tanabe

Red Falx Bests Top Class Sprinters in Sprinters Stakes

Third favorite **Red Falx** claimed this year's Sprinters Stakes, topping the best short-distance runners to become the autumn champion sprinter. After accumulating wins in races between 1,200 to 1,400m over both turf and dirt, the versatile five-year-old gray landed his first graded win in his latest start, the CBC Sho (G3, turf, 1,200m) in July after running on dirt in all of his other four starts of this season. After registering a second with **Sakura Gospel** in last year's Sprinters Stakes, trainer Tomohito Ozeki celebrates his first JRA-G1 victory after landing a total of eight graded wins since opening his yard in 2009. This win is Jockey Mirco Demuro's third with the horse, in as many

starts, and is also his 17th JRA-G1 title since his Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas) victory in April.

Led by **Mikki Isle**, **Solveig** and **Shuji**, Demuro settled **Red Falx** in mid-field down the backstretch and steadily pushed the gray up to improve position rounding the final turns. Hitting the top of the stretch with nearly half of the field still in front to beat, the son of Swept Overboard struggled heavily to gain ground but found an amazing second gear in the last half-furlong to overtake the stubborn leaders, and eventually the frontrunner **Mikki Isle** at the wire, for a close head win.

“The horse was very relaxed today. We broke from a wide stall and since he doesn’t respond that well, we launched our bid early—from the third corner—and after that he just stretched well. I’ve won all three races I’ve ever been on him which makes us a terrific team. When I first rode him at Chukyo in 2014, I never imagined he would develop the way he has. He was really tough today,” commented Mirco Demuro.

In his second Sprinters Stakes challenge and after a six-month break since his last start in the Takamatsunomiya Kinen where he finished second, second favorite **Mikki Isle** sprinted well from the second farthest stall and set the pace by a length or two at one point, leading the field of 16 to the finish line only to be caught by the fast closing **Red Falx** at the wire for the runner-up seat.

Three-year-old **Solveig** broke well and briefly fought for the lead with **Mikki Isle** but was then reserved a length behind the leader on the rails with **Shuji** beside her. While the two chased the leader down the straight side-by-side, **Solveig** managed to outduel **Shuji** and also **Nero**, who gained on them from the outside, in the final strides but was tagged by the winner to finish third.

Big Arthur, winner of the Takamatsunomiya Kinen and the Centaur Stakes, was off a bit slow from stall one, sitting off the pace in fifth to sixth. Unable to make headway making the final turns, the race favorite was trapped behind horses, unable to find room for his reputable stretch run and finally lost momentum 100 meters out, finishing a dismal 12th.

Other Horses:

4th: (5) **Shuji**—sat around 3rd, sustained bid until 100m out, weakened thereafter

5th: (7) **Snow Dragon**—chased winner in 10th, turned wide and accelerated at stretch, best stride late

6th: (16) **Nero**—advanced to 3rd or 4th from widest stall, sustained bid but weakened in last 100m

7th: (9) **Satono Lupin**—traveled in 6th, turned final corner in good striking position, weakened in last 100m

8th: (3) **Teehaff**—settled around 11th along rails, switched to stand side at early stretch, showed effort

9th: (12) **Let’s Go Donki**—saved ground 2nd from rear along rails, showed belated charge and timed fastest over last 3 furlongs

10th: (6) **Bel Canto**—ran inside winner, failed to find clear path at stretch, even paced

11th: (2) **Blanc Bonheur**—hugged rails around 8th, checked after passing 200m marker

13th: (14) **Uliuli**—trailed in rear, quickened at stretch to pass rivals

14th: (10) **Red Arion**—positioned 3rd from rear, unable to reach contention

15th: (11) **Dance Director**—raced wide 4th from rear, entered last into lane, never a threat

16th: (8) **Sakura Gospel**—traveled wide around 11th, no factor at stretch

Fractional Time (sec./furlong): 11.8 - 10.5 - 11.1 - 11.2 - 11.2 - 11.8

Last 4 furlongs: 45.3 Last 3 furlongs: 34.2

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

 4th corner 15(5,16)4(1,9)**13**(2,6)7,3,8(12,10)11,14

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.