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**SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 58TH TAKARAZUKA KINEN (G1)**



The Takarazuka Kinen, established in 1960, opened its doors to foreign-trained horses in 1997 and became the first international grade-one race designated by the International Cataloguing Standards Committee (ICSC) held in western Japan in 2001. It is a Grand Prix (all-star) race, along with the year-end Arima Kinen (G1, 2,500m), in which racing fans select the runners from all distances by votes, and the last G1 race of the spring season to determine the seasonal champion. The race has not had any runners from overseas ever since the Australian-trained *Seto Stayer* (AUS, by *Bellotto*; 9th) took part in the race in 1997 as the first foreign participant. Meanwhile, the Takarazuka Kinen joined the Breeders' Cup Challenge Series in 2011, enabling its winners to earn automatic starting position in the Breeders' Cup Turf (G1, 2,400m).

This year's contenders among the top ten horses with the most votes were: **Kitasan Black** (1st) who came off a two-race winning streak in the Osaka Hai (G1, 2,000m) on April 2 and the Tenno Sho (Spring) (G1, 3,200m) on April 30; **Cheval Grand** (3rd) coming off a 1-1/4-length runner-up effort in the Tenno Sho (Spring); **Gold Actor** (5th) who aspired to claim his second G1 title since the 2015 Arima Kinen; 2015 Best Three-Year-Old Filly **Mikki Queen** (6th) who aimed to become the fourth mare to capture the title following last year's *Marialite* (JPN, by *Deep Impact*); and **Satono Crown** (8th) aiming to mark his second G1 title following last year's Hong Kong Vase (G1, 2,400m).

Horses that were ranked among the top ten but avoided the race were: Satono Diamond (2nd: JPN, C4, by Deep Impact), Makahiki (4th: JPN, C4, by Deep Impact), Dee Majesty (7th: JPN, C4, by Deep Impact), Vivlos (9th: JPN, F4, by Deep Impact) and Sounds of Earth (10th: JPN, H6, by Neo Universe).

Other contenders that were not ranked among the top ten were; **Rainbow Line** (16th), runner-up in last year's Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger, G1, 3,000m); **Sciacchetta** (18th), winner of the Nikkei Sho (G2, 2,500m) in March; **Mikki Rocket** (26th), the Nikkei Shinshun Hai (G2, 2,400m) victor in January; and **Hit the Target** (55th) who renewed his record of consecutive grade-race starts to 36.

The race record of 2:10.1 was set by *Earnestly* (JPN, by *Grass Wonder*) in 2011.

**THE 58TH TAKARAZUKA KINEN (G1)**

3-year-old & up, 2,200 meters (about 11 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, June 25, 2017 Hanshin Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 325,000,000 (about US\$ 2,826,000 <US\$1=¥115>)

3-y-o: 53kg (about 117 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 58kg (about 128 lbs), 2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares,

1kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2013,

3kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2014

Safety factor: 18 runners

FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	8	11	Satono Crown (JPN)	H5	58.0	Marju Jioconda	M. Demuro N. Hori	Hajime Satomi Northern Racing	2:11.4 (35.4)	9.0 (3)
2	2	2	Gold Actor (JPN)	H6	58.0	Screen Hero Heilong Xing	N. Yokoyama T. Nakagawa	Hisayo Ishiro Hokusho Farm	3/4 (35.4)	12.7 (5)
3	7	8	Mikki Queen (JPN)	M5	56.0	Deep Impact Musical Way	S. Hamanaka Y. Ikee	Mizuki Noda Northern Farm	1-1/2 (35.5)	10.4 (4)
4	6	6	Sciacchetta (JPN)	C4	58.0	Manhattan Cafe Samaaha	C. Lemaire K. Sumii	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	1-3/4 (36.2)	8.5 (2)
5	6	7	Rainbow Line (JPN)	C4	58.0	Stay Gold Regenbogen	Y. Iwata H. Asami	Masahiro Mita Northern Racing	1-3/4 (36.3)	23.8 (7)
6	1	1	Mikki Rocket (JPN)	C4	58.0	King Kamehameha Moneycantbuymelove	R. Wada H. Otonashi	Mizuki Noda Northern Racing	Head (36.4)	32.5 (8)
7	3	3	Spirits Minoru (JPN)	H5	58.0	Deep Sky Basel Clover	H. Miyuki M. Honda	Minoru Yoshioka Fujiwara Farm	1-3/4 (36.7)	110.5 (9)

8	5	5	Cheval Grand (JPN)	H5	58.0	Heart's Cry Halwa Sweet	Y. Fukunaga Y. Tomomichi	Kazuhiro Sasaki Northern Racing	Nose (36.9)	12.7 (6)
9	8	10	Kitasan Black (JPN)	H5	58.0	Black Tide Sugar Heart	Y. Take H. Shimizu	Ono Shoji Yanagawa Bokujo	1/2 (36.9)	1.4 (1)
10	4	4	Clarity City (JPN)	H6	58.0	King Kamehameha Taiki Clarity	K. Matsuyama H. Uehara	Yushun Horse Taiki Clarity Partnership	1-1/4 (37.1)	188.5 (11)
11	7	9 B	Hit the Target (JPN)	H9	58.0	King Kamehameha Latir	Y. Kawada K. Kato	Shinji Maeda North Hills Management	1-3/4 (36.4)	167.1 (10)

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: 2:11.4

GOING: Good

WEATHER: Cloudy

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 21,145,791,200

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 29,855,207,200

ATTENDANCE: 53,746

#### PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.11	¥900	BRACKET QUINELLA	2-8	¥710	QUINELLA	2-11	¥5,250
PLACE	No.11	¥480	QUINELLA PLACE	2-11	¥1,500	EXACTA	11-2	¥10,330
	No.2	¥550		8-11	¥1,170	TRIO	2-8-11	¥10,670
	No.8	¥450		2-8	¥1,060	TRIFECTA	11-2-8	¥70,420

#### 1. **Satono Crown (JPN)**, dark bay or brown, horse, 5-year-old

Marju / Jioconda (Rossini)

Owner: Hajime Satomi

Breeder: Northern Racing

Trainer: Noriyuki Horii

Jockey: Mirco Demuro

14 Starts, 7 Wins

Added money: ¥ 152,310,000

Career earnings: ¥ 571,011,100

Principal race performances:

'16 Hong Kong Vase (G1, 2,400m) 1st

'17&'16 Kyoto Kinen (G2, 2,200m) 1st

'15 Yayoi Sho (G2, 2,000m) 1st

'14 Tokyo Sports Hai Nisai Stakes (G3, 1,800m) 1st

'15 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m) 3rd

#### 2. **Gold Actor (JPN)**, dark bay or brown, horse, 6-year-old

Screen Hero / Heilong Xing (Kyowa Alysheba)

Owner: Hisayo Ishiro

Breeder: Hokusho Farm

Trainer: Tadashige Nakagawa

Jockey: Norihiro Yokoyama

#### 3. **Mikki Queen (JPN)**, bay, mare, 5-year-old

Deep Impact / Musical Way (Gold Away)

Owner: Mizuki Noda

Breeder: Northern Farm

Trainer: Yasutoshi Ikee

Jockey: Suguru Hamanaka

#### **Third-Pick Satono Crown Claims His First G1 Title in Japan in Takarazuka Kinen**

Five-year-old **Satono Crown** claimed this year's Takarazuka Kinen to capture his second G1 title, his first in Japan. Debuting as a two-year-old, the son of Marju won his first three starts but fell short of expectations thereafter, finishing sixth in the Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas), third in the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) and 17th in the Tenno Sho (Autumn). His sixth-place finish in last year's Takarazuka Kinen was his best performance in all his G1 starts as a four-year-old until claiming his first G1 title in the Hong Kong Vase last

December. He then won his first start of this season, marking back-to-back wins in the G2 Kyoto Kinen, and was sixth in his previous start, the G1 Osaka Hai where he was posted third favorite. He is the 18th horse to capture both JRA and overseas G1 titles—third for trainer Noriyuki Hori following Real Impact and Maurice. This marked trainer Hori's 11th JRA-G1 win following last year's Tenno Sho (Autumn) with Maurice and jockey Mirco Demuro's 20th following this year's February Stakes with Gold Dream.

Breaking smoothly from the outermost draw of the track that was somewhat soft due to the rain that stopped before the race, third favorite **Satono Crown** traveled wide in midfield, around eighth from the front, while eyeing **Kitasan Black** racing before him. Rounding the last two corners right behind the race favorite, the son of Marju accelerated powerfully at the homestretch, easily overtaking the frontrunners, and dueled strongly with **Gold Actor** that surged out from the inside route but further accelerated before the wire to pull away for his second G1 win.

"We were able to race well while eyeing the strong Kitanasan Black. He felt really good turning the fourth corner and exerted a remarkable kick in the straight. He's really a G1 horse. I think this type of ground suits him. I always had confidence in him," commented Mirco Demuro.

Fifth favorite **Gold Actor** raced two wide around 6-7th from the front, found space between two horses racing near the rails after entering the homestretch and unleashed an impressive late drive in the last 200 meters but was 3/4 length short in second.

Fourth pick **Mikki Queen**, the only mare in the field, settled third from the rear and, though briefly caught between horses at the top of the stretch, produced a remarkable speed in the stretch in pursuit of the top two finishers to seize third place.

Overwhelming race favorite **Kitasan Black** raced in good striking position but failed to respond in the stretch to finish a disappointing ninth. "It didn't rain much so it didn't have much influence on the ground. He was in good form and there was no disadvantage either. He just didn't respond as he usually does. To be honest, I really don't know why," commented Yutaka Take.

#### Other Horses:

4th: (6) **Sciacchetra**—chased leader in 2nd, led at early stretch, overtaken by winner at 200m marker, weakened

5th: (7) **Rainbow Line**—traveled in 9-10th, advanced after 3rd corner while turning wide, unable to reach contention

6th: (1) **Mikki Rocket**—raced in 4-5th, showed brief effort at stretch, never threatened top finishers

7th: (3) **Spirits Minoru**—hugged rails around 7th, made headway after 3rd corner, failed to respond at stretch

8th: (5) **Cheval Grand**—set moderate pace, outrun by rivals rounding final corner, nothing left at stretch

10th: (4) **Clarity City**—stalked leaders along rails in 3rd to 5th, sustained bid until 200m marker

11th: (9) **Hit the Target**—ran in rear throughout, no factor

Fractional time (sec/furlong): 12.5 - 11.1 - 11.6 - 13.1 - 12.3 - 11.7 - 11.6 - 11.8 - 11.7 - 11.8 - 12.2  
Last 4 furlongs: 47.5    Last 3 furlongs: 35.7

Positions at each corner:    1st corner    5,6(4,1,10)2(3,**11**)8(7,9)  
   2nd corner    (\*5,6)10(4,1)(3,2,**11**)(7,8)9  
   3rd corner    5(6,10)(4,1)(3,2,**11**)8,7-9  
   4th corner    (4,\*5,6,10)3(1,**11**,7)(2,8)-9

**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.