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**SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 34TH MILE CHAMPIONSHIP (G1)**



The Mile Championship is one of the most prestigious autumn grade-one events for milers together with the Yasuda Kinen (G1, 1,600m) in spring. Horse racing in Japan had been focusing on long distance racing for a long time, regarding stamina and strength as the most important quality of horses. However, with modern racing having increased its attention to speed horses suited to a mile or shorter distance races, the Mile Championship was established in 1984 in conjunction with Japanese races adopting the grading system. The current racing program now provides races for short, middle and long distance racehorses.

The race welcomed several foreign contestants in the past; *Special Kaldoun* (IRE, by Alzao; 9th), *Tout Seul* (IRE, by Ali-Royal; 16th) in 2003—first since being designated an international race in 1998—, *Rakti* (GB, by Polish Precedent; 14th) in 2004, *Court Masterpiece* (GB, by Polish Precedent; 7th) in 2006, *Becrux* (ITY, by Glen Jordan; 8th) in 2007, *Rahy's Attorney* (CAN, by Crown Attorney; 9th) in 2008, *Eva's Request* (IRE, by Soviet Star; 10th) in 2009, *Immortal Verse* (IRE, by Pivotal; 7th) in 2011 and *Sahpresa* (USA, by Sahm) in 2009 (3rd), 2010 (4th) and 2011 (3rd).

Last year's victor *Mikki Isle* (JPN, by Deep Impact) was subsequently named Best Sprinter or Miler before retiring to stud early this year.

This year's field included Yasuda Kinen (Jun.4) champion **Satono Aladdin** who came off the Tenno Sho (Autumn) (G1, 2,000m; Oct.29) where he finished 18th, and Yasuda Kinen third-place finisher **Red Falx** who defended his title in the Sprinters Stakes (G1, 1,200m; Oct.1). Contenders coming off the Fuji Stakes (G3, 1,600m; Oct.21) were: winner **Air Spinel** who landed his third graded victory, runner-up **Isla Bonita** who was also runner-up in last year's Mile Championship, and fifth-place finisher **Persian Knight** who was runner-up in this year's Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1, 2,000m; Apr.16). Other runners were **Sungrazer** who registered his first graded victory in the Swan Stakes (G2, 1,400m; Oct.28), Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas, G1, 1,600m) winner **Reine Minoru** and tied champions of the Summer Mile Series, **Win Gagnant** and **Grand Silk**.

*Danon Shark* (JPN, by Deep Impact) set the race record of 1:31.5 when winning the race in 2014.

**THE 34TH MILE CHAMPIONSHIP (G1) – Japan Autumn International -**

3-year-old & up, 1,600 meters (about 8 furlongs), right-handed, turf

Sunday, November 19, 2017 Kyoto Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 222,080,000 (about US\$ 1,931,130 <US\$1=¥115>)

3-y-o: 56kg (about 124 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 57kg (about 126 lbs), 2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 1kg 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	18	Persian Knight (JPN)	C3	56.0	Harbinger Orient Charm	M. Demuro Y. Ikee	G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Oiwake Farm	1:33.8 (33.9)	8.8 (4)
2	6	11	Air Spinel (JPN)	C4	57.0	King Kamehameha Air Messiah	R. Moore K. Sasada	Lucky Field Co., Ltd. Tsunebumi Yoshihara	Nose (34.6)	4.2 (2)
3	2	4	Sungrazer (JPN)	C3	56.0	Deep Impact Mantis Hunt	Y. Fukunaga H. Asami	G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Oiwake Farm	1/2 (34.4)	15.0 (7)
4	5	9	Reine Minoru (JPN)	F3	54.0	Daiwa Major Daiwa Angel	R. Wada M. Honda	Minoru Yoshioka Fujiwara Farm	3/4 (35.0)	46.5 (10)
5	6	12	Isla Bonita (JPN)	H6	57.0	Fuji Kiseki Isla Cozzene	C. Lemaire H. Kurita	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Corporation Inc.	Neck (34.5)	3.9 (1)
6	1	1	Black Moon (JPN)	H5	57.0	Admire Moon Royal Attack	A. Atzeni K. Nishiura	Him Rock Racing Tabata Farm	Nose (33.8)	177.8 (17)
7	5	10	Kluger (JPN)	H5	57.0	King Kamehameha Addicted	A. Starke T. Takano	U. Carrot Farm Northern Farm	Head (34.4)	16.7 (8)
8	4	7	Red Falx (JPN)	H6	57.0	Swept Overboard Vermouth	C. Demuro T. Ozeki	TokyoHorseRacing Co.,Ltd Shadai Farm	1/2 (34.6)	5.0 (3)
9	7	13	Grand Silk (JPN)	H5	57.0	Stay Gold Le Cirque	H. Tanabe H. Toda	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	1/2 (34.4)	23.8 (9)
10	7	15	Moon Crest (JPN)	H5	57.0	Admire Moon Beauty Contest	Y. Fujioka M. Honda	K.Hidaka Breeders Union Mishima Bokujo	2 (35.8)	338.7 (18)

11	7	14	Garibaldi (JPN)	H6	57.0	Deep Impact Shenck	Y. Iwata H. Fujiwara	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm	1/2 (34.8)	132.8 (15)
12	3	5	Satono Aladdin (JPN)	H6	57.0	Deep Impact Magic Storm	Y. Kawada Y. Ikee	Satomi Horse Company Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	Head (34.8)	9.1 (5)
13	3	6	Danon Major (JPN)	H5	57.0	Daiwa Major Viyadana	Y. Kitamura S. Hashiguchi	Danox Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	Head (36.0)	157.8 (16)
14	2	3	Young Man Power (JPN)	H5	57.0	Snitzel Snapshot	S. Ishibashi T. Tezuka	Juichi Hoshino Northern Farm	1/2 (35.9)	62.9 (12)
15	4	8	Maltese Apogee (JPN)	H5	57.0	Goshawk Ken Maltese Heat	T. Bushizawa M. Horii	Nagako Fujita Nagako Fujita	1/2 (36.3)	13.8 (6)
16	1	2	America's Cup (JPN)	C3	56.0	Manhattan Cafe Vegas Night	K. Matsuyama H. Otonashi	Tatsuo Tanikake Shadai Farm	3/4 (35.8)	84.5 (13)
17	8	16	Win Gagnant (JPN)	H5	57.0	Stay Gold Channel One	A. Tsumura M. Nishizono	Win Co., Ltd. Cosmo View Farm	2-1/2 (36.3)	55.2 (11)
18	8	17	Jo Strictly (JPN)	C3	56.0	Jo Cappuccino Jo Aromat	Y. Take H. Shimizu	K. Ueda Keiko Ueda	Neck (36.2)	123.3 (14)

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: 1:33.8

GOING: Good

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 14,515,489,100

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 21,504,779,200

ATTENDANCE: 34,330

#### PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.18	¥880	BRACKET QUINELLA	6-8	¥820	QUINELLA	11-18	¥2,480
PLACE	No.18	¥290	QUINELLA PLACE	11-18	¥1,000	EXACTA	18-11	¥5,520
	No.11	¥180		4-18	¥2,100	TRIO	4-11-18	¥9,300
	No.4	¥430		4-11	¥1,240	TRIFECTA	18-11-4	¥55,890

#### 1. Persian Knight (JPN), dark bay or brown, colt, 3-year-old

Harbinger / Orient Charm (Sunday Silence)

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

Trainer: Yasutoshi Ikee Jockey: Mirco Demuro

9 Starts, 4 Wins

Added money: ¥ 106,906,000 Career earnings: ¥ 230,506,000

Principal race performances: '17 Arlington Cup (G3, 1,600m) 1st  
'17 Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1, 2,000m) 2nd

#### 2. Air Spinel (JPN), chestnut, colt, 4-year-old

King Kamehameha / Air Messiah (Sunday Silence)

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

Trainer: Kazuhide Sasada Jockey: Ryan Moore

#### 3. Sungrazer (JPN), brown, colt, 3-year-old

Deep Impact / Mantis Hunt (Deputy Minister)

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

Trainer: Hidekazu Asami Jockey: Yuichi Fukunaga

### Three-Year-Old Persian Knight Reigns as Champion Miler in This Year's Mile Championship

Fourth pick **Persian Knight** claimed this year's Mile Championship to land his first G1 and second graded victory. Scoring two wins out of three starts in his debut season as a two-year-old, he kicked off this season with a third in his first grade-race challenge in the Shinzan Kinen (G3) then registered his first graded win in the following G3 Arlington Cup. The son of *Harbinger* was second and seventh in the first two legs of the Triple Crown, the Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1) and the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1), respectively, then switched to mile

races from autumn where he was fifth in his latest start in the G3 Fuji Stakes. This win marked trainer Yasutoshi Ikee's 19th JRA-G1 win following the Yasuda Kinen with Satono Aladdin. Jockey Mirco Demuro claimed his 24th JRA-G1 title following the Queen Elizabeth II Cup with Mozu Katchan just last week while marking a tie record of six G1 annual wins with Yutaka Take (2005, 2006), Katsumi Ando (2007), Kenichi Ikezoe (2011) and Yasunari Iwata (2012).

Fourth pick **Persian Knight** broke sharply from the outermost stall and settled third from the rear while **Maltese Apogee** immediately rushed to the front to set the pace. As the field crowded in entering the lane, the dark bay colt threaded between horses and found space behind **Air Spinel** who had pulled away from the pack, chased the chestnut with a powerful late charge while dueling with **Sungrazer** and nailed the leader just before the wire for a photo-finish win.

"We were a little worried about the farthest draw but he always breaks well so we weren't that concerned. The colt was responding really well especially around the third corner. Being still a three-year-old, he seemed a bit nervous entering the lane but ran really well to the wire. He's a great horse," commented Mirco Demuro.

Second pick **Air Spinel** was rated around eighth from the front in midfield, surged out entering the lane to take command 200 meters out and further accelerated but was unable to fend off the strong challenge by **Persian Knight** before the wire to succumb to second.

Seventh choice **Sungrazer** traveled around tenth from the front in mid-division, inside odds-on-favorite **Isla Bonita**. Meeting traffic entering the lane, the son of *Deep Impact* angled out and dueled strongly with **Persian Knight** in the last 100 meters but weakened in the last strides to finish half a length behind the runner-up in third.

Race favorite **Isla Bonita** traveled around eighth from the front, was checked at the top of the stretch but diligently chased the leaders behind **Sungrazer** to finish fifth.

#### Other Horses:

4th: (9) **Reine Minoru**—broke sharply, sat in 5th, rallied with eventual runner-up for lead, overtaken 50m out  
6th: (1) **Black Moon**—off slow, trailed far rear, angled out at last turn, last entering lane, fastest late charge  
7th: (10) **Kluger**—mild break, ran wide in latter half of mid-pack, good turn of foot but too much ground to cover  
8th: (7) **Red Falx**—on rails in mid-division, struggled for room in straight, ran out of steam last half furlong  
9th: (13) **Grand Silk**—took wide trip 4th from rear, 2nd to last at top stretch, accelerated well but too late  
10th: (15) **Moon Crest**—quick out of gate, ran 3-wide in fourth, 2nd to enter stretch, weakened last 1/2 furlong  
11th: (14) **Garibaldi**—hugged rails 5th from rear beside eventual winner, showed effort, weak response in stretch  
12th: (5) **Satono Aladdin**—traveled 2nd from rear, rounded final turn wide, advanced without reaching contention  
13th: (6) **Danon Major**—good speed after break, pressed pace in 2nd, ran out of steam in final furlong  
14th: (3) **Young Man Power**—tracked pace in 3rd on rails, remained a factor up to furlong pole, dropped out  
15th: (8) **Maltese Apogee**—sprinted clear, set pace, caught before furlong pole, used up  
16th: (2) **America's Cup**—ran on the rails in mid-pack, failed to respond in straight  
17th: (16) **Win Gagnant**—broke well, sat wide in mid-division, came up empty  
18th: (17) **Jo Strictly**—ran wide and in mid-pack beside eventual runner-up, nothing left in stretch

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.2 - 10.8 - 11.6 - 12.1 - 11.9 - 11.5 - 11.6 - 12.1  
Last 4 furlongs: 47.1 Last 3 furlongs: 35.2

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

**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.