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SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 69TH 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. 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.

This year’s field included five graded winners; **Danon Premium** and **Tower of London** who came off their wins in the Saudi Arabia Royal Cup (G3, 1,600m; Oct.7) and the Keio Hai Nisai Stakes (G2, 1,400m; Nov.4), respectively; the Hakodate Nisai Stakes (G3, 1,200m; Jul.23) victor **Cassius** and the Kokura Nisai Stakes (G3, 1,200m; Sep.3) champion **Asakusa Genki** who came off a second and a third, respectively, in the Keio Hai Nisai Stakes; and the Niigata Nisai Stakes (G3, 1,600m; Aug.27) winner **Frontier** who came off a fourth in the Daily Hai Nisai Stakes (G2, 1,600m; Nov.11).

Other key runners were **Iron Claw**, **Fast Approach** and **Stelvio** who finished second in the Kokura Nisai Stakes, the Sapporo Nisai Stakes (G3, 1,800m; Sep.2) and the Saudi Arabia Royal Cup, respectively; the Momiji Stakes (1,400m; Oct.15) winner **Danon Smash**; and the Manryo Sho (1,600m; Dec.3) victor **Hishi Cosmah**.

THE 69TH ASAHI HAI FUTURITY STAKES (G1)

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

Sunday, December 17, 2017 Hanshin Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 152,200,000 (about US\$ 1,323,000 <US\$1=¥115>)

2-y-o: 55kg (about 121 lbs), 1 kg allowance for Fillies, 3 kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2015

Safety factor: 18 runners

FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	1	1	Danon Premium (JPN)	C2	55.0	Deep Impact Indiana Gal	Y. Kawada M. Nakauchida	Danox Co., Ltd. K. I. Farm	1:33.3 (33.6)	2.3 (1)
2	5	10	Stelvio (JPN)	C2	55.0	Lord Kanaloa L'Archetto	C. Demuro T. Kimura	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	3-1/2 (33.8)	5.3 (3)
3	2	3	Tower of London (JPN)	C2	55.0	Raven's Pass Snow Pine	C. Lemaire K. Fujisawa	HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Darley Japan K.K	Neck (34.0)	3.9 (2)
4	3	5	Keiai Nautique (JPN)	C2	55.0	Deep Impact Keiai Gerbera	H. Miyuki O. Hirata	Kazuhiro Kameda Queens Ranch Ltd	Nose (33.8)	26.3 (5)
5	6	12	Danon Smash (JPN)	C2	55.0	Lord Kanaloa Spinning Wildcat	Y. Fukunaga T. Yasuda	Danox Co., Ltd. K. I. Farm	3/4 (33.8)	8.7 (4)
6	4	8	Fast Approach (JPN)	C2	55.0	Dawn Approach Jolie Jioconde	V. Cheminaud K. Fujisawa	Hidetoshi Yamamoto Hidetoshi Yamamoto	Neck (34.5)	46.9 (9)
7	6	11	Cassius (JPN)	C2	55.0	Kinshasa no Kiseki Love Dylan	S. Hamanaka H. Shimizu	Kanayama Holdings Co., Ltd. Tanioka Stud	Neck (34.5)	48.0 (10)
8	1	2	Frontier (JPN)	C2	55.0	Daiwa Major Grace Land	Y. Iwata M. Nakauchida	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Shadai Corporation Inc.	1-3/4 (34.4)	29.6 (6)
9	7	14	Double Sharp (JPN)	C2	55.0	Behkabad Mejiro Ruchbah	R. Wada K. Watanabe	Tadahiro Amahori Masanori Murakami	Neck (34.7)	30.0 (7)
10	3	6	Asakusa Genki (USA)	C2	55.0	Stormy Atlantic Amelia	Y. Take H. Otonashi	K. Tahara Alexander - Groves -	2-1/2 (35.0)	31.9 (8)

								Matz LLC.		
11	8	15	K T Clever (JPN)	C2	55.0	Harbinger Molto Felice	T. Kobayashi T. Meno	Kazuyoshi Takimoto Shadai Farm	Nose (35.5)	150.5 (13)
12	2	4	Right on Cue (JPN)	C2	55.0	Shamardal Great Timing	H. Shii M. Kon	HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Darley Japan K. K	1-1/4 (34.6)	190.8 (14)
13	5	9	Muscoloso (JPN)	C2	55.0	Henny Hughes Luna Regalo	K. Ikezoe T. Tezuka	Yukihiro Ochiai Northern Farm	Neck (35.1)	146.4 (12)
14	7	13	Iron Claw (JPN)	C2	55.0	Admire Moon Yamano Irie	M. Sakai T. Saito	Soichiro Fujii Champions Farm	2-1/2 (35.4)	453.9 (16)
15	4	7	Hishi Cosmah (JPN)	C2	55.0	Black Tide Cosmah Grace	K. Matsuyama H. Shimizu	Masahide Abe Atsuga Furukawa Bokujo	1 (35.2)	111.0 (11)
16	8	16	Ishimatsu (JPN)	C2	55.0	Swept Overboard Spicy Kitty	S. Kato H. Mori	Katsutoshi Yoshida Shinsei Farm	7 (36.4)	443.8 (15)

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: 1:33.3 (race record)

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 13,397,612,200

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 22,103,699,700

ATTENDANCE: 25,128

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.1	¥230	BRACKET QUINELLA	1-5	¥530	QUINELLA	1-10	¥550
PLACE	No.1	¥110	QUINELLA PLACE	1-10	¥230	EXACTA	1-10	¥840
	No.10	¥140		1-3	¥210	TRIO	1-3-10	¥700
	No.3	¥130		3-10	¥330	TRIFECTA	1-10-3	¥2,630

1. Danon Premium (JPN), brown, colt, 2-year-old

Deep Impact / Indiana Gal (Intikhab)

Owner: Danox Co., Ltd. Breeder: K. I. Farm

Trainer: Mitsumasa Nakauchida Jockey: Yuga Kawada

3 Starts, 3 Wins

Added money: ¥ 71,148,000 Career earnings: ¥ 111,799,000

Principal race performances: '17 Saudi Arabia Royal Cup (G3, 1,600m)

2. Stelvio (JPN), bay, colt, 2-year-old

Lord Kanaloa / L'Archetto (Falbrav)

Owner: Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Breeder: Northern Farm

Trainer: Tetsuya Kimura Jockey: Cristian Demuro

3. Tower of London (JPN), bay, colt, 2-year-old

Raven's Pass / Snow Pine (Dalakhani)

Owner: HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Breeder: Darley Japan K. K

Trainer: Kazuo Fujisawa Jockey: Christophe Lemaire

Undefeated Danon Premium Claims Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes in Record Time

Race favorite **Danon Premium** captured this year's Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes in 1:33.3, renewing the race record at Hanshin set by *Leontes* (JPN, by King Kamehameha) in 2015 after the race was transferred from Nakayama in 2014 (the race record at Nakayama is 1:33.4 marked by *Meiner Recolte* (JPN, by Chief Bearhart) in 2004). He is the 13th undefeated colt to capture the Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes title following *Leontes*. After marking a comfortable four-length victory in his debut start on June 25, the son of *Deep Impact* won the Saudi Arabia Royal Cup (G3, 1,600m) on October 7 also in record time with a margin of 1-3/4 lengths. This win marked trainer Mitsumasa Nakauchida's sixth graded victory and first G1 title after he opened his stable in 2014. Jockey Yuga Kawada captured his 10th JRA-G1 victory following his Yasuda Kinen title with Satono Aladdin in June this year.

Danon Premium broke sharply from the innermost stall and took an economic trip by the rails in third behind **K T Clever** and **Fast Approach** who rushed out from the outer stalls to lead the field. The *Deep Impact* colt made bid immediately after facing the homestretch and inherited the lead from **K T Clever** at the top of the stretch. Once taking the front, the brown colt unleashed a powerful late charge that timed the fastest of the field and drew away to a 3-1/2-length victory.

“He’s a smart horse. He was a bit keen to go today but I believed in his strength and urged him to go when I saw a clear path entering the lane. He stretched and accelerated really well, just as we had expected. We need to extend the distance of his races in order for him to win the classics next year but I think he will continue to develop well toward this goal,” commented Yuga Kawada.

Third pick **Stelvio** made a good break and eased back to settle toward the rear, around fifth from last. The son of *Lord Kanaloa* circled wide around the corners and, though caught between horses entering the lane, threaded through his rivals and dislodged an impressive late kick in the last 200 meters to nail **Tower of London** right before the wire for second place.

Second favorite **Tower of London** raced two wide in mid-division while eyeing **Danon Premium** traveling in front. Continuing to stalk the race favorite entering the homestretch, the son of *Raven’s Pass* held on well and, though overtaken by **Stelvio** in the last stride, managed to fend off the strong challenge by **Keiai Nautique** by a nose to finish third.

Other Horses:

4th: (5) **Keiai Nautique**—traveled in mid-pack, found little room at early stretch, showed belated charge
5th: (12) **Danon Smash**—was off slow, saved ground towards rear, switched to outside 200m out, quickened
6th: (8) **Fast Approach**—chased leader in 2nd, sustained bid, weakened in final strides
7th: (11) **Cassius**—stalked leaders in 3rd or 4th, ran gamely, outrun in last 100m
8th: (2) **Frontier**—hugged rails in mid-group, failed to respond at stretch
9th: (14) **Double Sharp**—advanced to 5-6th, took 4-wide trip, ran willingly until 200m out
10th: (6) **Asakusa Genki**—broke sharply, eased back to 5-6th, lacked needed kick at stretch
11th: (15) **K T Clever**—set pace from wide draw, fell back after 300m marker
12th: (4) **Right on Cue**—trailed in rear, turned wide, passed tired rivals
13th: (9) **Muscoloso**—ran 3-wide in mid-division, checked at early stretch, never fired
14th: (13) **Iron Claw**—raced 3-wide towards rear, unable to reach contention
15th: (7) **Hishi Cosmah**—sat near rear, never a threat
16th: (16) **Ishimatsu**—traveled near rear, no factor

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.6 - 10.8 - 11.8 - 12.0 - 12.1 - 11.3 - 11.0 - 11.7
Last 4 furlongs: 46.1 Last 3 furlongs: 34.0

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

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.