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SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 78TH OKA SHO (JAPANESE 1000 GUINEAS, G1)



The Oka Sho, which is the first of the five JRA Classics held during the year, determines the champion three-year-old filly possessing the fastest speed running over 1,600 meters and serves as an opportunity to scout potential broodmare talents. The Japanese equivalent to the One Thousand Guineas originated in England, the Oka Sho was first held at Nakayama Racecourse in Chiba, run over 1,800 meters and under the name “Nakayama Yonsai Himba Tokubetsu”, then changed its distance and venue under the new name, “Oka Sho” (Oka, meaning cherry flower which is in full bloom at this time of the season). With the entire graded races opening its doors to foreign-trained horses in 2010, the three-year-old Classics including this race entered a new phase with international G1 status. While speed is a much required ability to win this race, the extension of the homestretch as well as a deeper turf surface and an uphill stretch at Hanshin after the track renovation in 1991 has added “stamina” as an added qualification—a newly added outside turf track further extended the homestretch in 2006.

The Oka Sho, together with the Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks, G1, 2,400m) and the Shuka Sho (G1, 2,000m), is also widely considered as the fillies’ version of the “Triple Crown”, a title which has been claimed by four fillies in the past, including *Apapane* (JPN, by King Kamehameha) and *Gentildonna* (JPN, by Deep Impact) who completed the sweep in 2012 and went on to capture the Japan Cup (G1, 2,400m) in 2012 and 2013 and Horse of the Year title in 2012 and 2014.

The top three finishers of the 2017 Hanshin Juvenile Fillies (G1, 1,600m), **Lucky Lilac**, **Lily Noble** and **Mau Lea**, finished first, third and second in the Tulip Sho (G2, 1,600m; Mar.3), one of the trial races towards the Oka Sho. The contenders from other trial races who qualified to run the Oka Sho were: **Harlem Line** and **Red Regnant**, the top two finishers of the Anemone Stakes (1,600m; Mar.10); **Liberty Heights**, **Encore Plus** and **Dernier Or**, the top three finishers of the Fillies’ Revue (G2, 1,400m; Mar.11). The field also included **Primo Scene**, **Almond Eye** and **Red Sakuya** who won the Fairy Stakes (G3, 1,600m; Jan.7), the Shinzan Kinen (G3, 1,600m; Jan.8) and the Elfin Stakes (1,600m; Feb.3), respectively.

THE 78TH OKA SHO (JAPANESE 1000 GUINEAS, G1)

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

Sunday, April 8, 2018 Hanshin Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 226,800,000 (about US\$ 2,062,000 <US\$1=¥110>)

3-y-o: 55kg (about 121 lbs), 2kg 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	7	13	Almond Eye (JPN)	F3	55.0	Lord Kanaloa Fusaichi Pandora	C. Lemaire S. Kunieda	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	1:33.1 (33.2)	3.9 (2)
2	1	1	Lucky Lilac (JPN)	F3	55.0	Orfevre Lilacs and Lace	S. Ishibashi M. Matsunaga	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	1-3/4 (34.5)	1.8 (1)
3	5	9	Lily Noble (JPN)	F3	55.0	Rulership Pure Chaplet	Y. Kawada K. Fujioka	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	1/2 (34.3)	7.4 (3)
4	4	7	Tosen Bless (JPN)	F3	55.0	Deep Impact Bloomin’ Bar	Y. Shibata Y. Kato	Takaya Shimakawa Yukihiko Moroe	1-3/4 (34.2)	42.1 (8)
5	8	17	Mau Lea (JPN)	F3	55.0	Deep Impact Buy the Cat	Y. Take T. Tezuka	Yukihiko Ochiai Shimokobe Farm	Nose (34.4)	13.5 (4)
6	2	3	Liberty Heights (JPN)	F3	55.0	King Kamehameha Dubawi Heights	Y. Kitamura T. Takano	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm	Nose (34.6)	62.3 (10)
7	3	5	Red Sakuya (JPN)	F3	55.0	Deep Impact Sakurasaku	K. Matsuyama H. Fujiwara	TokyoHorseRacing Co., Ltd Shadai Farm	Nose (34.8)	70.4 (12)
8	3	6	Scarlet Color (JPN)	F3	55.0	Victoire Pisa Ventus	Y. Iwata R. Takahashi	Koji Maeda North Hills Co., Ltd.	Neck (34.4)	193.3 (15)
9	8	18	Tsuzumimon (JPN)	F3	55.0	Strong Return Katamachi Botan	S. Akiyama K. Fujioka	Itohan Holdings Co., Ltd. Yukihiko Moroe	Nose (35.1)	277.7 (16)
10	7	15	Primo Scene (JPN)	F3	55.0	Deep Impact Mosheen	K. Tosaki T. Kimura	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	1-1/4 (34.3)	23.4 (6)
11	2	4	Encore Plus (JPN)	F3	55.0	Deep Impact Oyster Ticket	K. Fujioka Y. Tomomichi	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd.	2 (34.9)	45.4 (9)

								Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc.		
12	8	16	Finift (JPN)	F3	55.0	Deep Impact Kokoshnik	Y. Fukunaga H. Fujiwara	U. Carrot Farm Northern Racing	1-1/2 (34.8)	20.1 (5)
13	6	12	Dernier Or (JPN)	F3	55.0	Stay Gold Oriental Art	K. Ikezoe Y. Ikee	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Shadai Corporation Inc.	Neck (34.4)	71.4 (13)
14	4	8	Harlem Line (JPN)	F3	55.0	Manhattan Cafe Macris	T. Ono K. Tanaka	Chizu Yoshida Shadai Farm	Neck (35.4)	66.2 (11)
15	7	14	Red Regnant (JPN)	F3	55.0	Lord Kanaloa Empress Tiara	M. Demuro M. Otake	TokyoHorseRacing Co., Ltd Northern Racing	1/2 (35.3)	24.2 (7)
16	6	11	Cordierite (JPN)	F3	55.0	Daiwa Major Dark Sapphire	R. Wada S. Sasaki	G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	2-1/2 (36.4)	341.0 (17)
17	5	10	Aonbharr (JPN)	F3	55.0	Lord Kanaloa Alluring Voice	Y. Fujioka K. Fujioka	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Corporation Inc.	3/4 (36.2)	124.8 (14)
	1	2	Amalfi Coast (JPN)	F3	55.0	Daiwa Major Gypsy Highway	S. Hamanaka K. Makita	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm	Scratched	

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: 1:33.1 (race record)

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 16,918,015,100

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 25,437,441,800

ATTENDANCE: 46,794

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.13	¥390	BRACKET QUINELLA	1-7	¥380	QUINELLA	1-13	¥480
PLACE	No.13	¥140	QUINELLA PLACE	1-13	¥230	EXACTA	13-1	¥990
	No.1	¥110		9-13	¥430	TRIO	1-9-13	¥830
	No.9	¥140		1-9	¥230	TRIFECTA	13-1-9	¥3,780

1. Almond Eye (JPN), bay, filly, 3-year-old

Lord Kanaloa / Fusaichi Pandora (Sunday Silence)

Owner: Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Breeder: Northern Racing

Trainer: Sakae Kunieda Jockey: Christophe Lemaire

4 Starts, 3 Wins

Added money: ¥ 129,703,000 Career earnings: ¥ 175,958,000

Principal race performances: '18 Shinzan Kinen (G3, 1,600m) 1st

2. Lucky Lilac (JPN), chestnut, filly, 3-year-old

Orfevre / Lilacs and Lace (Flower Alley)

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

Trainer: Mikio Matsunaga Jockey: Shu Ishibashi

3. Lily Noble (JPN), bay, filly, 3-year-old

Rulership / Pure Chaplet (Kurofune)

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

Trainer: Kenichi Fujioka Jockey: Yuga Kawada

Almond Eye's Come-from-Behind Victory Renews Race Record

Second pick **Almond Eye** captured the first of the 2018 three-year-old fillies' Triple, the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas) to give sire *Lord Kanaloa* his first G1 title as a sire. The speedy filly's winning time of 1:33.1 renewed the previous race record held by *Apapane* in 2010 by 0.2 seconds. Out of 2006 Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup winner *Fusaichi Panndora*, **Almond Eye** made her two-year-old debut in August last year and broke her maiden in her second career start in October. Her G1 triumph in the race came after the filly scored her first grade-race victory in January in the Shinzan Kinen. Trainer Sakae Kunieda, who had previously won the Oka Sho in 2010 with *Apapane*, subsequent winner of all three of the fillies' Triple, scored his 12th JRA-G1 title

with win—his latest being with Danon Platina in the 2014 Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes. Jockey Christophe Lemaire, who finally captured his first Oka Sho title after two misses with race favorites, *Major Emblem* (fourth) and *Soul Stirring* (third) in 2016 and 2017, respectively. Lemaire collected his 15th JRA-G1 title after his most recent win with *Deirdre* in the Shuka Sho last year.

Almond Eye was unhurried early, raced second from the rear and, while still way back entering the homestretch, exerted an impressive turn of speed that marked the fastest finish over the final 600 meters that carried the *Lord Kanaloa* filly past her rivals and close in on **Lucky Lilac** in the final strides for a 1-3/4-length victory.

“Her response and speed at the stretch was unbelievable and felt great! Her strides kept getting bigger and all I had to do was to keep her straight. A step up in distance shouldn’t be a problem for this talented filly who has great potentials to win the Triple,” commented Lemaire

Lucky Lilac, who was sent to post race favorite and undefeated in four career starts including the two-year-old championship G1, the 2017 Hanshin Juvenile Fillies over the same course and distance at Hanshin, broke sharply from the innermost stall and settled nicely in fourth position along the rails and within striking distance from the leader. Advancing to third position at the third corner and shifting out slightly turning for home, the *Orfevre* filly came forth as expected down the center lane, assumed command passing the furlong pole but failed to exert her trademark burst of speed despite her jockey’s left-hand urgings and, while staying in contention to the wire, was unable to match the finishing speed of the winner and succumbed to second.

Lily Noble was rated not far back from the leaders in mid-division and outside rivals, allowing her to make smooth headway approaching the final corner. Securing a clear path along the outside route entering the stretch, the *Rulership* filly commenced her chase but overtaken by the fast closing winner on her outside and only really picked up her speed in the closing stages for the share.

Other Horses:

- 4th: (7) **Tosen Bless**—raced in mid-division, showed good late drive but failed to threaten
- 5th: (17) **Mau Lea**—traveled wide in mid-pack, lacked needed kick at stretch
- 6th: (3) **Liberty Heights**—saved ground in mid-group, quickened at stretch then faded
- 7th: (5) **Red Sakuya**—ran in 5th, ran willingly but overtaken by rivals in final strides
- 8th: (6) **Scarlet Color**—settled in mid-division, showed belated effort at stretch
- 9th: (18) **Tsuzumimon**—advanced to 2nd from widest stall, led at early stretch, weakened in last 200m
- 10th: (15) **Primo Scene**—was off slow, met traffic, belated kick from 300m out
- 11th: (4) **Encore Plus**—hugged rails in mid-pack, quickened until 100m out, weakened thereafter
- 12th: (16) **Finift**—sat wide towards rear, checked 300m out then showed belated effort
- 13th: (12) **Dernier Or**—trailed in rear, angled wide, passed tired rivals
- 14th: (8) **Harlem Line**—raced in mid-group, ran gamely until 200m out, dropped back thereafter
- 15th: (14) **Red Regnant**—traveled wide in mid-division, found little room after entering to lane
- 16th: (11) **Cordierite**—set pace, gradually fell back at stretch
- 17th: (10) **Aonbharr**—prominent early in 3rd, faded after final corner
- Scratched: (2) **Amalfi Coast**—due to lameness in her left foreleg

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.3 - 10.7 - 11.5 - 12.1 - 12.1 - 11.5 - 11.3 - 11.6
Last 4 furlongs: 46.5 Last 3 furlongs: 34.4

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

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.