

FROM: Masahiro Usuda

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

DATE: April 14, 2018

**SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 20TH NAKAYAMA GRAND JUMP (J-G1)**



The Nakayama Grand Jump, the biggest steeplechase event in spring, span off from the biannual Nakayama Daishogai (J-G1, 4,100m) steeplechase races in 1999. The history of the Nakayama Daishogai dates back to 1934 when the two races, one each in spring and autumn, were created for the purpose of making them the most prestigious and attractive races in steeplechase racing, just like the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) in flat racing.

In 2000, one year after the Nakayama Grand Jump received its current name, the race also became an international event. In the same year, seven foreign runners from five countries took part. *Boca Boca* (IRE, by *Mandalus*) from France finished second to *Gokai* (JPN, by *Judge Angelucci*). Between 2000 and 2010 when the Nakayama Grand Jump was an invitational event, *St. Steven* (NZ, by *Hula Town*) became the first foreign contingent to claim the title in 2002. He finished third in the following year while Australian contender *Karasi* (IRE, by *Kahyasi*) became the only horse to win three consecutive titles in 2005, 2006 and 2007. In 2013, eighth favorite Irish raider *Blackstairmountain* (IRE, by *Imperial Ballet*) became the first European contender to claim the title.

The Nakayama Grand Jump features 12 jumps over the figure-of-eight-shaped course, which includes five up-and-downs over the banks and three hurdles set on the outside turf towards the final stretch. The 310-meter uphill stretch before the wire also is quite a test for many of the runners especially after running at a solid pace throughout the race.

Two-time Best Steeplechase Horse **Oju Chosan**, who captured both J-G1 titles in 2016 and 2017, made his bid to become the second jumper after *Karasi* to claim his third consecutive Nakayama Grand Jump title while the J-G1 was his first start since his triumph last December in the Nakayama Daishogai as the son of *Stay Gold* had to pass up his intended prep earlier this year due to health conditions. Meanwhile, 2015 Best Steeplechase Horse **Up to Date** came off a dominating eight-length victory in the Hanshin Spring Jump (J-G2, 3,900m; Mar.10) in which **Le Pere Noel**, third in the 2017 Nakayama Daishogai, fourth-place finisher **Thinking Dancer**, and fifth-place **Sanrei Duke** came off a third, fifth and sixth, respectively. Other notable contenders included top two finishers of the Pegasus Jump Stakes (3,350m; Mar.24), **Meiner Crop** and **Nihonpiro Baron**.

**THE 20TH NAKAYAMA GRAND JUMP (J-G1)**

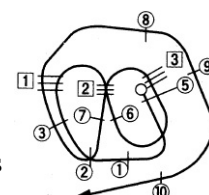
4-year-old & up, 4,250 meters (about 2 and 2/3 miles), turf

Saturday, April 14, 2018 Nakayama Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 142,660,000 (about US\$ 1,296,909 <US\$1=¥110>)

4-y-o: 62kg (about 137 lbs), 5-y-o & up: 63kg (about 139 lbs), 2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares

Safety factor: 16 runners



FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin	Odds (Fav)
1	5	6	Oju Chosan (JPN)	H7	63.0	Stay Gold Shadow Silhouette	S. Ishigami S. Wada	Chosan Co., Ltd. Naoyoshi Nagayama	4:43.0	1.5 (1)
2	7	9	Up to Date (JPN)	H8	63.0	Kurofuno Linear Muse	M. Hayashi S. Sasaki	Hiroe Imanishi North Hills Co., Ltd.	DS	2.3 (2)
3	3	3	Nihonpiro Baron (JPN)	H8	63.0	Fusaichi Richard Nihonpillow Annika	Y. Shirahama H. Tadokoro	Hyakutaro Kobayashi Hyakutaro Kobayashi	9	14.1 (3)
4	5	5	Le Pere Noel (JPN)	H8	63.0	Admire Moon Santa Mama	J. Takada H. Fujiwara	K. Hidaka Breeders Union Daiten Farm	4	45.8 (5)
5	7	10	T M Opera Don (JPN)	H9	63.0	T.M.Opera O T.M.Ocean	M. Nakamura T. Hamada	Masatsugu Takezono Masatsugu Takezono	Neck	291.0 (11)
6	6	8	Crans Montana (JPN)	H9	63.0	Deep Impact Air Thule	S. Kumazawa H. Otonashi	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm	6	194.5 (8)
7	2	2	Thinking Dancer (JPN)	H5	63.0	Conduit Spring Board	M. Kaneko Y. Takeichi	Yuji Sato Okada Stud	1-1/4	58.5 (6)
8	6	7	Meisho Arawashi (JPN)	H7	63.0	Storming Home Meisho Ageha	K. Mori A. Adachi	Yoshio Matsumoto Yoshio Matsumoto	DS	208.0 (9)
9	1	1	Sanrei Duke	H10	63.0	Durandal	Y. Namba	Keiji Nagai	Nose	141.8

			(JPN)			San Lake Queen	Y. Takahashi	Keiji Nagai		(7)
10	8	11	Tosen Melissa (JPN)	M6	61.0	Tosen Bright Tosen Madonna	K. Oehara S. Kobiyama	Takaya Shimakawa Takaya Shimakawa	DS	279.5 (10)
11	8	12	Samurai Fountain (JPN)	H5	63.0	Samurai Heart Yokan de Paris	K. Takano Y. Ishige	Kosei Yoshihashi Noboribetsu Uemizu Bokujo	DS	413.2 (12)
12	4	4	Meiner Crop (JPN)	H8	63.0	Kurofune Great Harvest	K. Yamamoto Y. Hatakeyama	K. Thoroughbred Club Ruffian Grand Stud	DS	25.2 (4)

FP=Final Position / BK=Bracket Number / PP=Post Position / Wgt=Weight / DS=Distance

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: 4:43.0 (course record)

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Cloudy

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE:

¥ 2,268,852,000

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY:

¥ 8,744,574,500

ATTENDANCE: 29,313

#### PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.6	¥150	BRACKET QUINELLA	5-7	¥130	QUINELLA	6-9	¥130
PLACE	No.6	¥110	QUINELLA PLACE	6-9	¥110	EXACTA	6-9	¥200
	No.9	¥110		3-6	¥230	TRIO	3-6-9	¥290
	No.3	¥140		3-9	¥230	TRIFECTA	6-9-3	¥570

#### 1. **Oju Chosan (JPN)**, bay, horse, 7-year-old

Stay Gold / Shadow Silhouette (Symboli Kris S)

Owner: Chosan Co., Ltd.

Breeder: Naoyoshi Nagayama

Trainer: Shoichiro Wada

Jockey: Shinichi Ishigami

22 Starts, 12 Wins (20 Starts, 12 Wins \*steeplechases only)

Added money: ¥ 66,420,000

Career earnings: ¥ 533,073,000 (¥ 533,073,000 \*steeplechases only)

Principal race performances:

'17&'16 Nakayama Grand Jump (J-G1, 4,250m) 1st

'17&'16 Nakayama Daishogai (J-G1, 4,100m) 1st

'17&'16 Tokyo High-Jump (J-G2, 3,110m) 1st

'17 Hanshin Spring Jump (J-G2, 3,900m) 1st

'16 Tokyo Jump Stakes (J-G3, 3,110m) 1st

#### 2. **Up to Date (JPN)**, gray, horse, 8-year-old

Kurofune / Linear Muse (Tony Bin)

Owner: Hiroe Imanishi

Breeder: North Hills Co., Ltd.

Trainer: Shozo Sasaki

Jockey: Mitsuaki Hayashi

#### 3. **Nihonpiro Baron (JPN)**, chestnut, horse, 8-year-old

Fusaichi Richard / Nihonpillow Annika (Captain Steve)

Owner: Hyakutaro Kobayashi

Breeder: Hyakutaro Kobayashi

Trainer: Hidetaka Tadokoro

Jockey: Yuzo Shirahama

#### **Oju Chosan Sets New Record in Third Consecutive Nakayama Grand Jump Title**

**Oju Chosan** made winning his third consecutive Nakayama Grand Jump easy despite facing setbacks earlier this year with minor health problems that forced him to pass up an intended prep start before his history-making challenge in extending his J-G1 winning streak to five and tying Australia's *Karasi* Nakayama Grand Jump (2005-2007) in consecutive Nakayama Grand Jump wins. His dominating victory this year broke the previous race record set **Up to Date** in 2015 by 3.6 seconds. The talented and speedy jumper now has notched nine consecutive grade-race wins—another JRA record, steeplechase and flat racing combined and is the richest steeplechase horse with a career earnings of 533,073,000 yen, exceeding the previous record held by *Gokai* (502,244,000 yen). Both trainer Shoichiro Wada and jockey Shinichi Ishigami claimed their fifth career J-G1 title—all won with **Oju**

## Chosan.

**Oju Chosan** broke smoothly out of gate six and settled nicely along the rails behind **Meisho Arawashi** who assumed a brief lead over the first obstacle then **Up to Date** who advanced from the outside to take command approaching the second obstacle (fence no.1). **Up to Date** continued to lead the way, a few lengths clear of the rest of the field, up to the big brush fence where the gray was joined by **Oju Chosan** and **Meiner Crop** as the three horses cleared the fifth obstacle (no.6) side-by-side and changed hands to the left. **Oju Chosan** cruised without a hurry a few lengths behind **Meiner Crop** and **Up to Date**, who disputed the lead in front, but advanced to second again before the big hedge (no.7) with **Meiner Crop** and **Crans Montana** close at his heels as the field changed hands again to the right.

**Nihonpiro Baron** advanced to third as both **Meiner Crop** and **Crans Montana** began to fall behind entering the backstretch towards the tenth obstacle (no.8) but still had much ground to make behind **Oju Chosan** who had closed in on **Up to Date** with 800 meters to go and then took over that foe as they cleared the second to last fence (no.9). **Up to Date** showed great effort to chase **Oju Chosan**, clearing the last fence a couple of lengths from the eventual winner, but was no match to the eventual winner who opened the gap with every stride to a staggering 15-lengths victory. Still, the son of *Kurofune*, while second best to the unbeatable bay, proved a different class from the rest of the field finishing a good nine lengths in front of the third-place finisher.

“He felt really strong today. We gave too much space between ourselves and Up to Date in our last start so the plan this time was to stay within striking distance from the leader. I had hoped Up to Date would pull us along a little further but I could feel my horse so strong before the final jump and he just fired from there. Quite frankly, I think this horse is just too strong and unbeatable so we’re quite confident in continuing to extend his winning streak and notch another J-G1 win in December,” commented winning jockey Shinichi Ishigami.

### Other Horses:

3rd: (3) **Nihonpiro Baron**—ran in 8th early, improved position to 6th after 5th jump (fence no.6), 5th after 7th jump (fence no.7), 3rd before 10th jump (fence no.8), chased leaders, weakened after final jump (fence no.10)

4th: (5) **Le Pere Noel**—settled in 7th, made headway after 10th jump (fence no.8), dueled with **T M Opera Don** for fourth

5th: (10) **T M Opera Don**—sat towards rear early, steadily improved position, advanced to 4th briefly in stretch, weakened in final strides

6th: (8) **Crans Montana**—chased top 2 finishers in 3rd early, stayed prominent up to backstretch then faded.

7th: (2) **Thinking Dancer**—positioned in 5th early, 6th after 7th jump (fence no.7), made headway to 4th around 10th jump (fence no.8), weakened at stretch

8th: (7) **Meisho Arawashi**—raced in 4th early, dropped back to 6th after 5th jump (fence no.6), 8th after 7th jump (fence no.7)

9th: (1) **Sanrei Duke**—traveled around 10th, unable to reach contention

10th: (11) **Tosen Melissa**—trailed in rear early, passed tired rivals, never a threat

11th: (12) **Samurai Fountain**—almost rear throughout, no factor

12th: (4) **Meiner Crop**—led briefly around 5th jump (fence no.6), tired after early efforts.

Fractional time (sec./furlong):      Last 4 furlongs: 49.8      Last 3 furlongs: 36.9      (1 mile: 1:43.8)

Positions at each corner (2nd lap):    1st corner      9-6(8,4)=3-2=5-10-(7,1)=11=12

2nd corner      9-6-3(8,4)-2=5-10-1-7=11=12

3rd corner      9,6-3=2-8-(5,10)=1-4-7-11=12

4th corner      6-9-3=2-(5,10)-8=1=7=11=4-12

**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.