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DATE: November 18, 2018

SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 35TH 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, **Persian Knight** became the first three-year-old to win the Mile Championship since *Agnes Digital* (USA, by *Crafty Prospector*) in 2000. He came off a fifth in his first start of the fall campaign, the Fuji Stakes (G3, 1,600m; Oct.20), to defend his title this year. Fuji Stakes winner **Logi Cry** and fourth-place finisher and last year's Mile Championship runner-up **Air Spinel** were also among the lineup. Runners coming off the Mainichi Okan (G2, 1,800m; Oct.7) were 2017 NHK Mile Cup (G1, 1,600m) and this year's Yasuda Kinen runner-up **Aerolithe** (1st), victor of the 2018 Spring Cup (G2, 1,800m) **Stelvio** (2nd) and this year's NHK Mile Cup champion **Keiai Nautique** (5th). This year's Yasuda Kinen winner **Mozu Ascot** came off a second-place finish behind **Lord Quest** in the Swan Stakes (G2, 1,400m; Oct.27). Other notable contenders included the Keisei Hai Autumn Handicap (G3, 1,600m; Sep.9) champion **Mikki Glory**, this year's Victoria Mile (G1, 1,600m) winner **Jour Polaire** and last year's Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1, 2,000m) victor **Al Ain**.

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

THE 35TH MILE CHAMPIONSHIP (G1) – Japan Autumn International -

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

Sunday, November 18, 2018 Kyoto Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 238,600,000 (about US\$ 2,170,000 <US\$1=¥110>)

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 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	Stelvio (JPN)	C3	56.0	Lord Kanaloa L'Archetto	W. Buick T. Kimura	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	1:33.3 (34.1)	8.7 (5)
2	1	2	Persian Knight (JPN)	C4	57.0	Harbinger Orient Charm	M. Demuro Y. Ikee	G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Oiwake Farm	Head (33.9)	6.5 (3)
3	2	3	Al Ain (JPN)	C4	57.0	Deep Impact Dubai Majesty	Y. Kawada Y. Ikee	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	1-1/4 (34.5)	6.6 (4)
4	8	16	Katsuji (JPN)	C3	56.0	Deep Impact Melissa	K. Matsuyama K. Ikezoe	Kanayama Holdings Co., Ltd. Okada Stud	Head (33.4)	231.1 (16)
5	5	10	Mikki Glory (JPN)	H5	57.0	Deep Impact Melissa	K. Tosaki S. Kunieda	Mizuki Noda Okada Stud	Neck (33.4)	18.4 (8)
6	3	6	Jour Polaire (JPN)	M5	55.0	Deep Impact Summer Night City	Y. Ishikawa M. Nishizono	G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Shadai Corporation Inc.	Neck (34.2)	42.3 (10)
7	7	13	Red Avancer (JPN)	M5	55.0	Deep Impact Erimo Pixy	Y. Kitamura H. Otonashi	TokyoHorseRacing Co., Ltd Hidetoshi Yamamoto	Neck (34.2)	63.3 (13)
8	3	5	He's in Love (JPN)	H5	57.0	Harbinger She's Included	Ko. Fujioka Ke. Fujioka	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	1/2 (33.8)	231.3 (17)
9	5	9	Win Bright (JPN)	C4	57.0	Stay Gold Summer Eternity	M. Matsuoka Y. Hatakeyama	Win Co., Ltd. Cosmo View Farm	Nose (34.5)	209.4 (14)

10	7	14	Air Spinel (JPN)	H5	57.0	King Kamehameha Air Messiah	Y. Fukunaga K. Sasada	Lucky Field Co., Ltd. Tsunebumi Yoshihara	Nose (34.1)	16.1 (7)
11	8	18	Keiai Nautique (JPN)	C3	56.0	Deep Impact Keiai Gerbera	Y. Fujioka O. Hirata	Kazuhiro Kameda Queens Ranch Ltd	3/4 (34.6)	34.8 (9)
12	7	15	Aerolithe (JPN)	F4	55.0	Kurofune Asterix	R. Moore T. Kikuzawa	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	Nose (35.0)	5.1 (2)
13	4	8	Mozu Ascot (USA)	C4	57.0	Frankel India	C. Lemaire Y. Yahagi	Capital System Co., Ltd. Summer Wind Farm	Nose (33.9)	3.4 (1)
14	4	7	Logi Cry (JPN)	H5	57.0	Heart's Cry Dream Moment	C. Demuro N. Sugai	Masaaki Kumeta Northern Racing	Neck (34.9)	9.7 (6)
15	2	4	Black Moon (JPN)	H6	57.0	Admire Moon Royal Attack	S. Hamanaka K. Nishiura	Him Rock Racing Holdings Co., Ltd. Tabata Farm	Nose (33.6)	294.7 (18)
16	6	11	Gendarme (USA)	C3	56.0	Kitten's Joy Believe	Y. Take Y. Ikee	Koji Maeda North Hills Co., Limited	3/4 (33.5)	48.4 (11)
17	8	17	Lord Quest (JPN)	H5	57.0	Matsurida Gogh Matsurida Waltz	N. Yokoyama S. Kojima	Lord Horse Club Samani Hori Bokujo	1-1/4 (34.6)	54.5 (12)
18	6	12	Reine Minoru (JPN)	F4	55.0	Daiwa Major Daiwa Angel	H. Shii M. Honda	Minoru Yoshioka Fujiwara Farm	2-1/2 (34.8)	216.7 (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

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 15,577,770,400

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 22,819,854,800

ATTENDANCE: 33,129

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.1	¥870	BRACKET QUINELLA	1-1	¥3,200	QUINELLA	1-2	¥3,220
PLACE	No.1	¥310	QUINELLA PLACE	1-2	¥1,140	EXACTA	1-2	¥6,350
	No.2	¥230		1-3	¥1,130	TRIO	1-2-3	¥5,480
	No.3	¥240		2-3	¥670	TRIFECTA	1-2-3	¥29,790

1. Stelvio (JPN), bay, colt, 3-year-old

Lord Kanaloa / L'Archetto (Falbrav)

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

Trainer: Tetsuya Kimura Jockey: William Buick

9 Starts, 4 Wins

Added money: ¥ 113,780,000 Career earnings: ¥ 277,730,000

2. Persian Knight (JPN), dark bay or brown, colt, 4-year-old

Harbinger / Orient Charm (Sunday Silence)

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

Trainer: Yasutoshi Ikee Jockey: Mirco Demuro

3. Al Ain (JPN), bay, colt, 4-year-old

Deep Impact / Dubai Majesty (Essence of Dubai)

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

Trainer: Yasutoshi Ikee Jockey: Yuga Kawada

Three-Year-Old Stelvio Defeats Defending Champion in This Year's Mile Championship

Fifth pick **Stelvio** captured his first G1 victory in this year's Mile Championship to reign as another three-year-old mile champion following last year's Persian Knight. Scoring two consecutive wins in his first two starts as a two-year-old, he was runner-up in the following Saudi Arabia Royal Cup (G3) and the Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes (G1) then marked his first graded victory in his kickoff start this year, the Spring Stakes (G2). While finishing

fourth and eighth, respectively, in the Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1) and the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1), he came off a runner-up effort in the Mainichi Okan. He has marked 4-3-0 out of seven starts between 1,600 and 1,800 meter distances including this race. This win marked trainer Tetsuya Kimura's first G1 and eighth graded win since establishing his stable in 2011. This was also the first JRA-G1 win for jockey William Buick, who is riding in Japan from yesterday under a short-term license for the first time in four years. This is his fifth graded victory in Japan.

Fifth pick **Stelvio** broke smoothly from the innermost stall, settled toward the front and waited along the rails while his rivals traveled wide to make bid turning the corners. Entering the lane around fourth from the front, the son of *Lord Kanaloa* unleashed a powerful kick, overtook **Al Ain** 100 meters out and pulled away strongly while holding off the strong challenge by the defending champion.

“It’s my first G1 win in Japan and this race is obviously one of the world’s biggest mile races so it’s very special for me. The horse was in great condition and when I saw he was drawn one, I thought that if he can make use of the draw and get a good position, he has a chance, which the horse managed to do. He had a good finishing kick. He won like a class horse and hopefully this is the beginning of this horse’s G1 career,” commented jockey William Buick.

Third pick **Persian Knight** stalked **Stelvio** by the rails and challenged the three-year-old bay with an impressive late charge before the wire but was a head short of defending his title.

Fourth choice **Al Ain** rushed out to travel second or third behind frontrunner **Aerolithe**, took the front around the 200-meter marker, was overtaken by **Stelvio** then by **Persian Knight** in the last 100 meters but held on well to cross the wire in third.

Race favorite **Moju Ascot** eased back after a good break to travel fifth or sixth from the rear, steered toward the inside after entering the stretch but was unable to find a clear path and finished 13th.

Other Horses:

4th: (16) **Katsuji**—raced towards rear, quickened and timed tied fastest over last 3 furlongs

5th: (10) **Mikki Glory**—sat 3rd from rear, angled out, showed tied fastest charge over last 3 furlongs

6th: (6) **Jour Polaire**—settled in mid-division, circled wide, accelerated in last 300m

7th: (13) **Red Avancer**—ran around 6th, turned wide, advanced to 2nd 200m out, overtaken in final strides

8th: (5) **He's in Love**—broke poorly, saved ground in mid-group, passed tired rivals

9th: (9) **Win Bright**—traveled 3-wide around 5th, lacked needed kick

10th: (14) **Air Spinel**—raced 3-wide in mid-pack, good striking position at early stretch, outrun in last 100m

11th: (18) **Keiai Nautique**—advanced to 4th from widest draw, ran gamely until 200m pole

12th: (15) **Aerolithe**—sat wide near pace then led before third corner, outrun in last 100m

14th: (7) **Logi Cry**—soon led then chased leader in 2nd or 3rd, fell back in last 200m

15th: (4) **Black Moon**—positioned 2nd from rear, unable to reach contention

16th: (11) **Gendarme**—was off slow, trailed in rear, angled out, never a threat

17th: (17) **Lord Quest**—traveled 3-wide towards rear, never fired at stretch

18th: (12) **Reine Minoru**—raced in mid-division, dropped back, no factor

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.4 - 11.1 - 11.5 - 12.1 - 11.7 - 11.6 - 11.2 - 11.7
Last 4 furlongs: 46.2 Last 3 furlongs: 34.5

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

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.