

FROM: Masahiro Usuda

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

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**SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 19TH CHAMPIONS CUP (G1)**



Formerly run under the name Japan Cup Dirt until 2013, the Champions Cup takes place at Chukyo Racecourse which is situated in Chubu region between Tokyo and Osaka. The Japan Cup Dirt, which began as the dirt version of the Japan Cup in 2000 at Tokyo Racecourse held over the 2,100-meter left-handed course until 2007, was temporarily shifted to Nakayama Racecourse over the 1,800-meter right-handed course in 2002, then held at Hanshin Racecourse, also a right-handed track and over 1,800 meters, between 2008 and 2013. Thirteen of the past 18 winners of the Champions Cup, which is one of JRA's two dirt G1 races along with the February Stakes (G1, dirt, 1,600m), have won the season's JRA Award for Best Dirt Horse.

*Lord Sterling* (USA, by *Black Tie Affair*), who finished third in the inaugural year, was one of the first foreign contenders, while *Fleetstreet Dancer* (USA, by *Smart Strike*) became the first foreign winner in 2003. In the past, 28 runners from not only North America but also from France, Germany, Great Britain and Hong Kong have participated in the race and this year's race welcomed Stephen Foster Handicap (G1, dirt, 1,800m) winner **Pavel** from the U.S.

Last year's champion and Best Dirt Horse Gold Dream (JPN, H5, by Gold Allure) withdrew his entry this year due to a minor muscle strain. **Le Vent Se Leve** came off a win in the Mile Championship Nambu Hai (dirt, 1,600m; Oct.8) where he beat Gold Dream by two lengths and became the first three-year-old to win the race. Key runners coming off the JBC Classic (dirt, 1,900m; Nov.4) were **K T Brave** (1st), **Omega Perfume** (2nd), **Sunrise Soar** (3rd) and this year's February Stakes champion **Nonkono Yume** (4th). The field also included the JBC Ladies' Classic (dirt, 1,800m; Nov.4) winner **Ange Desir** and the Musashino Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,600m; Nov.10) winner **Sunrise Nova**.

The race record is held by Sound True (JPN, by French Deputy) who covered the 1,800-meter distance of Chukyo Racecourse in 1:50.1 in 2016 while *Nihonpiro Ours* (JPN, by *White Muzzle*) holds the record of 1:48.8 over Hanshin's 1,800-meter course in the 2012 Japan Cup Dirt.

**THE 19TH CHAMPIONS CUP (G1) – Japan Autumn International -**

3-year-olds & up, 1,800 meters (about 9 furlongs), dirt, left-handed

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Chukyo Racecourse

11th Race

Post Time: 15:30

Total prize money: ¥ 216,000,000 (about US\$ 1,963,636 <US\$1=¥110>)

3-y-o: 56 kg (about 124 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 57 kg (about 126 lbs)

2 kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 2kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2015

Safety factor: 16 runners



FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	2	2	Le Vent Se Leve (JPN)	C3	56.0	Symboli Kris S Maestrale	M. Demuro K. Hagiwara	G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Shadai Corporation Inc.	1:50.1 (35.6)	1.9 (1)
2	7	12	Westerlund (JPN)	G6	57.0	Neo Universe Uanme	Y. Fujioka S. Sasaki	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	2-1/2 (34.4)	32.1 (8)
3	5	9	Sunrise Soar (JPN)	C4	57.0	Symboli Kris S Amelia	J. Moreira H. Kawachi	Takao Matsuoka Tomita Bokujo	Neck (35.9)	8.2 (3)
4	1	1	Ange Desir (JPN)	F4	55.0	Deep Impact Tickle Pink	N. Yokoyama M. Kon	Koji Yasuhara Tsuji Bokujo	1-1/4 (36.5)	40.1 (9)
5	6	11	Omega Perfume (JPN)	C3	56.0	Swept Overboard Omega Fragrance	C. Demuro S. Yasuda	Reiko Hara Shadai Farm	2-1/2 (36.0)	9.2 (4)
6	4	7	Sunrise Nova (JPN)	C4	57.0	Gold Allure Bright Sapphire	K. Tosaki H. Otonashi	Takao Matsuoka Yanagawa Bokujo	Neck (35.8)	10.0 (5)
7	3	5	Nonkono Yume (JPN)	G6	57.0	Twining Nonko	H. Uchida Y. Kato	Chizu Yoshida Shadai Farm	Head (35.7)	13.4 (6)
8	7	13	Mitsuba (JPN)	H6	57.0	Kane Hekili Saint Christmas	K. Matsuyama T. Kayo	K. Kyoei Tabata Farm	Neck (36.3)	139.5 (12)
9	8	14	Hiraboku la Tache (JPN)	C3	56.0	Kinshasa no Kiseki Hiraboku Win	H. Shii R. Okubo	Hirata Farms Co., Ltd. Tsuji Bokujo	1/2 (37.0)	95.3 (11)
10	4	6	Asukano Roman (JPN)	H7	57.0	Agnes Digital Asukano Himiko	K. Dazai Y. Kawamura	Chiro Toyoda Chiro Toyoda	1-1/2 (36.8)	296.0 (15)

11	5	8	K T Brave (JPN)	H5	57.0	Admire Max K T Laurel	Y. Fukunaga H. Sugiyama	Kazuyoshi Takimoto Kazuyoshi Takimoto	Head (36.7)	5.0 (2)
12	6	10	Centurion (JPN)	H6	57.0	King Kamehameha Hundred Score	H. Yoshida Y. Tamura	Yasushi Kubota Oiwake Farm	3/4 (36.7)	251.8 (14)
13	8	15	Incantation (JPN)	H8	57.0	Sinister Minister Original Spin	K. Miura T. Hatsuki	Turf Sport Tanikawa Stud	1/2 (37.4)	75.5 (10)
14	3	4	Apollo Kentucky (USA)	H6	57.0	Langfuhr Dixiana Delight	F. Komaki K. Yamauchi	Apollo Thoroughbred Club Doug Branham	Nose (36.7)	204.6 (13)
15	2	3	Pavel* (USA)	C4	57.0	Creative Cause Mons Venus	M. Gutierrez L. Mora	Reddam Racing LLC. Brereton C. Jones & WinStar Farm LLC	Neck (37.1)	27.3 (7)

FP=Final Position / BK=Bracket Number / PP=Post Position / Wgt=Weight / L3F=Time of Last 3 Furlongs (600m)

NOTE 1: Foreign contender

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: 1:50.1

GOING: Standard

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 14,614,308,400

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 20,191,835,400

ATTENDANCE: 32,498

#### PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.2	¥190	BRACKET QUINELLA	2-7	¥2,250	QUINELLA	2-12	¥3,000
PLACE	No.2	¥110	QUINELLA PLACE	2-12	¥930	EXACTA	2-12	¥3,890
	No.12	¥440		2-9	¥320	TRIO	2-9-12	¥6,090
	No.9	¥200		9-12	¥2,140	TRIFECTA	2-12-9	¥27,310

#### 1. Le Vent Se Leve (JPN), bay, colt, 3-year-old

Symboli Kris S / Maestrale (Neo Universe)

Owner: G1 Racing Co., Ltd.

Breeder: Shadai Corporation Inc.

Trainer: Kiyoshi Hagiwara

Jockey: Mirco Demuro

8 Starts, 7 Wins

Added money: ¥ 103,360,000

Career earnings: ¥ 288,444,000

#### 2. Westerlund (JPN), chestnut, gelding, 6-year-old

Neo Universe / Uanme (Marquetry)

Owner: Sunday Racing Co., Ltd.

Breeder: Northern Racing

Trainer: Shozo Sasaki

Jockey: Yusuke Fujioka

#### 3. Sunrise Soar (JPN), dark bay or brown, colt, 4-year-old

Symboli Kris S / Amelia (Special Week)

Owner: Takao Matsuoka

Breeder: Tomita Bokujo

Trainer: Hiroshi Kawachi

Jockey: Joao Moreira

### Three-Year-Old Le Vent Se Leve Marks Clear Victory in Record-Tying time in This Year's Champions Cup

Odds-on-favorite **Le Vent Se Leve** won this year's Champions Cup in record-tying speed of 1:50.1 and extended his winning streak to four. He is the fourth three-year-old to claim the race (including the Japan Cup Dirt) following *Kurofune* (2001), *Kane Hekili* (2005) and *Alondite* (2006). Scoring three consecutive wins in his three starts as a two-year-old including the Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun (dirt, 1,600m), the son of *Symboli Kris S* marked a runner-up effort in his first start of this season then won three successive races, the Unicorn Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,600m), the Japan Dirt Derby (dirt, 2,000m) and the Mile Championship Nambu Hai (dirt, 1,600m), before coming into this race. This win marked trainer Kiyoshi Hagiwara's second JRA-G1 victory following the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) with *Logi Universe* in 2009. For jockey Mirco Demuro, it was his 26th JRA-G1 win following this year's Osaka Hai with *Suave Richard* and second Champions Cup victory following his win with *Sambista* in 2015.

Breaking smoothly from stall two, odds-on-favorite **Le Vent Se Leve** was unusually positioned toward the front, second or third behind frontrunner **Ange Desir**. The three-year-old bay traveled along the rails up to the top of the homestretch then overtook the frontrunner from the outside 200 meters out where he accelerated powerfully with the second fastest late drive, pulling away from the rest of the field for a 2-1/2-length victory.

“I didn’t want to be trapped behind horses starting from an inside draw, and he broke well so we were able to sit in a nice position. I let him cruise at his own pace and he responded with a fantastic turn of speed when I asked him once we found an opening at the stretch. He is a colt with great potential and a bright future ahead,” commented Mirco Demuro.

Eighth choice **Westerlund** broke well from stall 12 then eased back to travel in the very rear, 4-5 lengths behind the rest of the field. The six-year-old son of Neo Universe hugged the rails rounding the last two corners and slipped behind the eventual winner at the top of the stretch, waited for a clear path to present itself between **Sunrise Soar** and **Ange Desir** when he exerted an explosive late charge that timed the fastest last three furlongs while unable to match the winner in second..

Third pick **Sunrise Soar** traveled two wide in mid-division, around sixth from the front, made bid from the outside after turning the last corner wide and managed to nail **Ange Desir** 100 meters out but was overtaken by **Westerlund** in the last strides to finish third.

U.S.-trained **Pavel** broke sharply and then allowed to settle in fifth or sixth, held his position up to the last turn but failed to respond when asked after entering the stretch and faded to last.

“It’s so different here, the wait (45min from the saddling area to the starting gate) is so long, the horse lost his motivation, but racing here was a good experience,” commented jockey Mario Gutierrez. “He was good and ran a good race but as Mario said, it was a long wait and when he loaded into the gate, he was all quiet and you could tell that he had lost his racing mood. But that’s racing and I am pleased with him,” added trainer Leandro Mora.

#### Other Horses:

4th: (1) **Ange Desir**—set pace, surrendered lead to winner at 200m pole, showed tenacity but overtaken by **Sunrise Soar** and **Westerlund** in last 100m

5th: (11) **Omega Perfume**—traveled 3-wide in mid-division, angled out at early stretch, quickened in last 200m

6th: (7) **Sunrise Nova**—sat 3rd from rear, circled wide, showed belated charge

7th: (5) **Nonkono Yume**—unhurried early in 2nd from rear, wide into straight, never a threat

8th: (13) **Mitsuba**—traveled 3-wide in mid-division, brief effort entering stretch but unable to reach contention

9th: (14) **Hiraboku la Tache**—rushed out of the gate for front position, ran in 3rd just behind eventual winner, no match with the winning speed and overtaken by late closers

10th: (6) **Asukano Roman**—saved ground in mid-field, unable to keep up with increasing pace at straight

11th: (8) **K T Brave**—raced between rivals in mid-pack, 8 lengths from leader, even paced

12th: (10) **Centurion**—rated in mid-field inside rival, angled out early stretch, unable to launch bid

13th: (15) **Incantation**—chased leader in front group, tired 300 meters out and faded

14th: (4) **Apollo Kentucky**—sat 3rd or 4th from rear, brief effort into straight but flattened

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.8 - 11.2 - 13.1 - 12.5 - 12.3 - 12.3 - 12.3 - 11.7 - 11.9  
Last 4 furlongs: 48.2    Last 3 furlongs: 35.9

Positions at each corner:

1st corner	1( <u>2</u> ,14)15(3,9)13(6,8,11)10-4,7,5-12
2nd corner	1- <u>2</u> (14,15)(3,9)13(6,8,11)10-4,7-5-12
3rd corner	1,14( <u>2</u> ,15)9(6,3)(8,13)10(11,4)7,5-12
4th corner	1,14( <u>2</u> ,15)9,6(10,3,8,13)11,4(12,7)5

Note1: **Underlined bold number** indicates the winning horse

Note2: 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.