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**SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 63RD ARIMA KINEN (G1)**

Established in 1956 under the name “Nakayama Grand Prix,” the race was renamed to Arima Kinen (Arima Memorial) a year later after the sudden passing of the second JRA president, Yoriyasu Arima. Arima initiated the idea of holding an attractive event at Nakayama Racecourse, where a new grandstand had just been completed at that time, in an attempt to create a race that would receive as much attention as the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) held at Tokyo Racecourse. The Arima Kinen was designed to be a season-end Grand Prix, in which the runners are selected by fan poll—an “All-Star” event in Japanese racing. Fans can cast their votes at JRA racecourses and off-track betting sites as well as through mail or online to select the ten most popular runners. Among the horses entered in the race, ten runners with the most votes are entitled to run in the race while the rest of the field is determined in order of earnings. Foreign runners that won the Japan Cup (G1, 2,400m) became eligible to race in the Arima in 2000, then the race was designated as an international G1 race and open to a maximum of six foreign runners in 2007.

Recent Arima Kinen victors such as *Orfevre* (JPN, by *Stay Gold*; '13), *Gentildonna* (JPN, by *Deep Impact*; '14) and *Kitasan Black* (JPN, by *Black Tide*; '17) have capped off their stellar racing careers with an impressive win in the race.

This year’s contenders that were among the top ten with the most votes were as follows: Tenno Sho (Autumn) (G1, 2,000m) winner **Rey de Oro** (1st); 2016-17 Best Steeplechase Horse **Oju Chosan** (3rd); 2016 Arima Kinen champion **Satono Diamond** (5th); 2017 Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger, G1, 3,000m) winner **Kiseki** (6th); Takarazuka Kinen (G1, 2,200m) victor **Mikki Rocket** (8th); and 2017 Japan Cup champion **Cheval Grand** (9th).

Other notable contenders included 2016 Tokyo Yushun winner **Makahiki** (12th), 2017 Queen Elizabeth II Cup (G1, 2,200m) victor **Mozu Katchan** (14th), and graded winners **Clincher** (18th) and **Blast Onepiece** (19th).

Following horses avoided the race though ranked among the top ten: Fillies’ Triple Crown and the Japan Cup winner Almond Eye (JPN, F3, by Lord Kanaloa; 2nd), Osaka Hai (G1, 2,000m) victor Suave Richard (JPN, C4, by Heart’s Cry; 4th), Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m) victor Wagnerian (JPN, C3, by Deep Impact; 7th) and Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1, 2,000m) champion Epoca d’Oro (JPN, C3, by Orfevre; 10th).

The race record of 2:29.5 was set by *Zenno Rob Roy* (JPN, by *Sunday Silence*) in 2004.

**THE 63RD ARIMA KINEN (G1)**

3-year-old & up, 2,500 meters (about 12.5 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, December 23, 2018 Nakayama Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:25

Total prize money: ¥ 648,000,000 (about US\$ 5,891,000 <US\$1=¥110>)

3-y-o: 55kg (about 121 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 57kg (about 126 lbs),

2kg 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  | 4  | 8  | Blast Onepiece<br>(JPN)  | C3      | 55.0     | Harbinger<br>Tsurumaru Onepiece       | K. Ikezoe<br>M. Otake     | Silk Racing Co., Ltd.<br>Northern Farm               | 2:32.2<br>(35.7) | 8.9<br>(3)    |
| 2  | 6  | 12 | Rey de Oro<br>(JPN)      | C4      | 57.0     | King Kamehameha<br>La Dorada          | C. Lemaire<br>K. Fujisawa | U. Carrot Farm<br>Northern Racing                    | Neck<br>(35.4)   | 2.2<br>(1)    |
| 3  | 8  | 15 | Cheval Grand<br>(JPN)    | H6      | 57.0     | Heart’s Cry<br>Halwa Sweet            | H. Bowman<br>Y. Tomomichi | Kazuhiro Sasaki<br>Northern Racing                   | 1-1/4<br>(35.5)  | 22.7<br>(9)   |
| 4  | 6  | 11 | Mikki Rocket<br>(JPN)    | H5      | 57.0     | King Kamehameha<br>Moneycantbuymelove | O. Murphy<br>H. Otonashi  | Mizuki Noda<br>Northern Racing                       | 1-1/2<br>(36.6)  | 22.5<br>(8)   |
| 5  | 7  | 14 | Kiseki<br>(JPN)          | C4      | 57.0     | Rulership<br>Blitz Finale             | Y. Kawada<br>K. Nakatake  | Tatsue Ishikawa<br>Shimokobe Farm                    | 3/4<br>(37.5)    | 5.9<br>(2)    |
| 6  | 3  | 6  | Satono Diamond<br>(JPN)  | H5      | 57.0     | Deep Impact<br>Malpensa               | B. Avdulla<br>Y. Ikee     | Satomi Horse Company<br>Co., Ltd.<br>Northern Racing | Neck<br>(36.2)   | 18.1<br>(6)   |
| 7  | 8  | 16 | Sakura Empereur<br>(JPN) | H7      | 57.0     | King Kamehameha<br>Sakura Mega        | H. Tanabe<br>T. Kanari    | Sakura Commerce<br>Sakura Commerce Co., Ltd.         | Neck<br>(35.6)   | 147.0<br>(15) |
| 8  | 2  | 3  | Mozu Katchan<br>(JPN)    | F4      | 55.0     | Harbinger<br>Site Dealer              | M. Demuro<br>I. Sameshima | Capital System Co., Ltd.<br>Masaji Kitagawa          | 3/4<br>(36.7)    | 9.1<br>(4)    |

|    |   |    |                            |    |      |                                   |                            |  |                 |               |
|----|---|----|----------------------------|----|------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------|
| 9  | 1 | 1  | Oju Chosan<br>(JPN)        | H7 | 57.0 | Stay Gold<br>Shadow Silhouette    | Y. Take<br>S. Wada         | Chosan Co., Ltd.<br>Naoyoshi Nagayama                              | Head<br>(36.9)  | 9.2<br>(5)    |
| 10 | 2 | 4  | Makahiki<br>(JPN)          | H5 | 57.0 | Deep Impact<br>Wikiwiki           | Y. Iwata<br>Y. Tomomichi   | Kaneko Makoto<br>Holdings Co., Ltd.<br>Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc. | Head<br>(36.3)  | 42.5<br>(12)  |
| 11 | 5 | 10 | Mikki Swallow<br>(JPN)     | C4 | 57.0 | Tosen Homareboshi<br>Madre Bonita | N. Yokoyama<br>T. Kikuzawa | Mizuki Noda<br>Northern Farm                                       | 1/2<br>(35.4)   | 28.8<br>(10)  |
| 12 | 5 | 9  | Ridge Man<br>(JPN)         | H5 | 57.0 | Swept Overboard<br>Admire Monroe  | M. Ebina<br>Y. Shono       | Tsuji B.<br>Tsuji Bokujo   | 2<br>(36.1)     | 117.2<br>(13) |
| 13 | 7 | 13 | Smart Layer<br>(JPN)       | M8 | 55.0 | Deep Impact<br>Snow Style         | K. Tosaki<br>R. Okubo      | Toru Okawa<br>Okada Stud   | Neck<br>(36.4)  | 196.6<br>(16) |
| 14 | 3 | 5  | Perform a Promise<br>(JPN) | H6 | 57.0 | Stay Gold<br>I'll Be Bound        | C. Demuro<br>H. Fujiwara   | Sunday Racing Co., Ltd.<br>Northern Farm                           | 1-1/4<br>(36.7) | 20.6<br>(7)   |
| 15 | 1 | 2  | Clincher<br>(JPN)          | C4 | 57.0 | Deep Sky<br>The Fates             | Y. Fukunaga<br>H. Miyamoto | Koji Maeda<br>Hirayama Bokujo                                      | 1/2<br>(37.5)   | 32.2<br>(11)  |
| 16 | 4 | 7  | Sounds of Earth<br>(JPN)   | H7 | 57.0 | Neo Universe<br>First Violin      | Y. Fujioka<br>K. Fujioka   | Teruya Yoshida<br>Shadai Farm                                      | 4<br>(38.2)     | 144.2<br>(14) |

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: 2:32.2

GOING: Good

WEATHER: Cloudy

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 43,664,039,500

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 56,146,520,600

ATTENDANCE: 100,189

#### PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

|       |       |      |                  |       |        |          |         |         |
|-------|-------|------|------------------|-------|--------|----------|---------|---------|
| WIN   | No.8  | ¥890 | BRACKET QUINELLA | 4-6   | ¥970   | QUINELLA | 8-12    | ¥940    |
| PLACE | No.8  | ¥270 | QUINELLA PLACE   | 8-12  | ¥460   | EXACTA   | 8-12    | ¥2,400  |
|       | No.12 | ¥130 |                  | 8-15  | ¥2,560 | TRIO     | 8-12-15 | ¥4,910  |
|       | No.15 | ¥370 |                  | 12-15 | ¥690   | TRIFECTA | 8-12-15 | ¥25,340 |

#### 1. Blast Onepiece (JPN), bay, colt, 3-year-old

Harbinger / Tsurumaru Onepiece (King Kamehameha)

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

Trainer: Masahiro Otake Jockey: Kenichi Ikezoe

7 Starts, 5 Wins

Added money: ¥ 303,360,000 Career earnings: ¥ 438,508,000

#### 2. Rey de Oro (JPN), bay, colt, 4-year-old

King Kamehameha / La Dorada (Symboli Kris S)

Owner: U. Carrot Farm Breeder: Northern Racing

Trainer: Kazuo Fujisawa Jockey: Christophe Lemaire

#### 3. Cheval Grand (JPN), chestnut, horse, 6-year-old

Heart's Cry / Halwa Sweet (Machiavellian)

Owner: Kazuhiro Sasaki Breeder: Northern Racing

Trainer: Yasuo Tomomichi Jockey: Hugh Bowman

### Three-Year-Old Blast Onepiece Captures First G1 Title in All-Star Arima Kinen

Third pick **Blast Onepiece**, the only three-year-old in the field, beat his senior G1 rivals in this year's Arima Kinen to claim his first G1 title before a cheering crowd of over 100,000 fans. Breaking his maiden in his debut start in November last year, the *Harbinger* colt marked a three-race winning streak when winning the Mainichi Hai (G3) in March this year but finished fifth in the following Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1) where he was posted second favorite. The three-year-old bay kicked off his fall season with a win in the Niigata Kinen (G3) and was posted race favorite in the Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger, G1) but finished fourth. This win marked trainer

Masahiro Otake's first G1 title and tenth JRA grade-race win since opening his stable in 2009. This win also marked jockey Kenichi Ikezoe's 24th JRA-G1 title following his Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas) win with Reine Minoru last year and a record-high fourth Arima Kinen title following his win with *Dream Journey* in 2009 and *Orfevre* in 2011 and 2013.

Third pick **Blast Onepiece**, making a clean break from stall eight, traveled wide in mid-division, 6th or 7th from frontrunner **Kiseki**. The son of *Harbinger* made an early bid from around 600 meters out, secured a clear path turning the last two corners wide and produced a blasting charge in the last uphill stretch, overtaking **Kiseki** less than 100 meters out and holding off the strong efforts by the race favorite, for his first G1 title.

"As I had drawn a middle gate (8), I was a bit worried of being caught between horses so I settled him toward the outside. He ran well and though we were closed in by the race favorite at the end, he held on really well. I've been telling everyone that he is a G1 horse and I'm happy that I was able to prove it," commented Kenichi Ikezoe.

Race favorite **Rey de Oro** traveled wide, around ninth from the front, behind **Blast Onepiece** and threatened the eventual winner in the last stretch with a powerful late charge that timed the fastest last three furlongs of the field but was a neck short at the wire to finish second.

Ninth choice **Cheval Grand** eased back towards the rear after breaking smoothly from stall 15 and eventually settled around 11th from the front, eyeing **Rey de Oro** on the left. The son of *Heart's Cry* ran persistently behind the race favorite after entering the lane, passing tiring rivals along the way, to secure third place.

#### Other Horses:

4th: (11) **Mikki Rocket**—tracked leader in 2nd or 3rd, showed tenacity, failed to hold off late chargers and top finishers

5th: (14) **Kiseki**—set pace, extended lead up to 5 lengths at backstretch, led until passing 100m pole, weakened

6th: (6) **Satono Diamond**—traveled in mid-group, ran on economic route, failed to threaten

7th: (16) **Sakura Empereur**—sat 2nd from rear, angled out and showed good effort, belatedly

8th: (3) **Mozu Katchan**—settled around 6th, ran gamely until 100m out, weakened

9th: (1) **Oju Chosan**—chased leader in 2nd or 3rd, held well until 100m pole, outrun thereafter

10th: (4) **Makahiki**—took economic trip in mid-group, even paced

11th: (10) **Mikki Swallow**—broke poorly, trailed in rear, circled wide, showed belated charge

12th: (9) **Ridge Man**—traveled 3rd from rear, lacked needed kick at stretch

13th: (13) **Smart Layer**—saved ground towards rear, unable to reach contention

14th: (5) **Perform a Promise**—raced inside race favorite, driven after 3rd corner, failed to respond

15th: (2) **Clincher**—hugged rails in 4th, weakened after 3rd corner (2nd lap)

16th: (7) **Sounds of Earth**—sat 3-wide in 5th, gradually fell back, faded

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 6.8 - 11.6 - 11.8 - 11.9 - 12.2 - 12.8 - 12.6 - 12.2 - 11.6 - 11.8 - 11.8 - 12.2 - 12.9  
Last 4 furlongs: 48.7    Last 3 furlongs: 36.9

|                           |                      |   |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Positions at each corner: | 1st corner           | 14-11(1,2,7)(3, <b>8</b> )6(4,12)(13,5)(16,9,15)10    |
|                           | 2nd corner           | 14-11(1,7)2(3, <b>8</b> )6(4,12)(15,5)13(16,9)-10     |
|                           | 3rd corner (2nd lap) | 14-(1,11)(3,2,7)(6, <b>8</b> )(4,12)15(13,5)(16,9)-10 |
|                           | 4th corner (2nd lap) | 14-(1,11)(3,2, <b>8</b> )7(6,12)(4,15)(16,5)(13,9)10  |

**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.