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**SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 36TH FEBRUARY STAKES (G1)**



Japanese horse racing, which is influenced by British racing, is held mainly on turf. However, dirt tracks that were popular in the U.S., quickly became widely used around the country since the Tokyo Racecourse implemented a new dirt track in 1960. While the mainstream of major JRA races remained over turf, the February Stakes (then called February Handicap), which was established in 1984 in conjunction with the new grading system, was one of just three graded dirt races at the time—the current number of graded dirt events is 15. The race was upgraded to G2 in 1994 and then to G1 in 1997, and stood as the highest-priced event until the Japan Cup Dirt (called the Champions Cup from 2014) took over in 2000.

Past winners include *Wing Arrow* (JPN, by *Assatis*; '00), *Agnes Digital* (USA, by *Crafty Prospector*; '02), *Gold Allure* (JPN, by *Sunday Silence*; '03), *Admire Don* (JPN, by *Timber Country*; '04), *Kane Hekili* (JPN, by *Fuji Kiseki*; '06), *Vermilion* (JPN, by *El Condor Pasa*; '08), *Espoir City* (JPN, by *Gold Allure*; '10), *Transcend* (JPN, by *Wild Rush*; '11), *Copano Rickey* (JPN, by *Gold Allure*; '14&'15) and **Gold Dream** ('17)—all ten are winners of multiple-G1 races as well as JRA Award winners.

This year's line-up featured 2018 Champions Cup (G1, dirt, 1,800m; Dec.2) contenders **Sunrise Soar** and last year's February Stakes champion **Nonkono Yume**, who finished third and seventh, respectively, while runner-up **Omega Perfume** went on to claim his first G1 title in the Tokyo Daishoten (G1, dirt, 2,000m) three weeks later with 2017 Best Dirt Horse **Gold Dream** in second. **Inti** extended his winning streak to six by claiming one of the main prep races towards the February Stakes, the Tokai Stakes (G2, dirt, 1,800m; Jan.20). **Copano Kicking** came into the race after registering consecutive graded wins in the Capella Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,200m) and the Negishi Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,400m; Jan.27) while **Sunrise Nova**, who registered 6-3-0 out of 12 starts at Tokyo Racecourse, was a disappointing eighth in the latter. The field also included 2016 February Stakes winner **Moanin** who renewed the race record to 1:34.0 that year.

**THE 36TH FEBRUARY STAKES (G1)**

4-year-old & up, 1,600 meters (about 8 furlongs), dirt, left-handed

Sunday, February 17, 2019 Tokyo Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 216,000,000 (about US\$ 1,879,000 <US\$1=¥115>)

4-y-o & up: 57kg (about 126 lbs), 2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares,

1kg 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	6	Inti (JPN)	H5	57.0	Came Home Kitty	Y. Take K. Nonaka	Shigeo Takeda Shigeo Takeda	1:35.6 (35.4)	2.6 (1)
2	3	3	Gold Dream (JPN)	H6	57.0	Gold Allure Mon Vert	C. Lemaire O. Hirata	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Farm	Neck (34.8)	3.0 (2)
3	2	2	Yuranoto (JPN)	H5	57.0	King Kamehameha Koiuta	Y. Fukunaga K. Matsuda	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm	4 (35.5)	31.6 (8)
4	5	8 B	Moanin (USA)	H7	57.0	Henny Hughes Giggly	R. Wada S. Ishizaka	Yukio Baba Empire Equines LLC	1-1/4 (35.9)	42.9 (9)
5	7	11	Copano Kicking (USA)	G4	57.0	Spring At Last Celadon	N. Fujita A. Murayama	Sachiaki Kobayashi Reiley McDonald	1/2 (35.2)	9.4 (4)
6	6	10	Sunrise Soar (JPN)	H5	57.0	Symboli Kris S Amelia	H. Tanabe H. Kawachi	Takao Matsuoka Tomita Bokujo	Neck (36.3)	14.1 (5)
7	5	7	Sunrise Nova (JPN)	H5	57.0	Gold Allure Bright Sapphire	K. Tosaki H. Otonashi	Takao Matsuoka Yanagawa Bokujo	1-1/4 (35.7)	16.7 (6)
8	4	5	Success Energy (JPN)	H5	57.0	Kinshasa no Kiseki Success Ai Ni	K. Matsuyama Y. Kitade	Tetsu Takashima Tetsu Takashima	1 (36.5)	95.0 (11)
9	6	9	Wonder Lider (JPN)	H6	57.0	Statue of Liberty Astrea Peace	D. Shibata Y. Oki	Yoshinari Yamamoto Oshima Bokujo	1/2 (36.6)	429.0 (14)
10	8	14	Omega Perfume (JPN)	C4	57.0	Swept Overboard Omega Fragrance	M. Demuro S. Yasuda	Reiko Hara Shadai Farm	3/4 (36.4)	6.2 (3)

11	1	1 B	Queen's Saturn (JPN)	H6	57.0	Pyro Keiai Bellona	H. Shii K. Nonaka	Kazuhiro Kameda Satake Farm Ltd	3/4 (36.2)	61.3 (10)
12	7	12	Nobo Baccara (JPN)	H7	57.0	Admire Aura Nobo Kiss	F. Minarik H. Mori	LS. M Co., Ltd. LS. M Co., Ltd.	2 (36.6)	338.1 (12)
13	8	13	Nonkono Yume (JPN)	G7	57.0	Twining Nonko	H. Uchida Y. Kato	Chizu Yoshida Shadai Farm	1/2 (36.9)	17.9 (7)
14	3	4	Meisho Utage (JPN)	H8	57.0	Precise End She'll be Back	H. Kitamura A. Adachi	Yoshio Matsumoto Takae Bokujo	Neck (36.7)	393.4 (13)

FP=Final Position / BK=Bracket Number / PP=Post Position / B=Blinker / 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: 1:35.6

GOING: Standard

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 15,100,038,200

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 24,951,141,300

ATTENDANCE: 61,141

#### PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.6	¥260	BRACKET QUINELLA	3-4	¥410	QUINELLA	3-6	¥430
PLACE	No.6	¥130	QUINELLA PLACE	3-6	¥230	EXACTA	6-3	¥750
	No.3	¥120		2-6	¥1,100	TRIO	2-3-6	¥2,310
	No.2	¥340		2-3	¥760	TRIFECTA	6-3-2	¥6,620

#### 1. **Inti (JPN)**, chestnut, horse, 5-year-old

Came Home / Kitty (Northern Afleet)

Owner: Shigeo Takeda

Breeder: Shigeo Takeda

Trainer: Kenji Nonaka

Jockey: Yutaka Take

8 Starts, 7 Wins

Added money: ¥ 103,108,000

Career earnings: ¥ 207,998,000

#### 2. **Gold Dream (JPN)**, bay, horse, 6-year-old

Gold Allure / Mon Vert (French Deputy)

Owner: Katsumi Yoshida

Breeder: Northern Farm

Trainer: Osamu Hirata

Jockey: Christophe Lemaire

#### 3. **Yuranoto (JPN)**, chestnut, horse, 5-year-old

King Kamehameha / Koiuta (Fuji Kiseki)

Owner: Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Breeder: Shadai Farm

Trainer: Kunihide Matsuda

Jockey: Yuichi Fukunaga

#### **Inti Secures Seventh Consecutive Victory in February Stakes**

Race favorite **Inti** extended his winning streak to seven by capturing his first G1 title in this year's February Stakes. The son of *Came Home* marked a ninth in his debut start and had been undefeated in all six starts that followed up to his latest Tokai Stakes (G2, dirt, 1,800m) triumph four weeks earlier. Overcoming issues concerning recovery from fatigue which forced him to limit his starts to three in both the 2017 and 2018 season, the lightly raced five-year-old now boasts a record of seven out of eight, all on dirt over 1,600, 1,700 or 1,800m distances. Trainer Kenji Nonaka celebrates his eighth graded win and first JRA-G1 title since opening his yard in 2008. Since his latest 2017 Arima Kinen victory with *Kitsan Black*, this is jockey Yutaka Take's 76th overall JRA-G1 win and fifth February Stakes title—*Gold Allure* (2003), *Kane Hekili* (2006), *Vermilion* (2008) and *Copano Rickey* (2015).

While defending champion **Nonkono Yume** missed his break, the rest of the field broke smoothly with **Inti** sent to the lead to set the pace chased by **Sunrise Soar** and **Success Energy** in second and third. Yutaka Take produced a perfect ride driving the five-year-old chestnut to victory while repelling a determined challenge from runner-up **Gold Dream** to land a neck win.

“The horse broke well and we were able to take the lead and set at an ideal pace. He was a bit too eager in the post parade and I was worried that he had used up his energy, but we secured a safe lead at the last turn and he showed amazing strength to the wire. He has so much potential, we have a lot to look forward to in his future starts,” commented Yutaka Take.

After settling in mid-field, 2017 champion and last year’s runner-up **Gold Dream** shot out of the chasing group with a good burst of speed 300 meters out and threatened the leader with the fastest late charge but was a neck short in second.

Eighth favorite **Yuranoto** ran on the rails in mid-division right beside **Gold Dream** up to the final turn and found a narrow path to advance to third at the furlong marker but proved no match for the winner finishing four lengths from the runner-up in third.

Under Nanako Fujita, who became the first Japanese female jockey to ride in a G1 event, fourth pick **Copano Kicking** trailed in the rear and lost ground going wide on both turns. The *Spring At Last* gelding showed the second fastest late drive but had too much ground to make up and finished a six-length fifth. “I am truly grateful to all who made it possible for myself to ride in this race. I have experienced this course numerous times before but today, everything looked totally different,” commented Nanako Fujita after the race.

Other Horses:

- 4th: (8) **Moanin**—traveled in 5th, showed tenacious effort while no match for top 2 finishers
- 6th: (10) **Sunrise Soar**—stalked leader in 2nd, ran gamely up to furlong pole, outrun
- 7th: (7) **Sunrise Nova**—settled 3-wide 3rd from rear, passed tired rivals at stretch
- 8th: (5) **Success Energy**—chased leaders in 3rd along rails, weakened in last 200m
- 9th: (9) **Wonder Lider**—raced 3-wide in 4th, ran willingly until 200m pole, gradually dropped back
- 10th: (14) **Omega Perfume**—sat around 8th outside **Gold Dream**, never fired at stretch
- 11th: (1) **Queen’s Saturn**—saved ground 2nd from rear, angled out, even paced
- 12th: (12) **Nobo Baccara**—traveled 3-wide in 11th, showed little at straight
- 13th: (13) **Nonkono Yume**—was off slow, made headway on outer route, failed to respond at stretch
- 14th: (4) **Meisho Utage**—hugged rails in 10th, showed brief effort, fell back after furlong pole

Fractional time (sec./furlong):   12.4 - 11.5 - 11.9 - 12.2 - 12.2 - 11.6 - 11.4 - 12.4  
 Last 4 furlongs: 47.6        Last 3 furlongs: 35.4

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