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DATE: March 31, 2019

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 63RD OSAKA HAI (G1)



The Osaka Hai, renewing its name in 2017 from the familiarly known Sankei Osaka Hai, was established in 1957 as a handicap race open to runners of four years of age and upwards run over 1,800m at Hanshin Racecourse in March. After the distance was extended to 2,000m in 1972, the date was moved to one week earlier to the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas) in 1981. The race was given G2 status in conjunction with the new grading system in 1984, opened its doors to foreign competitors in 2003 and was upgraded to G1 in 2017. The winner of the race will automatically earn a starting position in the Irish Champion Stakes (G1, 2,000m) held in September.

Attracting strong contenders by serving as a prep race for G1 spring races for older horses such as the Tenno Sho (Spring) (G1, 3,200m) and the Takarazuka Kinen (G1, 2,200m), many Osaka Hai champions have gone on to achieve G1 successes; *Meisho Samson* (JPN, by *Opera House*) in 2007, *Hiruno d'Amour* (JPN, by *Manhattan Cafe*), who set the race record of 1:57.8 in 2011, two-time Horse of the Year *Kitasan Black* (JPN, by *Black Tide*) in 2017, all went on to capture the Tenno Sho (Spring) that followed; and *Dream Journey* (JPN, by *Stay Gold*) in 2009 landed his Takarazuka Kinen victory two starts later. Winners who also showed extraordinary accomplishments include 2008 champion *Daiwa Scarlet* (JPN, by *Agnes Tachyon*), legendary 2013 winner *Orfevre* (JPN, by *Stay Gold*) and 2014 victor *Kizuna* (JPN, by *Deep Impact*). Last year's victor *Suave Richard* (JPN, H5, by *Heart's Cry*) was among the overseas challengers in Dubai this year and was third in the Dubai Sheema Classic (G1, 2,410m).

2018 Arima Kinen (G1, 2,500m; Dec.23) victor **Blast Onepiece** and Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m) winner **Wagnerian** started their four-year-old season with this year's Osaka Hai. **Danburite** registered his second grade-race title in the Kyoto Kinen (G2, 2,200m; Feb.10) while 2016 Tokyo Yushun champion **Makahiki** was a close third. 2018 Mile Championship (G1, 1,600m) winner **Stelvio** and Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1, 2,000m) victor **Epoca d'Oro** finished third and fifth in the Nakayama Kinen (G2, 1,800m; Feb.24), respectively. G1 winners coming off the Kinko Sho (G2, 2,000m; Mar.10) were **Persian Knight** (4th) and **Al Ain** (5th) who had claimed their respective G1 titles in the Mile Championship and the Satsuki Sho in 2017. The field also included 2017 Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger, G1, 3,000m) champion **Kiseki**, three-time graded winner **Sungrazer** and **Stiffelio** who came off his second consecutive graded win in the Kokura Daishoten (G3, 1,800m; Feb.17).

THE 63RD OSAKA HAI (G1)

4-year-old & up, 2,000 meters (about 10 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, March 31, 2019 Hanshin Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 259,200,000 (about US\$ 2,254,000 <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	3	3 B	Al Ain (JPN)	H5	57.0	Deep Impact Dubai Majesty	Y. Kitamura Y. Ikee	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	2:01.0 (35.2)	22.2 (9)
2	4	6	Kiseki (JPN)	H5	57.0	Rulership Blitz Finale	Y. Kawada K. Sumii	Tatsue Ishikawa Shimokobe Farm	Neck (35.4)	4.1 (2)
3	2	2	Wagnerian (JPN)	C4	57.0	Deep Impact Miss Encore	Y. Fukunaga Y. Tomomichi	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc.	Neck (35.1)	8.2 (4)
4	1	1	Makahiki (JPN)	H6	57.0	Deep Impact Wikiwiki	Y. Iwata Y. Tomomichi	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc.	3/4 (34.9)	37.4 (10)
5	6	9	Air Windsor (JPN)	H5	57.0	King Kamehameha Air Messiah	S. Hamanaka K. Sumii	Lucky Field Co., Ltd. Tsunebumi Yoshihara	Neck (35.2)	9.3 (5)
6	5	7	Blast Onepiece (JPN)	C4	57.0	Harbinger Tsurumaru Onepiece	K. Ikezoe M. Otake	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	1/2 (35.3)	3.2 (1)
7	8	13	Stiffelio (JPN)	H5	57.0	Stay Gold Serious Attitude	H. Tanabe H. Otonashi	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm	1-1/4 (35.9)	119.5 (13)

8	4	5	Muito Obrigado (JPN)	H5	57.0	Rulership Pisa no Graf	N. Yokoyama K. Tsunoda	Ichikawa Yoshimi Holdings Co., Ltd. Yoshimi Ichikawa	Neck (35.1)	218.9 (14)
9	8	14	Danburite (JPN)	H5	57.0	Rulership Tanzanite	F. Matsuwaka H. Otonashi	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	Neck (35.8)	57.6 (11)
10	3	4	Epoca d'Oro (JPN)	C4	57.0	Orfevre Daiwa Passion	K. Tosaki H. Fujiwara	K. Hidaka Breeders Union Toru Tagami	2 (36.5)	14.3 (8)
11	7	11	Persian Knight (JPN)	H5	57.0	Harbinger Orient Charm	M. Demuro Y. Ikee	G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Oiwake Farm	Neck (36.1)	7.3 (3)
12	5	8	Sungrazer (JPN)	H5	57.0	Deep Impact Mantis Hunt	F. Minarik H. Asami	G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Oiwake Farm	Neck (35.8)	13.5 (7)
13	6	10	Stay Foolish (JPN)	C4	57.0	Stay Gold Kauai Lane	K. Fujioka Y. Yahagi	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm	1-3/4 (36.1)	94.8 (12)
14	7	12	Stelvio (JPN)	C4	57.0	Lord Kanaloa L'Archetto	G. Maruyama T. Kimura	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	3/4 (36.7)	12.2 (6)

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: 2:01.0

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Cloudy

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 15,243,851,700

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 24,514,285,700

ATTENDANCE: 36,557

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.3	¥2,220	BRACKET QUINELLA	3-4	¥1,750	QUINELLA	3-6	¥3,680
PLACE	No.3	¥450	QUINELLA PLACE	3-6	¥1,090	EXACTA	3-6	¥10,940
	No.6	¥180		2-3	¥2,880	TRIO	2-3-6	¥10,740
	No.2	¥320		2-6	¥880	TRIFECTA	3-6-2	¥93,560

1. Al Ain (JPN), bay, horse, 5-year-old

Deep Impact / Dubai Majesty (Essence of Dubai)

Owner: Sunday Racing Co., Ltd.

Breeder: Northern Farm

Trainer: Yasutoshi Ikee

Jockey: Yuichi Kitamura

16 Starts, 5 Wins

Added money: ¥ 122,982,000

Career earnings: ¥ 500,110,900

2. Kiseki (JPN), dark bay or brown, horse, 5-year-old

Rulership / Blitz Finale (Deep Impact)

Owner: Tatsue Ishikawa

Breeder: Shimokobe Farm

Trainer: Katsuhiko Sumii

Jockey: Yuga Kawada

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

Deep Impact / Miss Encore (King Kamehameha)

Owner: Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Breeder: Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc.

Trainer: Yasuo Tomomichi

Jockey: Yuichi Fukunaga

Al Ain Earns Well-Deserved G1 Osaka Hai Victory

Ninth pick **Al Ain** captured his long awaited G1 title, the first since his three-year-old classic victory in the 2017 Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, 2,000m), against a reputedly strong field in this year's Osaka Hai. Although regarded highly since early in his career during which he scored two wins in as many starts as a two-year-old and quickly landed two grade-race titles including the Mainichi Hai (G3, 1,800m) and the Satsuki Sho in his three-year-old campaign, the son of *Deep Impact* was winless in ten starts since while consistent in finishing within fifth place in nine including two thirds in the Osaka Hai and the Mile Championship (G1, 1,600m) last year. Trainer Yasutoshi Ikee scored his 20th JRA-G1 victory following the 2017 Mile Championship with Persian

Knight. It was the first career G1 victory and 17th grade-race title for Yuichi Kitamura who debuted in 2006.

Jockey Yuichi Kitamura, who had partnered the son of *Deep Impact* twice before last season, made use of the inside draw to settle **Al Ain** after a sharp break in third or fourth and saved ground through most of the trip behind pacesetter **Epoca d'Oro**. The field traveled at a moderate-slow pace and bunched up rounding the last corner giving the 2017 Satsuki Sho victor an ideal opening going into the stretch. Kitamura did not miss a beat in giving the five-year-old the green light and his mount responded instantly as they overtook the tiring leader and took command in the last 200 meters, out-dueled **Kiseki** who emerged along the center lane and held off **Wagnerian** who challenged in the inside for a neck win.

“We had a good draw and everything worked to our advantage. He was able to focus using the blinkers for the second time and he responded well so I just concentrated on keeping him comfortable,” commented Yuichi Kitamura.

Kiseki, who had dictated the pace in his recent starts, chose to stay close to the pace in second and had every chance as the 2018 Japan Cup runner-up accelerated smoothly into the stretch but was unable to match the winner finishing a neck short for second.

Wagnerian was rated in mid-field along the rails not far from the **Al Ain** and followed the eventual winner for the stretch run but was unable to reach the first two for a close third.

Last year's Arima Kinen victor and race favorite **Blast Onepiece** was unhurried after a smooth break, made his move from racing fourth from the rear along the outside approaching the last corner but was forced wide as the field bunched up rounding the final turn and had too much ground to make up, finishing sixth.

Other Horses:

4th: (1) **Makahiki**—trailed in rear along rails, switched to outside, accelerated in last 200m, timed fastest over last 3 furlongs

5th: (9) **Air Windsor**—traveled in mid-division, responded well, even paced in last 100m

7th: (13) **Stiffelio**—chased leaders in 3rd, showed effort, outrun in last 100m

8th: (5) **Muito Obrigado**—saved ground in mid-pack early, gradually dropped back, entered last entering stretch, passed tired rivals

9th: (14) **Danburite**—raced 3-wide in mid-group, even paced at stretch

10th: (4) **Epoca d'Oro**—set pace, fell back after furlong pole

11th: (11) **Persian Knight**—settled 3-wide in mid-division, checked 100m out, lost momentum

12th: (8) **Sungrazer**—ran 2nd from rear, switched to outside at early stretch, never fired

13th: (10) **Stay Foolish**—sat 3rd from rear, circled wide, unable to reach contention

14th: (12) **Stelvio**—traveled outside eventual winner, weakened in last 300m, faded

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.6 - 11.1 - 12.7 - 12.7 - 12.2 - 12.4 - 11.8 - 11.4 - 11.6 - 12.5
Last 4 furlongs: 47.3 Last 3 furlongs: 35.5

Positions at each corner:

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

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.