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SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 69TH YASUDA KINEN (G1)

The Yasuda Kinen, a race to determine the best miler of the spring season, has welcomed just over 50 foreign-trained horses since its designation as an international race in 1993, including 1995 champion *Heart Lake* (GB, by *Nureyev*) from the UAE, 2000 winner *Fairy King Prawn* (AUS, by *Danehill*) from Hong Kong and the winner of the 2006 Champions Mile-Yasuda Kinen double, *Bullish Luck* (USA, by *Royal Academy*). Past Yasuda Kinen winners that have subsequently become the season's Horse of the Year include *Oguri Cap* (JPN, by *Dancing Cap*; '90), *Taiki Shuttle* (USA, by *Devil's Bag*; '98), *Vodka* (JPN, by *Tanino Gimlet*; '08 & '09), *Lord Kanaloa* (JPN, by *King Kamehameha*; '13) and *Maurice* (JPN, by *Screen Hero*; '15). The first three finishers of this race are eligible to start in the French G1 Prix Jacques le Marois (1,600m) beginning this year, free of charge to enter and with additional support for transportation.

This year's lineup featured 2018 Horse of the Year **Almond Eye** who claimed her fifth G1 title in the Dubai Turf (1,800m; Mar.30) and made her domestic seasonal debut in this race. Other key contenders coming off their respective races were: from the Lord Derby Challenge Trophy (G3, 1,600m; Mar.30), **Fiano Romano** (1st); from the Osaka Hai (G1, 2,000m; Mar.31), 2018 Tenno Sho (Autumn) (G1, 2,000m) runner-up **Sungrazer** (12th) and, **Persian Knight** (11th) and **Stelvio** (14th) who claimed the Mile Championship (G1, 1,600m) in 2017 and 2018, respectively; from the Milers Cup (G2, 1,600m; Apr.21), 2017 Best Two-Year-Old Colt **Danon Premium** (1st), **Guanciaie** (2nd), **Indy Champ** (4th), 2018 NHK Mile Cup (G1, 1,600m) winner **Keiai Nautique** (6th) and **Mozu Ascot** (7th) who was last year's Yasuda Kinen champion; from the Keio Hai Spring Cup (G2, 1,400m; May.11), **Logi Cry** (3rd); from the Victoria Mile (G1, 1,600m; May.12), 2017 NHK Mile Cup champion **Aerolithe** (5th).

THE 69TH YASUDA KINEN (G1)

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

Sunday, June 2, 2019 Tokyo Racecourse 11th Race Post Time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 238,600,000 (about US\$ 2,075,000 <US\$1=¥115>)

3-y-o: 54kg (about 119 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 58kg (about 128 lbs), 2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 1kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2015, 2kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2016

Safety factor: 18 runners

FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	3	5	Indy Champ (JPN)	C4	58.0	Stay Gold Will Power	Y. Fukunaga H. Otonashi	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	1:30.9 (32.9)	19.2 (4)
2	1	2	Aerolithe (JPN)	M5	56.0	Kurofune Asterix	K. Tosaki T. Kikuzawa	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	Neck (33.9)	12.5 (3)
3	7	14	Almond Eye (JPN)	F4	56.0	Lord Kanaloa Fusaichi Pandora	C. Lemaire S. Kunieda	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	Nose (32.4)	1.7 (1)
4	3	6	Guanciaie (JPN)	H7	58.0	Screen Hero Chuo Saya	M. Matsuoka Y. Kitade	Toshihiro Matsumoto Chuo Bokujo	1-1/2 (33.9)	103.3 (13)
5	2	4	Sungrazer (JPN)	H5	58.0	Deep Impact Mantis Hunt	Y. Iwata H. Asami	G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Oiwake Farm	Nose (32.9)	26.9 (6)
6	4	7	Mozu Ascot (USA)	H5	58.0	Frankel India	R. Sakai Y. Yahagi	Capital System Co., Ltd. Summer Wind Farm	Neck (33.1)	35.4 (7)
7	1	1	Keiai Nautique (JPN)	C4	58.0	Deep Impact Keiai Gerbera	H. Miyuki O. Hirata	Kazuhiro Kameda Queens Ranch Ltd	1/2 (32.7)	64.5 (10)
8	4	8	Stelvio (JPN)	C4	58.0	Lord Kanaloa L'Archetto	D. Lane T. Kimura	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	Nose (32.6)	21.4 (5)
9	8	16	Logi Cry (JPN)	H6	58.0	Heart's Cry Dream Moment	Y. Take N. Sugai	Masaaki Kumeta Northern Racing	1/2 (33.8)	70.5 (11)
10	7	13	Persian Knight (JPN)	H5	58.0	Harbinger Orient Charm	M. Demuro Y. Ikee	G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Oiwake Farm	2-1/2 (32.7)	36.2 (8)
11	2	3	Sakura Empereur (JPN)	H8	58.0	King Kamehameha Sakura Mega	N. Yokoyama T. Kanari	Sakura Commerce Sakura Commerce Co., Ltd.	1/2 (33.3)	203.5 (15)
12	6	12	Lord Quest (JPN)	H6	58.0	Matsurida Gogh Matsurida Waltz	Y. Ishikawa S. Kojima	Lord Horse Club Samani Hori Bokujo	Nose (34.1)	278.7 (16)

13	5	9	Smart Odin (JPN)	H6	58.0	Danon Chantilly Lady Upstage	K. Ikezoe Y. Ikee	Toru Okawa Sky Beach Stable	3/4 (33.4)	73.7 (12)
14	5	10	Fiano Romano (AUS)	H5	58.0	Fastnet Rock Heart Ashley	Y. Kitamura T. Takano	Kazumi Yoshida Kia Ora Stud	1/2 (33.7)	39.3 (9)
15	6	11	Entscheiden (JPN)	C4	58.0	Deep Impact Le Sucre	H. Tanabe Y. Yahagi	Koji Maeda North Hills Co., Ltd.	1/2 (34.0)	178.9 (14)
16	8	15	Danon Premium (JPN)	C4	58.0	Deep Impact Indiana Gal	Y. Kawada M. Nakauchida	Danox Co., Ltd. K. I. Farm	4 (34.5)	3.2 (2)

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: 1:30.9

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Cloudy

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 20,456,076,700

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 31,266,208,200

ATTENDANCE: 74,008

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.5	¥ 1,920	BRACKET QUINELLA	1-3	¥ 4,010	QUINELLA	2-5	¥ 5,670
PLACE	No.5	¥ 290	QUINELLA PLACE	2-5	¥ 1,460	EXACTA	5-2	¥ 13,660
	No.2	¥ 240		5-14	¥ 600	TRIO	2-5-14	¥ 3,690
	No.14	¥ 110		2-14	¥ 470	TRIFECTA	5-2-14	¥ 43,720

1. **Indy Champ (JPN)**, bay, colt, 4-year-old

Stay Gold / Will Power (King Kamehameha)

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

Trainer: Hidetaka Otonashi Jockey: Yuichi Fukunaga

10 Starts, 6 Wins

Added money: ¥ 113,402,000 Career earnings: ¥ 231,120,000

2. **Aerolithe (JPN)**, gray, mare, 5-year-old

Kurofuno / Asterix (Neo Universe)

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

Trainer: Takanori Kikuzawa Jockey: Keita Tosaki

3. **Almond Eye (JPN)**, bay, filly, 4-year-old

Lord Kanaloa / Fusaichi Pandora (Sunday Silence)

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

Trainer: Sakae Kunieda Jockey: Christophe Lemaire

Indy Champ Beats Heavy Favorite for First G1 Title in the Yasuda Kinen

Fourth favorite **Indy Champ** claimed this year's Yasuda Kinen in his first G1 challenge, renewing the race record to 1:30.9, 0.4 seconds shorter than previously set by *Strong Return* in 2012. Raced between 1,400 and 1,800 meters, the four-year-old *Stay Gold* colt immediately broke his maiden in his debut start in December as a two-year-old and registered three wins out of six starts last year. This season, he claimed his first graded win in his kick-off start, the Tokyo Shimbun Hai (G3, 1,600m), and came off a fourth in his latest Milers Cup (G2, 1,600m) start in April. For trainer Hidetaka Otonashi, this is his 10th JRA-G1 triumph following the Takarazuka Kinen with *Mikki Rocket* last year. Since his latest victory with Mr. Melody in this year's Takamatsunomiya Kinen, jockey Yuichi Fukunaga is now the winning jockey of 24 JRA-G1 races, two of which are Yasuda Kinen titles—the other with *Strong Return* in 2012.

Indy Champ broke well and secured a rail trip in fifth up to the top of the straight. After struggling behind a wall of horses in early stretch, the four-year-old bay threaded out two furlongs out, displayed a good turn of foot up the hill and stretched strongly, overtaking the pacesetter in the final strides to clear the wire first.

“He was tuned up well, was in great shape, and had a good draw, so I just tried hard not to miss our break. He tends to get distracted when he’s up front so I kept him off the pace. We were up against fierce competition, but I believed that he had a good chance as long as I didn’t make any mistakes and he certainly responded beautifully to our expectations,” commented Yuichi Fukunaga.

Sent off third favorite, **Aerolithe** went right to the front after a good break and set a solid pace with **Guanciale** within a couple of lengths behind in second. Demonstrating good stamina, the five-year-old daughter of *Kurofune* stubbornly held on to the lead only to be caught a few strides before the finish line by **Indy Champ** for a neck second.

Heavily favored filly **Almond Eye**, aiming for her sixth consecutive G1 victory, immediately met traffic after breaking from stall 14 and was forced to settle between horses in the latter half of the field, a half-length behind second favorite **Danon Premium**. Failing to shift out at the last corner, the *Lord Kanaloa* filly finally found room 300 meters out and unleashed her trademark burst of speed, which was timed the fastest of the field, but had too much ground to make up and was a nose short for third.

Other Horses:

4th: (6) **Guanciale**—tracked leader in 2nd, showed tenacity, weakened in final strides

5th: (4) **Sungrazer**—saved ground in mid-division, showed effort but lacked another gear in last 200m

6th: (7) **Mozu Ascot**—settled in mid-pack, responded outside eventual winner, but no match in last 200m

7th: (1) **Keiai Nautique**—sat behind favorite, switched to inside at early stretch, showed belated effort

8th: (8) **Stelvio**—was off a bit slow, raced 2nd from rear, failed to find clear path at early stretch, accelerated in last 300m, timed 2nd fastest over last 3 furlongs

9th: (16) **Logi Cry**—advanced to 3rd from widest draw, ran gamely until 200m pole, weakened

10th: (13) **Persian Knight**—checked after break, trailed in rear, passed tired rivals at straight

11th: (3) **Sakura Empereur**—hugged rails in mid-group, checked 400m out, even paced

12th: (12) **Lord Quest**—traveled outside eventual winner, outrun in last furlong

13th: (9) **Smart Odin**—settled towards rear, circled wide, unable to reach contention

14th: (10) **Fiano Romano**—raced inside favorite, showed little at stretch

15th: (11) **Entscheiden**—ran 3-wide in mid-division, gradually fell back

16th: (15) **Danon Premium**—traveled 4-wide near favorite, never fired, faded after 300m marker

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.2 - 10.9 - 11.4 - 11.3 - 11.2 - 11.1 - 11.2 - 11.6

Last 4 furlongs: 45.1 Last 3 furlongs: 33.9

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

4th corner 2,6-16,12,**5**,7(4,11)(10,14,15)(3,1,9)8-13

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.