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SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 53RD SPRINTERS STAKES (G1)



The Sprinters Stakes, initially established in 1967 as a major 1,200-meter sprint race for three-year-old and up, was designated as a spring G3 event in conjunction with the new grading system implemented in 1984. It was then upgraded to G2 in 1987 before becoming a G1 sprint race in 1990 with the date of fixture also shifted to the latter part of the season. The race now positions itself as the highest mark for sprinters together with the Takamatsunomiya Kinen (G1, 1,200m) held in spring. The race also joined the Breeders' Cup Challenge Series in 2016, enabling its winners to earn automatic starting position in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1, 1,000m).

One of the first few JRA races to open its doors to foreign entries, the Sprinters Stakes has enjoyed the participation of many outstanding sprinters from North America, Europe, Asia, and Oceania. Hong Kong raiders have taken home the title twice so far—Silent Witness (AUS, by El Moxie) was the first foreign contender to win the title in 2005 along with Ultra Fantasy (AUS, by Encosta De Lago) in 2010—while Australia's Takeover Target (AUS, by Celtic Swing) won the 2006 version. While foreign contenders have not been seen in the winner's circle since, the race has continued to enjoy the company of some of the top sprinters from overseas in recent years.

In last year's Sprinters Stakes, Fine Needle (JPN, by Admire Moon) claimed his second G1 victory earning him the JRA's Best Sprinter or Miler Award for his accomplishment of claiming both G1 sprints races—the Takamatsunomiya Kinen and the Sprinters Stakes—in the same year and capped off his career at the end of the season.

This year's Takamatsunomiya Kinen champion **Mr Melody** was among this year's lineup after coming off an eighth in the Centaur Stakes (G2, 1,200m; Sep.8) where **Tower of London** claimed his fourth graded title in record-breaking time, **Fantasist** finished second, and Kitakyushu Kinen (G3, 1,200m; Aug.18) winner **Daimei Princess** followed in sixth. Other key runners coming off other prep races were: from the Kitakyushu Kinen, **Dirndl** (2nd); from the Keeneland Cup (G3, 1,200m; Aug.25), **Danon Smash** (1st), **Linate** (3rd) and 2017 Takamatsunomiya Kinen champion **Seiun Kosei** (6th).

The race record of 1:06.7 was set by Lord Kanaloa (JPN, by King Kamehameha) in the first of his consecutive victories in this race in 2012 and 2013.

THE 53RD SPRINTERS STAKES (G1)

3-year-olds & up, 1,200 meters (about 6 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, September 29, 2019 Nakayama Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

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

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 2016

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	Tower of London (JPN)	C4	57.0	Raven's Pass Snow Pine	C. Lemaire K. Fujisawa	Godolphin Darley Japan K. K	1:07.1 (33.5)	2.9 (2)
2	4	7	Moju Superflare (USA)	F4	55.0	Speightstown Christies Treasure	F. Matsuwaka H. Otonashi	Capital System Co., Ltd. Alpha Delta Stables LLC	1/2 (34.4)	6.2 (3)
3	1	2	Danon Smash (JPN)	C4	57.0	Lord Kanaloa Spinning Wildcat	Y. Kawada T. Yasuda	Danox Co., Ltd. K. I. Farm	Neck (33.7)	2.8 (1)
4	7	13	Mr Melody (USA)	C4	57.0	Scat Daddy Trusty Lady	Y. Fukunaga H. Fujiwara	Green Fields Co., Ltd. Bell Tower Thoroughbreds	1 (34.1)	15.7 (6)
5	3	5	Let's Go Donki (JPN)	M7	55.0	King Kamehameha Marutoku	Y. Iwata T. Umeda	Hirosaki Toshihiro HD Co., Ltd. Shimizu Bokujo	1/2 (33.4)	47.0 (9)
6	6	12	Daimei Princess (JPN)	M6	55.0	King Halo Daimei Dark	S. Akiyama N. Morita	Koichi Miyamoto Koichi Miyamoto	Nose (34.0)	71.3 (12)
7	7	14	Happy Hour (JPN)	C3	55.0	Harbinger Success Silhouette	N. Yokoyama K. Take	Sachiko Takashima Key West Inc.	3/4 (33.1)	194.4 (13)
8	3	6	No One (JPN)	F3	53.0	Heart's Cry Playgirl	H. Uchida K. Sasada	Yoshinori Fujita Tobino Bokujo	1-1/4 (33.9)	195.9 (14)
9	2	4	Linate	M5	55.0	Stay Gold	K. Miura	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd.	1/2	14.9

			(JPN)			Malpensa	N. Sugai	Northern Racing	(34.0)	(5)
10	1	1	Ares Barows (JPN)	H7	57.0	Deep Impact Taisei Etoile	Y. Hishida K. Tsunoda	Hirotsugu Inokuma Yanagawa Bokujo	3/4 (33.9)	55.0 (11)
11	8	15	Iberis (JPN)	F3	53.0	Lord Kanaloa Celebrar	S. Hamanaka K. Tsunoda	Koji Maeda Doi Bokujo	Neck (34.8)	49.1 (10)
12	2	3	Seiun Kosei (JPN)	H6	57.0	Admire Moon Observant	H. Miyuki H. Uehara	Shigeyuki Nishiyama Sakurai Bokujo	3/4 (34.9)	41.4 (8)
13	5	9	Dirndl (JPN)	F3	53.0	Rulership Grunewald	Y. Fujioka Y. Okumura	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	3 (35.1)	8.9 (4)
14	6	11	Maltese Apogee (JPN)	H7	57.0	Goshawk Ken Maltese Heat	G. Maruyama M. Horii	Nagako Fujita Nagako Fujita	3/4 (35.7)	205.6 (15)
15	5	10	Love Kampf (JPN)	F4	55.0	Shonan Kampf Love Heart	M. Sakai N. Morita	Yoichi Masuda Yoichi Masuda	Neck (35.4)	219.9 (16)
16	8	16	Fantastist (JPN)	C3	55.0	Lord Kanaloa Deep in Ask	Y. Take T. Umeda	Toshihiro Hirosaki Toshihiro Hirosaki	3 (36.3)	26.5 (7)

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: 1:07.1

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Cloudy

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 13,025,130,100

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 22,307,358,000

ATTENDANCE: 34,347

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.8	¥ 290	BRACKET QUINELLA	4-4	¥ 1,250	QUINELLA	7-8	¥ 1,260
PLACE	No.8	¥ 130	QUINELLA PLACE	7-8	¥ 430	EXACTA	8-7	¥ 2,040
	No.7	¥ 180		2-8	¥ 220	TRIO	2-7-8	¥ 1,070
	No.2	¥ 120		2-7	¥ 380	TRIFECTA	8-7-2	¥ 6,080

1. Tower of London (JPN), bay, colt, 4-year-olds

Raven's Pass / Snow Pine (Dalakhani)

Owner: Godolphin

Breeder: Darley Japan K. K

Trainer: Kazuo Fujisawa

Jockey: Christophe Lemaire

14 Starts, 7 Wins

Added money: ¥ 113,444,000

Career earnings: ¥ 397,470,000

2. Mozu Superflare (USA), chestnut, filly, 4-year-olds

Speightstown / Christies Treasure (Belong to Me)

Owner: Capital System Co., Ltd.

Breeder: Alpha Delta Stables, LLC

Trainer: Hidetaka Otonashi

Jockey: Fuma Matsuwaka

3. Danon Smash (JPN), bay, colt, 4-year-olds

Lord Kanaloa / Spinning Wildcat (Hard Spun)

Owner: Danox Co., Ltd.

Breeder: K. I. Farm

Trainer: Takayuki Yasuda

Jockey: Yuga Kawada

Tower of London Outruns Rivals to Dominate Sprinters Stakes

Second favorite **Tower of London** marked his fifth grade-race win in this year's Sprinters Stakes. The four-year-old colt registered three wins out of five starts as a two-year-old which included the G2 Keio Hai Nisai Stakes (1,400m) and also finished third in the G1 Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes (1,600m) at the end of the season. In his three-year-old campaign last year, the son of Raven's Pass captured the G3 Arlington Cup (1,600m) but encountered disadvantages in his G1 NHK Mile Cup (1,600m) challenge and was heavily defeated to 12th. After winning the G2 Keio Hai Spring Cup (1,400m) earlier this season, the bay colt was switched to races at the 1,200m distance and had immediately showed potential by marking a third in the G3 Hakodate Sprint Stakes in June, a

second in the G3 Keeneland Cup in August and dominating the G2 Centaur Stakes in record-breaking time just three weeks earlier. **Tower of London** has given trainer Kazuo Fujisawa his 29th JRA-G1 victory—Fujisawa’s most recent title was the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas) with Gran Alegria this year—and his second Sprinters Stakes title following the 1997 victory with Taiki Shuttle. Jockey Christophe Lemaire’s most recent JRA-G1 win was with Fierement in the Tenno Sho (Spring) this year and he has now collected a total of 26 titles.

The race broke evenly with **Mozu Superflare** gunning for the lead and setting the pace as expected. Sitting in mid-field stalking first pick **Danon Smash** down the backstretch, **Tower of London** launched his bid as he swiftly angled out after the third corner and entered the lane four wide with a clear path in front of him. Gliding up the stretch with a good turn of foot, the four-year-old bay swooped past **Mr Melody** 100 meters out and caught pacesetter **Mozu Superflare** in the final strides for a half-length win.

“I was a bit worried that we were not in a good striking position since the fast track today at Nakayama was definitely an advantage for the frontrunners. We had our eyes on Danon Smash who was traveling on the rails so we shifted out. Tower of London has great talent and stretched strongly all the way to the wire today. I knew he was an exceptional horse but he’s getting stronger with every sprint start,” commented Christophe Lemaire after the race.

Sent off third favorite, four-year-old filly **Mozu Superflare** dashed to the front to set the pace, and stubbornly held on well but was unable to withstand the fast-closing **Tower of London** and finished a good second, demonstrating a much better performance than her disappointing defeat (15th) earlier this year in the Takamatsunomiya Kinen.

Race favorite **Danon Smash**, breaking from an inner stall, saved ground on the rails in front of **Tower of London** in mid-division. While the eventual winner made a smooth wide turn for his stretch run, the Keeneland Cup winner was a fraction late to slide out behind a pack of horses and although ran strongly down the straight, was short in tagging **Mozu Superflare** but dug in for a neck third.

Other Horses:

4th: (13) **Mr Melody**—ran 3-wide in 6th, made headway to 2nd entering lane, weakened in last 100m
5th: (5) **Let’s Go Donki**—sat 2nd from rear, turned wide, showed 2nd fastest late drive but belatedly
6th: (12) **Daimei Princess**—raced 3-wide around 10th, ran gamely, 4th at 200m marker, weakened in last 100m
7th: (14) **Happy Hour**—was off slow, trailed in far rear, timed fastest over last 600m, was too late
8th: (6) **No One**—traveled in 13th, circled wide, showed belated charge at stretch
9th: (4) **Linate**—hugged rails in 12th, angled out then switched to inside, unable to reach contention
10th: (1) **Ares Barows**—settled 3rd from rear, drifted turning final corner, passed tired rivals
11th: (15) **Iberis**—ran 3-wide around 4-5th, lacked needed kick in last 200m
12th: (3) **Seiun Kosei**—sat around 4-5th, struggled to find clear path at early stretch, showed little
13th: (9) **Dirndl**—raced around 7th in front of favorite, overtaken by rivals turning both corners, even paced
14th: (11) **Maltese Apogee**—tracked leader in 2nd, lost steam after 200m pole
15th: (10) **Love Kampf**—traveled 3-wide around 9th, outrun after 3rd corner
16th: (16) **Fantasi**—advanced to 3rd from widest draw, faded after entering straight

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 11.9 - 10.1 - 10.8 - 11.3 - 11.2 - 11.8
Last 4 furlongs: 45.1 Last 3 furlongs: 34.3

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

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.