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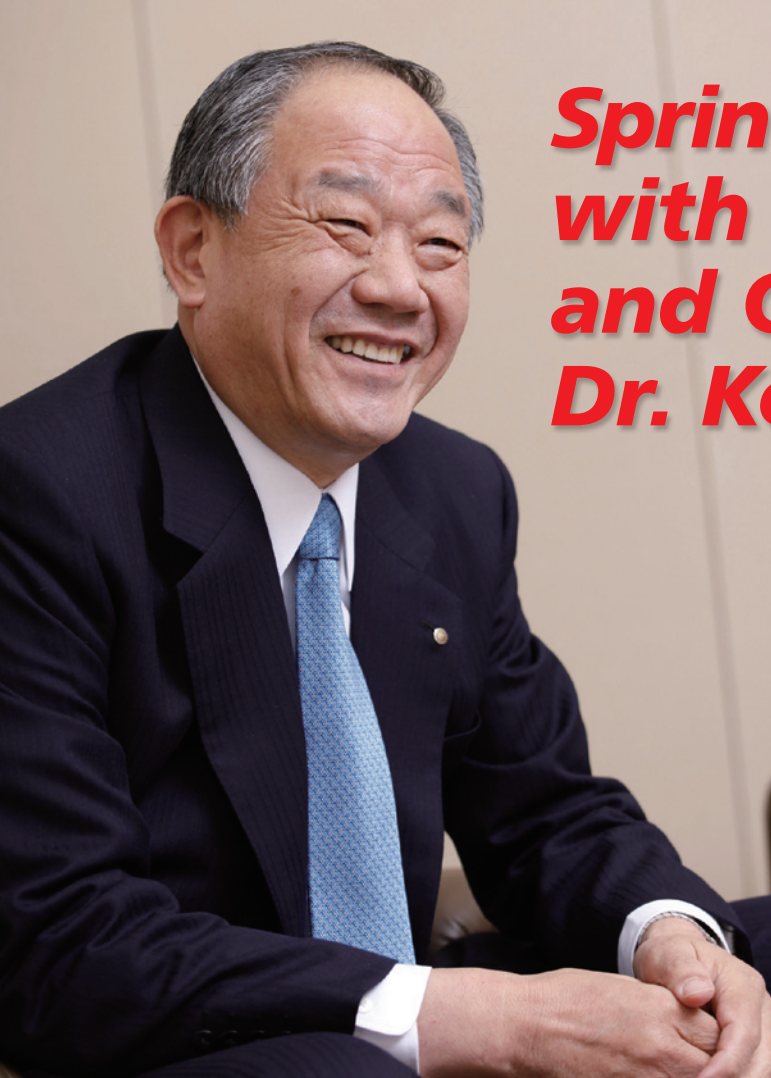
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Spring 2010 Interview with JRA President and CEO, Dr. Kenji Tsuchikawa

Introduction

Dr. Kenji Tsuchikawa, 65, embarks on his third year as the president and CEO of the Japan Racing Association.

The first president to work his way up through the ranks of the JRA, Tsuchikawa joined the JRA in 1968 as a veterinary surgeon.

He served as general manager of the Stewards Department and the Race Planning Department, becoming a JRA director in 1999, executive director in 2003 and executive vice president the following year.

In these times fraught with economic difficulty, amid a continuing slide of turnover, Tsuchikawa's years of experience serve him well. His keen insight, solid grasp of the harsh realities of the situation, and no-frills approach are coupled with a surprising adaptability, disarming friendliness, and a contagious smile. However, it is perhaps his sincerity and genuine interest in the racing fans, the pillar of Japanese racing, that make him what he is, a leader one can bet on.

Looking back on the year 2009, what kind of year was it for the JRA and what is the biggest concern facing Japan racing at the moment?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) The year especially stood out as a severely economically depressed year. The country also underwent a political change of power. In racing, turnover continued to drop considerably.

It has been the practice to look at racing or gambling in general and say that even in hard times this sector will continue to do well, but I think we have to look at racing as simply another element within the overall economic picture.

As one can see, 1997 was the peak for JRA's turnover. After the burst of Bubble Economy in Japan, there has been a steady decline in turnover. That decline has been on a parallel track with a decline in national economy and level of people's income. Of course, the percentages have been different but the two definitely go hand in hand.

A decrease in disposable income directly affects racing turnover. It's especially problematic for racing when people are not spending.

Last year, we felt that we were able to stage excellent racing, the kind of impressive, stunning races that please and bring in the fans. We had Vodka win the Japan Cup among others and we ended the year with an impressive attendance at the Arima Kinen (G1 / The Grand Prix).

One can note that attendance at the racetracks has not dropped. Racing is still a people's sport, a sport supported by the fan. Our goal always has to be to provide good and exciting racing. That is our first and utmost priority.

But, as you can see, though attendance remains fairly stable, the amount of spending per person has dropped. We have to think of ways to raise the number of fans. Maintaining atten-

dance is not enough.

So, increasing the number of racing fans is the first priority after maintaining the quality of racing.

What are some of the specific measures you are implementing or plan to implement to help accomplish this?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) Next year we plan to offer a new exotic wager in which you win by picking the winners of five designated races on the day's card. We will also expand the availability of our "Quick Pick" bet as well. This is a computer-automated wager that we have already started on a trial basis. Many fans have indicated to us that they find it difficult to know just how to bet. With the Quick Pick, the computer chooses for you.

At the racetracks where we offered the Quick Pick last year, the windows that sold the bet showed a 30-percent increase in sales and even picked a winner paid more than one million yen, which was well publicized. We hope this can become an easy gateway to the newcomer.

In addition, we are looking at our venues as well. The Hakodate Racecourse, which is set to reopen this June, on the island of Hokkaido has been undergoing renovation. Hokkaido is one of most beautiful part of Japan and offers fantastic natural surroundings and is well known for great seafood. We have renovated the venue in line with the area's resort environment. Hakodate offers many natural hot spring resort and we hope this venue make the city a very attractive place to visit even when there is no racing going on there.

We are also looking to promote the track as an offtrack-betting outlet in all seasons. A glass-enclosed parade ring will be used for people to enjoy watching races on a big screen, sitting in the warmth of the indoors even in the winter.

Internationalization has been a keyword in Japan racing for decades now. Are there any new developments we should be aware of?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) From this year we have opened all Graded/Group races to horses trained abroad. We also began ownership registration for residents of foreign countries. Presently, four parties have completed ownership registration with JRA, three from Dubai and one from Singapore. From Dubai we have three members of royalty, H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, H. R. H. Princess Haya bint Al Hussein, H. H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohd Al Maktoum and from Singapore, Mr. Masatsugu Otani, a Japanese who resides there.

The Dubai parties already have five horses registered and those horses can be expected to be running as early as February. We are looking forward to seeing how they will fare.

You mentioned that Japan has now opened all its Graded/Group races, including all Classics, to overseas participants. This is a huge move. What is the thinking behind this?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) Yes, 123 Graded races are now open to foreign-based horses. This is one of prerequisite for being a member of the Part I countries, which Japan now is. But, more importantly, we have to answer the fans' wishes. The fans want to see international races. They want to see keen competition.

I have always felt that thoroughbred racing is an international sport and I feel it works both ways and help racing in the long run. If Japanese horses race abroad and do well, when they come back to Japan people want to see them race again. Also, when a horse is successful overseas, they become news in Japan, and help get other people interested in racing.

What other benefits of internationalization are there?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) Again, it's about pleasing the fans. Today, in the sports world, whether it's baseball or golf, people aren't satisfied without competition from abroad. They are looking outward to the entire world.

And the ease with which information is to be had means more and more fans know what is happening and want to know and see more. How is Ichiro or Matsui doing in Major League in US? How is Ryo Ishikawa doing in golf? It's the same in racing. Fans want to be a part of the news on a very top international level.

Does Japan plan to actively appeal to overseas connections to come to Japan to participate?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) The fans, of course, love it when good horses come from overseas. We hope we can welcome top level horses to compete against our best in Japan.

Last year, we had some top horses coming for the autumn races. Belmont winner Summer Bird travelled to Japan to compete in the Japan Cup Dirt at Hanshin Racecourse in Kansai, western Japan. But he was unable to race due to training accident, which was a great shame.

It is our hope and aim that, in the future, we will have more and more people from overseas saying, "We have to go to Japan and beat their horses." The appeal is already there.

Are there any specific moves you have made or are planning to make to increase fans' enjoyment of racing?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) This year we will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Japan Cup. We are moving the World Super Jockeys Series to the weekend of the Japan Cup. Until now, the Series was held one week after Japan Cup at Hanshin

Racecourse.

So, we'll be bringing together top-level horses from around the world with top-level jockeys from around the world -- the strong with the strong. In that sense, it should be quite a show.

On the other hand, the Japan Cup Dirt was moved from last year to the week following the turf version. What was the thinking behind that?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) Naturally, carnival style racing with many big races on the same weekend would promote publicity. That said, JRA operates ten racecourses in various parts of Japan and run racing throughout the year. We hope to bring first class racing to each of them. We thought that having a big race like the Japan Cup Dirt in Kansai at the end of our Japan Autumn International series would be attractive to the fans.

What about allowing betting on certain big overseas races, or on races overseas in which Japanese horses are running? Is this in the plans?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa)

Like any other business opportunities, we are looking into the possibility of allowing this, but Japanese legal structure currently prohibits us from conducting such activities. Still, that said, we do believe the fans would like this and, naturally, we want to please them or risk losing their confidence.



Dr. Koji Sato, JRA Presidential Counselor for Foreign Affairs, was appointed Chairman of the Asian Racing Federation last April. This is the first time for a Japanese to be appointed for the position. Do you believe this appointment will serve to affect Japan's international role?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) First of all, we feel fortunate and thank our colleagues in the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) who supported us and entrusted this important role to Dr. Sato. We also feel his appointment came with trust and anticipation for JRA and we are committed to do all we can to promote racing in ARF region and worldwide. We have been involved in establishing ARF in 1960 and also been a part of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), well known for its Paris Conference every October where the heads of the world's racing bodies have come together. And the Asian Racing Federation has been a part of that from its inception and currently Australia, Hong Kong and Japan represent ARF in IFHA Executive Council.

The ARF member countries now consists major factor in world racing in very economic terms such as breeding, turnover and stakes. Furthermore, our racing structures are recognized as being made up largely of countries in which racing is supported by the fans. Asia is seen as an important region. Now, especially in times of economic growth, racing in those countries – India, Singapore etc., will also be growing and the eyes of the world will be on them. We would like to provide any assistance to determine what steps and measures are taken in these countries as they seek to develop and raise their standards of racing.

Please tell me a little about how you see Japanese racing and what you believe it has to offer the world.

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) Many foreign visitors who come to Japan speak a lot about the look or racing here, the fair play, the punctuality. They find praise with many of the details of racing in Japan. We are also said to be in a very enviable position, with good level of racing population. There has also been a lot of talk of Japan being closed, talk of national isolation. We want people to come and see the good things of Japan racing, enjoy the racing and discuss racing with us.

The standout characteristic of Japanese racing is that it is supported by the fans. There is an important flow of money from breeding to training to racing and then back again to breeding. This flow is vital.

Yes, Japan is in the fortunate position of having operating racing and betting at one hand and we can create sustainable structure to reinvest our earnings back to racing. In many other countries this is not the case. But, if the money from turnover does not go back to generating and protecting good stock, creating good tracks and maintaining them and, of course, go back into the prize money, you cannot maintain quality racing over the long run.

Also, one must cater to the fans. Long ago, there were far fewer means of entertainment available to people. It was easier to attract fans. Each country has its traditions in racing, but nowadays, I believe, the most important thing is recognizing and trying to implement the best way to appeal to one's audience

Personally, I think other countries can surely learn much from Japanese racing. Do you believe there are still areas in which Japan still needs to learn from others?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) Oh, yes, most definitely. Breeding is one area in particular. Thoroughbred racing is a bloodsport. And you can say that revolves around it. I think that this is an area in which Japanese have a lot to learn.

Recently some of racetracks are adopting a variety of measures to maintain profitability or simply to keep afloat. Many of these measures have nothing to do with racing. Do you have any comment?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) It is true that there is not much uplifting talk, little positive talk. There is an overall feeling of stagnation and a tendency to close off to the world. As we are in the entertainment business, it provides us with opportunity and meaning to offer to the public, joy and excitement that thoroughbred racing has. It has to offer the natural beauty of the athletic animal and excitement of racing and fun of tipping winners.

When you see very best horses competing, they can stir one's emotions. They give flight to dreams and optimism. I think this is very important role of racing. Especially when the economic outlook is bleak, I think the JRA has a responsibility to help provide this. I think it has a mission to help uplift the people's spirit. As sports entertainment, we need to give this to the people, this opportunity to say, "Wow, that was some race! What an amazing horse!"

I think this is extremely important.

What specific measures are you taking to help bring people to racing?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) For one, we are promoting racing through our "Club Keiba." Keiba means "horseracing" in Japanese. We want to create club like atmosphere where older and more knowledge racing fan bring together their family and

friends to racing. We also have an online racing community where fans can learn about various events and take part in games and win prizes.

At racetracks, there have been numerous events and days of free admission, but these have been largely organized track by track, with no overall unifying body. We will organize such events in the future in a much more unified way.

But this Club Keiba and events don't directly bring in the bets, do they?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) You can't focus solely on betting. You have to recognize the merit of bringing all types of people to the racetrack.

In Japan, we only have JRA racing on the weekends. It's a time to forget about work, go to the racetrack on Saturday or Sunday, be surrounded by green, watch the races, take a lunch, spend time with your family and friends. This is the kind of wholesome fun that is already established.

We have a lot of women coming to the tracks and, naturally, they bring the men, who are charmed and taking their cues from them. Women are said to feel much more of a bond with the horses than men do and attracting women to the track is, I think, important. We place strong emphasis on preparing such environment. All of our tracks have playgrounds for small children, pony rides and miniature train for a day out for entire family. You cannot focus solely on attracting bettors.



In closing, what sort of relationship do you strive for with the racing bodies of other countries?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) A relationship of trust. I think that what goes beyond words is important, that area of trust. When you have trust, it is from that point that the really good things begin to happen.

And how do you conceive of accomplishing this, of developing this relationship based on trust?

(Dr. Tsuchikawa) Truth. That is the most important. There can be only truth, no lies. One's words must always be sincere and used with care and sincerity no matter with whom one is speaking.

But, I think Japan's racing speaks for itself as well. If you can see the packed stands, hear the roar of the fans on a big race day, you will understand the thrill of Japan racing. No one can help but to be impressed.

That is my wish, that people come to see for themselves. So, do come. Please come and see our races.

Prominent New Stallions in 2010

By Masayuki Itoh, The Japan Bloodhorse Breeders' Association (JBBA)

As is the case every year, the beginning of the year is a very busy season in breeding areas due to stud and birth preparation, as well as matching determination for the year based on stallion exhibitions. Thinking about the beginning of a new life and the matching plans that take place during this period is cause for both hope as well as tension. In particular, the matching determination of new stallions stirs great interest and anticipation.

The JBBA Breeding Information Department carried out an independent survey for a (preliminary) report on new stallions that will make their debut at stud in Japan for 2010.

This survey shows that there are 18 new stallions in Japan for 2010 as of January 31. Five of them were newly imported (three bred in the U.S., one in Ireland, and one in Australia), and 13 have racing experience in Japan.

One salient point shown in the survey is that Darley Japan Stallion Station (Hidaka, Hokkaido) and Lex Stud (Shin-Hidaka, Hokkaido) have already made plans to introduce three stallions respectively at this time.

We have compiled a table with information about new stallions for 2010, including their pedigrees and where they are slated to stand. Four of the stallions are described below:



**Johannesburg (USA),
1999, Bay**

Hennessy (USA) – Myth (USA) by Ogygian (USA)
Standing stud at JBBA Shizunai Stallion Station in Shin-Hidaka, Hokkaido

Seven wins and one second-place finish in 10 career starts in Great Britain, Ireland, France, and the U.S. Johannesburg won all 7 of his races when he was two years old. He was the Eclipse and Cartier award winner (2001 Two-Year-Old Champion Colt in USA and Europe), winning 4 Grade 1 races (Breeders' Cup Juvenile, Phoenix Stakes, Prix Morny, and Middle Park Stakes).

He entered stud in the U.S. in 2003. In 2006, he became the leading first-year sire (most wins) in North America. Scat Daddy, sired in his first year, won the Florida Derby (G1) and Champagne Stakes (G1). From their maiden races and up, his progeny are also expected to perform well in Japan.



**Conduit (IRE),
2005, Brown**

Dalakhani (IRE) - Well Head (IRE) by Sadler's Wells (USA)
Standing stud at Big Red Farm in Niikappu, Hokkaido

Seven wins, 2 second-place and 3 third-place finishes in 15 career starts in Great Britain, France, the U.S. and Japan. Conduit achieved great results, winning the St. Leger (G1) and Breeder's Cup Turf (G1) as a three-year-old, and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes (G1) as well as Breeder's Cup Turf (G1) the following year. He will enter stud in Japan from 2010. He was the American Champion Male Turf Horse and the 3-year-old middle- and long-distance champion horse in U.K. in 2008. We can expect his progeny to contend in the Japanese classic races, such as the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) and the Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks).



**Commands (AUS),
1996, Bay**

Danehill (USA) - Cotehele House (GB) by My Swanee (GB)
Standing stud at Darley Japan Stallion Station in Hidaka, Hokkaido

Four wins, one second-place and 4 third-place finishes in 15 career starts in Australia. Commands won the Missile Stakes (G3), came in second in The Galaxy (G1) and third in the Caulfield Guineas (G1).

As a stallion, he has produced G1 winners such as Paratroopers (AUS) and Undue (AUS), and reached the top 10 of the Leading Sires Australia for four straight years since the 2005-2006 season. His stud fee will be 5 million yen (after the birth of his progeny), the highest price among new domestic stallions in 2010.



**Company (JPN),
2001, Bay**

Miracle Admire (USA) - Brilliant Very (JPN) by Northern Taste (CAN)
Standing stud at Shadai Stallion Station in Abira, Hokkaido

Twelve wins in 35 career starts in Japan. Company's win at the Grade 1 level as an eight-year-old – the first ever since the JRA grading system was implemented – made the headlines. He also won 9 graded races including the Grade 1 Tenno Sho (Autumn) and the Mile Championship in 2009. His progeny are expected to inherit his mental strength.

New Stallions to Stand in Japan in 2010 (Domestic only, as of January 31st, 2010)

No.	Stallion	Stud	Sire	Dam	Blood mare sire
1	Johannesburg (USA)	JBBA Shizunai	Hennessy (USA)	Myth (USA)	Ogygian (USA)
2	Adjudi Mitsuo	Arrow Stud	Adjudicating (USA)	Orimitsu Kinen	Judge Angelucci (USA)
3	Saint Alex (USA)	Arrow Stud	Afleet Alex (USA)	Festival	Assatis (USA)
4	Company	Shadai Stallion Station	Miracle Admire	Brilliant Very	Northern Taste (CAN)
5	Victory	Shadai Stallion Station	Brian's Time (USA)	Grace Admire	Tony Bin (IRE)
6	Commands (AUS)	Darley Japan Stallion Complex	Danehill (USA)	Cotehele House (GB)	My Swanee (GB)
7	Pyro (USA)	Darley Japan Stallion Complex	Pulpit (USA)	Wild Vision (USA)	Wild Again (USA)
8	Deep Sky	Darley Japan Stallion Complex	Agnes Tachyon	Abi (GB)	Chief's Crown (USA)
9	Silk Famous	Yushun Stallion Station	Marvelous Sunday	Saint Sailor	Caerleon (USA)
10	Conduit (IRE)	Big Red Farm	Dalakhani (IRE)	Well Head (IRE)	Sadler's Wells (USA)
11	M O Winner	Naohiro Fujimoto	Nihon Pillow Winner	Miracle Muteki	Carroll House (IRE)
12	Higher Game	Breeders Stallion Station	Sunday Silence (USA)	Fanjica (IRE)	Law Society (USA)
13	Swift Current	Breeders Stallion Station	Sunday Silence (USA)	Whitewater Affair (GB)	Machiavellian (USA)
14	Matsurida Gogh	Lex Stud	Sunday Silence (USA)	Paper Rain (USA)	Bel Bolide (USA)
15	Eishin Deputy	Lex Stud	French Deputy (USA)	Eishin McAllen (USA)	Woodman (USA)
16	Screen Hero	Lex Stud	Grass Wonder (USA)	Running Heroine	Sunday Silence (USA)
17	Tokai Wild	World Farm	Sunday Silence (USA)	Bob's Dilemma (USA)	Mr. Prospector (USA)
18	Three Rolls	Lex Stud	Dance in the Dark	Three Roman	Brian's Time (USA)

* Provided by JBBA Breeding Information Department independent survey

2009 JRA Awards

Horse of the Year and Best Older Filly or Mare



VODKA (JPN)
5-year-old, mare, bay
Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
Tanino Gimlet / Tanino Sister (Rousillon)
Owner: Y. Tanimizu
Breeder: Country Bokujo
Trainer: Katsuhiko Sumii
Wins / Starts in 2009: 3 / 7
(including 0/2 overseas)
Career Wins / Starts: 10 / 25
(including 0/3 overseas)
Earnings in 2009: ¥511,977,800
(including ¥679,800 overseas)
Career Earnings: ¥1,333,565,800
(including ¥28,689,800 overseas)
Principal Wins in 2009: Japan Cup (G1),
Yasuda Kinen (G1), Victoria Mile (G1),

Best Two-Year-Old Colt



ROSE KINGDOM (JPN)
2-year-old, colt, dark bay or brown
Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
King Kamehameha / Rosebud (Sunday Silence)
Owner: Sunday Racing Co., Ltd.
Breeder: Northern Farm
Trainer: Kojiro Hashiguchi
Wins / Starts in 2009: 3 / 3
Career Wins / Starts: 3 / 3
Earnings in 2009: ¥103,834,000
Career Earnings: ¥103,834,000
Principal Wins in 2009:
Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes,
Tokyo Sports Hai Nisai Stakes

Best Two-Year-Old Filly



APAPANE (JPN)
2-year-old, filly, bay
Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
King Kamehameha / Salty Bid (Salt Lake)
Owner: Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd.
Breeder: Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc.
Trainer: Sakae Kunieda
Wins / Starts in 2009: 3 / 4
Career Wins / Starts: 3 / 4
Earnings in 2009: ¥78,571,000
Career Earnings: ¥78,571,000
Principal Win 2009:
Hanshin Juvenile Fillies

Best Three-Year-Old Colt



LOGI UNIVERSE (JPN)
3-year-old, colt, bay
Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
Neo Universe / Acoustics (Cape Cross)
Owner: Masaaki Kumeta
Breeder: Northern Farm
Trainer: Kiyoshi Hagiwara
Wins / Starts in 2009: 2 / 3
Career Wins / Starts: 3 / 4
Earnings in 2009: ¥243,039,000
Career Earnings: ¥314,991,000
Principal Wins in 2009:
Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby),
Hochi Hai Yayoi Sho

Best Three-Year-Old Filly



BUENA VISTA (JPN)
3-year-old, filly, dark bay or brown
Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
Special Week / Biwa Heidi (Caerleon)
Owner: Sunday Racing Co., Ltd.
Breeder: Northern Racing
Trainer: Hiroyoshi Matsuda
Wins / Starts in 2009: 3 / 7
Career Wins / Starts: 5 / 10
Earnings in 2009: ¥431,089,000
Career Earnings: ¥499,177,000
Principal Wins in 2009:
Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks),
Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas)

Best Older Colt or Horse



DREAM JOURNEY (JPN)
5-year-old, horse, bay
Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
Stay Gold / Oriental Art (Mejiro McQueen)
Owner: Sunday Racing Co., Ltd.
Breeder: Shadai Corporation Inc.
Trainer: Yasutoshi Ikee
Wins / Starts in 2009: 3 / 8
Career Wins / Starts: 9 / 24
Earnings in 2009: ¥469,436,000
Career Earnings: ¥769,511,000
Principal Wins in 2009:
Arima Kinen (G1), Takarazuka Kinen (G1),
Sankei Osaka Hai (G2)

Best Sprinter or Milers



LAUREL GUERREIRO (JPN)
5-year-old, horse, dark bay or brown
Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
King Halo / Big Tenby (Tenby)
Owner: Laurel Racing Co., Ltd.
Breeder: Murata Bokujo
Trainer: Mitsugu Kon
Wins / Starts in 2009: 2 / 7
(including 0/1 overseas)
Career Wins / Starts: 5 / 27
(including 0/2 overseas)
Earnings in 2009: ¥213,658,000
Career Earnings: ¥482,480,000
Principal Wins in 2009:
Sprinters Stakes (G1),
Takamatsunomiya Kinen (G1)

Best Dirt Horse



ESPOIR CITY (JPN)
4-year-old, colt, chestnut
Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
Gold Allure / Eminent City (Brian's Time)
Owner: Yushun Horse
Breeder: Ikuchise Bokujo
Trainer: Akio Adachi
Wins / Starts in 2009: 4 / 6
(including 2/2 in NAR starts)
Career Wins / Starts: 9 / 17
(including 2/2 in NAR starts)
Earnings in 2009: ¥313,369,000
(including ¥110,000,000 in NAR)
Career Earnings: ¥390,331,000
(including ¥110,000,000 in NAR)
Principal Wins in 2009:
Japan Cup Dirt (G1), March Stakes (G3),
Mile Championship Nambu Hai, Kashiwa Kinen

Best Steeplechase Horse



KING JOY (JPN)
7-year-old, horse, bay
Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
Marvelous Sunday / Princess Able
(Jade Robbery)
Owner: Takao Matsuoka
Breeder: Kawakami Bokujo
Trainer: Yutaka Masumoto
Wins / Starts in 2009: 1 / 4
(steeplechases only)
Career Wins / Starts: 5 / 36
(5 / 18 steeplechases)
Earnings in 2009: ¥127,656,000
(steeplechases only)
Career Earnings: ¥404,949,000
(¥400,699,000 in steeplechases)
Principal Win in 2009:
Nakayama Daishogai

Special Award



COMPANY (JPN)
8-year-old, horse, bay
Sire / Dam (Sire of Dam):
Miracle Admire / Brilliant Very
(Northern Taste)
Owner: Hideko Kondo
Breeder: Hideko Kondo
Trainer: Hidetaka Otonashi
Wins / Starts in 2009: 4 / 7
Career Wins / Starts: 12 / 35
Earnings in 2009: ¥429,836,000
Career Earnings: ¥939,698,000
Principal Wins in 2009:
Mile Championship (G1),
Tenno Sho (Autumn) (G1),
Mainichi Okan (G2),
Nakayama Kinen (G2)



Best Trainer (Races Won)
(Winning Average)
KAZUO FUJISAWA



Best Trainer (Training Technique)
KATSUHIKO SUMII



Best Trainer (Money Earned)
HIDETAKA OTONASHI



Best Jockey (Races Won)
HIROYUKI UCHIDA



Best Jockey (Winning Average)
KATSUMI ANDO



Best Jockey (Money Earned)
YUTAKA TAKE



Best Steeplechase Jockey
YUSUKE IGARASHI



Best Jockey (Newcomer)
KOHEI MATSUYAMA

JRA Equine Cultural Award

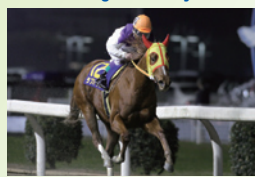
"A Social History of Horse Racing 1: The Birth of Japanese Race Tracks and the Flutter of Betting Tickets in the Age of "Civilization and Enlightenment" by Kenji Tachikawa

Award of Merit

Hisae Imai (Photographer)

NAR Grand Prix 2009

Horse of the Year Best Thoroughbred 2-Year-Old Best Thoroughbred Filly or Mare



Love Michan (JPN)
(C) Ichikanpo

Best Thoroughbred 3-Year-Old



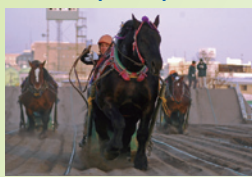
Blue Lad (JPN)
(C) Ichikanpo

Best Thoroughbred Older Colt or Horse



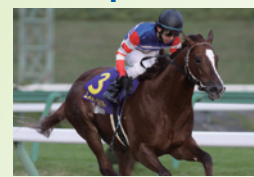
Furioso (JPN)
(C) Ichikanpo

Best Ban-ei (Draft) Horse



Kanesa Black (JPN)
(C) Ban-ei Tokachi

Dirt Grade (Principal) Race Special Prize



Espoir City (JPN)
(C) Ichikanpo

Special Award



Tagami Homare (JPN)
(C) Thoroughbred Pedigree Center



Adjudi Mitsuo (JPN)
(C) Ichikanpo



**Best Trainer
(Races Won)**
Teruya Tsunoda
(Aichi)
(C) Ichikanpo



**Best Trainer
(Money Earned)**
Masayuki Kawashima
(Funabashi)
(C) Ichikanpo



**Best Trainer
(Winning Average)**
Tsuyoshi Kawanishi
(Aichi)
(C) Ichikanpo



**Grand Prize
Trainer**
Hideki Kakugawa
(Hokkaido)
(C) Ichikanpo



**Grand Prize
Trainer**
Hitoshi Yanae
(Kasamatsu)
(C) Ichikanpo



**Best Jockey
(Races Won)
(Money Earned)**
Keita Tosaki (Ohi)
(C) Ichikanpo



**Best Jockey
(Winning Average)**
Shuji Akaoka (Kochi)
(C) Ichikanpo



**Best Apprentice
Jockey**
Kota Nagasawa (Ban-ei)
(C) Ban-ei Tokachi



**Best Female
Jockey**
Mai Beppu (Kochi)
(C) Ichikanpo



**Best Fair Play
Jockey**
Tadanari Konno (Kawasaki)
(C) Ichikanpo

An Overview of 2009 in Japanese Horseracing

By Masanori Ariyoshi

Vodka never fails to astonish. She won the 2007 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) beating 17 colts, for the first time in 64 years since Kurifuji's win. She won the Tenno Sho (Autumn, GI), in a historic battle with Daiwa Scarlet in 2008. Both of these great mares were born in 2004.

She made an impressive comeback in the Japan Cup (GI) in 2009. That, following unexpected consecutive losses in the Mainichi Okan (GII) and the Tenno Sho (Autumn, GI) had forced her into a desperate racing straits. She rallied to win the Japan Cup beating the Oken Bruce Lee to the goal by only 2 cm. This is the first win by a Japanese mare in 29 years since the initial Japan Cup. She achieved a record-tying seven GI wins in JRA horseracing, and her total prize money, including overseas races, exceeded 1 billion yen. She was selected as Horse of the Year at the JRA Awards for the second consecutive year. Her consecutive prize wins is unprecedented in Japan.

Company was the only horse in 2009, to achieved better results than Vodka in direct competition, with 2 wins and a single loss. The 8-year-old Company had the best year of his career and showed no signs of weakening due to his age.

After recording his 9th win at the first race of the New Year, the Nakayama Kinen (GII), Company performed well, taking second in the Yomiuri Milers Cup (GII) and two fourth places in GI races—the Yasuda Kinen and Takarazuka Kinen. He began his autumn season with the Mainichi Okan. After an easy victory over Vodka in this race, he logged consecutive GI wins in the Tenno Sho (Autumn) and the Mile Championship. These GI wins by an 8-year-old horse was the first such feat in JRA horseracing history. Company's impressive results this year could place him in high demand as a stallion.

Three winning horses also caused quite a stir in the Triple Crown races for 3-year-old colts. Unrivaled won the Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2,000 Guineas), Logi Universe, the Tokyo Yushun

(Japanese Derby), and Three Rolls, the Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger), ending the year with the field for a champion undetermined. Compared to this toss up in the classic races for colts, Buena Vista and Red Desire took clear leading roles in the 3-year-old filly races. Buena Vista won the Oka Sho (Japanese 1,000 Guineas) and the Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks) and Red Desire got her revenge in the Shuka Sho (GI). Both fillies won these 3 races by slim margins—by half a length in one race and by a nose in the other two. They also demonstrated their excellent ability in the races with older horses.

Red Desire came third at the Japan Cup and Buena Vista took second in the Arima Kinen (GI). These would seem to give an outstanding field of 3-year-olds for the coming year.

A big change took place in the world of the JRA jockeys. Yutaka Take was unseated as champion. Take has earned distinction as Best Jockey (races won) so many times that it was considered as his personal reserved seat at the Awards. He has won 18 times in 20 years from 1989 to 2008. However, it was not to be, as Hiroyuki Uchida relegated Take to second place with 146 wins against Take's 140.

Uchida made his debut at Ohi Horseracing licensed under the NAR (the National Association of Racing) and became the Best Jockey (races won) for the first time in the Southern Kanto block of NAR in 2004. He then proceeded to set the Japanese record of 524 wins in a year, racing in both, JRA and NAR in 2006. He transferred his license to JRA exclusively in March of 2008, where he promptly earned the Best Jockey award in



Buena Vista which won two jewels of the Japanese Filly Triple Crown.

his second year and became the first jockey to be the leading jockey in both NAR and JRA.

Mr. Takayoshi Yasuda, a pioneer among Japanese jockeys, passed away at the age of 89 on July the 1st. He had traveled to the United States with Hakuchikara and there learned the "monkey crouch" riding style, which he brought back to Japan. He was inducted into the JRA Hall of Fame in 2004 in recognition of his great achievements.

About half a century after Mr. Yasuda went to the U.S., a Japanese female jockey has also crossed the sea and attracted considerable attention in overseas horse races. Hitomi Miyashita has a total of more than 600 wins since her debut in NAR Nagoya Horseracing. She has improved her record of races won among Japanese female jockeys, and she currently competes in Korea with plans to stay there for a half year beginning from October of 2009.

We can't forget the trainer Hideyuki Takaoka, when we discuss the great performance of Japanese horseman in Asia. He opened his stable in Singapore in 2003 and the Japanese-bred horse Jolie's Shinju trained by him, won the Singapore Derby (S-GI) in 2009. He has also earned two consecutive Singapore Gold Cup (S-GI) wins with the Japanese-bred El Dorado.



Vodka that became a historical mare.

JRA announced that the first ownership registration process for the individuals residing outside of Japan was completed effective 25th November, 2009. H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum was named as the first registrant, followed by H. R. H. Princess Haya bint Al Hussein, H. H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohd Al Maktoum, all of the U.A.E., and Mr. Masatsugu Otani, a resident of Singapore.

This recognition of JRA registration for owners, who do not reside in Japan, will lead to improved interaction for Japan in the horseracing world.

The new year of 2010 looks to be very promising, as some outstanding horses from Japan are planning to compete on the Dubai World Cup Day in March. The Dubai World Cup will also be the last race for Vodka. As 4-year-olds, Buena Vista and Red Desire are also preparing for a trip to Dubai.

The outstanding newcomers, Rose Kingdom and Victoire Pisa will appear in the Triple Crown races for 3-year-old colts. Both horses finished the 2009 season with three consecutive wins and are preparing for the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) in May.

After the Japanese Derby, we have another event to look forward to—the first progeny of Deep Impact will make their debut. After obtaining first place in the World Thoroughbred Ranking during his racing career, he launched into his breeding career with a 5.1 billion yen stallion syndication. If at least one fine horse like Deep Impact appears among his first year crop of 147 progeny, it will be enough to cause a major stir throughout the entire horseracing world.

Total annual sales in 2009 for JRA were down at 2,590 billion yen, which continued the annual decrease for the 12th year. But 2010 promises to get things moving, with up and coming star horses, together with Deep Impact's progeny, it offers the best hopes in years for recovery from the sales slump. 2010 will be an important year, before the introduction of the *new betting system in 2011.

*You will be able to win if you pick the winner in five nominated (designated) races out of twelve races. This is the same betting system as the "Pick Five" in the USA.



Progenies by Deep Impact will make a debut soon.

(Note) This article was completed on January 31st, 2010.

Japanese Principal Race Results

61st The Hanshin Juvenile Fillies

Hanshin Racecourse, December 13, 2009
Value of race: ¥ 116,000,000
2-year-olds,
1600m, Turf Firm, cloudy
1:34:9 (Course record 1:33:1)
18 runners
Pari-mutuel handle: ¥ 18,513,977,000
On-course 3.4%
Off-course 96.6%
Hanshin Juvenile Fillies only: ¥ 11,992,540,500
Attendance: 44,650
1st: Apapane (Masayoshi Ebina, 54.0kg) b.f.2,
King Kamehameha - Salty Bid by Salt Lake,
O-Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co. Ltd.
T- Sakae Kunieda B- Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc.
Winning money: ¥ 61,400,000
2nd: Animate Bio (Hiroyuki Uchida, 54.0kg) ch.f.2,
Zenko Rob Roy - Regenbogen by French Deputy
3rd: Best Cruise (Katsumi Ando, 54.0kg) gr.f.2,
Kurofune - Masako Chan by Sunday Silence

61st The Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes

Nakayama Racecourse, December 20, 2009
Value of race: ¥ 121,540,000
C&F, 2-year-olds,
1600m, Turf Firm, Fine
1:34:0 (Course record 1:33:4)
16 runners
Pari-mutuel handle: ¥ 18,567,194,400
On-course 4.5%
Off-course 95.5%
Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes only: ¥ 11,557,882,400
Attendance: 39,496
1st: Rose Kingdom (Futoshi Komaki, 55.0kg) db.c.2,
King Kamehameha - Rosebud by Sunday Silence,
O-Sunday Racing Co.Ltd.
T-Kojiro Hashiguchi B-Northern Farm,
Winning money: ¥ 64,218,000
2nd: Eishin Apollon (Kenichi Ikezoe, 55.0kg) ch.c.2,
Giant's Causeway - Silk And Scarlet by Sadler's Wells
3rd: Daiwa Barbarian (Masayoshi Ebina, 55.0kg) b.c.2,
Manhattan Cafe - Phoenix Bird by Kingmambo

132nd The Nakayama Daishogai (J.G1)

Nakayama Racecourse, December 26, 2009
Value of race: ¥ 152,720,000
3-year-olds & Up
4100m, Jump Firm, Fine
4:41:7 (Course record 4:37:2)
14 runners
Pari-mutuel handle: ¥ 8,916,858,100
On-course 7.4%
Off-course 92.6%
The Nakayama Daishogai only: ¥ 1,484,431,900
Attendance: 42,725
1st: King Joy (Makoto Nishitani, 63.0kg) b.h.7,
Marvelous Sunday - Princess Able by Jade Robbery,
O-Takao Matsuoka T-Yutaka Masumoto
B-Kawakami Bokujou,
Winning money: ¥ 80,504,000
2nd: Merci A Time (Yoshiyuki Yokoyama, 63.0kg) b.h.7,
Chief Bearhart - Machikane Carmen by Thrill Show
3rd: Open Garden (Yusuke Eda, 63.0kg) b.h.5,
Gokai - Dance Fontaine by Dance in the Dark

54th The Arima Kinen (The Grand Prix) (G1)

Nakayama Racecourse, December 27, 2009
Value of race: ¥ 346,920,000
3-year-olds & Up, International,
2500m, Turf Firm, Fine
2:30:0 (Course record 2:29:5)
16 runners
Pari-mutuel handle: ¥ 49,936,168,300
On-course 4.8%
Off-course 95.2%
Arima Kinen only: ¥ 40,444,102,200
Attendance: 115,327
1st: Dream Journey (Kenichi Ikezoe, 57.0kg) b.h.5,
Stay Gold - Oriental Art by Mejiro McQueen,
O-Sunday Racing Co. Ltd.
T- Yasutoshi Ikee B- Shadai Corporation Inc.,
Winning money: ¥ 183,444,000
2nd: Buena Vista (Norihiko Yokoyama, 53.0kg) db. f.3,
Special Week - Biwa Heidi by Caerleon
3rd: Air Shady (Hiroki Goto, 57.0kg) ch.h.8,
Sunday Silence - Air Deja Vu by Northern Taste

JRA Official Tour <http://japanracing.jp/en/tour/index.html>



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