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SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 75TH OKA SHO (Japanese 1000 Guineas, G1)



The Oka Sho, which is the first of the five JRA Classics held during the year, determines the champion three-year-old filly possessing the fastest speed running over 1,600 meters and serves as an opportunity to scout potential broodmare talents. The Japanese equivalent to the One Thousand Guineas originated in England, the Oka Sho was first held at Nakayama Racecourse in Chiba, run over 1,800 meters and under the name “Nakayama Yonsai Himba Tokubetsu”, then changed its distance and venue under the new name, “Oka Sho” (Oka, meaning cherry flower which is in full bloom at this time of the season). With the entire graded races opening its doors to foreign-trained horses in 2010, the three-year-old Classics including this race entered a new phase with international G1 status. While speed is a much required ability to win this race, the extension of the homestretch as well as a deeper turf surface and an uphill stretch at Hanshin after the track renovation in 1991 has added “stamina” as an added qualification—a newly added outside turf track further extended the homestretch in 2006.

The Oka Sho, together with the Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks, G1, 2,400m) and the Shuka Sho (G1, 2,000m), is also widely considered as the fillies’ version of the “Triple Crown”, a title which has been claimed by four fillies in the past, including *Apapane* (JPN, by King Kamehameha) who renewed the race record to 1:33.3 in her victory in the race of 2010, and *Gentildonna* (JPN, by Deep Impact) who completed the sweep in 2012 and went on to capture the Japan Cup (G1, 2,400m) in 2012 and 2013 and Horse of the Year title in 2012 and 2014. Last year’s victor Harp Star (JPN, by Deep Impact) also concluded the season achieving the Best Three-Year-Old Filly title.

With 2014 Best Two-Year-Old Filly Shonan Adela (JPN, by Deep Impact) sidelined due to a fracture, runner-up to the injured filly in the Hanshin Juvenile Fillies (G1, 1,600m) last December by half-a-length, **Let’s Go Donki** was among the line-up after finishing third in the March 7 Tulip Sho (G3, 1,600m) along with **Kokorono Ai**, who marked her second grade-race win by claiming the same prep race, and runner-up by 1-1/4 length, **Andriette**. The field also featured the top three finishers in the March 15 Fillies’ Revue (G2, 1,400m); **Queens Ring**, who marked her third win and undefeated, **Perfica**, a 3/4 length runner-up, and **Moon Express** who was another half-length from that in third. **Tenderly Voice** and **Meisho Meigetsu** earned their tickets by finishing first and second, respectively, in the Anemone Stakes (1,600m) on March 14.

Others strong contenders who did not prep in the above mentioned trial races were **Rouge Buck**, who claimed her third consecutive win against the other gender in the Kisaragi Sho (G3, 1,800m) on February 8, and victor of the February 14 Queen Cup (G3, 1,600m) **Cat Coin**.

THE 75TH OKA SHO (Japanese 1000 Guineas, G1)

3-year-old Fillies, 1,600 meters (about 8 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, April 12, 2015 Hanshin Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 184,920,000 (about US\$ 1,541,000 <US\$1=¥120>)

3-y-o: 55kg (about 121 lbs), 2kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2012

Safety factor: 18 runners

FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	3	6	Let's Go Donki (JPN)	F3	55.0	King Kamehameha Marutoku	Y. Iwata T. Umeda	Toshihiro Hirosaki Shimizu Bokujo	1:36.0 (33.5)	10.2 (5)
2	4	7	Culminar (JPN)	F3	55.0	Deep Impact Cursora	K. Ikezoe N. Sugai	U. Carrot Farm Northern Farm	4 (33.4)	23.2 (7)
3	1	1	Contessa Thule (JPN)	F3	55.0	Deep Impact Air Thule	C. Lemaire T. Yasuda	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm	3/4 (33.6)	27.8 (8)
4	7	13	Queens Ring (JPN)	F3	55.0	Manhattan Cafe Aqua Ring	M. Demuro K. Yoshimura	Tetsuya Yoshida Shadai Farm	Nose (33.7)	9.0 (3)
5	2	3	Not Formal (JPN)	F3	55.0	Vermilion Limiter Break	H. Mayuzumi E. Nakano	Katsuya Haga Chiyoda Farm Shizunai	1/2 (34.3)	255.6 (16)
6	5	9	Andriette (JPN)	F3	55.0	Deep Impact Unabashed Charm	Y. Kawada K. Makita	Kazuhiko Nagata Morinaga Bokujo	Nose (33.2)	9.2 (4)
7	6	11	Cat Coin (JPN)	F3	55.0	Stay Gold Stray Cat	Y. Shibata Y. Ninomiya	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Shadai Corporation Inc.	Neck (33.4)	18.2 (6)
8	5	10	Earthrise (JPN)	F3	55.0	Manhattan Cafe Rising Cross	H. Miyuki Y. Yahagi	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Racing	Nose (34.2)	219.9 (15)
9	4	8	Rouge Buck	F3	55.0	Manhattan Cafe	K. Tosaki	U. Carrot Farm	Neck	1.6

			(JPN)			Ginger Punch	M. Otake	Northern Farm	(33.6)	(1)
10	7	15	Kokorono Ai (JPN)	F3	55.0	Stay Gold Beauty Song	N. Yokoyama T. Ozeki	Sakai B. Sakai Bokujo	Nose (33.7)	7.6 (2)
11	8	17	Leopardina (JPN)	F3	55.0	Snitzel Biondo Pantera	Y. Take Y. Takahashi	U. Carrot Farm Northern Racing	3/4 (34.3)	140.7 (12)
12	7	14	Tenderly Voice (JPN)	F3	55.0	Deep Impact Miss Encore	Y. Fukunaga K. Hagiwara	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc.	Neck (34.2)	64.0 (9)
13	3	5	Perfica (JPN)	F3	55.0	Zenno Rob Roy Stealin' Kisses	Y. Hishida I. Okada	Koji Maeda North Hills Co., Ltd.	1/2 (34.0)	111.2 (11)
14	1	2	Moon Express (JPN)	F3	55.0	Admire Moon Amore Pegasus	K. Matsuyama T. Suzuki	Laurel Racing Co., Ltd. Saka Bokujo	1/2 (34.5)	84.5 (10)
15	6	12	Loaded (JPN)	F3	55.0	Deep Impact Hokko Oka	S. Kawashima Y. Arakawa	Him Rock Racing Keiichi Samekawa	3/4 (34.5)	164.5 (13)
16	8	16	Meisho Meigetsu (JPN)	F3	55.0	Deep Impact Scoubidou	Y. Yoshida F. Kojima	Yoshio Matsumoto Mishima Bokujo	Nose (34.3)	217.1 (14)
17	2	4	Tosen Lark (JPN)	F3	55.0	Aldebaran Takeichi Z	H. Yoshida Y. Sugawara	Takaya Shimakawa Nakagami Farm	Neck (34.6)	316.8 (18)
18	8	18	Cool Hotarubi (JPN)	F3	55.0	Matsurida Gogh Placer	F. Komaki H. Shimizu	Tetsuji Kawakami Hatakeyama Stud Farm	Neck (33.7)	291.5 (17)

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: 1:36.0

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 16,090,539,800

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 23,998,557,000

ATTENDANCE: 54,635

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.6	¥1,020	BRACKET QUINELLA	3-4	¥740	QUINELLA	6-7	¥7,860
PLACE	No.6	¥260	QUINELLA PLACE	6-7	¥2,030	EXACTA	6-7	¥17,370
	No.7	¥610		1-6	¥2,260	TRIO	1-6-7	¥34,480
	No.1	¥750		1-7	¥3,910	TRIFECTA	6-7-1	¥233,390

1. Let's Go Donki (JPN), chestnut, filly, 3-year-old

King Kamehameha / Marutoku (Marvelous Sunday)

Breeder: Shimizu Bokujo

Owner: Toshihiro Hirosaki

Trainer: Tomoyuki Umeda

Jockey: Yasunari Iwata

6 Starts, 2 Wins

Added money: ¥ 116,230,000

Career earnings: ¥ 176,935,000

Principal Race Performances:

'14 Hanshin Juvenile Fillies (G1, 1,600m) 2nd

2. Culminar (JPN), bay, filly, 3-year-old

Deep Impact / Cursora (Candy Stripes)

Breeder: Northern Farm

Owner: U. Carrot Farm

Trainer: Naosuke Sugai

Jockey: Kenichi Ikezoe

3. Contessa Thule (JPN), bay, filly, 3-year-old

Deep Impact / Air Thule (Tony Bin)

Breeder: Shadai Farm

Owner: Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd.

Trainer: Takayuki Yasuda

Jockey: Christophe Lemaire

Let's Go Donki Romps to Impressive Victory in the Oka Sho

Fifth favorite **Let's Go Donki** coasted to a gate-to-wire victory claiming her first graded race in the first leg of the fillies' Triple Crown, the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas). She had registered a third and a second in the Sapporo Nisai Stakes (G3, 1,800m) and the Artemis Stakes (G3, 1,600m), respectively, after breaking her maiden in her debut start in August. The *King Kamehameha* filly finished a 1/2-length second from Shonan Adela in the Hanshin Juvenile Fillies (G1, 1,600m) last December, the race to determine the Best Two-Year-Old Filly, but had launched

the current season with a third in the Tulip Sho (G3, 1,600m) this March.

For Trainer Tomoyuki Umeda, who captured the Australian Caulfield Cup with *Admire Rakti* last season, this is his first G1 title on home turf. Jockey Yasunari Iwata celebrates his 24th JRA-G1 victory and second Oka Sho title after claiming it with *Gentildonna* in 2012.

As the race got on its way, **Let's Go Donki** smoothly zoomed to the top of the field and maintained her one to one-and-a-half length lead up to the last turn with **Not Formal** and **Earthrise** pressing the pace. The chestnut filly amazingly did nothing but increase her lead down the Hanshin stretch after entering the lane first and left the others trailing way behind as she cruised across the wire a four-length winner.

"I was hoping to race keeping my eyes on the fillies inside us, but no one was taking command so I let my filly go up front. It was a good move because she was able to travel at an easy pace. The going was good and she just stretched well after saving energy in the first half of the race. She's been winless after breaking her maiden and had very close finishes since, so I'm glad she was able to demonstrate her true strength," commented Yasunari Iwata.

After a slightly slow start, seventh favorite **Culminar** sat in the back half of the pack on the rails in front of **Rouge Buck**, and although still fifth to sixth from the rear at the top of the lane, demonstrated a strong and persistent stretch run picking off the others one by one for the runner-up seat.

Reserved in mid-pack after breaking smoothly, **Contessa Thule** squeezed through an opening on the rails and fought well but surrendered the runner-up seat to **Culminar** in the last 50 meters for a 3/4 length third. For jockey Christophe Lemaire, it was his first G1 start after becoming the first foreign jockey to be granted a permanent JRA jockey license along with Mirco Demuro, who boarded **Queens Ring** and finished fourth.

Racing fourth from the rear, the heavily favored and unbeaten filly **Rouge Buck** improved position down the straight but was unable to reach contention and finished ninth.

Other Horses:

4th: (13) **Queens Ring**—traveled wide in mid-pack, quickened despite disadvantage at last 200m

5th: (3) **Not Formal**—ran near pace, held well until last 100m

6th: (9) **Andriette**—settled in rear division, quickened and timed fastest over last 3 furlongs but was too late

7th: (11) **Cat Coin**—sat 2nd from last, turned wide and checked at early stretch, showed belated charge

8th: (10) **Earthrise**—prominent early, showed tenacity but outrun in final strides

10th: (15) **Kokorono Ai**—sat toward rear, turned wide and switched to left at top of stretch, passed tired rivals

11th: (17) **Leopardina**—raced wide in 5-6th, sustained bid but checked 200m out, lost momentum

12th: (14) **Tenderly Voice**—traveled in mid-group, ran gamely until 200m-marker, weakened thereafter

13th: (5) **Perfica**—hugged rail in mid-pack, maintained bid but bumped **Queens Ring** 200m out

14th: (2) **Moon Express**—stalked winner in 2nd, ran out of steam in last 200m

15th: (12) **Loaded**—broke poorly, advanced to 8th, faded after last 300m-pole

16th: (16) **Meisho Meigetsu**—ran toward rear, made headway around 3rd corner, failed to respond at stretch

17th: (4) **Tosen Lark**—raced front in mid-division, no impression at stretch

18th: (18) **Cool Hotarubi**—trailed in rear, no factor

Fractional Time (sec./furlong): 12.7 - 11.7 - 12.7 - 12.9 - 12.5 - 11.3 - 10.7 - 11.5
Last 4 furlongs: 46.0 Last 3 furlongs: 33.5

Positions at each corner: 3rd corner 6(2,3)10(1,17)(4,12)(5,14,16)(7,8,13,15)(9,11)-18
 4th corner 6(3,10)(2,17)(4,14,12)(13,16)(1,5)(7,15)(8,11)(9,18)

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.