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**SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 151ST TENNO SHO (SPRING) (G1)**



The forerunner of the Tenno Sho was established in 1905 under the name “Emperor’s Cup”, in which the winner received the silver comports bestowed by the Emperor. The race was renamed to “Teishitsu Goshoten Kyoso” the following year. The race became biannual events—held at Hanshin in spring and at Tokyo in autumn—a year after the establishment of the Japan Racing Society (the forerunner of the Japan Racing Association) in 1936, and was officially named the “Tenno Sho” since the autumn of 1947. The Tenno Sho (Spring) became the ultimate competition to determine the champion stayer, having altered its distance to 3,200 meters in 1938 while its counterpart in autumn run over 2,000 meters is one of the biggest middle-distance event contested between the proven older horses with the addition of the three-year-old hopefuls. The venue of the spring version was also moved to Kyoto Racecourse in 1948.

The Tenno Sho (Spring) was designated as an international race in 2005 and welcomed *Makybe Diva* (GB, by *Desert King*) of Australia as the first foreign contender the same year. She finished seventh to *Suzuka Mambo* (JPN, by *Sunday Silence*) and subsequently went on to make history back home by winning her third consecutive Melbourne Cup (G1, 3,200m). Red Cadeaux (GB, G9, Cadeaux Genereux) was the latest foreign contender of this race last year, running for the second time after finishing third in the 2013 edition, but was unable to perform over the firm turf in 2014 and finished 14th. None took part this year.

**Gold Ship** had come off his third consecutive Hanshin Daishoten (G2, 3,000m) victory on March 22 with 2013 Japan Cup runner-up **Denim and Ruby** finishing second and multiple grade-race winner **Last Impact** three-lengths behind that in third. **Admire Deus** also came off two grade-race victories, the Nikkei Shinshun Hai (G2, 2,400m) earlier this year in January and the Nikkei Sho (G2, 2,500m) on March 28. **Win Variation** and **Hokko Brave**, who were second and third, respectively, in the race, had also finished in the same order behind Fenomeno in the 2014 Tenno Sho (Spring). **Sounds of Earth**, who was fourth behind the three in the Nikkei Sho, was well backed in this year’s Tenno Sho, having finished second in the 2014 Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger, G1, 3,000m) at Kyoto despite breaking the previous race record by more than a second. Consecutive Tenno Sho (Spring) winner of 2012 and 2013, Fenomeno (JPN, H6, by Stay Gold) was headed to defend his title again this year, but strained his tendon in his left foreleg during training and was forced to withdraw his entry. 2013 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m) winner **Kizuna**, who had just made his comeback in February this year after sustaining a leg injury in this race last year, was third in the Kyoto Kinen (G2, 2,200m) and second over soft going in the Sankei Osaka Hai (G2, 2,000m) on April 5. The race also included **Fame Game** and **Lovely Day**, who each had scored a grade-race title in February this year in the Diamond Stakes (G3, 3,400m) and the Kyoto Kinen (G2, 2,200m), respectively.

The race record holder, *Deep Impact* (JPN, by *Sunday Silence*), marked 3:13.4 in 2006.

### THE 151ST TENNO SHO (SPRING) (G1)

4-year-old & up, 3,200 meters (about 16 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, May 3, 2015 Kyoto Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 313,000,000 (about US\$ 2,608,300 <US\$1=¥120>)

4-y-o & up: 58kg (about 128 lbs), 2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares,

1kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2011

Safety factor: 18 runners

FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	1	1 B	Gold Ship (JPN)	H6	58.0	Stay Gold Point Flag	N. Yokoyama N. Sugai	Kobayashi Eiichi Holdings LLC. Eiichi Kobayashi	3:14.7 (35.0)	4.6 (2)
2	7	14	Fame Game (JPN)	H5	58.0	Heart’s Cry Hall of Fame	H. Kitamura Y. Munakata	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	Neck (34.5)	22.6 (7)
3	1	2	Curren Mirotic (JPN)	G7	58.0	Heart’s Cry Star Mie	M. Ebina O. Hirata	Takashi Suzuki Northern Racing	3/4 (35.3)	30.5 (10)
4	2	4	Last Impact (JPN)	H5	58.0	Deep Impact Superior Pearl	Y. Kawada H. Matsuda	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Shadai Corporation Inc.	Neck (34.4)	12.5 (5)
5	2	3	Neo Black Dia (JPN)	H7	58.0	Zenno Rob Roy Orange Paradise	S. Akiyama Y. Shikato	Kimiyuki Kobayashi Shadai Corporation Inc.	1/2 (34.8)	191.8 (16)
6	3	6	Hokko Brave (JPN)	H7	58.0	Marvelous Sunday Hokko Memory	H. Miyuki Y. Matsunaga	Michiaki Yabe Koichi Yabe	Nose (35.1)	31.6 (11)
7	7	13	Kizuna (JPN)	H5	58.0	Deep Impact Catequil	Y. Take S. Sasaki	Shinji Maeda North Hills Co., Ltd.	1-1/4 (34.9)	3.3 (1)

8	5	10	Lovely Day (JPN)	H5	58.0	King Kamehameha Popcorn Jazz	C. Lemaire Y. Ikee	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc.	Neck (35.5)	24.9 (8)
9	8	15	Sounds of Earth (JPN)	C4	58.0	Neo Universe First Violin	H. Uchida K. Fujioka	Teruya Yoshida Shadai Farm	1 (35.5)	6.2 (4)
10	6	12	Denim and Ruby (JPN)	M5	56.0	Deep Impact Venenciador	S. Hamanaka K. Sumii	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	1-1/4 (35.0)	26.3 (9)
11	6	11	Hula Bride (JPN)	M6	56.0	Gold Allure Hikaru Carina	M. Sakai K. Kihara	Kazuko Yoshida Seiran Bokujo	Neck (35.2)	109.2 (14)
12	8	16	Win Variation (JPN)	H7	58.0	Heart's Cry Super Ballerina	Y. Fukunaga M. Matsunaga	Win Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	3/4 (35.6)	15.8 (6)
13	4	7	Tosen Arnica (JPN)	M5	56.0	Meisho Samson Cecile Blues	K. Ikezoe T. Kimura	Takaya Shimakawa Takaya Shimakawa	3 (35.4)	203.8 (17)
14	3	5	Tamamo Best Play (JPN)	H5	58.0	Fuji Kiseki Hot Play	A. Tsumura K. Minai	Tamamo K. Shinsei Bokujo	1/2 (36.7)	141.2 (15)
15	8	17	Admire Deus (JPN)	C4	58.0	Admire Don Royal Card	Y. Iwata M. Hashida	Riichi Kondo Tsuji Bokujo	7 (37.4)	5.4 (3)
16	5	9 B	Courir Kaiser (JPN)	H6	58.0	King Halo Smile Contest	H. Tanabe I. Aizawa	Shuji Yokoyama Chiyoda Farm Shizunai	2 (38.4)	55.2 (12)
17	4	8	Suzuka Devious (JPN)	C4	58.0	King Kamehameha Suzuka Laurent	Y. Fujioka M. Hashida	Keiji Nagai Keiji Nagai	Neck (38.4)	59.0 (13)

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: 3:14.7

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 19,770,216,100

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 28,009,644,600

ATTENDANCE: 76,776

#### PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.1	¥460	BRACKET QUINELLA	1-7	¥690	QUINELLA	1-14	¥6,060
PLACE	No.1	¥260	QUINELLA PLACE	1-14	¥2,300	EXACTA	1-14	¥8,480
	No.14	¥630		1-2	¥2,460	TRIO	1-2-14	¥57,160
	No.2	¥610		2-14	¥6,010	TRIFECTA	1-14-2	¥236,300

#### 1. Gold Ship (JPN), gray, horse, 6-year-old

Stay Gold / Point Flag (Mejiro McQueen)

Breeder: Eiichi Kobayashi

Owner: Kobayashi Eiichi Holdings LLC.

Trainer: Naosuke Sugai

Jockey: Norihiro Yokoyama

25 Starts, 13 Wins

Added money: ¥ 153,612,000

Career earnings: ¥ 1,397,767,000

Principal Race Performances:

'14&'13 Takarazuka Kinen (G1, 2,200m)

1st

'12 Arima Kinen (G1, 2,500m)

1st

'12 Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger, G1, 3,000m)

1st

'12 Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1, 2,000m)

1st

#### 2. Fame Game (JPN), dark bay or brown, horse, 5-year-old

Heart's Cry / Hall of Fame (Allez Milord)

Breeder: Northern Farm

Owner: Sunday Racing Co., Ltd.

Trainer: Yositada Munakata

Jockey: Hiroshi Kitamura

#### 3. Curren Mirotic (JPN), chestnut, gelding, 7-year-old

Heart's Cry / Star Mie (A. P. Indy)

Breeder: Northern Racing

Owner: Takashi Suzuki

Trainer: Osamu Hirata

Jockey: Masayoshi Ebina

#### Third Time's the Charm for Gold Ship for Tenno Sho (Spring) Title

Installed as second favorite despite two unsuccessful Tenno Sho (Spring) starts in 2013 and 2014 in which he finished fifth and seventh, respectfully, **Gold Ship** responded by claiming his sixth career G1 title. His victory, which followed his third consecutive victory in the Hanshin Daishoten last March, raises high hopes towards his

next target in becoming the first horse in JRA history to claim three consecutive G1 victories (flat racing) in the coming Takarazuka Kinen in June. Trainer Naosuke Sugai reached a milestone of 10 JRA-G1 victories with the win while jockey Norihiro Yokoyama won his 24th title—the latest being in last year’s Takarazuka Kinen for both.

Slow into the pace after refusing to load and having to be blindfolded into the gate, the *Stay Gold* entire trailed well off the pace set by **Courir Kaiser**. The field that had formed a long line got closer as the field passed the first 1,000 meters at a moderate pace and the leader eased the pace even more for a breather. Veteran jockey Norihiro Yokoyama, who had partnered **Gold Ship** for most of the 2014 season after the gray’s flop in his second Tenno Sho (Spring) including their victory in the Takarazuka Kinen, rode him for the first time since their unsuccessful overseas challenge in the Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe and was careful to take his time to set his difficult mount into the mood as he urged the talented stayer to make an early move along the outside. Already among the front group going downhill past the third corner and taking a smart turn into the center lane for home and in full gear, **Gold Ship** moved up alongside **Curren Mirotic** who had taken command turning for home and looked poised to win until being hooked in the last 50 meters, then held off **Fame Game** who came charging along the outside for a neck victory.

“I was thinking of going front if he started well which obviously was not the case. From there on I just concentrated on following the pace and careful not to turn him off. In the straight, he really showed his stamina and perseverance. He’s often said to be unsuited to Kyoto Racecourse but I think it’s just that he’s not a handy type of horse and needs a skilled rider to guide him,” commented Norihiro Yokoyama.

**Fame Game** was rated between horses in mid-field, was caught behind rivals as the field increased speed before the third corner and met traffic again turning for home, having to angle out for a clear path. He showed a powerful turn of foot to just miss by a neck.

**Curren Mirotic** chased the leader in second or third along the rails for most of the trip, overtook the tired leader 600 meters out and into the homestretch, and ran on gamely up until the last strides for third.

Race favorite **Kizuna** sat well behind and trailed in last after being taken over by **Gold Ship** soon after the first 1,000-meter call. Followed the eventual winner towards the front group along the backstretch but failed to improve after reaching mid-pack while turning wide for home.

#### Other Horses:

4th: (4) **Last Impact**—positioned in rear pack, showed good effort along rail, timed fastest over last 3 furlongs

5th: (3) **Neo Black Dia**—ran latter half of mid-pack, quickened between horses at stretch

6th: (6) **Hokko Brave**—saved ground in mid-group, accelerated at stretch, but weakened in last final strides

8th: (10) **Lovely Day**—traveled in 4th, showed effort until last 100m

9th: (15) **Sounds of Earth**—raced around 6th, ran gamely until 200m-marker, weakened thereafter

10th: (12) **Denim and Ruby**—settled near rear, turned wide and failed to quicken

11th: (11) **Hula Bride**—ran in rear pack, unable to reach contention

12th: (16) **Win Variation**—sat 3-wide in mid-division, lacked needed kick at stretch

13th: (7) **Tosen Arnica**—raced toward rear, entered last into stretch, passed tired rivals

14th: (5) **Tamamo Best Play**—hugged rail in 5th, outrun by rivals at stretch

15th: (17) **Admire Deus**—traveled wide in 6-7th, lost momentum at final corner

16th: (9) **Courir Kaiser**—set moderate pace, weakened before turning for home

17th: (8) **Suzuka Devious**—chased leader in 2nd or 3rd, used up 300m out

Fractional Time (sec./furlong): 12.7 - 11.4 - 12.0 - 12.5 - 12.8 - 12.2 - 12.1 - 12.8 - 12.4 - 12.3 - 12.5 - 12.0 - 11.7 - 11.8 - 11.5 - 12.0

Last 4 furlongs: 47.0      Last 3 furlongs: 35.3

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

2nd corner 9(2,8)10,5(15,17)6(14,16)3,11,4,1(7,12,13)

3rd corner (2nd lap) 9,8(2,1)(5,10)17(6,15)16,14(3,11,13)12,4,7

4th corner (2nd lap) 2(9,8)(10,1)5(6,15)16(3,14,17,13)(4,11)12,7

**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.