

FROM: Haruyuki Miyoshi

General Manager, Media & Publicity Department, THE JAPAN RACING ASSOCIATION (JRA)

DATE: December 6, 2015

**SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 16TH CHAMPIONS CUP (G1)**



Formally run under the name Japan Cup Dirt until 2013, the Champions Cup is no longer an invitational race and takes place at Chukyo Racecourse which is situated in Chubu region between Tokyo and Osaka. The Japan Cup Dirt, which began as the dirt version of the Japan Cup in 2000 at Tokyo Racecourse held over the 2,100-meter left-handed course until 2007, was temporarily shifted to Nakayama Racecourse over the 1,800-meter right-handed course in 2002, then held at Hanshin Racecourse, also a right-handed track and over 1,800 meters, between 2008 and 2013. The G1 dirt race continues as one of four G1 events comprising the Japan Autumn International (JAI) along with the Queen Elizabeth II Cup (G1, 2,200m), the Mile Championship (G1, 1,600m) and the Japan Cup (G1, 2,400m).

*Lord Sterling* (USA, by *Black Tie Affair*), who finished third in the inaugural year, was one of the first foreign contenders, while *Fleetstreet Dancer* (USA, by *Smart Strike*) became the first foreign winner in 2003. In the past, 28 runners from not only North America but also from France, Germany, Great Britain and Hong Kong have participated in the race. Imperative (USA, by Bernardini), winner of the 2014 Charles Town Classic Stakes (G2, dirt, 1,800m) and third-place finisher both in the Gold Cup at Santa Anita Stakes (G1, dirt, 2,000m) and the Pacific Classic Stakes (G1, AW, 2,000m), finished 15th in a field of 16 last year.

This year's race welcomed one overseas contender—the first from Hong Kong in 13 years—**Gun Pit** came off three consecutive victories with seven wins out of seven starts over all-weather track at Sha Tin.

Last year, **Hokko Tarumae** claimed his long-awaited first JRA-G1 victory in the race after two consecutive third-place finishes in the two previous Japan Cup Dirt attempts. The son of King Kamehameha went on to win the year-end 2014 Tokyo Daishoten (G1, dirt, 2,000m), defended his title in the 2015 Kawasaki Kinen (dirt, 2,100m) in his kick-off start this year, finished fifth in his second challenge in the Dubai World Cup (G1, dirt, 2,000m) and then marked his ninth G1 title in the Teio Sho (dirt, 2,000m) in June before attempting to defend his title and reach a milestone of 10 G1 victories in this race.

Other contenders included five horses coming off their runs in the JBC Classic (dirt, 2,000m) held at NAR (National Association of Racing; local public racing) Ohi Racecourse on November 3: Winner **Copano Rickey** who also claimed the February Stakes (G1, dirt, 1,600m) was a disappointing 12th-place finish last year despite being posted race favorite; up-and-coming gelding **Sound True** finished second following a win in the Nippon TV Hai (dirt, 1,800m); **Hokko Tarumae** finished third; 2012 Japan Cup Dirt winner **Nihonpiro Ours** and **Grand City** were eighth and tenth, respectively in the JBC Classic.

Two female horses came off the JBC Sprint (dirt, 1,200m) and JBC Ladies' Classic (dirt, 1,800m) also held at Ohi on the same day as the JBC Classic: **Corin Berry** claimed her first G1 title in the JBC Sprint and **Sambista**, last year's fourth-place finisher in the Champions Cup, was runner-up in the JBC Ladies' Classic.

Four runners came off the Miyako Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,800m) held at Kyoto Racecourse on November 8: Winner **Roi Jardin** marked his first grade-race victory to obtain his ticket to race in the Champions Cup; 2012 Tokyo Daishoten winner **Roman Legend** was third and also third in last year's Champions Cup; fifth-place finisher **Kurino Star O** had marked his third grade-race victory in the Antares Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,800m) in April; three-year-old **Danon Liberty**, who had just switched to dirt this summer, finished sixth.

Two runners coming off the Musashino Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,600m) held at Tokyo Racecourse on November 14 were this year's Japan Dirt Derby (dirt, 2,000m) victor **Nonkono Yume** who won his first challenge against older horses while carrying 58kg and 2013 February Stakes champion **Grape Brandy** who was fifth in the race.

Other contenders were 2011-13 Japan Cup Dirt runner-up **Wonder Acute** who marked his third G1 win in the Kashiwa Kinen (dirt, 1,600m) in May and was third in the Mile Championship Nambu Hai (dirt, 1,600m) on October 12 and last year's Champions Cup runner-up **Namura Victor** who came off a third-place finish in the Sirius Stakes (G3, dirt, 2,000m) held at Hanshin Racecourse on October 3.

### **THE 16TH CHAMPIONS CUP (G1) – Japan Autumn International -**

3-year-olds & up, 1,800 meters (about 9 furlongs), dirt, left-handed

Sunday, December 6, 2015

Chukyo Racecourse

11th Race

Post Time: 15:30

Total prize money: ¥ 196,320,000 (about US\$ 1,636,000 <US\$1=¥120>)



**CHAMPIONS  
CUP**

3-y-o: 56 kg (about 123-124 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 57 kg (about 126 lbs)

2 kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 2kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2012

Safety Factor: 16 runners



FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	2	4	Sambista (JPN)	M6	55.0	Suzuka Mambo White Carnival	M. Demuro K. Sumii	K. Hidaka Breeders Union Grand Stud	1:50.4 (37.4)	66.4 (12)
2	1	1	Nonkono Yume (JPN)	C3	56.0	Twining Nonko	C. Lemaire Y. Kato	Kazumasa Yamada Shadai Farm	1-1/2 (36.7)	3.8 (3)
3	1	2	Sound True (JPN)	G5	57.0	French Deputy Kyoei Truth	T. Ono N. Takagi	Hiroshi Yamada Okada Stud	Neck (36.6)	12.6 (5)
4	8	16	Roi Jardin (JPN)	C4	57.0	King Kamehameha Agnes Chocolat	S. Hamanaka H. Toda	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm	Head (37.1)	27.9 (8)
5	7	13	Hokko Tarumae (JPN)	H6	57.0	King Kamehameha Madam Cherokee	H. Miyuki K. Nishiura	Michiaki Yabe Ichikawa Farm	Nose (38.1)	3.7 (2)
6	2	3	Wonder Acute (JPN)	H9	57.0	Charismatic Wonder Heritage	R. Wada M. Sato	N. Yamamoto Nobuyuki Yamamoto	1 (37.6)	117.6 (14)
7	4	7	Copano Rickey (JPN)	H5	57.0	Gold Allure Copano Nikita	Y. Take A. Murayama	Sachiaki Kobayashi Yanagawa Bokujo	2 (38.7)	3.3 (1)
8	5	10 B	Grape Brandy (JPN)	H7	57.0	Manhattan Cafe Wine and Rose	R. Moore T. Yasuda	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm	1/2 (38.3)	46.3 (10)
9	3	6	Namura Victor (JPN)	H6	57.0	Zenno Rob Roy Namura Shigeko	S. Akiyama N. Fukushima	N. Namura Nobushige Namura	1/2 (38.2)	19.8 (7)
10	8	15 B	Grand City (JPN)	H8	57.0	King Kamehameha Lady Classic	A. Tsumura I. Aizawa	Yushun Horse Horomura Bokujo	1/2 (37.9)	294.7 (16)
11	3	5	Nihonpiro Ours (JPN)	H8	57.0	White Muzzle Nihonpillow Lupinus	M. Sakai Y. Ohashi	Hyakutaro Kobayashi Hyakutaro Kobayashi	3/4 (38.9)	218.9 (15)
12	4	8	Danon Liberty (JPN)	C3	56.0	King Kamehameha Scarlet Bell	A. Atzeni H. Otonashi	Danox Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	Neck (38.5)	37.2 (9)
13	6	11	Corin Berry (JPN)	F4	55.0	South Vigorous Korin la Vie En	K. Matsuyama J. Ono	Keiko Ito Keiko Ito	1-1/4 (39.0)	71.9 (13)
14	5	9	Roman Legend (JPN)	H7	57.0	Special Week Personal Legend	Y. Iwata H. Fujiwara	Suzuko Ota Shadai Farm	3-1/2 (39.8)	12.4 (4)
15	6	12 B	Kurino Star O (JPN)	H5	57.0	Admire Boss Mayano Starlight	H. Bowman Y. Takahashi	Mamoru Kurimoto Nissei Bokujo	3-1/2 (40.6)	60.2 (11)
16	7	14 B	Gun Pit* (AUS)	G5	57.0	Dubawi Magic Tori	Z. Purton C. Fownes	Chung Wah Cheng Mr. A Smeaton	DS (42.7)	15.4 (6)

FP=Final Position / BK=Bracket Number / PP=Post Position / B=Blinker / Wgt=Weight / L3F=Time of Last 3 Furlongs (600m) / DS=Distance

NOTE 1: \*Foreign Horses

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: 1:50.4

GOING: Standard

WEATHER: Cloudy

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 13,284,743,400

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 17,705,416,000

ATTENDANCE: 33,062

**PAY-OFF (for ¥100)**

WIN	No.4	¥6,640	BRACKET QUINELLA	1-2	¥4,180	QUINELLA	1-4	¥11,040
PLACE	No.4	¥1,180	QUINELLA PLACE	1-4	¥3,290	EXACTA	4-1	¥36,260
	No.1	¥200		2-4	¥6,620	TRIO	1-2-4	¥27,320
	No.2	¥370		1-2	¥930	TRIFECTA	4-1-2	¥318,430





gate test, and I felt that she was an honest mare. I wasn't given any specific instruction on how to ride the race on this mare, but studying her past performances, I did have some visions on how I would try to ride this race although I knew, knowing that everybody was giving their best to win this race, that it would not be easy. The inside barrier number four certainly helped and she loaded smoothly, and after Mr. Sumii told me that a female runner had never fared better than fourth in a dirt G1, I really wanted to improve on that... it really made me want to win it. We had a good start and was in a good position with Nihonpiro Ours and Copano Rickey in front of us. We had a little fright as our path was narrowed in both the third corner and going into the straight but she really stretched well in the home straight and she was terrific. I thought that maybe our move was a little early when we overtook the two top G1 winners at mid-stretch and while a lot of horses started to tire, I was just urging her to stay...I really wanted to win, and she responded. It's been a really good year for me... I've won the Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas), the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) and although I've had my share of losses in the Tenno Sho (Autumn) and the Japan Cup, I was able to win another big race this time in the Champions Cup."

### **[Other Races Ridden by Zachary Purton]**

<Sunday, December 6>

7th race: Three-Year-Olds & Up (Allowance (5Million & Less)), dirt, 1,800m, 14 runners

—**6th** on Quill Connection (JPN, C3, by Deep Sky), 3rd favorite

9th race: Sakae Tokubetsu (Allowance (5Million & Less)), turf, 2,000m, 18 runners

—**1st** on Mikki Tiger (JPN, H5, by King Kamehameha), 13th favorite

###