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**SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 77TH 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.

The top two finishers of the 2016 Hanshin Juvenile Fillies (G1, 1,600m), **Soul Stirring** and **Lys Gracieux**, kicked off their three-year-old campaign in the Tulip Sho (G3, 1,600m; Mar.4) finishing first and third, respectively, with **Miss Panther** taking the runner-up spot at the finish line. **Rising Reason** came off consecutive wins in the Fairy Stakes (G3, 1,600m; Jan.8) and the Anemone Stakes (1,600m; Mar.11), the latter in which **Deirdre** finished half a length second. The Fillies’ Revue (G2, 1,400m; Mar.12) was won by **Karakurenai** with Hanshin Juvenile Fillies third-place finisher **Reine Minoru** and **Gold Cape** following in second and third, respectively.

Other notable Oka Sho starters who did not run in the above trial races included **Mi Suerte** who was fourth against colts in the Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes (G1, 1,600m; Dec.18) and **Admire Miyabi** who came off a grade-race victory in the Queen Cup (G3, 1,600m; Feb.11).

**THE 77TH OKA SHO (JAPANESE 1000 GUINEAS, G1)**

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

Sunday, April 9, 2017 Hanshin Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 199,120,000 (about US\$ 1,731,000 <US\$1=¥115>)

3-y-o: 55kg (about 121 lbs), 2kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2014

Safety factor: 18 runners

FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	5	10	Reine Minoru (JPN)	F3	55.0	Daiwa Major Daiwa Angel	K. Ikezoe M. Honda	Minoru Yoshioka Fujiwara Farm	1:34.5 (35.4)	40.8 (8)
2	3	6	Lys Gracieux (JPN)	F3	55.0	Heart’s Cry Liliside	Y. Take Y. Yahagi	U.Carrot Farm Northern Farm	1/2 (35.3)	14.5 (3)
3	7	14	Soul Stirring (JPN)	F3	55.0	Frankel Stacelita	C. Lemaire K. Fujisawa	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm	Neck (35.4)	1.4 (1)
4	4	8	Karakurenai (JPN)	F3	55.0	Lohengrin Burning Red	H. Tanabe T. Matsushita	Teruya Yoshida Shadai Farm	Neck (35.0)	24.3 (7)
5	6	12	Aerolithe (JPN)	F3	55.0	Kurofune Asterix	N. Yokoyama T. Kikuzawa	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	Neck (35.0)	23.6 (6)
6	8	17	Deirdre (JPN)	F3	55.0	Harbinger Reizend	Y. Iwata M. Hashida	T.Morita Northern Farm	1-1/4 (34.9)	207.2 (14)
7	8	18	Kawakita Enka (JPN)	F3	55.0	Deep Impact Kawakita Love Pop	R. Wada T. Hamada	Yoshio Kawashima Yoshio Kawashima	1-1/4 (36.8)	87.7 (10)
8	1	2	Rising Reason (JPN)	F3	55.0	Black Tide Jono Family	K. Maruta T. Okumura	Makio Okada Sanjo Bokujo	1/2 (35.6)	47.2 (9)
9	2	4	Jeune Ecole (JPN)	F3	55.0	Kurofune Luminous Point	Y. Kitamura T. Yasuda	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	3/4 (36.1)	96.6 (12)
10	7	13	Vous Etes Jolie (JPN)	F3	55.0	Lohengrin French Bikini	Y. Fukunaga M. Nakauchida	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm	Nose (36.5)	115.0 (13)

11	1	1	Mi Suerte (JPN)	F3	55.0	Frankel Mi Sueno	Y. Kawada Y. Ikee	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	1/2 (35.9)	16.7 (5)
12	7	15	Admire Miyabi (JPN)	F3	55.0	Heart's Cry Lady Skipper	M. Demuro Y. Tomomichi	Riichi Kondo Northern Farm	1/2 (35.6)	5.1 (2)
13	5	9	Gold Cape (JPN)	F3	55.0	Workforce Jewel of Nile	G. Maruyama Y. Arakawa	Green Farm Shadai Farm	1-1/4 (36.1)	94.8 (11)
14	6	11	Alonza Mona (JPN)	F3	55.0	Street Sense Reserve Seat	H. Miyuki K. Nishiura	Dearest Club Co., Ltd. Hirota Bokujo	Neck (36.3)	293.7 (16)
15	4	7	Show Way (JPN)	F3	55.0	Meisho Bowler Realmente	F. Matsuwaka T. Saito	Manabu Yoshitomi Mitsuru Nakawaki	Neck (36.9)	290.3 (15)
16	8	16	Miss Panthere (JPN)	F3	55.0	Daiwa Major Aile de Courage	H. Shii M. Kon	Chiyono Terada Sanjo Bokujo	6 (37.4)	15.8 (4)
17	3	5	Belle Capri (JPN)	F3	55.0	Daiwa Major Volans	Y. Fujioka K. Nishiura	Gaen Kogyo LLC. Northern Racing	2-1/2 (38.0)	347.9 (17)
	2	3	Salonika (JPN)	F3	55.0	Deep Impact Salomina	S. Hamanaka K. Sumii	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Racing	Scratched	

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: 1:34.5

GOING: Good

WEATHER: Cloudy

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 16,198,447,300

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 24,011,036,400

ATTENDANCE: 44,090

#### PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.10	¥4,080	BRACKET QUINELLA	3-5	¥7,470	QUINELLA	6-10	¥17,000
PLACE	No.10	¥480	QUINELLA PLACE	6-10	¥2,760	EXACTA	10-6	¥45,330
	No.6	¥240		10-14	¥880	TRIO	6-10-14	¥5,020
	No.14	¥110		6-14	¥420	TRIFECTA	10-6-14	¥94,890

#### 1. Reine Minoru (JPN), chestnut, filly, 3-year-old

Daiwa Major / Daiwa Angel (Taiki Shuttle)

Owner: Minoru Yoshioka

Breeder: Fujiwara Farm

Trainer: Masaru Honda

Jockey: Kenichi Ikezoe

7 Starts, 3 Wins

Added money: ¥ 118,558,000

Career earnings: ¥ 215,091,000

Principal race performances:

'16 Kokura Nisai Stakes (G3, 1,200m) 1st

'17 Hanshin Juvenile Fillies (G1, 1,600m) 3rd

#### 2. Lys Gracieux (JPN), dark bay or brown, filly, 3-year-old

Heart's Cry / Liliside (American Post)

Owner: U.Carrot Farm

Breeder: Northern Farm

Trainer: Yoshito Yahagi

Jockey: Yutaka Take

#### 3. Soul Stirring (JPN), dark bay or brown, filly, 3-year-old

Frankel / Stacelita (Monsun)

Owner: Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Breeder: Shadai Farm

Trainer: Kazuo Fujisawa

Jockey: Christophe Lemaire

#### Reine Minoru Pulls Upset Victory in Oka Sho to End Soul Stirring's Winning Streak

Eighth favorite **Reine Minoru** claimed the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas), the first of the three-year-old fillies' Triple Crown, and her second grade-race title following the Kokura Nisai Stakes which she won as a two-year-old against colts in her second career start in September. Third against Soul Stirring in her first G1 challenge in the Hanshin Juvenile Fillies last December, she kicked off her three-year-old campaign finishing fourth in the Queen Cup in February and had come off a runner-up effort in the Fillies' Revue. Trainer Masaru Honda, who had come

into this race with eight grade-race titles since opening his yard in 2007, celebrated his first G1 victory and classic title with the win—he was in fact a winning jockey of the 2001 Oka Sho with *T.M. Ocean*. Jockey Kenichi Ikezoe partnered the filly for the first time in the race and landed his second Oka Sho title, a memorable victory as his first career G1 victory was in the same race with *Arrow Carry* in 2002. The jockey, whose last JRA-G1 win was in the Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks) with *Sinhalite* last year, has now a career total of 23 G1 victories.

**Reine Minoru** broke sharply then eased back as **Kawakita Enka** shot past outside her to challenge the leader then chased the pace three wide in around fourth/fifth position while the pace setter tried to maintain a five-length advantage up to the final turn. Once entering the homestretch, the Daiwa Major filly edged closer and inherited the lead as she wore down the early leaders inside the furlong pole then dug in deep to fend off her foes coming from behind to secure a half-length victory.

“I felt that she was a talented filly and had a good chance to win the Oka Sho when I rode her for the first time in training. I was more confident today as she felt really good in the post parade, and once she broke smoothly out of the gate, I just concentrated on keeping her stride in good rhythm. I was careful not to let her go too early in the straight and once we hit the front, it felt like forever up to the finish line as the horses came chasing behind us, but she really held on well,” commented Kenichi Ikezoe.

**Lys Gracieux** bided her time in mid-field with **Soul Stirring** in view on her outside then tracked the race favorite into the lane before doggedly chasing the leader to the wire and overtaking **Soul Stirring** in the final strides while just short of reaching the winner for second.

Best Two-Year Old Filly of 2016 and heavy favorite **Soul Stirring** broke smoothly and bided her time in mid-pack around eighth. First time racing over non-firm tracks, the *Frankel* filly was slow in responding coming into the straight and, while gradually picking up speed in mid-stretch, failed to threaten the eventual winner and just managed to hold on for third.

“The track condition was against her and she kept changing leads. She wasn’t able to show her true form in this race,” commented Christophe Lemaire on her first defeat of her career.

#### Other Horses:

4th: (8) **Karakurenai**—raced in rear pack, found little room at early stretch, quickened well, neck short of place  
 5th: (12) **Aerolithe**—settled in rear division, angled wide, showed impressive but belated effort  
 6th: (17) **Deirdre**—sat near rear, timed fastest over last 3 furlongs, but was too late  
 7th: (18) **Kawakita Enka**—advanced from wide stall, led before 3rd corner, gave way 200m out, weakened  
 8th: (2) **Rising Reason**—hugged rails in mid-group, accelerated until meeting traffic 200m out  
 9th: (4) **Jeune Ecole**—raced behind eventual winner, showed mild effort, even paced thereafter  
 10th: (13) **Vous Etes Jolie**—advanced from wide draw, ran in 2nd after brief lead, sustained bid until 100m out  
 11th: (1) **Mi Suerte**—saved ground in mid-division, checked around 200m marker, failed to respond  
 12th: (15) **Admire Miyabi**—trailed in rear, driven after 3rd corner, turned wide, lacked needed kick  
 13th: (9) **Gold Cape**—rated behind mid-pack, failed to find clear path 200m out, lost momentum  
 14th: (11) **Alonza Mona**—traveled 3-wide in mid-group, unable to reach contention  
 15th: (7) **Show Way**—prominent early in 3rd, dropped back mid-stretch  
 16th: (16) **Miss Panthere**—raced 4-wide in mid-division, never fired at stretch  
 17th: (5) **Belle Capri**—led briefly then eased back to 4-5th, faded after final corner  
 Scratched: (3) **Salonika**—the Elfin Stakes (1,600m; Feb.4) winner, due to lameness on her left hind leg

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.7 - 10.9 - 11.1 - 11.8 - 11.8 - 11.5 - 11.9 - 12.8  
 Last 4 furlongs: 48.0      Last 3 furlongs: 36.2

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

**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.