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SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 62ND ARIMA KINEN (G1)

Established in 1956 under the name “Nakayama Grand Prix,” the race was renamed to Arima Kinen (Arima Memorial) a year later after the sudden passing of the second JRA president, Yoriyasu Arima. Arima initiated the idea of holding an attractive event at Nakayama Racecourse, where a new grandstand had just been completed at that time, in an attempt to create a race that would receive as much attention as the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) held at Tokyo Racecourse. The Arima Kinen was designed to be a season-end Grand Prix, in which the runners were selected by fan poll—an “All-Star” event in Japanese Racing. Fans could cast their votes by ballots available at JRA racecourses and off-track betting sites, by mail or by online to select the ten most popular runners. The rest of the field is determined in order of earnings. Foreign runners that won the Japan Cup (G1, 2,400m) became eligible to race in the Arima in 2000 then the race was designated as an international G1 race and open to a maximum of six foreign runners in 2007, though no foreign runners have yet participated in the race. The Arima was given a boost in prize money last year and became the richest race in the country along with the Japan Cup.

This year’s contenders among the top ten horses with the most votes were as follows: 2016 Horse of the Year **Kitasan Black** (1st) and the Takarazuka Kinen (G1, 2,200m; Jun.25) winner **Satono Crown** (3rd) who came off a third and a 10th, respectively, in the Japan Cup; **Cheval Grand** (5th) who marked his first G1 title in the Japan Cup; and **Mikki Queen** (9th) who came off a third in the Queen Elizabeth II Cup (G1, 2,200m; Nov.12).

Following horses avoided the race though ranked among the top ten: Satono Diamond (JPN, C4, by Deep Impact; 2nd), Rey de Oro (JPN, C3, by King Kamehameha; 4th), Makahiki (JPN, C4, by Deep Impact; 6th), Kiseki (JPN, C3, by Rulership; 7th), Soul Stirring (JPN, F3, by Frankel; 8th) and Gold Actor (JPN, H6, by Screen Hero; 10th).

Other contenders were: **Yamakatsu Ace** (12th), **Rainbow Line** (13th), **Sciacchetra** (15th), **Suave Richard** (16th), **Sounds of Earth** (18th), **Rouge Buck** (20th), **Queens Ring** (39th), **Sakura Empereur** (45th), **Curren Mirotic** (54th), **Bless Journey** (75th), **Satono Chronicle** (80th) and **Tosen Victory** (81st).

The race record of 2:29.5 was set by *Zenno Rob Roy* (JPN, by *Sunday Silence*) in 2004.

THE 62ND ARIMA KINEN (G1)

3-year-old & up, 2,500 meters (about 12.5 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, December 24, 2017 Nakayama Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:25

Total prize money: ¥ 648,000,000 (about US\$ 5,635,000 <US\$1=¥115>)

3-y-o: 55kg (about 121 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 57kg (about 126 lbs),

2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 2kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2014

Safety factor: 16 runners

FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	1	2	Kitasan Black (JPN)	H5	57.0	Black Tide Sugar Heart	Y. Take H. Shimizu	Ono Shoji Yanagawa Bokujo	2:33.6 (35.2)	1.9 (1)
2	2	3	Queens Ring (JPN)	M5	55.0	Manhattan Cafe Aqua Ring	C. Lemaire K. Yoshimura	Chizu Yoshida Shadai Farm	1-1/2 (35.1)	33.1 (8)
3	5	10	Cheval Grand (JPN)	H5	57.0	Heart's Cry Halwa Sweet	H. Bowman Y. Tomomichi	Kazuhiro Sasaki Northern Racing	Nose (34.8)	6.7 (3)
4	7	14	Suave Richard (JPN)	C3	55.0	Heart's Cry Pirramimma	M. Demuro Y. Shono	NICKS Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	Neck (34.5)	4.5 (2)
5	6	11	Rouge Buck (JPN)	M5	55.0	Manhattan Cafe Ginger Punch	H. Kitamura M. Otake	U. Carrot Farm Northern Farm	1-1/4 (34.3)	55.4 (10)
6	4	7	Sciacchetra (JPN)	C4	57.0	Manhattan Cafe Samaaha	Y. Fukunaga K. Sumii	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	3/4 (35.6)	29.6 (7)
7	8	16	Sounds of Earth (JPN)	H6	57.0	Neo Universe First Violin	C. Demuro K. Fujioka	Teruya Yoshida Shadai Farm	Neck (34.7)	132.9 (14)
8	4	8	Rainbow Line (JPN)	C4	57.0	Stay Gold Regenbogen	Y. Iwata H. Asami	Masahiro Mita Northern Racing	1/2 (34.9)	44.7 (9)
9	3	6	Satono Chronicle (JPN)	C3	55.0	Heart's Cry Toupie	K. Tosaki Y. Ikee	Satomi Horse Company Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	Neck (35.5)	70.7 (11)
10	1	1	Yamakatsu Ace (JPN)	H5	57.0	King Kamehameha Yamakatsu Marilyn	K. Ikezoe K. Ikezoe	Kazuo Yamada Okada Bokujo	1/2 (35.8)	24.6 (6)

11	7	13	Mikki Queen (JPN)	M5	55.0	Deep Impact Musical Way	S. Hamanaka Y. Ikee	Mizuki Noda Northern Farm	1/2 (35.1)	19.6 (5)
12	2	4	Bless Journey (JPN)	C3	55.0	Battle Plan Elfin Park	K. Miura S. Sasaki	Takaya Shimakawa Keiyu Farms Ltd.	3/4 (35.4)	71.7 (12)
13	6	12	Satono Crown (JPN)	H5	57.0	Marju Jioconda	R. Moore N. Hori	Satomi Horse Company Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	Nose (35.4)	9.8 (4)
14	3	5	Tosen Victory (JPN)	M5	55.0	King Kamehameha To the Victory	H. Tanabe K. Sumii	Takaya Shimakawa Northern Racing	1-1/4 (36.0)	159.5 (15)
15	8	15	Curren Mirotic (JPN)	G9	57.0	Heart's Cry Star Mie	Y. Kawada O. Hirata	Takashi Suzuki Northern Racing	1-3/4 (36.5)	204.8 (16)
16	5	9	Sakura Empereur (JPN)	H6	57.0	King Kamehameha Sakura Mega	M. Ebina T. Kanari	Sakura Commers Sakura Commerce Co., Ltd.	2-1/2 (36.6)	72.9 (13)

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: 2:33.6

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 44,199,575,700

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 56,525,164,700

ATTENDANCE: 100,720

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.2	¥190	BRACKET QUINELLA	1-2	¥1,600	QUINELLA	2-3	¥3,170
PLACE	No.2	¥120	QUINELLA PLACE	2-3	¥1,180	EXACTA	2-3	¥3,810
	No.3	¥550		2-10	¥280	TRIO	2-3-10	¥5,420
	No.10	¥180		3-10	¥2,760	TRIFECTA	2-3-10	¥25,040

1. **Kitasan Black (JPN)**, bay, horse, 5-year-old

Black Tide / Sugar Heart (Sakura Bakushin O)

Owner: Ono Shoji

Breeder: Yanagawa Bokujo

Trainer: Hisashi Shimizu

Jockey: Yutaka Take

20 Starts, 12 Wins

Added money: ¥ 303,360,000 Career earnings: ¥ 1,876,843,000

Principal race performances: '17 Tenno Sho (Autumn) (G1, 2,000m) 1st

'17&'16 Tenno Sho (Spring) (G1, 3,200m) 1st

'17 Osaka Hai (G1, 2,000m) 1st

'16 Japan Cup (G1, 2,400m) 1st

'15 Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger, G1, 3,000m) 1st

2. **Queens Ring (JPN)**, dark bay or brown, mare, 5-year-old

Manhattan Cafe / Aqua Ring (Anabaa)

Owner: Chizu Yoshida

Breeder: Shadai Farm

Trainer: Keiji Yoshimura

Jockey: Christophe Lemaire

3. **Cheval Grand (JPN)**, chestnut, horse, 5-year-old

Heart's Cry / Halwa Sweet (Machiavellian)

Owner: Kazuhiro Sasaki

Breeder: Northern Racing

Trainer: Yasuo Tomomichi

Jockey: Hugh Bowman

Kitasan Black Retires with Seventh G1 Win in the Arima Kinen

Race favorite **Kitasan Black** turned the tables this time in his third Arima Kinen challenge after finishing third and second in his last two. Coming off a third-place finish in the Japan Cup, the son of *Black Tide* capped off his stellar career with his seventh G1 title, tying the record of most JRA-G1 wins with *Symboli Rudolf*, *T.M. Opera O*, *Deep Impact* and *Vodka* while surpassing *T.M. Opera O* in career earnings with 1,876,843,000 yen. He will retire to stud and stand at Shadai Stallion Station beginning next season. The last G1 victory being the Tenno Sho (Autumn) for

both Trainer Hisashi Shimizu and jockey Yutaka Take, Shimizu is now a winner of seven G1 titles, all with **Kitasan Black**, while Take who has previously won the Arima Kinen with *Oguri Cap* and *Deep Impact* in 1990 and 2006, respectively, celebrated his 75th G1 victory with his third Arima Kinen win, which ties with Yukio Okabe, Seiki Tabara, Olivier Peslier and Kenichi Ikezoe.

Kitasan Black did not miss a beat coming out of the starting gate and assumed command uncontested. The son of *Black Tide* cruised by the cheering crowd who had come to witness his final run and was never in threat as he took it in his stride throughout the 2,500-meter trip, having plenty left as he entered the homestretch and in full gear for a comfortable 1-1/2-length victory.

“He ran a great race. I just concentrated on letting him run his race so there’d be no regrets. I was going to decide on the pace depending on his start but he broke really well so I let him take the front without hesitation,” commented Yutaka Take.

Queens Ring, also retiring after this race, gave a great performance under Christophe Lemaire. Constantly keeping an eye on the eventual winner while sitting in fifth position along the rails, the *Manhattan Cafe* mare responded well to her jockey as he drove her into full gear along the center lane and, while unable to cause a serious threat on **Kitasan Black**, out-rallied Japan Cup victor **Cheval Grand** and derby runner-up **Suave Richard** for second place.

Cheval Grand broke smoothly and was rated in mid-division, around tenth from the front. Making headway while turning wide around the last two corners with **Suave Richard** on his outside, the two horses came with great force to challenge the leaders with Japan Cup victor gaining an edge over **Suave Richard** in the last strides to almost pinning **Queens Ring** while out-finishing **Suave Richard** for third.

Other Horses:

- 4th: (14) **Suave Richard**—settled near rear, made wide bid, rallied strongly for 2nd, neck short at wire
 5th: (11) **Rouge Buck**—unhurried from start, sat on rails in rear, dug in strongly with fastest last 3f charge
 6th: (7) **Sciacchetra**—pressed pace from outside, slowly weakened in stretch, gave up runner-up seat 150m out
 7th: (16) **Sounds of Earth**—3-wide and 2nd from rear, widest at last corner, good charge but never a threat
 8th: (8) **Rainbow Line**—saved ground on rails near rear, keen early, showed effort in late drive, never a factor
 9th: (6) **Satono Chronicle**—in mid-pack and on rails throughout, mild response, unable to reach contention
 10th: (1) **Yamakatsu Ace**—sat on rails in third behind eventual winner, remained a factor last 100m, weakened
 11th: (13) **Mikki Queen**—reserved in 3rd from rear, mild kick, improved position without reaching contention
 12th: (4) **Bless Journey**—hugged rails in mid-division, gradually weakened in stretch, no factor
 13th: (12) **Satono Crown**—sixth from rear on rails, struggled for room in early stretch, bumped after furlong pole
 14th: (5) **Tosen Victory**—raced in mid-pack, ran gamely until 200m out, soon checked, lost momentum
 15th: (15) **Curren Mirotic**—advanced to 4th from wide draw, outrun by rivals before final corner
 16th: (9) **Sakura Empereur**—traveled in mid-division, met traffic 200m out, lost momentum

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 6.8 - 11.6 - 11.9 - 12.2 - 12.3 - 13.3 - 13.2 - 12.8 - 12.2 - 12.1 - 11.7 - 11.2 - 12.3
 Last 4 furlongs: 47.3 Last 3 furlongs: 35.2

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

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.