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SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 62ND OSAKA HAI (G1)

The Osaka Hai, renewing its name this year from the familiarly known Sankei Osaka Hai, was established in 1957 as a handicap race open to runners of four years of age and upwards run over 1,800m at Hanshin Racecourse in March. After the distance was extended to 2,000m in 1972, the date was moved to one week earlier to the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas) in 1981. The race was given G2 status in conjunction with the new grading system in 1984, opened its doors to foreign competitors in 2003 and was upgraded to G1 last year. The winner of the race will automatically earn a starting position in the Irish Champion Stakes (G1, 2,000m) held in September.

Attracting strong contenders by serving as a prep race for G1 spring races for older horses such as the Tenno Sho (Spring) (G1, 3,200m) and the Takarazuka Kinen (G1, 2,200m), many Osaka Hai champions have gone on to achieve G1 successes; *Meisho Samson* (JPN, by *Opera House*) in 2007, *Hiruno d'Amour* (JPN, by *Manhattan Cafe*), who set the race record of 1:57.8 in 2011, two-time Horse of the Year *Kitasan Black* (JPN, by *Black Tide*) in 2017, all went on to capture the Tenno Sho (Spring) that followed; and *Dream Journey* (JPN, by *Stay Gold*) in 2009 landed his Takarazuka Kinen victory two starts later. Winners who also showed extraordinary accomplishments include 2008 champion *Daiwa Scarlet* (JPN, by *Agnes Tachyon*), legendary 2013 winner *Orfevre* (JPN, by *Stay Gold*) and 2014 victor *Kizuna* (JPN, by *Deep Impact*).

This year's line-up included last year's Japan Cup (G1, 2,400m) champion **Cheval Grand** who kicked off the 2018 season with this race, and 2017 Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1, 2,000m) winner **Al Ain** who came off a runner-up effort in the Kyoto Kinen (G2, 2,200m; Feb.11). 2017 Mile Championship (G1, 1,600m) victor **Persian Knight** finished fifth in his first outing of the season, the Nakayama Kinen (G2, 1,800m; Feb.25) which was won by **Win Bright**. 2016 Best Three-Year-Old Colt **Satono Diamond** came off a third in his first start of his five-year-old campaign, the Kinko Sho (G2, 2,000m; Mar.11), which was claimed by 2017 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m) runner-up **Suave Richard** and in fourth was last year's Osaka Hai third-place finisher **Yamakatsu Ace**. Other notable contenders were **Danburite** and **Mikki Swallow**, winner and runner-up of the American Jockey Club Cup (G2, 2,200m; Jan 21), respectively, and **Triomphe**, victor of the Kokura Daishoten (G3, 1,800m; Feb.18).

THE 62ND OSAKA HAI (G1)

4-year-old & up, 2,000 meters (about 10 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, April 1, 2018 Hanshin Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 259,200,000 (about US\$ 2,357,000 <US\$1=¥110>)

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

2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 1kg 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	8	15	Suave Richard (JPN)	C4	57.0	Heart's Cry Pirramimma	M. Demuro Y. Shono	NICKS Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	1:58.2 (34.1)	3.5 (1)
2	3	5	Persian Knight (JPN)	C4	57.0	Harbinger Orient Charm	Y. Fukunaga Y. Ikee	G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Oiwake Farm	3/4 (33.7)	16.3 (6)
3	4	8	Al Ain (JPN)	C4	57.0	Deep Impact Dubai Majesty	Y. Kawada Y. Ikee	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	1/2 (34.0)	3.6 (2)
4	2	3	Yamakatsu Ace (JPN)	H6	57.0	King Kamehameha Yamakatsu Marilyn	Ke. Ikezoe Ka. Ikezoe	Kazuo Yamada Okada Bokujo	1-1/2 (33.7)	38.5 (10)
5	1	1	Mikki Swallow (JPN)	C4	57.0	Tosen Homareboshi Madre Bonita	N. Yokoyama T. Kikuzawa	Mizuki Noda Northern Farm	Neck (34.0)	12.3 (5)
6	7	14	Danburite (JPN)	C4	57.0	Rulership Tanzanite	S. Hamanaka H. Otonashi	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	3/4 (34.5)	20.1 (8)
7	1	2	Satono Diamond (JPN)	H5	57.0	Deep Impact Malpensa	K. Tosaki Y. Ikee	Satomi Horse Company Co., Ltd. Northern Racing	2-1/2 (34.5)	4.0 (3)
8	5	9	Triomphe (JPN)	G4	57.0	Turtle Bowl Mejiro Tonkinese	H. Tanabe N. Sugai	KT Racing Co., Ltd.	Neck (35.0)	19.4 (7)

								Lake Villa Farm		
9	3	6	Smart Layer (JPN)	M8	55.0	Deep Impact Snow Style	H. Shii R. Okubo	Toru Okawa Okada Stud	Neck (34.8)	69.0 (11)
10	8	16	Maitres d'Art (JPN)	H5	57.0	Zenno Rob Roy Exhibit One	K. Matsuyama H. Toda	U. Carrot Farm Northern Farm	Nose (34.5)	249.1 (14)
11	6	12	Yamakatsu Raiden (JPN)	H6	57.0	Symboli Kris S Yamakatsu Orchid	M. Sakai K. Ikezoe	H. Yamada Hiroyasu Yamada	1-1/4 (35.4)	259.3 (15)
12	6	11	Win Bright (JPN)	C4	57.0	Stay Gold Summer Eternity	M. Matsuoka Y. Hatakeyama	Win Co., Ltd. Cosmo View Farm	1-1/4 (35.4)	37.0 (9)
13	2	4	Cheval Grand (JPN)	H6	57.0	Heart's Cry Halwa Sweet	K. Miura Y. Tomomichi	Kazuhiro Sasaki Northern Racing	Nose (35.2)	9.2 (4)
14	7	13	Masahaya Dream (JPN)	H6	57.0	Meisho Samson Lampeia	Y. Kitamura T. Konno	Masao Nakamura Shadai Farm	2 (34.7)	555.7 (16)
15	5	10	Satono Noblesse (JPN)	H8	57.0	Deep Impact Cry with Joy	H. Miyuki Y. Ikee	Satomi Horse Company Co., Ltd. Mejiro Stud	1/2 (35.7)	107.8 (13)
16	4	7	Gold Actor (JPN)	H7	57.0	Screen Hero Heilong Xing	H. Yoshida T. Nakagawa	Hisayo Ishiro Hokusho Farm	DS (37.2)	80.6 (12)

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

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: 1:58.2

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 15,093,284,500

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 24,094,056,800

ATTENDANCE: 39,887

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.15	¥350	BRACKET QUINELLA	3-8	¥2,410	QUINELLA	5-15	¥2,930
PLACE	No.15	¥150	QUINELLA PLACE	5-15	¥1,020	EXACTA	15-5	¥3,750
	No.5	¥310		8-15	¥300	TRIO	5-8-15	¥2,780
	No.8	¥140		5-8	¥640	TRIFECTA	15-5-8	¥17,450

1. Suave Richard (JPN), chestnut, colt, 4-year-old

Heart's Cry / Pirramimma (Unbridled's Song)

Owner: NICKS Co., Ltd.

Breeder: Northern Racing

Trainer: Yasushi Shono

Jockey: Mirco Demuro

10 Starts, 5 Wins

Added money: ¥ 123,402,000

Career earnings: ¥ 436,536,000

Principal race performances:

'18 Kinko Sho (G2, 2,000m) 1st

'17 Copa Republica Argentina (G2, 2,500m) 1st

'17 Kyodo News Service Hai (G3, 1,800m) 1st

'17 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m) 2nd

2. Persian Knight (JPN), dark bay or brown, colt, 4-year-old

Harbinger / Orient Charm (Sunday Silence)

Owner: G1 Racing Co., Ltd.

Breeder: Oiwake Farm

Trainer: Yasutoshi Ikee

Jockey: Yuichi Fukunaga

3. Al Ain (JPN), bay, colt, 4-year-old

Deep Impact / Dubai Majesty (Essence of Dubai)

Owner: Sunday Racing Co., Ltd.

Breeder: Northern Farm

Trainer: Yasutoshi Ikee

Jockey: Yuga Kawada

Suave Richard Storms to Osaka Hai victory

Suave Richard, who emerged as first choice at the last minute, romped to a convincing victory in this year's Osaka Hai, capturing his first G1 title. The four-year-old chestnut captured his first grade-race win in last year's G3

Kyodo News Service Hai before turning in a sixth in the Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas) and went on to mark a 3/4-length second to Rey de Oro in the following Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby). After claiming the G2 Copa Republica Argentina last autumn, **Suave Richard** was fourth in the Arima Kinen and notched his third grade-race win in the G2 Kinko Sho which was his latest and only start of this season. Trainer Yasushi Shono celebrates his first JRA-G1 title and ninth grade-race victory since opening his yard in 2007, while jockey Mirco Demuro now boasts 25 wins at the highest level, his latest with Persian Knight in last year's Mile Championship.

While **Yamakatsu Raiden** gunned to the front to set the pace by the initial turn, **Suave Richard** traveled near the rear after breaking from the second widest stall, but swiftly increased position making headway down the backstretch to find himself right outside the leader before the third turn. The four-year-old easily took over the lead from the tiring pacesetter before entering the stretch and went along on his untroubled way to victory, holding off the fast but late closure by **Persian Knight** for a 3/4-length win.

“Since the pace was very slow, I decided to make an early bid. He responded so well, I had absolutely no doubts in him and he stretched beautifully. He didn’t change leg in the (right-handed) Arima Kinen, but today he did which is a promising factor—something to look forward to from now on,” commented Mirco Demuro after the race.

Sixth favorite and last year's G1 Mile Championship victor **Persian Knight** was keen to go but stuck in mid-field in the early stages however, edged out to find room at the top of the straight and while unleashing the fastest late drive in the 16-horse field, the dark bay furiously picked off all but one of his front runners for the runner-up seat.

Last year's Satsuki Sho winner and second pick **Al Ain** sat off the pace in fifth to sixth, found a path behind the winner in the stretch and strived to reach contention but was caught by the fast-closing **Persian Night** in the final strides to cross the wire a half-length late in third.

Other Horses:

4th: (3) **Yamakatsu Ace**—took economic trip in mid-group, accelerated between horses, was too late

5th: (1) **Mikki Swallow**—settled near rear, entered lane turning wide, showed belated charge

6th: (14) **Danburite**—chased leader in 2nd, ran gamely, weakened in last 100m

7th: (2) **Satono Diamond**—saved ground in mid-division, angled wide for clear path, never a threat

8th: (9) **Triomphe**—traveled towards rear early, made headway at backstretch, sustained bid until 200m out

9th: (6) **Smart Layer**—hugged rails in 3rd, overtaken rounding final turns, improved position at stretch

10th: (16) **Maitres d'Art**—raced towards rear, turned wide, passed tired rivals

11th: (12) **Yamakatsu Raiden**—set slow pace, gradually fell back after entering lane

12th: (11) **Win Bright**—ran near pace in 4th, switched to outside at early stretch, never fired

13th: (4) **Cheval Grand**—sat wide in mid-pack, checked at early stretch, even paced

14th: (13) **Masahaya Dream**—trailed in rear, no factor

15th: (10) **Satono Noblesse**—traveled wide in mid-group, showed little at stretch

16th: (7) **Gold Actor**—positioned in mid-division, dropped back after 3rd corner, faded

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.8 - 11.3 - 12.4 - 12.4 - 12.2 - 11.8 - 11.2 - 11.1 - 11.4 - 11.6
 Last 4 furlongs: 45.3 Last 3 furlongs: 34.1

Positions at each corner:

1st corner	12,14(6,11)8(2,4)10(3,7)5,16,9,1, <u>15</u> -13
2nd corner	12,14(6,11)(2,8,7)(3,4)(5,10)16(1,9) <u>15</u> -13
3rd corner	(12,* <u>15</u>)14,11(6,8,9)7(5,4,10)2(3,16,1)-13
4th corner	(12,* <u>15</u> ,9)14(8,11)(4,10)5(6,1)(2,16)(3,7)13

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.