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SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 49TH TAKAMATSUNOMIYA KINEN (G1)



The Takamatsunomiya Kinen, one of two G1 championship events for sprinters held by the JRA together with the Sprinters Stakes (G1, 1,200m) in autumn, was formerly named Takamatsunomiya Cup in honor of Prince Takamatsunomiya who presented the trophy to the winner in 1971. The race was shortened from 2,000 meters to 1,200 meters and granted a Japanese Grade 1 status in 1996, then renamed Takamatsunomiya Kinen in 1998. The first of flat turf G1 events held annually, the race was temporarily shifted to Hanshin Racecourse in 2011 and was contested over the newly renovated track back at Chukyo in the following year with added challenges of an uphill and a longer homestretch exceeding 400 meters.

The Takamatsunomiya Kinen was designated an international race in 2001 and welcomed its first two foreign participants—*Disturbingthepeace* (13th) and *Echo Eddie* (17th)—from the U.S. in 2003 and was part of the Global Sprint Challenge, the international championship series for sprinters between 2011 and 2017. *Aerovelocit* (NZ, by *Pins*) from Hong Kong became the first foreign horse to win the race in 2015 and *Blizzard* (AUS, by *Starcraft*), also from Hong Kong, finished fifth last year.

Last year's champion Fine Needle (JPN, by Admire Moon) went on to win the Sprinters Stakes to be named JRA Award Best Sprinter or Miler of 2018 and now stands for stud at Darley Japan Stallion Complex.

This year's race included **Danon Smash** who came off consecutive grade-race victories in the Keihan Hai (G3, 1,200m) and the Silk Road Stakes (G3, 1,200m; Jan.27), and 2017 Takamatsunomiya Kinen champion **Seiun Kosei** who was 15th in the latter. Key contenders coming off the Hankyu Hai (G3, 1,400m; Feb.24) were three-time G1 sprint runner-up **Let's Go Donki** (2nd) and two-time graded winner **Logi Cry** (3rd). **Mozu Superflare** came off a win in the Ocean Stakes (G3, 1,200m; Mar.3) followed by last year's Takamatsunomiya Kinen third-place finisher **Nac Venus**. The field also included last year's Sprinters Stakes runner-up **Love Kampf** and fourth-place **Daimei Princess**, the Hanshi Cup (G2, 1,400m) runner-up **Mr Melody** and the Kyoto Himba Stakes (G3, 1,400m; Feb.16) winner **Dea Regalo**.

Big Arthur (JPN, by *Sakura Bakushin O*) set the race record of 1:06.7 in 2016.

THE 49TH TAKAMATSUNOMIYA KINEN (G1)

4-year-old & up, 1,200 meters (about 6 furlongs), turf, left-handed

Sunday, March 24, 2019 Chukyo Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 238,600,000 (about US\$ 2,075,000 <US\$1=¥115>)

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

2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 1kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2015

Safety factor: 18 runners

FP	BK	PP	Horse	Sex Age	Wgt (kg)	Sire Dam	Jockey Trainer	Owner Breeder	Margin (L3F)	Odds (Fav)
1	2	3	Mr Melody (USA)	C4	57.0	Scat Daddy Trusty Lady	Y. Fukunaga H. Fujiwara	Green Fields Co., Ltd. Bell Tower Thoroughbreds	1:07.3 (33.6)	7.8 (3)
2	2	4	Seiun Kosei (JPN)	H6	57.0	Admire Moon Observant	H. Miyuki H. Uehara	Shigeyuki Nishiyama Sakurai Bokujo	1/2 (33.9)	108.0 (12)
3	4	7	Shonan Anthem (JPN)	H6	57.0	Jungle Pocket Voladores	K. Fujioka T. Tanaka	Shonan Co., Ltd. Morinaga Bokujo	Head (33.4)	358.9 (17)
4	7	13	Danon Smash (JPN)	C4	57.0	Lord Kanaloa Spinning Wildcat	Y. Kitamura T. Yasuda	Danox Co., Ltd. K. I. Farm	1/2 (34.0)	2.5 (1)
5	3	5	Teehaff (JPN)	H9	57.0	Storming Home Birjand	Y. Kokubun K. Nishiura	Godolphin Darley Japan K. K	1/2 (33.7)	92.8 (11)
6	4	8	Let's Go Donki (JPN)	M7	55.0	King Kamehameha Marutoku	Y. Iwata T. Umeda	Hirosaki Toshihiro HD Co., Ltd. Shimizu Bokujo	Nose (33.3)	9.8 (5)
7	8	16	Dea Regalo (JPN)	M5	55.0	Manhattan Cafe Souvenir Gift	K. Ikezoe M. Otake	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm	1-1/4 (33.5)	36.7 (8)
8	6	12	Logi Cry (JPN)	H6	57.0	Heart's Cry Dream Moment	C. Lemaire N. Sugai	Masaaki Kumeta Northern Racing	Neck (33.7)	9.2 (4)
9	3	6	Ares Barows (JPN)	H7	57.0	Deep Impact Taisei Etoile	Y. Kawada K. Tsunoda	Hirotsugu Inokuma Yanagawa Bokujo	1-1/2 (34.2)	14.2 (7)

10	1	2	Rhein Spirit (JPN)	H8	57.0	Swept Overboard Ribbon Stripe	K. Mori M. Matsunaga	Shigemasa Osawa Fujiwara Breeding Stud	1/2 (34.2)	317.4 (16)
11	8	17	Daimei Fuji (JPN)	H5	57.0	Agnes Digital Daimei Dark	G. Maruyama N. Morita	Noboru Miyamoto Koichi Miyamoto	Nose (33.9)	129.8 (14)
12	7	14	Peisha Felicita (JPN)	M6	55.0	Heart's Cry Pleasant Cape	D. Matsuda N. Takagi	Naoto Kitajo Tomoda Bokujo	Nose (34.2)	174.7 (15)
13	6	11 B	Hiruno Devaro (JPN)	H8	57.0	Manhattan Cafe Deck	N. Yokoyama M. Kon	Hiruno Co., Ltd. Kamii Stud	4 (34.3)	414.1 (18)
14	5	9	Nac Venus (JPN)	M6	55.0	Daiwa Major Ready to Please	T. Ono H. Sugiura	Kinya Komatsu Shadai Farm	3/4 (35.2)	11.4 (6)
15	7	15	Mozu Superflare (USA)	F4	55.0	Speightstown Christies Treasure	Y. Take H. Otonashi	Capital System Co., Ltd. Alpha Delta Stables LLC	Neck (35.8)	4.1 (2)
16	8	18	Daimei Princess (JPN)	M6	55.0	King Halo Daimei Dark	M. Demuro N. Morita	Koichi Miyamoto Koichi Miyamoto	1/2 (34.6)	40.6 (9)
17	1	1	Snow Dragon (JPN)	H11	57.0	Admire Cozzene Meine Caprice	N. Fujita N. Takagi	Makio Okada Meiwa Iwami Bokujo	1/2 (34.7)	80.5 (10)
18	5	10 B	Love Kampf (JPN)	F4	55.0	Shonan Kampf Love Heart	M. Sakai N. Morita	Yoichi Masuda Yoichi Masuda	3/4 (35.8)	110.1 (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: 1:07.3

GOING: Firm

WEATHER: Fine

TURNOVER FOR THE RACE ALONE: ¥ 12,647,953,600

TURNOVER FOR THE DAY: ¥ 18,837,319,300

ATTENDANCE: 30,085

PAY-OFF (for ¥100)

WIN	No.3	¥780	BRACKET QUINELLA	2-2	¥33,310	QUINELLA	3-4	¥30,530
PLACE	No.3	¥320	QUINELLA PLACE	3-4	¥7,590	EXACTA	3-4	¥49,630
	No.4	¥2,210		3-7	¥30,460	TRIO	3-4-7	¥870,740
	No.7	¥6,410		4-7	¥88,520	TRIFECTA	3-4-7	¥4,497,470

1. Mr Melody (USA), bay, colt, 4-year-old

Scat Daddy / Trusty Lady (Deputy Minister)

Owner: Green Fields Co., Ltd. Breeder: Bell Tower Thoroughbreds

Trainer: Hideaki Fujiwara Jockey: Yuichi Fukunaga

10 Starts, 4 Wins

Added money: ¥ 113,780,000 Career earnings: ¥ 220,343,000

2. Seiun Kosei (JPN), chestnut, horse, 6-year-old

Admire Moon / Observant (Capote)

Owner: Shigeyuki Nishiyama Breeder: Sakurai Bokujo

Trainer: Hiroyuki Uehara Jockey: Hideaki Miyuki

3. Shonan Anthem (JPN), gray, horse, 6-year-old

Jungle Pocket / Voladores (Kurofune)

Owner: Shonan Co., Ltd. Breeder: Morinaga Bokujo

Trainer: Tsuyoshi Tanaka Jockey: Kota Fujioka

Third Pick Mr Melody Registers First G1 Victory in Takamatsunomiya Kinen

Four-year-old **Mr Melody** captured his first G1 title in this year's Takamatsunomiya Kinen. Debuting in November of his two-year-old season, the *Scat Daddy* colt marked two wins and two seconds in his first four starts on dirt raced over 1,200 – 1,400 meters. Registering his first graded win in his first start on turf in the Falcon Stakes (G3, 1,400m) at Chukyo Racecourse last March, he has since been raced on turf, including his runner-up effort in the year-end Hanshin Cup (G2, 1,400m) and a seventh in the previous Hankyu Hai (G3, 1,400m) in

February. This win marked trainer Hideaki Fujiwara's 10th JRA-G1 win following last year's Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas) with Epoca d'Oro and jockey Yuichi Fukunaga's 23rd JRA-G1 win and third Takamatsunomiya Kinen title following his win with *Sunningdale* in 2004 and *Big Arthur* in 2016.

Third pick **Mr Melody** broke smoothly from stall 3 and settled around fourth, inside **Danon Smash**. Though meeting traffic entering the lane, the *Scat Daddy* colt found an open space between horses, surged out behind **Seiun Kosei**, who had overtaken the front after entering the lane, and briefly dueled with the chestnut but assumed command 150 meters out for his first G1 title.

"He was in good form and I was able to race him as planned. I tried to position him toward the front and was able to find an open space in the lane at the right timing. He's a capable horse, being able to handle his first G1 1,200-meter race on turf with a win. There are many options for him going forward as he can also cover 1,400 meters as well as dirt surface."

Quick out of the gate, 12th pick **Seiun Kosei** immediately led the field and, while overtaken by **Mozu Superflare** turning the corners, recaptured the front 300 meters out. Though soon overtaken by the eventual winner, the 6-year-old *Admire Moon* chestnut held on well, holding off the strong challenge by **Shonan Anthem**, for second place.

Seventeenth pick **Shonan Anthem** settled in mid-division and was positioned right behind **Mr Melody** when facing the homestretch. The son of *Jungle Pocket* surged out behind the eventual winner with a powerful drive that marked the second fastest over last three furlongs but was a head short of **Seiun Kosei**.

Race favorite **Danon Smash** settled within striking distance, around 3-4th from the front, and made bid from the outside entering the homestretch but was unable to reach the top three, finishing 0.2 seconds behind in fourth.

Other Horses:

- 5th: (5) **Teehaff**—traveled in mid-pack, met traffic at early stretch, responded well in last 200m
6th: (8) **Let's Go Donki**—sat towards rear, accelerated between horses, timed fastest over last 3 furlongs
7th: (16) **Dea Regalo**—positioned towards rear, circled wide, showed belated late drive
8th: (12) **Logi Cry**—traveled 3-wide in mid-group, struggled to find clear path, quickened in last 300m
9th: (6) **Ares Barows**—raced behind eventual winner, boxed in at top of stretch, lacked needed kick
10th: (2) **Rhein Spirit**—saved ground near winner, found little room at early stretch, showed brief effort
11th: (17) **Daimei Fuji**—ran 4-wide in mid-division, passed tired rivals after 4th corner
12th: (14) **Peisha Felicita**—traveled 3-wide in mid-pack, even paced at straight
13th: (11) **Hiruno Devaro**—trailed in rear, turned wide, failed to respond at stretch
14th: (9) **Nac Venus**—sat 3-wide in mid-group, unable to reach contention
15th: (15) **Mozu Superflare**—set pace, led until 300m out, fell back
16th: (18) **Daimei Princess**—was off slow, raced near rear, circled wide, never a threat
17th: (1) **Snow Dragon**—settled in mid-division, checked at 3rd corner, no factor
18th: (10) **Love Kampf**—advanced to 2nd, faded after entering lane

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.0 - 10.1 - 11.1 - 11.4 - 11.2 - 11.5
Last 4 furlongs: 45.2 Last 3 furlongs: 34.1

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

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.