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SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 37TH FEBRUARY STAKES (G1)



Japanese horse racing, which is influenced by British racing, is held mainly on turf. However, dirt tracks that were popular in the U.S., quickly became widely used around the country since the Tokyo Racecourse implemented a new dirt track in 1960. While the mainstream of major JRA races remained over turf, the February Stakes (then called February Handicap), which was established in 1984 in conjunction with the new grading system, was one of just three graded dirt races at the time—the current number of graded dirt events is 15. The race was upgraded to G2 in 1994 and then to G1 in 1997, and stood as the highest-priced event until the Japan Cup Dirt (called the Champions Cup from 2014) took over in 2000. The race also joined the Breeders' Cup Challenge Series in 2016, enabling its winners to earn automatic starting position in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1, dirt, 2,000m).

Past winners include Wing Arrow (JPN, by Assatis; '00), Agnes Digital (USA, by Crafty Prospector; '02), Gold Allure (JPN, by Sunday Silence; '03), Admire Don (JPN, by Timber Country; '04), Kane Hekili (JPN, by Fuji Kiseki; '06), Vermilion (JPN, by El Condor Pasa; '08), Espoir City (JPN, by Gold Allure; '10), Transcend (JPN, by Wild Rush; '11), Copano Rickey (JPN, by Gold Allure; '14&'15) and **Gold Dream** (JPN, by Gold Allure; '17)—all ten are winners of multiple-G1 races as well as JRA Award winners.

Defending champion **Inti** came off a third in the one of main prep races, the Tokai Stakes (G2, dirt, 1,800m; Jan.26) where **Vengeance** finished a half-length ahead of **Inti** in second. 2018 Yasuda Kinen (G1, 1,600m) champion **Mozu Ascot** won his first career start on dirt in another prep, the Negishi Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,400m; Feb.2) in which **Wide Pharaoh** and **Wonder Lider**, who each have a graded title over the Tokyo dirt mile course, finished fifth and eighth, respectively. The field also included **Sunrise Nova** and **Arctos**, the top two finishers of the Mile Championship Nambu Hai (dirt, 1,600m) in that order, as well as three NAR (National Association of Racing; local public racing) runners—2018 February Stakes victor **Nonkono Yume**, **Mogiana Flavor** who came off a third in the Tokyo Daishoten (G1, dirt, 2,000m; Dec.29) and **Mutually** who was recently fourth in the Kawasaki Kinen (dirt, 2,100m; Jan.29).

Moanin (USA, by Henny Hughes) renewed the race record to 1:34.0 in 2016.

THE 37TH FEBRUARY STAKES (G1)

4-year-olds & up, 1,600 meters (about 8 furlongs), dirt, left-handed

Sunday, February 23, 2020 Tokyo Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 216,000,000 (about US\$ 2,000,000 <US\$1=¥108>)

4-y-o & up: 57kg (about 126 lbs), 2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares,

1 kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2016

Safety factor: 16 runners Going: Standard Weather: Fine

FP	BK	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin (L3F)	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	6	12	Mozu Ascot (USA) Christophe Lemaire	H6 ch. 57.0	2.8 (1)	1:35.2 (35.4)	Frankel India (Hennessy)	Capital System Co., Ltd. Summer Wind Farm Yoshito Yahagi
2	8	15	K T Brave (JPN) Yoshihito Nagaoka	H7 ch. 57.0	142.6 (16)	2-1/2 (35.6)	Admire Max K T Laurel (Sakura Laurel)	Kazuyoshi Takimoto Kazuyoshi Takimoto Haruki Sugiyama
3	5	9	Sunrise Nova (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	H6 ch. 57.0	6.8 (3)	1-1/4 (35.3)	Gold Allure Bright Sapphire (Thunder Gulch)	Takao Matsuoka Yanagawa Bokujo Hidetaka Otonashi
4	8	16	Wonder Lider (JPN) Norihiro Yokoyama	H7 b. 57.0	28.0 (7)	Nose (35.5)	Statue of Liberty Astrea Peace (Mayano Top Gun)	Yoshinari Yamamoto Oshima Bokujo Shogo Yasuda
5	2	4	Time Flyer (JPN) Shane Foley	H5 b. 57.0	30.3 (10)	1-3/4 (37.0)	Heart's Cry Time Traveling (Brian's Time)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Oiwake Farm Kunihide Matsuda

6	4	8	King's Guard (JPN) Shinichiro Akiyama	H9 b. 57.0	111.5 (14)	2-1/2 (35.9)	Sinister Minister Kings Berry (King Halo)	Nisshin B. Nisshin Farm Ryo Terashima
6	6	11	Mogiana Flavor (JPN) Kenichi Shigeta	H5 b. 57.0	45.4 (11)	DH (36.0)	Battle Plan Nasuken Iris (French Deputy)	Nobuo Oda Sakurai Bokujo Satoshi Fukunaga
8	5	10	Nonkono Yume (JPN) Daisuke Mashima	H8 d.ch. 57.0	29.1 (9)	1/2 (36.3)	Twining Nonko (Agnes Tachyon)	Kotaro Yamada Shadai Farm Katsunori Arayama
9	1	2	Arctos (JPN) Hironobu Tanabe	H5 b. 57.0	9.0 (4)	2-1/2 (38.3)	Admire Aura Hoshini Inorio (Symboli Kris S)	Koichiro Yamaguchi Suzaki Bokujo Toru Kurita
10	4	7	Vengeance (JPN) Hideaki Miyuki	H7 ch. 57.0	17.0 (5)	Head (37.5)	Casino Drive Special Queen (Special Week)	Junzo Miyakawa Junzo Miyakawa Hiroyuki Oneda
11	7	14	Mutually (JPN) Norifumi Mikamoto	C4 g. 57.0	112.9 (15)	1/2 (36.4)	Pyro God Beloved Me (Brian's Time)	Jotaro Ishise Teppei Yoshizumi Yoshiyuki Yano
12	2	3	Wide Pharaoh (JPN) Yuichi Fukunaga	C4 ch. 57.0	24.1 (6)	1-1/4 (38.5)	Henny Hughes Wide Sapphire (Agnes Tachyon)	Masanobu Habata Masanobu Habata Katsuhiko Sumii
13	1	1	Bulldog Boss (JPN) Ryuji Wada	H8 b. 57.0	110.3 (13)	6 (38.9)	Daiwa Major Lyphard Cannes (Danehill)	Him Rock Racing Holdings Co., Ltd. Keiichi Samekawa Tadashi Kayo
14	3	5	Inti (JPN) Yutaka Take	H6 ch. 57.0	3.0 (2)	Neck (39.0)	Came Home Kitty (Northern Afleet)	Shigeo Takeda Shigeo Takeda Kenji Nonaka
15	7	13	Derma Louvre (JPN) Mirco Demuro	C4 br. 57.0	29.1 (8)	1-3/4 (38.4)	Pyro Caribbean Romance (Commands)	Hiroyuki Asanuma Bando Bokujo Hirofumi Toda
16	3	6	Mikki Wild (JPN) Yuichi Kitamura	H5 b. 57.0	48.3 (12)	1-3/4 (39.3)	Lord Kanaloa Wild Raspberry (Falbrav)	Mizuki Noda Northern Farm Takayuki Yasuda

FP: Final Position / BK: Bracket Number / PP: Post Position / S&A: Sex & Age / Wgt: Weight (kg) / DH: Dead Heat / L3F: Time of Last 3 Furlongs (600m)
Color: b.=bay / bl.=black / br.=brown / ch.=chestnut / d.b.=dark bay / d.ch.=dark chestnut / g.=gray / w.=white

NOTE 1: No Foreign Contenders

NOTE 2: Figures quoted under Odds are shown in form of decimal odds (single unit is ¥100), and Fav indicates the order of favorites.

Turnover for the Race alone: ¥ 13,781,346,400

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 23,151,641,300

Attendance: 50,985

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.12	¥ 280	Bracket	Quinella	6-8	¥ 3,100	Quinella	12-15	¥ 36,230
Place	No.12	¥ 160	Quinella	Place	12-15	¥ 11,170	Exacta	12-15	¥ 46,980
	No.15	¥ 2,160			9-12	¥ 520	Trio	9-12-15	¥ 95,310
	No.9	¥ 220			9-15	¥ 18,320	Trifecta	12-15-9	¥ 464,920

Winner: 21 starts, 7 wins, 5 seconds / Added money: ¥ 103,402,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 411,714,000

Mozu Ascot Dominates Dirt G1 in February Stakes

Race favorite **Mozu Ascot** captured his second G1 victory in this year's February Stakes and has become the fifth horse to claim G1 titles both on turf and dirt following Kurofune, Agnes Digital, Eagle Cafe and Admire Don. After his G1 triumph in the 2018 Yasuda Kinen (1,600m) and struggling with two G2 runner-up efforts after that, he immediately showed his talent on dirt by winning his first outing on the surface in the Negishi Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,400m) earlier this year. His connections have announced their intentions of racing the six-year-old chestnut in the Doncaster Mile (G1, 1,600m) in Australia on April 4th. With last year's Arima Kinen victory (Lys Gracieuex) and the Hopeful Stakes win (Contrail) that followed, **Mozu Ascot's** trainer Yoshito Yahagi has now become the first trainer since Kunihide Matsuda in 2004 and second overall to capture three JRA-G1 titles consecutively. Jockey Christophe Lemaire has now 28 JRA-G1 wins—his latest

was in last season's Tenno Sho (Autumn) with Almond Eye.

The full gate of 16 opened with **Wide Pharaoh** and **Arctos** sprinting to the front to lead the field while **Mozu Ascot** was settled behind last year's winner and second favorite, **Inti** in mid-division. After entering the straight in sixth to seventh, the race favorite came looming up from the inside, took over the lead from **Time Flyer** before the furlong marker and galloped strongly and unthreatened to the wire for a 2-1/2-length victory.

"He broke well and we were able to settle right behind Inti as planned. His acceleration was extraordinary. Although he is a newcomer in dirt racing, he adapted immediately to the surface and gave his best today. After a couple of seconds in the past, I myself, am happy to have won the February Stakes at last," commented Christophe Lemaire.

Seven-year-old **K T Brave** broke well from a wide stall and sat a length or two behind the eventual winner in mid-pack. The longest shot on the board angled out sharply at early stretch and while displaying a tremendous burst of speed, tagged the tiring **Time Flyer** first before shaking off a stubborn **Wonder Lider** 50 meters out for second.

Sunrise Nova traveled outside **Wonder Lider** two to three lengths behind **K T Brave** and was late in making his bid entering the lane second from last, but with the fastest last three-furlong speed, the third-pick showed a strong stretch charge pinning **Wonder Lider** at the wire for third.

Other Horses:

4th: (16) **Wonder Lider**—hugged rails around 12th, angled out to lane, responded well

5th: (4) **Time Flyer**—tracked leaders in 3rd, led briefly before 200m pole, weakened in last 200m

6th: (8) **King's Guard**—saved ground in rear trio, showed impressive late kick but never a threat

6th: (11) **Mogiana Flavor**—trailed in rear, showed belated charge on inner route but never threatened

8th: (10) **Nonkono Yume**—ran wide in 11th, passed tired rivals at stretch

9th: (2) **Arctos**—pressed pace in 2nd early, took lead at early stretch, outrun in last 200m

10th: (7) **Vengeance**—settled 4-wide in 7th, showed effort, weakened in last 100m

11th: (14) **Mutually**—was off slow, sat 3-wide in rear trio, showed brief effort at stretch

12th: (3) **Wide Pharaoh**—set pace, ran gamely until 300m out, faded

13th: (1) **Bulldog Boss**—took economic trip in 6th, ran out of steam after 300m out

14th: (5) **Inti**—chased leaders around 4th, faded after 300m out

15th: (13) **Derma Louvre**—raced in 9th, showed little after turning final corner

16th: (6) **Mikki Wild**—traveled 3-wide around 4th, gradually fell back

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.5 - 10.9 - 11.2 - 11.8 - 12.3 - 12.2 - 11.9 - 12.4

Last 4 furlongs: 48.8 Last 3 furlongs: 36.5

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

4th corner (*2,3)-4(1,5)(7,6)**12**,15,13(16,10)(8,11,9)14

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.