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SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 80TH 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 five fillies in the past including Gentildonna (JPN, by Deep Impact) and Almond Eye (JPN, by Lord Kanaloa) both of who completed the sweep and went on to capture the Japan Cup (G1, 2,400m) and Horse of the Year title in 2012 and 2018, respectively.

2019 Best Two-Year-Old Filly **Resistencia** came off a third in the main trial race, the Tulip Sho (G2, 1,600m; Mar.7), where Hanshin Juvenile Fillies (G1, 1,600m) runner-up **Maltese Diosa** and third-place **Cravache d’Or** turned the tables and finished first and second, respectively. In the same race, graded winners **Woman’s Heart** was sixth with **Smile Kana** behind in seventh. Those who earned their tickets to run the first leg of the fillies’ Triple Crown in two other trials held on March 15 were: from the Anemone Stakes (L, 1,600m), **Intermission** and **Fiori Chiari**; and from the Fillies’ Revue (G2, 1,400m), **Epos**, **Yamakatsu Mermaid** and **Nine to Five**. The field also included **Ria Amelia**, who was a disappointing sixth in the Hanshin Juvenile Fillies and **Sanctuaire**, **Daring Tact** and **Miyamazakura**, respective winners of the Shinzan Kinen (G3, 1,600m; Jan.12) against male opponents, the Elfin Stakes (L, 1,600m; Feb.8) and the Queen Cup (G3, 1,600m; Feb.15).

THE 80TH OKA SHO (JAPANESE 1000 GUINEAS, G1)

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

Sunday, April 12, 2020

Hanshin Racecourse

11th Race

Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 226,800,000 (about US\$ 2,100,000 <US\$1=¥108>)

3-y-o: 55kg (about 121 lbs), 2kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2017

Course Record: 1:31.9

Race Record: 1:32.7 [Gran Alegria (JPN, by Deep Impact), 2019]

Safety factor: 18 runners

Going: Yielding

Weather: Rainy

FP	BK	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin (L3F)	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	5	9	Daring Tact (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	F3 br. 55.0	4.2 (2)	1:36.1 (36.6)	Epiphaneia Daring Bird (King Kamehameha)	NormandyThoroughbredRacingCo.,Ltd. Hasegawa Bokujo Haruki Sugiyama
2	8	17	Resistencia (JPN) Yutaka Take	F3 b. 55.0	3.7 (1)	1-1/2 (38.2)	Daiwa Major Malacostumbrada (Lizard Island)	U. Carrot Farm Northern Farm Takeshi Matsushita
3	2	3	Smile Kana (JPN) Daichi Shibata	F3 g. 55.0	35.5 (9)	1-3/4 (38.6)	Deep Impact A Shin Cool D (Distorted Humor)	Shigeyuki Okada KK Eishindo Yoshiyasu Takahashi
4	6	11	Cravache d'Or (JPN) Mirco Demuro	F3 br. 55.0	8.8 (6)	1 (37.1)	Heart's Cry Path of Dreams (Giant's Causeway)	Sanshisuimei Co., Ltd. Shimokobe Farm Mitsumasa Nakauchida

5	7	14	Miyamazakura (JPN) Yuichi Fukunaga	F3 g. 55.0	10.4 (7)	3/4 (37.8)	Deep Impact Miss Pascali (Mr. Greeley)	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc. Hideaki Fujiwara
6	2	4	Sanctuaire (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	F3 b. 55.0	6.9 (3)	Nose (38.1)	Deep Impact Hilda's Passion (Canadian Frontier)	U. Carrot Farm Northern Farm Kazuo Fujisawa
7	5	10	Fiori Chiari (JPN) Kanichiro Fujii	F3 b. 55.0	174.4 (14)	1-1/4 (37.2)	Kizuna Clearly Confused (Successful Appeal)	Kazumi Maki North Hills Co., Ltd. Hisashi Shimizu
8	3	5	Maltese Diosa (JPN) Hironobu Tanabe	F3 br. 55.0	8.1 (5)	Neck (38.8)	Kizuna Top of Dora (Grand Slam)	Nagako Fujita Nagako Fujita Takahisa Tezuka
9	8	18	Epos (JPN) Yasunari Iwata	F3 ch. 55.0	78.2 (11)	3/4 (38.0)	Just a Way Strike Root (Smart Strike)	Fujiwara Farm Co., Ltd. Fujiwara Farm Yoshihito Kitade
10	4	8	Ria Amelia (JPN) Yuga Kawada	F3 d.b. 55.0	7.7 (4)	Neck (38.0)	Deep Impact Ria Antonia (Rockport Harbor)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Mitsumasa Nakauchida
11	1	2	Chain of Love (JPN) Shu Ishibashi	F3 ch. 55.0	224.3 (16)	3/4 (37.7)	Heart's Cry Fair Ellen (Street Cry)	Koji Maeda North Hills Co., Ltd. Michihiro Ogasa
12	7	13	Magic Castle (JPN) Suguru Hamanaka	F3 b. 55.0	24.4 (8)	3/4 (37.8)	Deep Impact So Magic (Symboli Kris S)	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Sakae Kunieda
13	8	16	Cape Cod (JPN) Mirai Iwata	F3 d.b. 55.0	390.6 (18)	1/2 (37.8)	Daiwa Major Ha Long Bay (Elusive Quality)	Godolphin Godolphin Mizuki Takayanagi
14	6	12	Intermission (JPN) Yukito Ishikawa	F3 d.b. 55.0	171.6 (13)	Head (38.3)	Deep Impact Lei Carla (King Kamehameha)	Shimokobe B. Shimokobe Farm Takahisa Tezuka
15	4	7	Hiruno Malibu (JPN) Yuichi Kitamura	F3 b. 55.0	224.0 (15)	Neck (37.6)	Gold Allure Palais Garnier (Seattle Dancer)	Hiruno Co., Ltd. Yamaoka Farm Yoshihito Kitade
16	3	6	Woman's Heart (JPN) Kota Fujioka	F3 b. 55.0	42.1 (10)	2-1/2 (39.4)	Heart's Cry Lady of Persia (Shamardal)	Godolphin Godolphin Katsuichi Nishiura
17	1	1	Nine to Five (JPN) Daisaku Matsuda	F3 d.b. 55.0	249.1 (17)	9 (41.0)	Screen Hero Bettolle (Blu Air Force)	Kuwata Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Masato Nishizono
18	7	15	Yamakatsu Mermaid (JPN) Kenichi Ikezoe	F3 b. 55.0	82.8 (12)	1 (41.5)	Lord Kanaloa Yamakatsu Marilyn (Grass Wonder)	Kazuo Yamada Okada Bokujo Kaneo Ikezoe

FP: Final Position / BK: Bracket Number / PP: Post Position / S&A: Sex & Age / Wgt: Weight (kg) / 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: ¥ 14,047,623,500

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 22,103,911,900

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.9	¥ 420	Bracket Quinella	5-8	¥ 1,040	Quinella	9-17	¥ 1,110
Place	No.9	¥ 190	Quinella Place	9-17	¥ 490	Exacta	9-17	¥ 1,930
	No.17	¥ 170		3-9	¥ 2,880	Trio	3-9-17	¥ 12,590
	No.3	¥ 730		3-17	¥ 2,480	Trifecta	9-17-3	¥ 47,760

Winner= 3 starts, 3 wins / Added money: ¥ 130,095,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 157,375,000

Daring Tact Closes Impressively to Capture Oka Sho, First Leg of Fillies' Triple Crown

Second pick **Daring Tact** claimed this year's Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas), the first jewel of the fillies' Triple Crown, marking her third consecutive career victory in as many starts. The first-crop daughter of 2014 Japan Cup victor Epiphaneia is the first filly in 40 years and third overall to claim the title in her third career

start while she also becomes the first in 16 years and seventh overall undefeated filly to win the first leg. Her debut win last November and Elfin Stakes victory in February—both at the mile—were by convincing 1-1/2 lengths and 4 lengths, respectively. For both trainer Haruki Sugiyama and jockey Kohei Matsuyama, this triumph marks their second JRA-G1 victory—Sugiyama’s first title was the 2018 JBC Classic with K T Brave and Matsuyama’s was with Al Ain in the 2017 Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas).

Daring Tact was a bit keen after breaking from stall nine but settled in a rearward position in 11th to 12th cruising down the backstretch in the heavy rain. Making rapid headway in a wide sweeping move around the final turn, the Epiphaneia filly kicked into gear showcasing a strong and tenacious charge with the fastest late speed and after picking off the tiring field, finally caught **Resistencia** a few strides before the wire for the win.

“I concentrated on her rhythm more than where to position her today. We were far behind the leaders and desperate in catching up but she responded beautifully and stretched incredibly all the way to the line. I’m not worried about the added distance in the coming Japanese Oaks but she does have issues to work on such as being relaxed. I’m praying that the day we can race in front of the crowd again will come soon,” commented jockey Kohei Matsuyama after the race.

Race favorite **Resistencia** broke well from a wide stall and promptly sat behind pacesetter **Smile Kana** on her outside by the third corner. The pair battled it out down the straight, way ahead of the rest of the field, but **Resistencia** finally wore out the Deep Impact filly in the last half furlong only to give in to the intimidating speed of the winner in the final strides and was a 1-1/2-length second.

Breaking sharply from an inner stall, ninth pick **Smile Kana** led the field with good speed over the yielding going with **Nine to Five** briefly and then **Resistencia**, on her heels. After a long and heavy duel from the top of the stretch with the eventual runner-up, the gray filly ran out of steam and was beaten in the last 50 meters to finish 1-3/4 lengths from the runner-up in third.

Other Horses:

4th: (11) **Cravache d’Or**—raced 3-wide around 7th, accelerated along rails, 2nd fastest over last 3 furlongs

5th: (14) **Miyamazakura**—advanced to 3rd, outrun after 3rd corner, improved position at stretch

6th: (4) **Sanctuaire**—traveled around 7th along rails, ran willingly until 100m pole

7th: (10) **Fiori Chiari**—saved ground around 15th, showed 3rd fastest late kick, belatedly

8th: (5) **Maltese Diosa**—tracked leaders around 3rd, ran gamely until 200m marker, weakened thereafter

9th: (18) **Epos**—ran 3-wide around 10th, showed effort between horses, never a threat

10th: (8) **Ria Amelia**—settled around 10th in front of winner, failed to respond at stretch

11th: (2) **Chain of Love**—trailed in rear, made headway after 3rd corner, lacked needed kick

12th: (13) **Magic Castle**—raced 3-wide around 15th, passed tired rivals at straight

13th: (16) **Cape Cod**—sat in 14th behind winner, unable to reach contention

14th: (12) **Intermission**—took economic trip around 10th, met traffic at early stretch, even paced

15th: (7) **Hiruno Malibu**—hugged rails 2nd from rear, angled out, never fired

16th: (6) **Woman’s Heart**—traveled around 7th, driven after 3rd corner, showed little

17th: (1) **Nine to Five**—broke sharply, stalked leaders around 3rd, outrun at stretch

18th: (15) **Yamakatsu Mermaid**—prominent early around 3rd, faded after final corner

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.4 - 11.2 - 11.3 - 11.6 - 11.5 - 11.7 - 12.6 - 13.8

Last 4 furlongs: 49.6 Last 3 furlongs: 38.1

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

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

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.