

FROM: Junichi Takada

General Manager, Media & Publicity Department, THE JAPAN RACING ASSOCIATION (JRA)

DATE: October 4, 2020

SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 54TH SPRINTERS STAKES (G1)



The Sprinters Stakes, initially established in 1967 as a major 1,200-meter sprint race for three-year-old and up, was designated as a spring G3 event in conjunction with the new grading system implemented in 1984. It was then upgraded to G2 in 1987 before becoming a G1 sprint race in 1990 with the date of fixture also shifted to the latter part of the season. The race now positions itself as the highest mark for sprinters together with the Takamatsunomiya Kinen (G1, 1,200m) held in spring.

One of the first few JRA races to open its doors to foreign entries, the Sprinters Stakes has enjoyed the participation of many outstanding sprinters from North America, Europe, Asia, and Oceania. Hong Kong raiders have taken home the title twice so far—Silent Witness (AUS, by El Moxie) was the first foreign contender to win the title in 2005 along with Ultra Fantasy (AUS, by Encosta De Lago) in 2010—while Australia's Takeover Target (AUS, by Celtic Swing) won the 2006 version. While foreign contenders have not been seen in the winner's circle since, the race has continued to enjoy the company of some of the top sprinters from overseas in recent years.

Last year's champion Tower of London (JPN, by Raven's Pass) did not make his entry this year due to a hoof problem while **Mozu Superflare**, winner of the Takamatsunomiya Kinen this spring, came off a runner-up effort, 1-3/4 lengths behind **Red en Ciel** in the Kitakyushu Kinen (G3, 1,200m; Aug.23). **Diatonic** scored his second grade-race title in the Hakodate Sprint Stakes (G3, 1,200m; Jun.21) but was under form in his fall debut, disappointing to 15th in the Keeneland Cup (G3, 1,200m; Aug.30)—**Eighteen Girl** won her first graded title in the same race with **Right on Cue** 1-1/4 behind in second. **Danon Smash** claimed his sixth grade-race victory in the Centaur Stakes (G2, 1,200m; Sep.13) in which **Meisho Glocke** and last year's Takamatsunomiya Kinen winner **Mr Melody** followed in second and third, respectively with three-year-old **Bien Fait** in fifth and CBC Sho (G3, 1,200m; Jul.5) victor **Love Kampf** finishing 16th. The Sprinters Stakes field also included **Gran Alegria**, the Takamatsunomiya Kinen runner-up and Yasuda Kinen champion.

THE 54TH SPRINTERS STAKES (G1)

3-year-olds & up, 1,200 meters (about 6 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, October 4, 2020 Nakayama Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 281,800,000 (about US\$ 2,610,000 <US\$1=¥108>)

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

2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 1kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2017

Course Record: 1:06.7 Race Record: 1:06.7 [Lord Kanaloa (JPN, by King Kamehameha), 2012]

Safety factor: 16 runners Going: Firm Weather: Cloudy

FP	BK	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin (L3F)	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	5	10	Gran Alegria (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	F4 b. 55.0	2.2 (1)	1:08.3 (33.6)	Deep Impact Tapitsfly (Tapit)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Kazuo Fujisawa
2	2	3	Danon Smash (JPN) Yuga Kawada	H5 b. 57.0	5.1 (3)	2 (35.0)	Lord Kanaloa Spinning Wildcat (Hard Spun)	Danox Co., Ltd. K. I. Farm Takayuki Yasuda
3	8	16	A Will a Way (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	F4 b. 55.0	60.9 (10)	1/2 (33.7)	Just a Way Will Power (King Kamehameha)	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Racing Tomokazu Takano
4	4	7	Mr Melody (USA) Yuichi Fukunaga	H5 b. 57.0	23.7 (7)	1/2 (35.0)	Scat Daddy Trusty Lady (Deputy Minister)	Green Fields Co., Ltd. Bell Tower Thoroughbreds Hideaki Fujiwara
5	8	15	Kurino Gaudi (JPN) Kosei Miura	C4 ch. 57.0	46.1 (9)	1 (34.6)	Screen Hero Kurino Billionaire (Diablo)	Hiroharu Kurimoto Hiroharu Kurimoto Norio Fujisawa
6	7	13 B	Red en Ciel (JPN) Mirco Demuro	H6 br. 57.0	13.3 (4)	Head (34.7)	Manhattan Cafe Stylelistick (Storm Cat)	TokyoHorseRacing Co., Ltd Northern Farm Yasushi Shono

7	3	5	Meisho Glocke (JPN) Suguru Hamanaka	M6 b. 55.0	101.0 (12)	1/2 (35.4)	Meisho Samson Meisho Granada (Manhattan Cafe)	Yoshitaka Matsumoto Yoshitaka Matsumoto Yoshiyuki Arakawa
8	1	1	Daimei Princess (JPN) Shinichiro Akiyama	M7 d.b. 55.0	271.7 (15)	Nose (35.1)	King Halo Daimei Dark (Dance in the Dark)	Koichi Miyamoto Koichi Miyamoto Naoyuki Morita
9	3	6	Right on Cue (JPN) Yoshihiro Furukawa	H5 b. 57.0	16.4 (6)	Nose (35.4)	Shamardal Great Timing (Raven's Pass)	Godolphin Darley Japan K. K Mitsugu Kon
10	1	2	Mozu Superflare (USA) Fuma Matsuwaka	M5 ch. 55.0	3.9 (2)	1 (36.5)	Speightstown Christies Treasure (Belong to Me)	Capital System Co., Ltd. Alpha Delta Stables LLC Hidetaka Otonashi
11	7	14	Eighteen Girl (JPN) Kenichi Ikezoe	F4 br. 55.0	37.1 (8)	Nose (34.8)	Johannesburg Center Gran Tasse (Agnes Tachyon)	Yasushi Nakayama Shono Bokujo Yuji Iida
12	2	4 B	King Heart (JPN) Hiroshi Kitamura	H7 b. 57.0	383.0 (16)	Neck (35.3)	Orewa Matteruze Love Heart (Meiner Love)	Yoichi Masuda Yoichi Masuda Shinobu Hoshino
13	5	9	Diatonic (JPN) Norihiro Yokoyama	H5 b. 57.0	14.5 (5)	2-1/2 (35.7)	Lord Kanaloa To Harmony (Sunday Silence)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Sakai Bokujo Takayuki Yasuda
14	4	8	Daimei Fuji (JPN) Yuji Hishida	H6 b. 57.0	156.2 (13)	Head (35.4)	Agnes Digital Daimei Dark (Dance in the Dark)	Noboru Miyamoto Koichi Miyamoto Naoyuki Morita
15	6	11 B	Love Kampf (JPN) Arata Saito	M5 d.b. 55.0	214.5 (14)	1/2 (36.4)	Shonan Kampf Love Heart (Meiner Love)	Yoichi Masuda Yoichi Masuda Naoyuki Morita
16	6	12	Bien Fait (JPN) Yusuke Fujioka	C3 b. 55.0	67.1 (11)	3 (37.5)	Kizuna Le Sucre (Sakura Bakushin O)	Koki Maeda North Hills Co., Ltd. Kazuya Nakatake

FP: Final Position / BK: Bracket Number / PP: Post Position / B: Blinker / 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: ¥ 14,273,723,800

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 24,064,866,500

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.10	¥ 220	Bracket Quinella	2-5	¥ 570	Quinella	3-10	¥ 530
Place	No.10	¥ 140	Quinella Place	3-10	¥ 310	Exacta	10-3	¥ 790
	No.3	¥ 180		10-16	¥ 2,120	Trio	3-10-16	¥ 10,430
	No.16	¥ 680		3-16	¥ 3,150	Trifecta	10-3-16	¥ 22,540

Winner= 9 starts, 6 wins, 1 second, 1 third / Added money: ¥ 133,402,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 586,645,000

Gran Alegria Shows Impressive Speed in Sprinters Stakes Win

Race favorite **Gran Alegria** gave her sire Deep Impact his first Sprint G1 title in grand fashion as the proven miler, with two G1 titles at a mile in the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas, G1, 1,600m) last year and the Yasuda Kinen (G1, 1,600m) this spring, also proved a different class at 1,200 meters. Already showing signs of handling the shorter distance when finishing second in the spring sprint G1, the Takamatsunomiya Kinen, the bold filly weighing over 500kg showed both speed and power to excel in both categories. Trainer Kazuo Fujisawa claimed his third Sprinters Stakes title after Taiki Shuttle in 1997 and Tower of London last year and 31st JRA-G1 title overall. Christophe Lemaire won his second Sprinters Stakes title after his first with Tower of London last year and is now a winner of 31 JRA-G1 titles—his last G1 victory was in the Victoria Mile with Almond Eye.

Gran Alegria was off slow and raced second from the rear, plenty of distance from pacesetter and second favorite **Mozu Superflare**. While gradually picking up speed, the Deep Impact filly was still well behind a rapid pace and looked far from being a threat turning for home, but as soon as Christophe Lemaire gave a little

smack after shifting his mount to the outside for a clear run, **Gran Alegria** mowed down the whole field with every stride to take command 50 meters out and pulling away to a two-length victory.

“I can’t believe how strong she is! She was a little slow to get into the rhythm and we were much further back than expected but we did not panic if not a little worried that we may not be in time as the pace was fast—in a normal situation we may not have made it—but she certainly showed what she is made of and she just carried on while some of the front runners started to weaken,” commented Christophe Lemaire.

Third favorite **Danon Smash** missed a beat at the start but quickly gained his rhythm, chased the leaders along the rails around fifth and had a perfect trip coming into the straight. The son of Lord Kanaloa stayed well as the early leaders began to weaken in the last 100 meters, but had little left to chase the eventual winner while managing to hold off the late charging **A Will a Way**.

Tenth choice **A Will a Way** was unhurried after the break and eased back, trailing in the rear up to the final turn, but showed a tremendous turn of speed while having to make up much ground along the outside lane to finish 1/2-length behind **Danon Smash** in third.

Other Horses:

4th: (7) **Mr Melody**—sat 7th early, advanced after 3rd corner, took brief lead 100m out but overtaken by top 3 finishers

5th: (15) **Kurino Gaudi**—raced 3-wide in 13th, circled wide, showed belated charge

6th: (13) **Red en Ciel**—ran 3-wide around 11th, switched to outside at early stretch, passed tired rivals

7th: (5) **Meisho Glocke**—traveled around 5th, angled out, even paced

8th: (1) **Daimei Princess**—hugged rails around 8th, ran gamely until 50m out, outrun thereafter

9th: (6) **Right on Cue**—settled 3-wide around 5th, lacked needed kick in last 200m

10th: (2) **Mozu Superflare**—set fast pace, led until 100m out, ran out of steam

11th: (14) **Eighteen Girl**—sat in 14th, failed to find clear path 200m out, never a threat

12th: (4) **King Heart**—raced around 8th, showed effort until 100m out

13th: (9) **Diatonic**—ran 4-wide around 8th, met traffic 200m out, lost momentum

14th: (8) **Daimei Fuji**—traveled around 11th, unable to reach contention

15th: (11) **Love Kampf**—tracked leaders in 3rd, dropped back at stretch

16th: (12) **Bien Fait**—pressed pace in 2nd, faded after 200m pole

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 11.9 - 10.1 - 10.8 - 11.5 - 11.9 - 12.1

Last 4 furlongs: 46.3 Last 3 furlongs: 35.5

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

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

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.