

FROM: Junichi Takada

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

DATE: October 25, 2020

**SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 81ST KIKUKA SHO (JAPANESE ST. LEGER, G1)**



The history of Kikuka Sho, the Japanese St. Leger and the last leg of the Triple Crown race for three-year-old colts and fillies, dates back to 1938—a year after Japan’s 11 racing clubs integrated into one organization named Nihon Keiba Kai (forerunner of the JRA). Initially called “Kyoto Norin-sho Shoten Yonsai YobiUma Kyoso”, the race was renamed to Kikuka Sho in 1948. The race distance, however, has not changed since the first running, except in 1979 when the race was held at Hanshin Racecourse during Kyoto’s stand renovation. The Kikuka Sho features three-year-olds, most of who have grown dramatically since the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m) held five months before, prior to their summer break. The Kikuka Sho winners have both the speed and the stamina to prove their caliber as the potential breeding stock. The last of the seven Triple Crown winners in JRA history was Orfevre (JPN, by Stay Gold) in 2011 who proceeded to prove his power against older G1 caliber in the Arima Kinen (G1, 2,500m), which led to his Horse of the Year that year. 2015 Kikuka Sho winner Kitanasan Black (JPN, by Black Tide) and 2016 champion Satono Diamond (JPN, by Deep Impact) were chosen as the Horse of the Year and Best Three-Year-Old Colt, respectively, in 2016.

**Contrail**, winner of both the Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1, 2,000m) and the Tokyo Yushun, came into the race with high hopes of becoming an undefeated Triple Crown winner after his victory in the Kobe Shimbun Hai (G2, 2,200m) on September 27. Tokyo Yushun third-place finisher **Weltreisende** was the runner-up in the Kobe Shimbun Hai with **Robertson Quay** and Tokyo Yushun fifth-place finisher **Deep Bond** following in third and fourth, respectively. **Babbitt** scored his second consecutive grade-race title following the Radio Nikkei Sho (G3, 1,800m, July) in another trial race, the St. Lite Kinen (G2, 2,200m; Sep.21) in which Yayoi Sho (G2, 2,000m) winner **Satono Flag** finished second and Satsuki Sho third-place finisher **Galore Creek** was third. The Kikuka Sho field also included **Diamant Minoru**, **Danon Gloire** and **Aristoteles** who came off their respective wins against older foes in allowance races (2 Wins Class).

**THE 81ST THE KIKUKA SHO (JAPANESE ST. LEGER, G1)**

3-year-olds, Colts and Fillies, 3,000 meters (about 15 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, October 25, 2020 Kyoto Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 259,200,000 (about US\$ 2,400,000 <US\$1=¥108>)

3-y-o: 57 kg (about 126 lbs), 2 kg allowance for Fillies, 2 kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2017

Course Record: 3:01.0 Race Record: 3:01.0 [Toho Jackal (JPN, by Special Week), 2014]

Safety factor: 18 runners Going: Firm Weather: Fine

FP	BK	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin (L3F)	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	2	3	Contrail (JPN) Yuichi Fukunaga	C3 br. 57.0	1.1 (1)	3:05.5 (35.2)	Deep Impact Rhodochrosite (Unbridled's Song)	Shinji Maeda North Hills Co., Ltd. Yoshito Yahagi
2	5	9	Aristoteles (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	C3 b. 57.0	23.0 (4)	Neck (35.1)	Epiphaneia Blue Diamond (Deep Impact)	Hideko Kondo Hideko Kondo Hidetaka Otonashi
3	5	10	Satono Flag (JPN) Keita Tosaki	C3 b. 57.0	34.9 (5)	3-1/2 (35.2)	Deep Impact Balada Sale (Not For Sale)	Satomi Horse Company Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Sakae Kunieda
4	4	8	Deep Bond (JPN) Ryuji Wada	C3 br. 57.0	51.6 (7)	Neck (36.1)	Kizuna Zephyranthes (King Halo)	Shinji Maeda Murata Bokujo Ryuji Okubo
5	7	15	Black Hole (JPN) Yusuke Fujioka	C3 d.b. 57.0	116.8 (14)	Neck (35.4)	Gold Ship Viva Bouquet (King Kamehameha)	Seichi Serizawa Seiichi Serizawa Ikuo Aizawa
6	7	13	Robertson Quay (JPN) Takuma Ito	C3 b. 57.0	76.7 (9)	2 (35.6)	Rulership Tokai Megami (Sunday Silence)	Kazutaka Hosaka Nagahama Bokujo Toru Hayashi
7	3	6	Weltreisende (JPN) Kenichi Ikezoe	C3 d.b. 57.0	10.3 (2)	2 (36.3)	Dream Journey Mandela (Acatenango)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Yasutoshi Ikee

8	7	14	Valcos (JPN) Yasunari Iwata	C3 b. 57.0	42.2 (6)	1-1/4 (36.5)	Novellist Land's Edge (Dance in the Dark)	Kazuhiro Sasaki Northern Farm Yasuo Tomomichi
9	1	2	Galore Creek (JPN) Yuga Kawada	C3 b. 57.0	82.5 (10)	2-1/2 (37.4)	Kinshasa no Kiseki Gold Relic (Kingmambo)	Yukio Mizukami Kasamatsu Bokujo Hiroyuki Uehara
10	6	11	Babbitt (JPN) Hiroyuki Uchida	C3 ch. 57.0	12.5 (3)	Neck (37.7)	Nakayama Festa Art Ryoko (Taiki Shuttle)	Naoya Miyata Taihoku Stud Co., Ltd. Tamio Hamada
11	2	4	Man of Spirit (JPN) Mirco Demuro	C3 b. 57.0	116.6 (13)	Neck (36.9)	Rulership Sunday Smile (Sunday Silence)	Hoshino Racing Northern Farm Takashi Saito
12	3	5	Satono Impresa (JPN) Ryusei Sakai	C3 d.b. 57.0	96.9 (11)	1 (37.2)	Deep Impact Sahpresa (Sahm)	Satomi Horse Company Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Yoshito Yahagi
13	1	1	Diamant Minoru (JPN) Hideaki Miyuki	C3 ch. 57.0	109.9 (12)	1/2 (37.1)	Orfevre Isono Swallow (Dehere)	Minoru Yoshioka Murashita Nojo Masaru Honda
14	8	16	Turkish Palace (IRE) Akatsuki Tomita	C3 br. 57.0	254.4 (16)	Neck (36.6)	Golden Horn Regency Romance (Diktat)	Godolphin Godolphin Mitsugu Kon
15	4	7	Danon Gloire (JPN) Yuichi Kitamura	C3 ch. 57.0	64.2 (8)	3-1/2 (38.1)	Heart's Cry So Many Ways (Sightseeing)	Danox Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Sakae Kunieda
16	6	12	L'Excellence (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	C3 b. 57.0	140.6 (15)	4 (38.4)	Deep Impact Xcellence (Champs Elysees)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Manabu Ikezoe
17	8	18	Bitterender (JPN) Akihide Tsumura	C3 b. 57.0	302.1 (17)	1-1/4 (38.3)	Orfevre Bitter Sweet (Afleet Alex)	K. Hidaka Breeders Union Sakurai Bokujo Ikuo Aizawa
18	8	17 B	Chimera Verite (JPN) Fuma Matsuwaka	C3 d.b. 57.0	324.0 (18)	Distance (41.8)	Kizuna Lumiere Verite (Cozzene)	Makoto Kato Makoto Kato 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: ¥ 21,240,028,700

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 30,030,043,600

Attendance: 1,018

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.3	¥ 110	Bracket Quinella	2-5	¥ 510	Quinella	3-9	¥ 910
Place	No.3	¥ 110	Quinella Place	3-9	¥ 530	Exacta	3-9	¥ 1,010
	No.9	¥ 350		3-10	¥ 550	Trio	3-9-10	¥ 3,810
	No.10	¥ 360		9-10	¥ 2,780	Trifecta	3-9-10	¥ 8,740

Winner= 7 starts, 7 wins / Added money: ¥ 147,328,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 675,186,000

### **Conrail Claims Kikuka Sho to Become Third Undefeated Triple Crown Winner**

Odds on favorite **Conrail** claimed this year's Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger) and added his name in JRA history as the third undefeated Triple Crown winner after Symboli Rudolf (1984) and his sire Deep Impact (2005) and the eighth colt to win all three titles—it is also the first time in history for a father and son to accomplish the feat. The Deep Impact colt extended his winning streak to seven while notching his fourth G1 title after the Hopeful Stakes last year, the Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas) and the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby). Trainer Yoshito Yahagi, who scored his 13th JRA-G1 title with the win, became the first trainer to claim four G1 titles for two consecutive seasons. Jockey Yuichi Fukunaga, now with 28 G1 wins, claimed his second Kikuka Sho title after his victory with Epiphaneia in 2013 and became the fourth jockey in JRA history with 10 Classic titles.

**Contrail** broke smoothly and settled nicely between horses in mid-field behind **Chimera Verite** who set a relaxed pace while being pressured by **Aristoteles** on his outside. Yuichi Fukunaga managed to keep the colt in hand as the son of Deep Impact appeared keen to go along the backstretch while gradually making headway through the last two corners and soon taking command entering the stretch. Stalked throughout the whole trip and still challenged by **Aristoteles** as **Contrail** attempted to pull away from the rest of the field, the undefeated three-year-old demonstrated terrific tenacity to prevail by a neck at the wire for a history making victory.

“I can’t say that I was successful in keeping him relaxed during the race with so much pressure from Aristoteles. It turned out to be a tough race for us with Aristoteles looking quite strong and persistent, and this race may not have been his best performance, but I kept my faith in Contrail and he certainly showed how strong he is to have maintained his position up to the end of the 3,000-meter trip,” commented Yuichi Fukunaga.

**Aristoteles** under Christophe Lemaire quickly assumed position outside **Contrail** and raced in tandem with the eventual winner in mid-division. The improving Epiphaneia colt accelerated impressively and remained strong as the two colts dueled to the wire but was unable to wear down the winner, finishing a neck behind in second.

**Satono Flag**, unhurried and traveling fourth from the rear, angled out approaching the third corner and made headway along the outside. Entering the stretch with **Contrail** and **Aristoteles** in view down the center lane, he exerted a strong turn of speed to make up ground and seize his place in third through the last strides while unable to threaten the top two finishers.

#### Other Horses:

4th: (8) **Deep Bond**—sat around 6th in front of winner, showed tenacity, weakened in final strides

5th: (15) **Black Hole**—raced around 11th, circled wide, accelerated at stretch, belatedly

6th: (13) **Robertson Quay**—positioned around 15th, switched to inside at early stretch, showed brief effort

7th: (6) **Weltreisende**—traveled around 9th behind winner, angled out, lacked needed kick

8th: (14) **Valcos**—saved ground around 11th, even paced

9th: (2) **Galore Creek**—sat in 4th, ran gamely until top of stretch, outrun thereafter

10th: (11) **Babbitt**—chased leader in 2nd, took command turning final corner, dropped back after 300m marker

11th: (4) **Man of Spirit**—was off slow, ran 3rd from rear, advanced in backstretch, even paced at stretch

12th: (5) **Satono Impresa**—raced around 9th, failed to respond at stretch

13th: (1) **Diamant Minoru**—settled around 11th, checked at early stretch, never a threat

14th: (16) **Turkish Palace**—traveled 2nd from rear, showed little at stretch

15th: (7) **Danon Gloire**—traveled around 5th, outrun after final corner

16th: (12) **L’Excellence**—tracked leaders in 3rd, fell back after 200m pole

17th: (18) **Bitterender**—broke poorly, trailed in rear, unable to reach contention

18th: (17) **Chimera Verite**—set pace from wide draw, faded after final corner

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.8 - 11.9 - 12.1 - 13.3 - 12.1 - 11.9 - 13.1 - 12.4 - 12.5 - 12.7 - 12.9 - 12.2 - 11.8 - 11.6 - 12.2  
Last 4 furlongs: 47.8    Last 3 furlongs: 35.6

Positions at each corner:	1st corner	17,11,12-2(7,8)( <u>3</u> ,9)14(5,6)(1,15)(13,10)-4,16-18
	2nd corner	17-11-12-2(7,8)( <u>3</u> ,9)14(5,6)(1,15)13,10-4-16,18
	3rd corner (2nd lap)	17-11(2,8)(7, <u>3</u> )(12,9)5(14,6,4)(1,15)(18,13,10)16
	4th corner (2nd lap)	11(2,8)(17, <u>3</u> ,9)7(14,5,6)(1,15,4)(18,12,13,10)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.