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SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 37TH MILE CHAMPIONSHIP (G1)



The Mile Championship is one of the most prestigious autumn grade-one events for milers together with the Yasuda Kinen (G1, 1,600m) in spring. Horse racing in Japan had been focusing on long distance racing for a long time, regarding stamina and strength as the most important quality of horses. However, with modern racing having increased its attention to speed horses suited to a mile or shorter distance races, the Mile Championship was established in 1984 in conjunction with Japanese races adopting the grading system. The current racing program now provides races for short, middle and long distance racehorses. Since its establishment, the race had been held at Kyoto Racecourse but has temporarily shifted to Hanshin as the regular venue is currently under renovation beginning last month.

After being designated an international race in 1998, the race welcomed several foreign contestants, including Sahpresa (USA, by Sahm) who ran three consecutive years—third in 2009 and 2011, fourth in 2010—but none has taken part since 2012.

Last year, **Indy Champ** won the race following his Yasuda Kinen victory, becoming the seventh horse to claim both mile events in the same year, and later named the season's JRA Award Best Sprinter or Miler. The defending champion kicked off his fall campaign in this race after finishing third in the Yasuda Kinen behind victor **Gran Alegria** who went on to claim the Sprinters Stakes (G1, 1,200m; Oct.4). The Fuji Stakes (G2, 1,600m; Oct.24), one of the trial races towards the mile G1 was won by **Vin de Garde**, followed by this year's NHK Mile Cup (G1, 1,600m) champion **Lauda Sion** in second, 2018 NHK Mile Cup victor **Keiai Nautique** in third, 2017 Mile Championship winner **Persian Knight** in fourth and 2019 Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes (G1, 1,600m) runner-up **Taisei Vision** in fifth. **Katsuji** registered his second graded title in another trial, the Swan Stakes (G2, 1,400m; Oct.31) in which three-time G1 victor **Admire Mars** finished third and Victoria Mile (G1, 1,600m) runner-up **Sound Chiara** disappointed to 10th. The Mile Championship field also included **Salios**, winner of the Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes who came off a win in the Mainichi Okan (G2, 1,800m; Oct.11), **Resistencia**, 2019 Best Two-Year-Old Filly who came back from a leg injury found after finishing second in the NHK Mile Cup, and the Sprinters Stakes third-place finisher **A Will a Way**.

THE 37TH MILE CHAMPIONSHIP (G1) – Japan Autumn International -

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

Sunday, November 22, 2020 Hanshin Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

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

3-y-o: 56kg (about 123-124 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: 1:31.9

Race Record: 1:31.5 [Danon Shark (JPN, by Deep Impact), Kyoto, 2014]

Safety factor: 18 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	2	4	Gran Alegria (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	F4 b. 55.0	1.6 (1)	1:32.0 (33.2)	Deep Impact Tapitsfly (Tapit)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Kazuo Fujisawa
2	4	8	Indy Champ (JPN) Yuichi Fukunaga	H5 b. 57.0	8.8 (3)	3/4 (33.2)	Stay Gold Will Power (King Kamehameha)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Hidetaka Otonashi
3	4	7	Admire Mars (JPN) Yuga Kawada	C4 ch. 57.0	11.1 (5)	Neck (33.6)	Daiwa Major Via Medici (Medicean)	Junko Kondo Northern Farm Yasuo Tomomichi
4	6	11	Scarlet Color (JPN) Yasunari Iwata	M5 b. 55.0	187.8 (13)	1 (33.3)	Victoire Pisa Ventus (War Emblem)	Koji Maeda North Hills Co., Ltd. Ryo Takahashi
5	8	17	Salios (JPN) Mirco Demuro	C3 ch. 56.0	4.1 (2)	Neck (33.1)	Heart's Cry Salomina (Lomitas)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Noriyuki Hori

6	8	16	Vin de Garde (JPN) Keita Tosaki	C4 b. 57.0	68.6 (8)	1/2 (33.3)	Deep Impact Skia (Motivator)	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Hideaki Fujiwara
7	8	15	Persian Knight (JPN) Takuya Ono	H6 d.b. 57.0	165.8 (11)	3/4 (33.2)	Harbinger Orient Charm (Sunday Silence)	G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Oiwake Farm Yasutoshi Ikee
8	1	2	Resistencia (JPN) Yuichi Kitamura	F3 b. 54.0	9.9 (4)	1 (34.3)	Daiwa Major Malacostumbrada (Lizard Island)	U. Carrot Farm Northern Farm Takeshi Matsushita
9	1	1	Besten Dank (JPN) Yusuke Fujioka	H8 ch. 57.0	526.4 (16)	Neck (34.0)	Taiki Shuttle Yukino Mermaid (Special Week)	Ichikawa Yoshimi Holdings Co., Ltd. Hattori Bokujo Akio Adachi
10	7	14	Sound Chiara (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	M5 b. 55.0	55.0 (7)	1/2 (33.7)	Deep Impact Sound Barrier (Agnes Digital)	Yuichi Masuda Yuichi Masuda Akio Adachi
11	3	5	Meikei Die Hard (JPN) Manabu Sakai	H5 b. 57.0	466.9 (15)	3/4 (33.9)	Hard Spun Meikei Sophia (King Kamehameha)	Nagoya Keiba Nagoyakeiba Co., Ltd. Kazuya Nakatake
12	6	12	A Will a Way (JPN) Kota Fujioka	F4 b. 55.0	289.0 (14)	3/4 (33.9)	Just a Way Will Power (King Kamehameha)	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Racing Tomokazu Takano
13	2	3	Keiai Nautique (JPN) Akihide Tsumura	H5 b. 57.0	157.7 (10)	Nose (33.6)	Deep Impact Keiai Gerbera (Smarty Jones)	Kazuhiro Kameda Queens Ranch Ltd Osamu Hirata
14	7	13	Taisei Vision (JPN) Shu Ishibashi	C3 ch. 56.0	182.4 (12)	Head (34.2)	Turtle Bowl Somnia (Special Week)	Seiho Tanaka Northern Farm Masayuki Nishimura
15	3	6	Lauda Sion (JPN) Yutaka Take	C3 b. 56.0	32.6 (6)	Head (34.6)	Real Impact Antiphona (Songandaprayer)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Shunsuke Yoshida Takashi Saito
16	5	10	Black Moon (JPN) Hideaki Miyuki	H8 b. 57.0	648.8 (17)	1-1/4 (33.9)	Admire Moon Royal Attack (Generous)	Him Rock Racing Holdings Co., Ltd. Tabata Farm Katsuichi Nishiura
17	5	9	Katsuji (JPN) Kenichi Ikezoe	H5 b. 57.0	133.7 (9)	5 (35.6)	Deep Impact Melissa (White Muzzle)	Kanayama Holdings Co., Ltd. Okada Stud 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: ¥ 17,641,000,900

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 27,009,996,900

Attendance: 2,556

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.4	¥ 160	Bracket Quinella	2-4	¥ 370	Quinella	4-8	¥ 620
Place	No.4	¥ 110	Quinella Place	4-8	¥ 280	Exacta	4-8	¥ 790
	No.8	¥ 190		4-7	¥ 320	Trio	4-7-8	¥ 1,610
	No.7	¥ 200		7-8	¥ 830	Trifecta	4-8-7	¥ 4,480

Winner= 10 starts, 7 wins, 1 second, 1 third / Added money: ¥ 133,570,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 720,215,000

Gran Alegria Wins Third Consecutive G1 Title in Mile Championship

Overwhelming favorite **Gran Alegria** claimed this year's Mile Championship, her third consecutive G1 triumph following the Yasuda Kinen (1,600m) and the Sprinters Stakes (1,200m). The Mile Championship victory by a female runner was last seen 12 years ago in 2008 by Blumenblatt and only the sixth overall. The 2019 Best Three-Year-Old Filly and Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas) winner now has four G1 titles to her name while becoming the eighth horse in JRA history, the first after Indy Champ last year, to claim both mile G1 titles in the same year. Furthermore, she is also the third horse to claim the Sprinters Stakes-Mile

Championship double—Durandal was the last horse to accomplish the feat in 2003. Trainer Kazuo Fujisawa picked up his 32nd JRA-G1 title with the win while renewing his own record of four titles in the Mile Championship—his previous victories were with Shinko Lovely (1993), Taiki Shuttle (1997,98) and Zenno El Cid (2001)—to five. Jockey Christophe Lemaire won three G1s in a row after the Tenno Sho (Autumn) with Almond Eye and the Queen Elizabeth II Cup with Lucky Lilac to reach 34 career G1 wins.

Gran Alegria broke sharply and positioned behind the leaders and just off the rails around fifth position behind a slower than moderate pace set by **Resistencia**. Moving with the flow towards the front as the field closed in approaching the final turn, Christophe Lemaire was boxed inside an unable to angle out for a clear path coming into the homestretch. Still caught behind the dueling **Admire Mars** and **Indy Champ** in front with a furlong to go, **Gran Alegria** shifted further outside and showed a tremendous turn of foot with a little more than 100 meters to the wire and stormed past both rivals to win by 3/4 lengths.

“She had a good break so we were able to sit in a good position. She’s matured and a lot easier to ride now being a four-year-old so she was relaxed and we had a good trip until the last turn where, as a favorite you’re marked and it so happens, but we weren’t able to make our move to the outside smoothly for the stretch run. I was a little worried but the way she exploded into gear in the last 150 meters, it just shows how powerful she is and I’m looking forward to a great season from her as a five-year-old,” commented Christophe Lemaire.

Indy Champ was in hand immediately after the break and settled around seventh with the eventual winner in view, advanced and raced in tandem with the eventual winner approaching the final corner and increased his pace to reach **Admire Mars** and overtaking that foe at the furlong pole but soon joined by and quickly overtaken by the winner before the wire.

Admire Mars broke sharply from stall seven and positioned outside and half a length in front of the eventual winner. The Hong Kong Mile champion made headway after the 800-meter pole, secured a clear runway entering the stretch and assumed command 200 meters out while **Indy Champ** caught up with him on the outside and **Scarlet Color** looming to contention along the rails. The Daiwa Major colt continued to rally strongly to the wire to finish a close third.

Other Horses:

4th: (11) **Scarlet Color**—hugged rails around 8th, ran gamely but weakened in last 100m

5th: (17) **Salios**—sat around 13th, angled out, showed fastest late kick, belatedly

6th: (16) **Vin de Garde**—raced around 11th, showed effort but had too much to make up

7th: (15) **Persian Knight**—traveled near rear, struggled to find clear path, accelerated in last 300m

8th: (2) **Resistencia**—set pace, surrendered lead 200m out, outrun thereafter

9th: (1) **Besten Dank**—tracked leaders in 3rd in front of winner, ran willingly until 100m out

10th: (14) **Sound Chiara**—settled 3-wide around 11th, lacked needed kick

11th: (5) **Meikei Die Hard**—ran around 8th behind winner, failed to respond

12th: (12) **A Will a Way**—saved ground around 13th, even paced at stretch

13th: (3) **Keiai Nautique**—trailed in rear, circled wide, unable to reach contention

14th: (13) **Taisei Vision**—sat 3-wide around 8th, never fired at stretch

15th: (6) **Lauda Sion**—stalked leader in 2nd, ran out of steam in last 300m

16th: (10) **Black Moon**—raced near rear, no factor

17th: (9) **Katsuji**—traveled around 5th outside winner, faded after early stretch

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.5 - 11.0 - 11.4 - 12.0 - 11.6 - 11.0 - 10.8 - 11.7
Last 4 furlongs: 45.1 Last 3 furlongs: 33.5

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

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.