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SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 143RD NAKAYAMA DAISHOGAI (J-G1)

The history of the Nakayama Daishogai dates back to 1934 when the biggest jump race in Japan was established in the aim of providing equal excitement to the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby), which was the most popular race in flat racing. The highest level of steeplechase racing was originally held as a biannual event held in April and December until the spring version was renamed the Nakayama Grand Jump (J-G1, 4,250m) in 1999. The two jump races continue to be the only two J-G1-level obstacle races of equal standard with their results serving as decisive factors in the selection of the seasonal JRA Award for Best Steeplechase Horse. In addition to the Nakayama Grand Jump, which was designated an international race in 2000, the Nakayama Daishogai became an international steeplechase event open to foreign contenders in 2011.

The Nakayama Daishogai features 11 jumps over the figure-of-eight-shaped course which includes six up-and-downs over the banks. The first half resembles that of the Nakayama Grand Jump while the Nakayama Daishogai does not include the movable hurdles along the outside turf track and the total distance is 150 meters shorter. The uphill stretch before the wire also is quite a test for many of the runners especially after running at a solid pace throughout the race.

Last year's victor Shingun Michael (JPN, by Shingun Opera) was euthanized after stumbling at the final obstacle in the Nakayama Grand Jump in April. Oju Chosan (JPN, H9, by Stay Gold), who registered his fifth consecutive Nakayama Grand Jump title, was third in the Kyoto Jump Stakes (J-G3, 3,140m, Nov.14), his first defeat in 14 steeplechase starts. He was forced to pass this race due to a minor leg problem but is scheduled to make a comeback next spring.

The Nakayama Grand Jump runner-up **Meisho Dassai** came off a win in the Tokyo High-Jump (J-G2, 3,110m, Oct.18), followed by **Hiro Shige Seven** in second who went on to win the Shuyo Jump Stakes (3,110m, Nov.21). **Bright Quartz**, who was second in last year's Nakayama Daishogai and third in this year's Nakayama Grand Jump, finished second in the Kyoto Jump Stakes where **Tagano Espresso** registered back-to-back graded titles following his Hanshin Jump Stakes (J-G3, 3,300m, Sep.19) win. The field also included **Thinking Dancer** who has marked a second and four fourths in J-G1 events, **Forward Cafe** and **Cablegram**, runner-up of the Tokyo Jump Stakes (J-G3, 3,110m) in June and the Hanshin Jump Stakes, respectively, and **Suzuka Devious**, a graded winner in flat racing who came off a fifth in the Illumination Jump Stakes (3,570m, Dec.5), his second start after switching to steeplechasing.

THE 143RD NAKAYAMA DAISHOGAI (J-G1)

3-year-olds & up, 4,100 meters (about 2.56 miles), turf
Saturday, December 26, 2020   Nakayama Racecourse   10th Race   Post time: 14:40
Total prize money: ¥ 142,660,000 (about US$ 1,320,926 <US$1=¥108>)
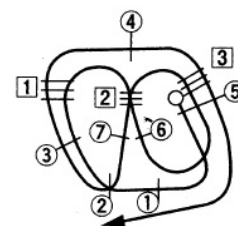3-y-o: 61kg (about 134-135 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 63kg (about 139 lbs), 2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares
Course Record: 4:36.1   Race Record: 4:36.1 [Oju Chosan (JPN, by Stay Gold), 2017]
Safety factor: 16 runners   Going: Firm   Weather: Fine

FP	BK	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	7	14	Meisho Dassai (JPN) Kazuma Mori	H7 d.b. 63.0	1.7 (1)	4:40.7	Suzuka Mambo Suzuka Bloom (Scatter the Gold)	Yoshio Matsumoto Grand Stud Yuji Iida
2	2	3	Ken Hovawart (JPN) Shigefumi Kumazawa	H7 b. 63.0	69.7 (9)	1-3/4	Marvelous Sunday Eishin Pansy (Tony Bin)	Hiroaki Nakanishi Mario Stable Hideyuki Mori
3	6	11	Tagano Espresso (JPN) Kenji Hirasawa	H8 b. 63.0	6.2 (3)	Neck	Black Tide Tagano Reventon (King Kamehameha)	Ryoji Yagi Niikappu Tagano Farm Ltd Tadao Igarashi
4	6	12	Bright Quartz (JPN) Makoto Nishitani	H6 b. 63.0	4.0 (2)	1-1/2	Workforce Lace Doll (Kurofune)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Yoshiyuki Arakawa
5	1	2	Hirono Tairiku (JPN) Yoshiyasu Namba	H5 ch. 63.0	145.8 (11)	3/4	Daiwa Major Petit Princesse (King Kamehameha)	Masahiro Takahara Shimokobe Farm Hiroshi Miyamoto

FP	BK	PP	Horse / Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	DS	Sire / Dam / (Broodmare Sire)	Owner / Breeder / Trainer
6	4	8	Forward Cafe (JPN) Shinichi Ishigami	H8 d.b. 63.0	15.6 (4)	2-1/2	Manhattan Cafe Best Boot (Storm Boot)	Kyoko Nishikawa Uemizu Bokujo Yusuke Wada
7	3	5	Hiro Shige Seven (JPN) Jun Takada	H5 b. 63.0	19.4 (6)	Nose	Deep Brillante Daiichi Botan (Timber Country)	Takashi Yoshioka Go Kitada Yoshihito Kitade
8	1	1	Thinking Dancer (JPN) Yusuke Igarashi	G7 ch. 63.0	18.3 (5)	3/4	Conduit Spring Board (Assatis)	Yuji Sato Okada Stud Yasuo Takeichi
9	5	10 B	Cablegram (JPN) Yasunori Minoshima	G7 b. 63.0	32.6 (8)	9	Deep Impact Ginger Punch (Awesome Again)	U. Carrot Farm Northern Farm Fumimasa Takahashi
10	5	9	Big Smoky (JPN) Takaya Ueno	G5 b. 63.0	25.7 (7)	1/2	King Kamehameha Smok'n Frolic (Smoke Glacken)	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Hisashi Shimizu
11	8	16 B	Suzuka Devious (JPN) Shinya Kitazawa	H9 d.b. 63.0	87.2 (10)	5	King Kamehameha Suzuka Laurent (Sunday Silence)	Keiji Nagai Keiji Nagai Mitsuru Hashida
12	7	13	Seagal Fountain (JPN) Taro Kusano	H10 ch. 63.0	473.6 (16)	10	Gokai Gitana Fountain (Paradise Creek)	Kosei Yoshihashi Kei Yoshihashi Yoshihiko Ishige
13	3	6	Straight Punch (JPN) Keita Ban	C4 b. 63.0	268.4 (13)	DS	Mejiro Daibosatsu Suzu Orizuru (Fusaichi Concorde)	Kei Morooka Go Kitada Masahiro Horii
14	2	4	Azuma Takkun (JPN) Tadashi Kosaka	H7 br. 63.0	288.3 (14)	DS	Black Tide Nature Guide (El Condor Pasa)	Tetsuji Azuma Shimokobe Farm Tadashi Kayo
/	4	7	Shigeru Piman (JPN) Kei Oehara	G5 b. 63.0	307.5 (15)	FF	Samurai Heart Focal Star (White Muzzle)	S.Morinaka Michihiro Kamigaki Sachio Yukubo
/	8	15	Narino Reve d'Or (JPN) Yuta Onodera	H5 b. 63.0	247.7 (12)	FF	Eishin Flash Longing Ellie (Zenno Rob Roy)	Kiyoshi Narizuka Shadai Farm Hiroyuki Uehara

FP: Final Position / BK: Bracket Number / PP: Post Position / B: Blinker / S&A: Sex & Age / Wgt: Weight (kg) / DS=Distance / FF=Fail to Finish
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: ¥ 2,058,784,100   Turnover for the Day: ¥ 18,678,541,100   Attendance: 3,019

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.14	¥ 170	Bracket Quinella	2-7	¥ 3,900	Quinella	3-14	¥ 5,350
Place	No.14	¥ 110	Quinella Place	3-14	¥ 1,680	Exacta	14-3	¥ 6,770
	No.3	¥ 650		11-14	¥ 300	Trio	3-11-14	¥ 6,440
	No.11	¥ 190		3-11	¥ 2,960	Trifecta	14-3-11	¥ 35,900

Winner= 34 starts, 8 wins, 4 seconds, 3 thirds (15 starts, 7 wins, 4 seconds, 2 thirds *steeplechases only)
Added money: ¥ 66,560,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 277,372,000 (¥ 267,572,000 *steeplechases only)

Seven-Year-Old Meisho Dassai Captures First J-G1 Title in Nakayama Daishogai

Odds-on-favorite **Meisho Dassai** registered his first J-G1 title in this year's Nakayama Daishogai, revenging his third-place finish in this race last year and his runner-up effort in the J-G1 Nakayama Grand Jump in April this year. Debuting in September of his two-year-old season, the son of Suzuka Mambo marked one win out of 19 starts in flat races and was switched to steeplechase racing from his five-year-old season. Showing an aptitude for steeplechasing, he marked his first steeplechase win in his third start and has finished within the top three in all his races since. His graded wins include the J-G3 Kokura Summer Jump (3,390m) in 2019 and his previous start, the J-G2 Tokyo High-Jump (3,110m). Trainer Yuji Iida, who opened his yard in 2014, marked his fourth JRA graded title including flat races and his first G1 win in this race. Jockey Kazuma Mori, who debuted in 2011 and was named Best Steeplechase Jockey for two consecutive year this year, also

captured his first G1 and his seventh graded win in this race.

Meisho Dassai broke smoothly and traveled wide in midfield, around 10th from the front. While continuing to race in a contained way, the son of Suzuka Mambo gradually improved his position, advancing to third by the seventh jump (no.7) and entering the final stretch in second. As jockey Kazuma Mori swung his mount to the outside to make bid, the seven-year-old dark bay responded willingly with a powerful kick and overtook **Ken Hovawart** in the last strides for a 1-3/4-length victory.

"I want to thank Meisho Dassai for doing a great job today. He did all the work and I was just riding on top of him. I was only thinking of how he can race comfortably. After the last jump, I was confident that we can overtake the front horse so I looked for good ground and took him to the outside in the final stretch," commented Kazuma Mori.

Ninth favorite **Ken Hovawart** settled around 5-6th from the front and edged forward to second behind **Thinking Dancer** by the seventh obstacle (no.7). Assuming command at the final jump (no.5), the son of Marvelous Sunday held on well in the stretch and, although overtaken by **Meisho Dassai** before the goal, managed to fend off the strong challenge from behind by a neck margin.

Third pick **Tagano Espresso** traveled around seventh to eighth until the last stretch where the eight-year-old bay exerted an impressive late charge from the outside and closed in on the front two runners for third.

Other Horses:
4th: (12) **Bright Quartz**—pressed pace in early stages, gradually dropped to mid-pack from 4th jump (no.3), advanced to 4th by 10th jump (no.4), ran strongly to wire
5th: (2) **Hirono Tairiku**—sat in mid-pack, shifted to outside after 5th jump (no.6) in 4-5th from rear, made headway after last jump (no.5), mild response in stretch
6th: (8) **Forward Cafe**—traveled around 9th, advanced to 4th by 9th jump (no.3), lacked needed kick
7th: (5) **Hiro Shige Seven**—raced in 5-6th, fell back after 10th jump (no.4), passed tired rivals thereafter
8th: (1) **Thinking Dancer**—chased leaders around 3rd. led after 5th jump (no.6), outrun after last jump (no.5)
9th: (10) **Cablegram**—traveled around 11th, advanced after 8th jump (no.2), showed little after last jump (no.5)
10th: (9) **Big Smoky**—prominent early, gradually dropped position
11th: (16) **Suzuka Devious**—sat in mid-division, never a threat
12th: (13) **Seagal Fountain**—trailed in rear early, unable to reach contention
13th: (6) **Straight Punch**—set pace early, gradually fell back after 5th jump (no.6)
14th: (4) **Azuma Takkun**—settled 2nd from rear until 4th jump (no.3), trailed in far rear
Fail to Finish: (7) **Shigeru Piman**—raced in 13th, stumbled at final jump (no.5)
Fail to Finish: (15) **Narino Reve d'Or**—traveled around 12th, stumbled at final jump (no.5)

Fractional time:	Last 1 mile: 1:46.7	Last 4 furlongs: 51.1	Last 3 furlongs: 38.4

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

NOTE 1: <u>**Underlined bold number**</u> 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.