

SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 26TH NHK MILE CUP (G1)

While races in Japan for three-year-olds had been programmed mainly to facilitate those aiming towards the middle-long distance three-year-old Classics as typified by the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m), the interest in speed races is growing both within and outside Japan, and earning much respect as the traditional Classics. In 1996, JRA reorganized its races in order to accommodate and promote the three-year-olds suited to short distances, and established the NHK Mile Cup which was named after its sponsor Nippon Hoso Kyokai (Japan Broadcasting Corporation)—Japan's only public broadcaster. The race was designated as an international race in 2009.

Past NHK Mile Cup winners include subsequent derby winners King Kamehameha (JPN, by Kingmambo; '04) and Deep Sky (JPN, by Agnes Tachyon; '08) while El Condor Pasa (USA, by Kingmambo; '98) and Kurofune (USA, by French Deputy; '01) won the Japan Cup (G1, 2,400m) and the Japan Cup Dirt (G1, dirt, 2,100m), respectively. 2019 champion Admire Mars (JPN, by Daiwa Major) went on to claim his third G1 title in the Hong Kong Mile (G1, 1,600m) against strong older foes that year.

Last year's Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes (G1, 1,600m) winner **Grenadier Guards** came off a head second behind **Rooks Nest** in the Falcon Stakes (G3, 1,400m, Mar.20). Key contenders coming off the two official NHK Mile Cup trials included **Bathrat Leon**, **Time to Heaven** and **City Rainbow**, the top three finishers in the New Zealand Trophy (G2, 1,600m, Apr.10) as well as **Ho O Amazon**, **Rickenbacker**, **Raymond Barows** and the G3 victor **Pixie Knight** who finished first to fourth in that order in the Arlington Cup (G3, 1,600m, Apr.17). Other key runners in the field included **Schnell Meister**, runner-up of the Yayoi Sho (Deep Impact Kinen, G2, 2,000m, Mar.7) and **Another Lyric**, winner of the Anemone Stakes (L, 1,600m, Mar.14).

THE 26TH NHK MILE CUP (G1)

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

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Tokyo Racecourse

11th Race

Post Time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 226,800,000 (about US\$ 2,160,000 <US\$1=¥105>)

3-y-o: 57 kg (about 126 lbs), 2 kg allowance for Fillies, 2 kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2018

Course Record: 1:30.5

Race Record: 1:31.4 [Danon Chantilly (JPN, by Fuji Kiseki), 2010]

Safety factor: 18 runners

Going: Good to 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	7	15	Schnell Meister (GER) Christophe Lemaire	C3 b. 57.0	3.7 (2)	1:31.6 (34.0)	Kingman Serienholde (Soldier Hollow)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Takahisa Tezuka
2	5	10	Songline (JPN) Kenichi Ikezoe	F3 br. 55.0	16.9 (7)	Nose (34.3)	Kizuna Luminous Parade (Symboli Kris S)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Toru Hayashi
3	4	8	Grenadier Guards (JPN) Yuga Kawada	C3 b. 57.0	3.4 (1)	2-1/2 (35.1)	Frankel Wavell Avenue (Harlington)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Mitsumasa Nakauchida
4	3	5	Rickenbacker (JPN) Takeshi Yokoyama	C3 b. 57.0	48.0 (11)	1/2 (33.9)	Lord Kanaloa City Wells (City Zip)	Koji Yasuhara Okada Bokujo Masayuki Nishimura
5	8	16	Lord Max (JPN) Mirai Iwata	C3 b. 57.0	148.7 (15)	3/4 (34.5)	Deep Impact Perfect Tribute (Dubawi)	Lord Horse Club K. I. Farm Hideaki Fujiwara
6	4	7	Time to Heaven (JPN) Mirco Demuro	C3 b. 57.0	23.3 (8)	Nose (34.9)	Lord Kanaloa Kiss to Heaven (Admire Vega)	DMM Dream Club Co., Ltd. Dream Farm Ltd Hirofumi Toda
7	1	2	Another Lyric (JPN) Akihide Tsumura	F3 b. 55.0	35.4 (10)	3/4 (34.8)	Leontes Anthology (Sakura Bakushin O)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Toru Hayashi
8	6	12	Land of Liberty (JPN)	C3	26.3	Neck	Deep Impact	Teruya Yoshida

			Shu Ishibashi	b. 57.0	(9)	(35.2)	Dubawi Heights (Dubawi)	Shadai Farm Yuichi Shikato
9	7	13	Ho O Amazon (JPN) Yutaka Take	C3 ch. 57.0	11.5 (4)	1 (35.6)	King Kamehameha Hikaru Amaranthus (Agnes Tachyon)	Yoshihisa Ozasa Northern Racing Yoshito Yahagi
10	2	3	Rooks Nest (JPN) Hideaki Miyuki	C3 b. 57.0	11.9 (5)	1-1/4 (35.6)	Maurice Villa (Deep Impact)	Yoshiro Kubota Yasushi Kubota Tamio Hamada
11	6	11	Veil Nebula (JPN) Keita Tosaki	C3 b. 57.0	72.2 (13)	3/4 (34.8)	Lord Kanaloa Ring Nebula (Heart's Cry)	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Racing Masahiro Otake
12	8	18	Pixie Knight (JPN) Yuichi Fukunaga	C3 b. 57.0	15.1 (6)	Head (36.0)	Maurice Pixie Hollow (King Halo)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Hidetaka Otonashi
13	7	14	Shock Action (IRE) Hironobu Tanabe	C3 b. 57.0	118.3 (14)	1/2 (35.2)	Gleneagles Reset In Blue (Fastnet Rock)	Godolphin Scuderia Effevi Srl & Dioscuri Srl Ryuji Okubo
14	3	6	City Rainbow (JPN) Kosei Miura	C3 ch. 57.0	199.1 (17)	3/4 (35.0)	Epiphaneia Sea Jo (Fuji Kiseki)	Tomiro Fukami Mishima Bokujo Kaneo Ikezoe
15	1	1	Raymond Barows (JPN) Suguru Hamanaka	C3 b. 57.0	70.0 (12)	1-1/2 (34.7)	Victoire Pisa Red Rachel (Medaglia d'Oro)	Hirotsugu Inokuma Shadai Farm Hiroyuki Uemura
16	5	9	Gold Chalice (JPN) Katsuharu Tanaka	F3 b. 55.0	302.1 (18)	Neck (35.4)	To the World Silver Chalice (Rainbow Quest)	Field Racing Northern Farm Koshiro Take
17	8	17	Gray in Green (JPN) Miyabi Muto	C3 g. 57.0	183.1 (16)	4 (37.1)	Deep Impact Little Gerda (Closing Argument)	Aoshiba Shoji Co., Ltd. Yoshiko Kuriyama Yasutoshi Ikee
FF	2	4	Bathrat Leon (JPN) Yusuke Fujioka	C3 b. 57.0	4.6 (3)		Kizuna Bathrat Amal (New Approach)	Hiroo Race Mishima Bokujo Yoshito Yahagi

FP: Final Position / BK: Bracket Number / PP: Post Position / S&A: Sex & Age / Wgt: Weight (kg) / L3F: Time of Last 3 Furlongs (600m)

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: ¥ 15,245,820,300

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 24,629,927,500

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.15	¥ 370	Bracket Quinella	5-7	¥ 2,880	Quinella	10-15	¥ 3,690
Place	No.15	¥ 150	Quinella Place	10-15	¥ 980	Exacta	15-10	¥ 4,960
	No.10	¥ 320		8-15	¥ 300	Trio	8-10-15	¥ 3,540
	No.8	¥ 140		8-10	¥ 660	Trifecta	15-10-8	¥ 21,180

Winner= 4 starts, 3 wins, 1 second / Added money: ¥ 108,822,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 148,382,000

Schnell Meister Becomes First German-bred Winner of NHK Mile Cup

Second favorite **Schnell Meister** landed his first career G1 title, just 0.2 seconds short of the race record, in this year's NHK Mile Cup, becoming the first foreign-bred colt to win the title since Kurofune (USA) in 2001 and seventh overall and while Lando was officially the first German-bred to claim a JRA-G1 title in the 1995 Japan Cup, the Kingman colt is the first German-bred trained in Japan to accomplish the feat. **Schnell Meister** won his first two career starts last year; his debut over 1,500 meters at Sapporo in September and the Hiiragi Sho (Nakayama, 1,600m) in December. He finished second to subsequent Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1, 2,000m) runner-up, Titleholder in the Yayoi Sho (Deep Impact Kinen, G2, 2,000m) earning his berth in the first leg of the Triple Crown, but passed up the Satsuki Sho to focus on the NHK Mile Cup. For trainer Takahisa Tezuka, it was his seventh JRA-G1 title—the last being the Tenno Sho (Spring) last year with Fierement. It was the second NHK Mile Cup title for jockey

Christophe Lemaire after his victory in 2016 with Major Emblem. The victory marked his 37th career JRA-G1 title and his second this year after the February Stakes with Cafe Pharoah.

Schnell Meister was unhurried after a smooth break and settled in mid-division behind a rapid pace set by **Pixie Knight** who spurted out from the outer-most gate. Keeping eye on the race favorite, Christophe Lemaire followed **Songline** into the stretch and while needing much encouragement, the Kingman colt found another gear in the critical stages to pin **Songline** who weakened slightly nearing the finish for a nose victory.

“He jumped out of the gate well but I didn’t want to pressure him too much in the early stages but while sitting in mid-field, we still had to put in some effort to keep with the rapid pace. He took some time to get into gear but eventually got into a good rhythm and responded strongly in the critical stages. We were able to follow Songline into the homestretch for the attack and had just that little more when Songline started to lean near the finish. There is still a lot of greenness in Schnell Meister and has a lot of room for improvement but once he’s established himself physically, he should be able to handle the best at G1 level,” commented Christophe Lemaire.

Songline raced just behind **Grenadier Guards** in eighth position, stalked that foe into the straight, took command at the furlong pole and was immediately challenged by the fast-closing **Schnell Meister** who just managed to reach the Kizuna filly at the wire and win by a nose.

Race favorite **Grenadier Guards**, broke sharply and chased the leaders off the rails in sixth position. Keen to go behind a rapid pace, the Frankel colt made early headway along the outside, nearly reaching the leader while having to circle wide into the homestretch, but struggled to find another gear when pressured from behind by **Songline** who overtook him at the furlong pole, then **Schnell Meister** with 100 meters to go. The 2020 Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes champion did well however to stay well for third place to complete a 1-2-3 finish for Sunday Racing.

Other Horses:

4th: (5) **Rickenbacker**—ran in 15th, quickened between horses, timed fastest over last 600m but belatedly

5th: (16) **Lord Max**—traveled in 12th, circled wide, sustained bid but lacked needed speed

6th: (7) **Time to Heaven**—sat around 6th, showed response passing 200m pole, weakened in final strides

7th: (2) **Another Lyric**—settled inside winner, switched to outside at early stretch, passed tired rivals

8th: (12) **Land of Liberty**—saved ground in 5th, showed tenacious effort, weakened in last 100m

9th: (13) **Ho O Amazon**—chased leader in 2nd, sustained to reach contention until 200m pole

10th: (3) **Rooks Nest**—sat around 6th, showed effort until 200m pole, weakened thereafter

11th: (11) **Veil Nebula**—raced in 14th, angled out for stretch run, never threatened

12th: (18) **Pixie Knight**—set pace from widest draw, showed tenacity but outrun in last 200m

13th: (14) **Shock Action**—ran 3-wide in 11th behind winner, failed to respond and even paced

14th: (6) **City Rainbow**—traveled 2nd from rear, never fired and unable to reach contention

15th: (1) **Raymond Barows**—was off slow, trailed in far rear, no factor

16th: (9) **Gold Chalice**—took economic trip in 13th, showed little at stretch

17th: (17) **Gray in Green**—tracked leaders around 3rd from wide draw, outrun in last 400m

Fail to Finish: (4) **Bathrat Leon**—stumbled soon after break and unseated rider

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.2 - 10.2 - 11.3 - 11.6 - 11.6 - 11.4 - 11.4 - 11.9

Last 4 furlongs: 46.3 Last 3 furlongs: 34.7

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

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

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.