

SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 55TH 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.

While last year's champion Gran Alegria (JPN, M5, by Deep Impact) passed up the chance for a back-to-back victory and was pointed towards the Tenno Sho (Autumn) (G1, 2,000m) on October 31 instead, last year's runner-up **Danon Smash** was at the gate with the Hong Kong Sprint (G1, 1,200m) and the Takamatsunomiya Kinen titles claimed since then, under his belt. This was the first start for the six-year-old bay after finishing sixth in the Chairman's Sprint Prize (G1, 1,200m) on April 25.

Other key runners coming off their Summer Sprint Series endeavors were: from the Hakodate Sprint Stakes (G3, 1,200m, Jun.13), **Bien Fait** (1st); from the Kitakyushu Kinen (G3, 1,200m, Aug.22), the CBC Sho (G3, 1,200m, Jul.4) victor **First Force** (2nd) and 2020 Takamatsunomiya Kinen champion **Mozu Superflare** (3rd); from the Keeneland Cup (G3, 1,200m, Aug.29), **Eighteen Girl** (2nd); and from the Centaur Stakes (G2, 1,200m, Sep.12), the top four finishers which were 2019 Best Two-Year-Old Filly **Resistencia**, **Pixie Knight**, **Kurino Gaudi** and **Gendarme** in that order.

THE 55TH SPRINTERS STAKES (G1)

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

Sunday, October 3, 2021 Nakayama Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 281,800,000 (about US\$ 2,683,000 <US\$1=¥105>)

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 2018

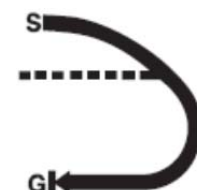
Course Record: 1:06.7

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

Safety factor: 16 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	2	4	Pixie Knight (JPN) Yuichi Fukunaga	C3 b. 55.0	5.3 (3)	1:07.1 (33.4)	Maurice Pixie Hollow (King Halo)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Hidetaka Otonashi
2	6	12	Resistencia (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	F4 b. 55.0	3.4 (2)	2 (33.5)	Daiwa Major Malacostumbrada (Lizard Island)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd Northern Farm Takeshi Matsushita
3	1	1 B	Shivaji (USA) Hayato Yoshida	H6 ch. 57.0	47.5 (10)	Head (33.4)	First Samurai Indian Bay (Indian Charlie)	Kanayama Holdings Co., Ltd. Hinkle Farms Kenji Nonaka
4	3	6	Meikei Yell (JPN) Kenichi Ikezoe	F3 b. 53.0	24.9 (7)	2-1/2 (33.5)	Mikki Isle Shiroinger (Harbinger)	Nagoya Keiba Co., Ltd Northern Racing Hidenori Take
5	8	16	Mozu Superflare (USA) Fuma Matsuwaka	M6 ch. 55.0	15.3 (5)	Nose (34.5)	Speightstown Christies Treasure (Belong to Me)	Capital System Co., Ltd. Alpha Delta Stables LLC Hidetaka Otonashi
6	7	14	Danon Smash (JPN) Yuga Kawada	H6 b. 57.0	2.6 (1)	Head (33.8)	Lord Kanaloa Spinning Wildcat (Hard Spun)	Danox Co., Ltd. K. I. Farm Takayuki Yasuda

7	4	8	Bien Fait (JPN) Yusuke Fujioka	G4 b. 57.0	43.8 (9)	Neck (34.3)	Kizuna Le Sucre (Sakura Bakushin O)	Koki Maeda North Hills Co., Ltd. Kazuya Nakatake
8	5	9	Kurino Gaudi (JPN) Yasunari Iwata	H5 ch. 57.0	15.6 (6)	1/2 (33.8)	Screen Hero Kurino Billionaire (Diablo)	Hiroharu Kurimoto Hiroharu Kurimoto Norio Fujisawa
9	1	2	Mikki Brillante (JPN) Ryuji Wada	H5 b. 57.0	92.3 (13)	Neck (33.7)	Deep Brillante Epic Love (Dansili)	Mizuki Noda Northern Farm Yoshito Yahagi
10	2	3	Loving Answer (JPN) Mirai Iwata	H7 b. 57.0	209.8 (15)	Nose (33.5)	Daiwa Major Love Letter (Rock of Gibraltar)	Y. Eguchi Kasamatsu Bokujo Koichi Ishizaka
11	6	11	Gendarme (USA) Suguru Hamanaka	H6 d.b. 57.0	11.1 (4)	1/2 (33.8)	Kitten's Joy Believe (Sunday Silence)	Koji Maeda North Hills Co., Limited Yasutoshi Ikee
12	4	7	Taisei Vision (JPN) Kosei Miura	C4 ch. 57.0	59.9 (11)	1-1/4 (33.2)	Turtle Bowl Somnia (Special Week)	Seiho Tanaka Northern Farm Masayuki Nishimura
13	5	10	Eighteen Girl (JPN) Kazuo Yokoyama	M5 br. 55.0	106.8 (14)	Head (33.4)	Johannesburg Center Gran Tasse (Agnes Tachyon)	Yasushi Nakayama Shono Bokujo Yuji Iida
14	7	13	A Will a Way (JPN) Keita Tosaki	M5 b. 55.0	62.0 (12)	3/4 (33.6)	Just a Way Will Power (King Kamehameha)	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Racing Tomokazu Takano
15	3	5 B	First Force (JPN) Katsuma Sameshima	H5 d.b. 57.0	27.5 (8)	1 (34.4)	Lord Kanaloa Rush Life (Sakura Bakushin O)	Koji Yasuhara Koji Yasuhara Masayuki Nishimura
16	8	15	Lord Aqua (JPN) Ken Tanaka	H5 b. 57.0	309.8 (16)	2-1/2 (34.5)	Lord Kanaloa Eau Super (Daiwa Major)	Lord Horse Club Co., Ltd K. I. Farm Hidekazu Asami

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: ¥ 14,558,076,900

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 24,334,316,500

Attendance: 4,153

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.4	¥ 530	Bracket Quinella	2-6	¥ 700	Quinella	4-12	¥ 890
Place	No.4	¥ 200	Quinella Place	4-12	¥ 460	Exacta	4-12	¥ 1,910
	No.12	¥ 160		1-4	¥ 2,760	Trio	1-4-12	¥ 9,050
	No.1	¥ 770		1-12	¥ 2,030	Trifecta	4-12-1	¥ 38,610

Winner= 8 starts, 3 wins, 2 seconds, 1 third / Added money: ¥ 133,402,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 227,642,000

Three-Year-Old Pixie Knight Draws Away Strongly in Sprinters Stakes Victory

Third favorite **Pixie Knight** displayed a smooth and impressive run against his older foes to become the first three-year-old since Aston Machan in 2007 (and sixth since the Sprinters Stakes was given G1 status in 1990) to claim the title and his first G1 victory. The colt has also given his sire Maurice his first G1 title. **Pixie Knight** immediately broke his maiden in his debut start and landed his first graded win in the Shinzan Kinen (G3, 1,600m) this January. After a fourth and 12th that followed in the Arlington Cup (G3, 1,600m) and NHK Mile Cup (G1, 1,600m), respectively, the son of Maurice was pointed towards shorter distances instead where he immediately demonstrated his talent with runner-up efforts both in the CBC Sho (G3, 1,200m) in July and the Centaur Stakes (G2, 1,200m) three weeks earlier. Trainer Hidetaka Otonashi grabbed his 14th JRA-G1 win, his last in last year's Takamatsunomiya Kinen with Mozu Superflare. Jockey Yuichi Fukunaga, who celebrated his Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) victory with Shahryar in May, has now landed 31 G1 wins overall.

Following a clean break, **Pixie Knight** ran on the rails in third a length behind **Bien Fait** who ran on the outside and a couple of lengths from pacesetter **Mozu Superflare**. As the field straightened away, the Maurice colt slipped through a narrow gap that emerged between the two in front, found his best stride and easily powered clear 150 meters out to cross the wire a two-length winner.

“I had several ideas and tactics of where to position him, but it turned out that we got the best position than anyone could have hoped for. From the beginning of his career, I’ve always believed in the strength and potential this colt obtains and have voiced it too, but to be honest, I never thought he would give such a strong performance and land a G1 win this fast. He’s still not physically balanced yet but he will improve, mature and definitely become a target to beat in numerous future sprint races in or outside the country,” commented Yuichi Fukunaga after the race.

Second pick **Resistencia** settled in fourth a 1/2-length behind and outside **Pixie Knight**, chased and successfully passed the two frontrunners 100 meters out but failed to threaten the eventual winner while holding off **Shivaji** in a fierce duel for the runner-up seat.

Sent off tenth favored, **Shivaji** broke from the innermost stall, followed **Pixie Knight** on the rails and after struggling to find room in early stretch, could not keep up with the burst of speed of the eventual winner but threatened **Resistencia** who closed in from the outside to finish a head behind the filly in third.

Race favorite **Danon Smash** sat three-wide in fifth to sixth right on the heels of rival **Resistencia** and remained a factor into the stretch but never unleashed his patented good turn of foot to finish sixth.

Other Horses:

4th: (6) **Meikei Yell**—advanced to 7th on outer route, accelerated well but failed to threaten top 3 finishers

5th: (16) **Mozu Superflare**—set pace from widest stall, outrun after 150m out

7th: (8) **Bien Fait**—tracked leader in 2nd, remained in contention until 100m out, weakened

8th: (9) **Kurino Gaudi**—traveled 3-wide around 7th, lacked needed kick

9th: (2) **Mikki Brillante**—saved ground around 7th, even paced

10th: (3) **Loving Answer**—ran around 12th, passed tired rivals at stretch

11th: (11) **Gendarme**—positioned around 7th, switched to outside rounding corners, never fired

12th: (7) **Taisei Vision**—trailed in rear, showed belated charge, fastest over last 3 furlongs

13th: (10) **Eighteen Girl**—sat 2nd from rear, circled wide, unable to reach contention

14th: (13) **A Will a Way**—hugged rails in 14th, angled out, never a threat

15th: (5) **First Force**—raced around 7th, showed little at stretch

16th: (15) **Lord Aqua**—traveled 3-wide around 13th, no factor

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 11.7 - 10.6 - 11.0 - 11.1 - 11.3 - 11.4
Last 4 furlongs: 44.8 Last 3 furlongs: 33.8

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

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.