



SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 22ND CHAMPIONS CUP (G1)

Formerly run under the name Japan Cup Dirt until 2013, the Champions Cup takes place at Chukyo Racecourse which is situated in Chubu region between Tokyo and Osaka. The Japan Cup Dirt, which began as the dirt version of the Japan Cup in 2000 at Tokyo Racecourse held over the 2,100-meter left-handed course until 2007, was temporarily shifted to Nakayama Racecourse over the 1,800-meter right-handed course in 2002, then held at Hanshin Racecourse, also a right-handed track and over 1,800 meters, between 2008 and 2013. Sixteen of the past 21 winners of the Champions Cup, which is one of JRA's two dirt G1 races along with the February Stakes (G1, dirt, 1,600m), have won the season's JRA Award for Best Dirt Horse.

Lord Sterling (USA, by Black Tie Affair), who finished third in the inaugural year, was one of the first foreign contenders, while Fleetstreet Dancer (USA, by Smart Strike) became the first foreign winner in 2003. In the past, 29 runners from not only North America but also from France, Germany, Great Britain and Hong Kong have participated in the race including 2018 Stephen Foster Handicap (G1, dirt, 1,800m) winner Pavel (USA, by Creative Cause) from the U.S. who finished 15th in 2018.

Defending champion **Chuwa Wizard** came off a third in the JBC Classic (dirt, 2,100m), followed by Teio Sho (dirt, 2,000m) victor **T O Keynes** in fourth, 2018 JBC Classic winner **K T Brave** in fifth, NAR's Funabashi-based **Casino Fountain** in sixth and last year's Japan Dirt Derby champion **Danon Pharaoh** in seventh. Key runners coming off other prep races were: from the Miyako Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,800m, Nov.7), winner **Meisho Hario** along with **Another Truth** (3rd), half-brother to 2016 Champions Cup winner Sound True, **Clincher** (6th), winner of two graded titles this season, **Suave Aramis** (7th) and **Auvergne** (12th), victor of this year's Elm Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,700m) and Tokai Stakes (G2, dirt, 1,800m), respectively; and from the Musashino Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,600m; Nov.13), **Air Spinel** (2nd), runner-up of this year's February Stakes (G1, dirt, 1,600m). The field also included two February Stakes champions, **Inti** (2019) and **Cafe Pharoah** (2021), Sirius Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,900m; Oct.2) winner **Sunrise Hope** and white filly **Sodashi** who is the winner of two G1 races over turf and made her dirt-race debut with this race.

THE 22ND CHAMPIONS CUP (G1) – Japan Autumn International -

3-year-olds & up, 1,800 meters (about 9 furlongs), dirt, left-handed

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Chukyo Racecourse

11th Race

Post Time: 15:30

Total prize money: ¥ 216,000,000 (about US\$ 2,057,000 <US\$1=¥105>)

3-y-o: 56 kg (about 123-124 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 57 kg (about 126 lbs)

2 kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 2kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2018

Course Record: 1:47.6

Race Record: 1:48.5 [Chrysoberyl (JPN, by Gold Allure), 2019]

Safety factor: 16 runners

Going: Standard

Weather: Cloudy



FP	BK	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin (L3F)	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	3	6	T O Keynes (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	C4 ch. 57.0	3.3 (1)	1:49.7 (35.5)	Sinister Minister Maxim Cafe (Manhattan Cafe)	Tomoya Ozasa Yanagawa Bokujo Daisuke Takayanagi
2	7	13	Chuwa Wizard (JPN) Keita Tosaki	H6 br. 57.0	4.6 (3)	6 (36.2)	King Kamehameha Chuwa Blossom (Durandal)	Shinobu Nakanishi Northern Racing Ryuji Okubo
3	6	11	Another Truth (JPN) Ryusei Sakai	G7 ch. 57.0	115.4 (14)	3/4 (36.8)	I'll Have Another Kyohei Truth (Fuji Kiseki)	Normandy Thoroughbred Racing Co., Ltd. Okada Stud Noboru Takagi
4	2	4	Inti (JPN) Yutaka Take	H7 ch. 57.0	18.7 (9)	Neck (37.0)	Came Home Kitty (Northern Afleet)	Shigeo Takeda Shigeo Takeda Kenji Nonaka
5	2	3	Sunrise Nova (JPN) Fuma Matsuwaka	H7 ch. 57.0	78.9 (13)	1-1/4 (36.3)	Gold Allure Bright Sapphire (Thunder Gulch)	Takao Matsuoka Yanagawa Bokujo Hidetaka Otonashi

6	5	9	Auvergne (JPN) Yuichi Fukunaga	H5 b. 57.0	14.0 (5)	Head (36.7)	Smart Falcon Guyenne (Tanino Gimlet)	Tadakuni Sugiyama Tadakuni Sugiyama Masayuki Nishimura
7	8	15	Meisho Hario (JPN) Suguru Hamanaka	C4 ch. 57.0	24.8 (10)	Head (36.6)	Pyro Meisho Ohi (Manhattan Cafe)	Yoshio Matsumoto Mishima Bokujo Inao Okada
8	4	8 B	Suave Aramis (JPN) Daisaku Matsuda	H6 b. 57.0	120.2 (15)	1-1/4 (36.6)	Heart's Cry Bay to Bay (Sligo Bay)	NICKS Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Naosuke Sugai
9	3	5	Air Spinel (JPN) Kota Fujioka	H8 ch. 57.0	43.3 (11)	3/4 (37.1)	King Kamehameha Air Messiah (Sunday Silence)	Lucky Field Co., Ltd. Tsunebumi Yoshihara Kazuhide Sasada
10	1	2	Casino Fountain (JPN) Mirco Demuro	H5 ch. 57.0	17.9 (7)	2 (37.8)	Casino Drive Gina Fontaine (Best Tie Up)	Kosei Yoshihashi Kei Yoshihashi Takayuki Yamashita
11	8	16 B	Cafe Pharoah (USA) Christophe Lemaire	C4 b. 57.0	9.6 (4)	Nose (37.4)	American Pharoah Mary's Follies (More Than Ready)	Koichi Nishikawa Paul P. Pompa Noriyuki Hori
12	1	1	Sodashi (JPN) Hayato Yoshida	F3 w. 54.0	4.5 (2)	1-3/4 (38.3)	Kurofune Buchiko (King Kamehameha)	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc. Naosuke Sugai
13	5	10	K T Brave (JPN) Hiroyuki Uchida	H8 ch. 57.0	216.9 (16)	Neck (37.4)	Admire Max K T Laurel (Sakura Laurel)	Kazuyoshi Takimoto Kazuyoshi Takimoto Hidekatsu Shimizu
14	6	12	Clincher (JPN) Yuga Kawada	H7 b. 57.0	18.6 (8)	2 (38.1)	Deep Sky The Fates (Brian's Time)	Koji Maeda Hirayama Bokujo Hiroshi Miyamoto
15	4	7 B	Sunrise Hope (JPN) Hideaki Miyuki	C4 b. 57.0	14.6 (6)	3/4 (38.7)	Majestic Warrior Opus Queen (Special Week)	Takao Matsuoka Takao Matsuoka Tomohiko Hatsuki
16	7	14	Danon Pharaoh (JPN) Takeshi Yokoyama	C4 br. 57.0	76.7 (12)	10 (38.8)	American Pharoah Crisp (El Corredor)	Danon Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Yoshito Yahagi

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: ¥ 16,731,125,400

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 22,781,499,800

Attendance: 3,368

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.6	¥ 330	Bracket Quinella	3-7	¥ 600	Quinella	6-13	¥ 610
Place	No.6	¥ 140	Quinella Place	6-13	¥ 280	Exacta	6-13	¥ 1,100
	No.13	¥ 150		6-11	¥ 4,570	Trio	6-11-13	¥ 17,650
	No.11	¥ 1,150		11-13	¥ 5,540	Trifecta	6-13-11	¥ 52,660

Winner= 15 starts, 8 wins, 2 seconds, 2 thirds / Added money: ¥ 103,402,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 303,117,000

Four-Year-Old T O Keynes Grabs First JRA-G1 Title in Champions Cup

Race favorite **T O Keynes** claimed this year's Champions Cup to register his first JRA-G1 title with a six-length margin, the largest margin set since the race moved to Chukyo Racecourse in 2014. Having raced only on dirt since his debut in October of his two-year-old season, the son of Sinister Minister marked a win and two thirds during his debut year and landed three more wins out of seven starts the following year, which included his first graded challenge in NAR's year-end Tokyo Daishoten (G1, dirt, 2,000m) where he finished sixth. **T O Keynes** kicked off this season with three consecutive wins, which included the Antares Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,800m) in April and the Teio Sho (dirt, 2,000m) in June, and came off a fourth in the JBC Classic (dirt, 2,100m) on November 3. This win marked trainer Daisuke Takayanagi's first JRA-G1 and third JRA graded title and jockey Kohei Matsuyama's fifth JRA-G1 win following his victory in the Shuka Sho with Daring Tact last year.

T O Keynes, overcoming his weak start, broke smoothly from stall six and traveled two wide around sixth from **Sodashi** who set a slow pace. Though meeting traffic at the top of the stretch, the four-year-old chestnut shifted to the outside toward a narrow space outside **Inti** and, once finding an open space, broke loose from the pack 300 meters out and produced a remarkable turn of speed that timed the fastest last three furlongs to pull away for an overwhelming six-length victory.

“Though the JBC Classic result was disappointing due to the slow start, he broke smoothly today, thanks to the gate practice he went through at the stable. I was able to ride him in good rhythm and he responded remarkably well turning the fourth corner, so everything was perfect. I think he’s a very strong horse and I’m glad I was able to bring out his strong performance,” commented Kohei Matsuyama.

Defending champion **Chuwa Wizard** traveled wide toward the rear of the front pack, around 10-11th from the front, and rounded the last two corners the widest of the field. The King Kamehameha brown ran persistently in the stretch, passing his rivals one by one, and, while no match for the winner, managed to overtake **Another Truth** 50 meters out for a runner-up effort.

Fourteenth pick **Another Truth** settled around fifth outside the race favorite, closed ground turning the last two corners wide and was at the top of the field running side by side with the eventual winner 300 meters out. Though unable to follow **T O Keynes**’s fast closing speed and overtaken by the runner-up 50 meters out, the seven-year-old chestnut dueled strongly with **Inti** before the wire to notch third place.

Other Horses:

4th: (4) **Inti**—tracked leader in 2nd, took lead at early stretch, soon overtaken by winner, weakened in last 100m

5th: (3) **Sunrise Nova**—positioned around 13th, showed 3rd fastest late kick but belatedly

6th: (9) **Auvergne**—ran around 8th, dropped position turning last corners, accelerated in last 200m

7th: (15) **Meisho Hario**—made 3-wide trip around 11th, driven after 3rd corner, lacked needed kick

8th: (8) **Suave Aramis**—settled along rails near rear, passed tired rivals after meeting traffic 200m out

9th: (5) **Air Spinel**—saved ground around 8th, showed brief effort, outrun in last 100m

10th: (2) **Casino Fountain**—hugged rails inside winner around 5th, failed to respond at stretch

11th: (16) **Cafe Pharoah**—raced 3-wide around 11th, made headway to 6th, showed little at stretch

12th: (1) **Sodashi**—set pace, maintained lead up to 400m pole, dropped back

13th: (10) **K T Brave**—trailed in rear, gradually advanced, never fired at stretch

14th: (12) **Clincher**—sat 3-wide around 7th, found little room after entering stretch

15th: (7) **Sunrise Hope**—chased leaders around 3rd, checked at early stretch, faded

16th: (14) **Danon Pharaoh**—traveled in 13th early, fell back to last in backstretch

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.5 - 11.1 - 12.9 - 12.8 - 12.1 - 12.3 - 12.2 - 11.8 - 12.0
 Last 4 furlongs: 48.3 Last 3 furlongs: 36.0

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

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.