

**SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 27TH 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 victor Schnell Meister (GER, by Kingman) went on to register a third in the Yasuda Kinen (G1, 1,600m) and a second in the Mile Championship (G1, 1,600m) against older contenders.

Those that came off the two official NHK Mile Cup trials were **Jean Gros** and **Matenro Orion**, first and second, respectively, in the New Zealand Trophy (G2, 1,600m, Apr.9) and the top three finishers in the Arlington Cup (G3, 1,600m, Apr.16), **Danon Scorpion**(1st), **Taisei Divine** (2nd) and **King Hermes** (3rd). Other key runners in the NHK Mile Cup included **Serifos**, runner-up in the Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes (G1, 1,600m, Dec.19) as well as **Industria** and **Purpur Ray**, respective winners of the Junior Cup (Listed, 1,600m, Jan.5) and the Falcon Stakes (G3, 1,400m, Mar.19).

**THE 27TH NHK MILE CUP (G1)**

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

Sunday, May 8, 2022

Tokyo Racecourse

11th Race

Post Time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 281,800,000 (about US\$ 2,451,000 &lt;US\$1=¥115&gt;)

3-y-o: 57 kg (about 126 lbs), 2 kg allowance for Fillies, 2 kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2019

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: Cloudy



FP	BK	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin (L3F)	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	8	18	Danon Scorpion (JPN) Yuga Kawada	C3 b. 57.0	7.1 (4)	1:32.3 (34.3)	Lord Kanaloa Lexie Lou (Sligo Bay)	Danox Co., Ltd. K. I. Farm Takayuki Yasuda
2	1	1	Matenro Orion (JPN) Norihiro Yokoyama	C3 d.b. 57.0	6.8 (3)	Neck (33.5)	Daiwa Major Parthenon (King Kamehameha)	Chiyono Terada Murakami Farm Mitsugu Kon
3	5	10	Kawakita Reverie (JPN) Akira Sugawara	C3 d.b. 57.0	229.1 (18)	Neck (33.8)	Drefong Kafuji Venus (Deep Impact)	Kazunori Kawashima Kawashima Bokujo Yoshiaki Sugiyama
4	2	4	Serifos (JPN) Yuichi Fukunaga	C3 ch. 57.0	3.9 (1)	1-1/4 (34.6)	Daiwa Major Sea Front (Le Havre)	G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Oiwake Farm Mitsumasa Nakauchida
5	6	11	Industria (JPN) Damian Lane	C3 b. 57.0	4.0 (2)	Neck (34.6)	Leontes Inductee (Heart's Cry)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Keisuke Miyata
6	3	5	King Hermes (JPN) Ryusei Sakai	C3 b. 57.0	18.4 (9)	3/4 (35.1)	Lord Kanaloa Stellar Lead (Special Week)	Hiroo Race Co., Ltd. Hiroo Race Co., Ltd. Yoshito Yahagi
7	7	13	Jean Gros (USA) Yutaka Take	C3 d.b. 57.0	14.5 (6)	1/2 (33.8)	More Than Ready Goodbye Stranger (Broad Brush)	Susumu Fujita Nursery Place & Partners Hideyuki Mori
8	3	6	Toshin Macau (JPN) Keita Tosaki	C3 ch. 57.0	32.2 (11)	1-1/4 (35.7)	Big Arthur Yukino Mermaid (Special Week)	Sato Co., Ltd. Hattori Bokujo Mizuki Takayanagi

9	4	8	Alluring Way (JPN) Yusuke Fujioka	F3 d.b. 55.0	14.4 (5)	1-1/2 (34.7)	Just a Way Alluring Life (French Deputy)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Shadai Corporation Inc. Kenichi Fujioka
10	4	7	Taisei Divine (JPN) Fuma Matsuwaka	C3 b. 57.0	29.4 (10)	1/2 (35.6)	Rulership Daiwa Spirit (Dance in the Dark)	Seiho Tanaka Shimokobe Farm Tomokazu Takano
11	2	3	Solitario (JPN) Katsuma Sameshima	C3 ch. 57.0	45.8 (13)	Neck (35.1)	Maurice Sub Twenty (King Kamehameha)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Masayuki Nishimura
12	5	9	Dante's View (JPN) Hayato Yoshida	C3 b. 57.0	39.9 (12)	Nose (35.1)	King Kamehameha Crow Canyon (French Deputy)	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc. Yasuo Tomomichi
13	8	17	Sternatia (JPN) Kenichi Ikezoe	F3 b. 55.0	53.7 (14)	1 (35.4)	Lord Kanaloa L'Archetto (Falbrav)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Tetsuya Kimura
14	6	12	Sacred (JPN) Kazuki Kikuzawa	F3 b. 55.0	202.7 (17)	Neck (34.9)	American Patriot Ken Amatsukaze (Marvelous Sunday)	Hiroaki Nakanishi Ken Bridge Valley Ltd Hiroyuki Oneda
15	8	16	Purpur Ray (JPN) Mirco Demuro	C3 b. 57.0	17.8 (8)	1-1/2 (35.6)	Isla Bonita My Jen (Fusaichi Pegasus)	G Riviere Racing Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Naosuke Sugai
16	7	15	Otaru Ever (JPN) Kazuo Yokoyama	C3 d.b. 57.0	87.0 (15)	1/2 (36.4)	Leontes Rouge Coeur (Redoute's Choice)	Ikuko Sumitani Lake Villa Farm Kazuya Nakatake
17	1	2	Sonnet Phrase (JPN) Takeshi Yokoyama	F3 b. 55.0	17.6 (7)	4 (36.4)	Epiphaneia Beau Geste (King Kamehameha)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Takahisa Tezuka
18	7	14	Voller Blute (JPN) Takuya Ono	F3 d.b. 55.0	96.1 (16)	7 (37.9)	Epiphaneia Blumenblatt (Admire Vega)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Keisuke Miyata

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: ¥ 17,075,956,300

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 26,711,337,100

Attendance: 25,051

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.18	¥ 710	Bracket Quinella	1-8	¥ 1,190	Quinella	1-18	¥ 2,490
Place	No.18	¥ 260	Quinella Place	1-18	¥ 1,110	Exacta	18-1	¥ 4,820
	No.1	¥ 260		10-18	¥ 48,720	Trio	1-10-18	¥ 416,750
	No.10	¥ 4,780		1-10	¥ 40,660	Trifecta	18-1-10	¥ 1,532,370

Winner= 6 starts: 4 wins, 1 third / Added money: ¥ 133,822,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 216,743,000

### **Danon Scorpion Claims Narrow Victory in NHK Mile Cup**

Fourth favorite **Danon Scorpion** scored a consecutive grade-race victory and first G1 title in this year's NHK Mile Cup. With two wins in his two-year-old debut in June at 1,600 meters and the Hagi Stakes (Listed, 1,800m) where he beat subsequent Hopeful Stakes winner Killer Ability, he concluded the 2021 season with a third in the Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes (G1, 1,600m). He was seventh in his three-year-old debut in the Kyodo News Hai (G3, 1,800m) in February but bounced back to form in the following Arlington Cup (G3, 1,600m) on April 16. Trainer Takayuki Yasuda picked up his 14th JRA-G1 title, his last G1 victory being with Danon Smash in the 2021 Takamatsunomiya Kinen, while jockey Yuga Kawada reached a milestone of 20 JRA-G1 titles after his latest win in April in the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas) with Stars on Earth.

**Danon Scorpion** was unhurried after breaking from the widest gate as the early leaders rushed to secure their positions. Settling in mid-division for the early part of the trip, jockey Yuga Kawada took advantage of the wide route to gradually edge forward approaching the final turn, only having to slightly angle out to

straighten his mount for the stretch run. As the frontrunners began to tire going the uphill climb, **Danon Scorpion** continued with to close in on **Serifos** who had clinched the lead at the furlong pole from an economic trip, finally pinned that foe at the 100-meter marker then managed to hold off a powerful late charge by **Matenro Orion** and **Kawakita Reverie** to prevail by a neck.

“It was a great feeling to have won in front of a big crowd like this. It was a close victory and I knew that the horses on the outside route were all coming up with a lot of force, so although I felt we had won crossing the wire, I had to be sure by watching the vision after the race. **Danon Scorpion** was in perhaps his best condition coming into this race so I had a lot of confidence (despite a wide draw)—he was in good rhythm and balance so I had no worries. He was very much out of form going into the Kyodo News Hai but he managed to perform well while still at the stage of improving in his last start—I think that really boosted his motivation for this race and I felt it today in his movement during the post parade. The colt has great potentials and, for me, it is relief to have accomplished the goal of making him a G1 winner and I am grateful to have the chance to ride such a talented mount,” commented Yuga Kawada.

Third favorite **Matenro Orion** did not rush out of the gate and was content to sit well off the pace, second from last, along the backstretch. Turning wide entering the straight, the Daiwa Major colt unleashed a terrific turn of speed to sweep past his foes and almost reached the winner, just missing by a neck at the wire.

Longshot **Kawakita Reverie** was rated off the pace, near the rear, followed **Matenro Orion** who came past him on his outside, and showed impressive speed to keep up with that foe up to the wire, finishing another neck behind in third.

Race favorite **Serifos** was rated near the pace in fifth or sixth while securing an economic route along the rails. Continuing to hug the rails turning for home, the chestnut colt managed to inherit the lead from the tired frontrunners with a furlong to go but did not have enough to sustain his lead, succumbing to his rivals after being overtaken by the winner, finishing fourth.

#### Other Horses:

5th: (11) **Industria**—raced around 10th behind winner, showed effort while no match for top finishers

6th: (5) **King Hermes**—tracked leaders around 3rd, ran gamely until 100m out

7th: (13) **Jean Gros**—broke poorly, trailed in rear, showed belated charge

8th: (6) **Toshin Macau**—set pace, sustained lead up to 200m, failed to show tenacity

9th: (8) **Alluring Way**—ran in 14th on rails, passed tired rivals at stretch

10th: (7) **Taisei Divine**—sat around 5th, showed brief effort inside winner

11th: (3) **Solitario**—hugged rails around 10th, lacked needed kick at stretch

12th: (9) **Dante’s View**—raced around 12th, even paced

13th: (17) **Sternatia**—settled 3-wide around 9th, failed to respond at stretch

14th: (12) **Sacred**—saved ground in 16th, unable to reach contention

15th: (16) **Purpur Ray**—traveled 4-wide around 12th, never fired at stretch

16th: (15) **Otaru Ever**—advanced to 2nd to track leader, remained in contention until 300m out

17th: (2) **Sonnet Phrase**—took economic trip around 7th, showed little at stretch

18th: (14) **Voller Blute**—broke sharply, chased leaders in 3rd or 4th, faded after 400m pole

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.2 - 10.5 - 11.4 - 11.5 - 11.8 - 11.1 - 11.5 - 12.3

Last 4 furlongs: 46.7 Last 3 furlongs: 34.9

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

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

**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.