

SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 83RD KIKUKA SHO (JAPANESE ST. LEGER, G1)

The history of Kikuka Sho, the Japanese St. Leger and the last leg of the Triple Crown race for three-year-old colts and fillies, dates back to 1938—a year after Japan's 11 racing clubs integrated into one organization named Nihon Keiba Kai (forerunner of the JRA). Initially called “Kyoto Norin-sho Shoten Yonsai Yobiuna Kyoso”, the race was renamed to Kikuka Sho in 1948. The race continued to be held at its temporary venue at Hanshin Racecourse as Kyoto Racecourse is still undergoing renovation.

The Kikuka Sho features three-year-olds, most of who have matured dramatically during the five months following the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m) and their summer break. The Kikuka Sho winners have both the speed and the stamina to prove their caliber as the potential breeding stock. The last of the eight Triple Crown winners in JRA history was Contrail (JPN, by Deep Impact) who followed in the footsteps of his sire by accomplishing the feat undefeated in 2020. The 2021 champion Titleholder (JPN, C4, by Duramente) went on to claim the Tenno Sho (Spring) (G1, 3,200m) and the Takarazuka Kinen (G1, 2,200m) this year, but finished a disappointing 11th in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1, 2,400m) on October 2.

The Tokyo Yushun champion Do Deuce (JPN, by Heart's Cry) also ran in the Arc while the top two finishers of the Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1, 2,000m), Geoglyph (JPN, by Drefong) and Equinox (JPN, by Kitasan Black) opted to face older foes in the Tenno Sho (Autumn) (G1, 2,000m, Oct.30).

The St. Lite Kinen (G2, 2,200m, Sep.19), one of the trial races towards the Kikuka Sho, was won by **Gaia Force**, followed by Tokyo Yushun third-place finisher **Ask Victor More** in second. **Justin Palace**, runner-up of last year's Hopeful Stakes (G1, 2,000m) claimed the Kobe Shimbun Hai (G2, 2,200m, Sep.25), another trial race, with **Yamanin Zest** in second and **Boldog Hos** in third, while the Aoba Sho (G2, 2,400m) winner **Pradaria** was eighth.

The Kikuka Sho field also included **Feengrotten**, winner of the Radio Nikkei Sho (G3, 1,800m, Jul.3), third in the Niigata Kinen (G3, 2,000m, Sep.4) against older foes, as well as **Douradores**, **Dinasta** and **Seleccion** who also came off their respective wins against older foes in allowance races (2 Wins Class).

THE 83RD KIKUKA SHO (JAPANESE ST. LEGER, G1)

3-year-olds, Colts and Fillies, 3,000 meters (about 15 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, October 23, 2022

Hanshin Racecourse

11th Race

Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 325,000,000 (about US\$ 2,827,000 <US\$1=¥115>)

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: 3:02.4

Race Record: 3:01.0 [Toho Jackal (JPN, by Special Week), *Kyoto*, 2014]

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	14	Ask Victor More (JPN) Hironobu Tanabe	C3 b. 57.0	4.1 (2)	3:02.4 (36.9)	Deep Impact Kartica (Rainbow Quest)	Hirosaki Toshihiro HD Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Yasuhiro Tamura
2	2	4	Boldog Hos (JPN) Hayato Yoshida	C3 ch. 57.0	11.5 (7)	Nose (36.3)	Screen Hero Boldogsag (Layman)	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Hiroshi Miyamoto
3	8	17	Justin Palace (JPN) Katsuma Sameshima	C3 br. 57.0	9.7 (4)	1/2 (36.5)	Deep Impact Palace Rumor (Royal Anthem)	Masahiro Miki Northern Racing Haruki Sugiyama
4	6	11	Douradores (JPN) Takeshi Yokoyama	C3 b. 57.0	7.0 (3)	5 (37.2)	Duramente Roca (Harbinger)	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Farm Keisuke Miyata
5	5	9	Shihono Speranza (JPN) Suguru Hamanaka	C3 br. 57.0	149.4 (17)	Neck (36.8)	Black Tide Mejiro Splendor (Symboli Kris S)	Hiroki Murase Lake Villa Farm Ryo Terashima
6	3	5	Yamanin Zest (JPN) Yutaka Take	C3 b. 57.0	33.8 (10)	1-1/4 (37.1)	Symboli Kris S Yamanin Bastet (Deep Impact)	Hajime Doi Hajime Doi Teruhiko Chida
7	2	3	Pradaria (JPN) Kenichi Ikezoe	C3 b. 57.0	10.2 (5)	Neck (37.2)	Deep Impact Chasse' Roll (Kurofune)	Nagoya Yuho Co., Ltd. Nagoyayuho Co., Ltd. Manabu Ikezoe
8	1	1	Gaia Force (JPN)	C3	3.5	2-1/2	Kitasan Black	KR Japan

			Kohei Matsuyama	g. 57.0	(1)	(38.0)	Natale (Kurofune)	Oiwake Farm Haruki Sugiyama
9	4	7	Ask Wild More (JPN) Mirai Iwata	C3 d.b. 57.0	98.3 (14)	1 (37.6)	Kizuna La Seleccion (Zenno Rob Roy)	Hirosaki Toshihiro HD Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Hideaki Fujiwara
10	1	2	Shelby's Eye (JPN) Daisaku Matsuda	C3 d.b. 57.0	164.4 (18)	1 (38.1)	Harbinger Ponto Maiko (Zenno Rob Roy)	Kuwata Farm Co., Ltd. Kuwata Bokujo Hidenori Take
11	8	18 B	Seleccion (JPN) Yuichi Fukunaga	C3 d.b. 57.0	24.6 (9)	2-1/2 (38.8)	Heart's Cry Cursora (Candy Stripes)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Yasuo Tomomichi
12	6	12	Verona City (JPN) Yuga Kawada	C3 g. 57.0	11.1 (6)	2-1/2 (38.5)	Epiphaneia Amore Eterno (Zenno Rob Roy)	Yushun Horse Co., Ltd. Kamii Stud Shozo Sasaki
13	3	6	Be Astonished (JPN) Yasunari Iwata	C3 d.b. 57.0	123.7 (15)	2 (39.8)	American Patriot Mao Rio (Neo Universe)	Toru Muranaka Versailles Farm Yuzo Iida
14	7	13	Dinasta (JPN) Kazuo Yokoyama	C3 ch. 57.0	18.8 (8)	3 (40.2)	Duramente Ravarino (Unbridled's Song)	Normandy Thoroughbred Racing Co., Ltd. Crown Co., Ltd. Yasuyuki Tsujino
15	8	16 B	Feengrotten (JPN) Fuma Matsuwaka	C3 b. 57.0	40.1 (11)	1/2 (40.1)	Black Tide Pixie Hollow (King Halo)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Hiroshi Miyamoto
16	7	15	Pod Bullet (JPN) Ryusei Sakai	C3 b. 57.0	144.9 (16)	3-1/2 (40.2)	Just a Way C. S. Silk (Medaglia d'Oro)	Masao Ogawa Shadai Farm Yasuyuki Tsujino
17	5	10 B	Seiun Hades (JPN) Hideaki Miyuki	C3 d.b. 57.0	61.1 (12)	5 (42.2)	Silver State High Knowledge (Manhattan Cafe)	Shigeyuki Nishiyama Keiichi Samekawa Shinsuke Hashiguchi
18	4	8	Meiner Turpan (JPN) Yuji Tannai	C3 d.b. 57.0	72.7 (13)	8 (41.2)	Orfevre Meine Theresia (Roses in May)	Thoroughbred Club Ruffian Co., Ltd. Big Red Farm Noboru Takagi

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: ¥ 18,382,232,400

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 26,922,377,800

Attendance: 20,602

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.14	¥ 410	Bracket Quinella	2-7	¥ 850	Quinella	4-14	¥ 2,030
Place	No.14	¥ 160	Quinella Place	4-14	¥ 790	Exacta	14-4	¥ 3,370
	No.4	¥ 290		14-17	¥ 770	Trio	4-14-17	¥ 6,440
	No.17	¥ 330		4-17	¥ 1,920	Trifecta	14-4-17	¥ 30,010

Winner= 9 starts: 4 wins, 1 second, 3 thirds / Added money: ¥ 180,653,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 345,275,000

Ask Victor More Captures Kikuka Sho Victory in Record Time

Second favorite **Ask Victor More** marked a track record of 3:02.4 over the 3,000-meter course to win the last leg of the Triple Crown, the Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger). Debuting in June last year, the Deep Impact colt broke his maiden in September that year and registered a win and two thirds out of three starts as a two-year-old, all at 1,800 meters. Scoring his second win in January this year at 2,000 meters, the bay colt captured his first grade-race title in the Yayoi Sho Deep Impact Kinen (G2, 2,000m, March), finished fifth in the Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1, 2,000m) and was a close third (neck and 1/2-length) in the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m). He was second in his fall debut, the St. Lite Kinen (G2, 2,200m) on September 19 prior to his G1 victory in the Kikuka Sho. Trainer Yasuhito Tamura scored his first JRA-G1 victory since with Major Emblem in the 2016 NHK Mile Cup and third overall. Jockey Hironobu Tanabe also picked up his third JRA-G1 title—his first since with Logotype in the 2016 Yasuda Kinen—and for both trainer and jockey it was their first Classic victory.

Ask Victor More broke sharply from stall 14 and while a good five lengths behind pacesetter **Seiun Hades** who covered the first 1,000 meter in 58.7 seconds, maintained his position in second while without pressure and cruising in good rhythm. As the field gradually made headway passing the 800-meter pole, the Deep Impact colt easily pinned the leader and drew away, leading the rest by about four lengths entering the stretch and was only threatened by **Boldog Hos** and **Justin Palace** who came charging up down the middle in the closing stages but prevailed by a nose to score his first G1 victory in record time.

“I had a lot in my mind as to how I should ride in such a way that would produce good results for the colt and I am relieved that it worked out well. Although he we will be facing even tougher competition in the future, I feel that he is getting stronger with every race and hope that we can continue with good results,” commented Hironobu Tanabe.

Boldog Hos was reserved in mid-division early while saving ground and slowly angled out away from the rails as the horses began to make their move soon after the 800-meter marker. Picking up speed turning for home down the middle lane and joined by **Justin Palace** on his inside, the two pulled away within the last furlong with tremendous late charge with **Boldog Hos** managing to extend his stride to just miss by a nose at the wire in second.

Justin Palace was forwardly placed outside the race favorite two wide and kept a close watch on the foe through the early stages. While **Gaia Force** failed to find another gear after the final turn, the Deep Impact colt had plenty left in the tank to follow **Boldog Hos** who came flying by on his outside and kept in tandem with that rival until just before the wire where the brown colt was outrun by the first two by half a length.

Race favorite **Gaia Force** was a fraction slow out of the gate and was rated around seventh or eighth along the rails for most of the way. Constantly covered by horses close in front and around, the Kitasan Black colt struggled to find space as the field began to make headway and only just found a clearing after entering the stretch where the gray was unable to pick up speed and faded to eighth.

Other Horses:

- 4th: (11) **Douradores**—raced around 12th, angled out to accelerate, failed to threaten top 3 finishers
- 5th: (9) **Shihono Speranza**—positioned 3rd from rear, showed 3rd fastest late kick, belatedly
- 6th: (5) **Yamanin Zest**—ran around 15th, showed effort, had too much ground to make up
- 7th: (3) **Pradaria**—sat around 9th, turned wide for stretch run, never threatened
- 9th: (7) **Ask Wild More**—traveled in 14th, lacked needed kick at stretch
- 10th: (2) **Shelby's Eye**—saved ground around 10th, angled out, even paced
- 11th: (18) **Seleccion**—settled 3-wide around 6th, met traffic at early stretch, dropped back
- 12th: (12) **Verona City**—was off slow, sat 2nd from rear, circled wide, passed tired rivals
- 13th: (6) **Be Astonished**—hugged rails in 4th, remained in contention until 300m out
- 14th: (13) **Dinasta**—chased leaders in 3rd, driven after 3rd corner, failed to respond
- 15th: (16) **Feengrotten**—sat 3-wide around 9th, advanced in backstretch, showed little after final corner
- 16th: (15) **Pod Bullet**—raced around 5th early, outrun after 3rd corner
- 17th: (10) **Seiun Hades**—set rapid pace, faded after final corner
- 18th: (8) **Meiner Turpan**—traveled in rear throughout trip

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.3 - 10.9 - 11.7 - 11.9 - 11.9 - 12.1 - 12.6 - 13.3 - 12.6 - 12.1 - 12.1 - 11.9 - 11.9 - 12.2 - 12.9
 Last 4 furlongs: 48.9 Last 3 furlongs: 37.0

Positions at each corner:	1st corner	10, <u>14</u> , 13(6, 15)(1, 18)17(2, 3, 16)(4, 11)(5, 7)-9, 12-8
	2nd corner	10- <u>14</u> (6, 13)15(1, 17, 18)(3, 16)2, 11, 4, 7, 5, 9, 12, 8
	3rd corner (2nd lap)	10, <u>14</u> (6, 13, 18)17(1, 15, 16)(2, 4, 3, 11)(7, 5)(9, 12)-8
	4th corner (2nd lap)	<u>14</u> -(10, 6)(1, 17, 13, 18, 4)(2, 16, 11)3(9, 5)(7, 12)15=8

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.