

FROM: Media & Publicity Department, THE JAPAN RACING ASSOCIATION (JRA)

DATE: December 4, 2022

## SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 23RD 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. Seventeen of the past 22 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 and 2021 Best Dirt Horse **T O Keynes** came off a win in the JBC Classic (dirt, 2,000m, Nov.3), followed by UAE Derby (G2, dirt, 1,900m) victor **Crown Pride** in second and two-time graded winner **Auvergne** in sixth. Key runners coming off the Miyako Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,800m, Nov.6) were winner **Sunrise Hope** and fourth-place finisher **Hapi**. The field also included **Gloria Mundi** who marked 4-1-0 out of five starts over dirt before finishing 12th in his latest Takarazuka Kinen (G1, 2,200m, Jun.26) start over turf, **Notturmo**, winner of the Japan Dirt Derby (dirt, 2,000m) who came off a seventh in the Nippon TV Hai (dirt, 1,800m, Sep.28), **Jun Light Bolt**, victor of the Sirius Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,900m, Oct.1), and **Shamal** who was third in his previous Mile Championship Nambu Hai (dirt, 1,600m, Oct.10) start.

### THE 23RD CHAMPIONS CUP (G1) – Japan Autumn International -

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

Sunday, December 4, 2022

Chukyo Racecourse

11th Race

Post Time: 15:30

Total prize money: ¥ 259,200,000 (about US\$ 2,254,000 <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 2019

Course Record: 1:47.6

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

Safety factor: 16 runners

Going: Standard

Weather: Fine



FP	BK	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin (L3F)	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	3	5	Jun Light Bolt (JPN) Yukito Ishikawa	H5 b. 57.0	7.9 (3)	1:51.9 (36.2)	King Kamehameha Special Groove (Special Week)	Junji Kawai Northern Racing Yasuo Tomomichi
2	5	10	Crown Pride (JPN) Yuichi Fukunaga	C3 d.b. 56.0	14.3 (4)	Neck (36.7)	Reach the Crown Emmy's Pride (King Kamehameha)	Teruya Yoshida Shadai Farm Koichi Shintani
3	2	3	Hapi (JPN) Norihiro Yokoyama	C3 d.b. 56.0	15.9 (6)	1-1/4 (36.7)	Kizuna Queen Pirates (King Kamehameha)	Toshio Terada Toshio Terada Ryuji Okubo
4	6	12	T O Keynes (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	H5 ch. 57.0	1.5 (1)	Neck (36.8)	Sinister Minister Maxim Cafe (Manhattan Cafe)	Tomoya Ozasa Yanagawa Bokujo Daisuke Takayanagi
5	7	13 B	Shamal (JPN) Yuga Kawada	C4 b. 57.0	23.2 (7)	1-1/2 (37.2)	Smart Falcon Native Code (Agnes Digital)	Toshiya Kanayama Okada Stud Takeshi Matsushita
6	1	2 B	Sunrise Hope (JPN) Hideaki Miyuki	H5 b. 57.0	51.9 (11)	3/4 (36.7)	Majestic Warrior Opus Queen (Special Week)	Takao Matsuoka Takao Matsuoka Tomohiko Hatsuki
7	2	4	Smashing Hearts (JPN)	H6 b.	41.4	Neck	Henny Hughes Pretty Maids	Koji Maeda North Hills Co., Ltd.

			Katsuma Sameshima	57.0	(10)	(37.0)	(Generalist)	Koichi Shintani
8	5	9	Notturmo (JPN) Yutaka Take	C3 b. 56.0	14.3 (5)	Head (37.1)	Heart's Cry Sheikh's Serenade (Unbridled's Song)	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Shimokobe Farm Hidetaka Otonashi
9	4	7	Auvergne (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	H6 b. 57.0	38.7 (9)	Nose (37.2)	Smart Falcon Guyenne (Tanino Gimlet)	Tadakuni Sugiyama Tadakuni Sugiyama Masayuki Nishimura
10	7	14	Tagano Beauty (JPN) Shu Ishibashi	H5 b. 57.0	130.2 (12)	Neck (36.8)	Henny Hughes Special Dinner (Special Week)	Ryoji Yagi Ryoji Yagi Masato Nishizono
11	3	6	Red Galant (JPN) Arata Saito	H7 b. 57.0	189.2 (13)	1-1/2 (36.9)	Lord Kanaloa Dance on the Roof (Symboli Kris S)	Tokyo Horse Racing Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Takayuki Yasuda
12	1	1 B	Gloria Mundi (JPN) Ryan Moore	C4 b. 57.0	7.7 (2)	1/2 (37.1)	King Kamehameha Bettolle (Blu Air Force)	Kazumi Yoshida Northern Racing Ryuji Okubo
13	8	15 B	Sakura Allure (JPN) Manabu Sakai	H7 ch. 57.0	355.6 (16)	1 (37.5)	Gold Allure Shiroganese Cafe (Gulch)	Sakura Commerce Co., Ltd. Tanioka Stud Akira Murayama
14	6	11 B	Badenweiler (JPN) Damian Lane	C4 d.b. 57.0	31.8 (8)	1/2 (37.7)	Duramente Vite Marcher (French Deputy)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Takashi Saito
15	4	8	Sunrise Nova (JPN) Fuma Matsuwaka	H8 ch. 57.0	239.6 (14)	1/2 (37.2)	Gold Allure Bright Sapphire (Thunder Gulch)	Takao Matsuoka Yanagawa Bokujo Hidetaka Otonashi
16	8	16	Red Soldado (JPN) Genki Maruyama	G4 d.b. 57.0	267.1 (15)	7 (39.6)	Majestic Warrior Red Sombrero (King Kamehameha)	Tokyo Horse Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Yutaka Okumura

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: ¥ 15,836,721,600

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 21,599,489,700

Attendance: 14,130

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.5	¥ 790	Bracket Quinella	3-5	¥ 2,180	Quinella	5-10	¥ 4,850
Place	No.5	¥ 260	Quinella Place	5-10	¥ 1,330	Exacta	5-10	¥ 10,130
	No.10	¥ 360		3-5	¥ 1,290	Trio	3-5-10	¥ 14,020
	No.3	¥ 400		3-10	¥ 1,920	Trifecta	5-10-3	¥ 81,360

Winner= 25 starts: 7 wins, 5 seconds, 2 thirds / Added money: ¥ 123,444,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 277,723,000

### **Jun Light Bolt Captures First G1 Title in His Only Fourth Dirt Challenge in This Year's Champions Cup**

Third pick **Jun Light Bolt** demonstrated an impressive late charge to win this year's Champions Cup, registering his first G1 title in his only fourth dirt start. The King Kamehameha bay was raced over turf from his debut start in July of his two-year-old season until his four-year-old season last year, during which he won four out of 21 starts. Switching to dirt from this year, he won his second start, the BSN Sho (Listed, 1,800m) in August, and marked his first graded win in the previous Sirius Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,900m) on October 1. This win brought Trainer Yasuo Tomomichi his 17th JRA-G1 title following his Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) victory with Do Deuce and his first JRA-G1 title over dirt. This also marked jockey Yukito Ishikawa's first G1 and seventh graded title since his debut in 2014.

Quick out of the gate, five-year-old **Jun Light Bolt** eased back to settle around ninth from the frontrunner. Though meeting traffic entering the lane, the son of King Kamehameha waited until finding an open space outside **T O Keynes** 200 meters out, then unleashed a powerful burst of speed with the fastest closing drive to overtake the frontrunners one by one including **Crown Pride** right before the wire for a neck victory.

“I can’t find any other word to describe this other than “happy.” I tried to feel the horse’s rhythm and was confident that if we can find an open space after entering the lane, he would burst out. The colt responded so well that I knew we could win. Though I have yet to feel my first G1 win, I would like to savor this joy from now on,” commented jockey Yukito Ishikawa.

Fourth pick and UAE Derby victor **Crown Pride**, while keen to go early, tracked the leader in second, inherited the lead at the top of the stretch and, though nosed out by the fast-closing winner just before the wire, held the rest of the field by 1-1/4 lengths for a runner-up seat.

Six choice **Hapi** broke sharply and eased back to settle behind **Crown Pride** in third of fourth position. The Kizuna colt overtook the tiring pacesetter 300 meters out but failed to close the gap between the runner-up and was passed by the winner in the last 100 meters while securing third place from **T O Keynes** by a neck.

Odds-on-favorite **T O Keynes** missed his break and traveled four wide around sixth from the front. The defending champion made headway entering the lane and advanced to third at the 200-meter pole but was unable to make ground and was overtaken by the winner in the last 100 meters to finish fourth.

#### Other Horses:

5th: (13) **Shamal**—tracked leaders in 4th, sustained bid, weakened in last 200m

6th: (2) **Sunrise Hope**—trailed in rear, advanced after 3rd corner, passed tired rivals

7th: (4) **Smashing Hearts**—saved ground around 6th, met traffic at early stretch, responded briefly

8th: (9) **Notturmo**—settled inside favorite around 6th, lacked needed kick at stretch

9th: (7) **Auvergne**—sat in 5th, chased leaders up to 200m marker, outrun thereafter

10th: (14) **Tagano Beauty**—positioned in 14th, closed in on frontrunners after 3rd corner, showed brief effort

11th: (6) **Red Galant**—ran behind winner around 10th, circled wide, passed some rivals

12th: (1) **Gloria Mundi**—hugged rails around 10th, met traffic at early stretch, unable to reach contention

13th: (15) **Sakura Allure**—raced near rear early, made headway in backstretch, weakened in last 300m

14th: (11) **Badenweiler**—settled 3-wide around 10th, unable to respond at stretch

15th: (8) **Sunrise Nova**—traveled in 13th, gradually dropped back after 3rd corner, no factor

16th: (16) **Red Soldado**—rushed from widest stall to set pace, faded after 400m pole

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.7 - 11.2 - 13.1 - 12.8 - 12.6 - 12.6 - 12.7 - 11.9 - 12.3  
Last 4 furlongs: 49.5      Last 3 furlongs: 36.9

Positions at each corner:

1st corner	(*16,10)(3,13)7(4,9,12) <u>5</u> -11(1,6)-8-(14,15)2
2nd corner	16,10(3,13)7(4,9,12) <u>5</u> -(1,6,11)-8,14(2,15)
3rd corner	16,10,13(3,7,12)9(4, <u>5</u> ,11,15)(1,6,14,2)8
4th corner	16(10,13)(3,7,12)9(4,15)( <u>5</u> ,11,2)(1,6,14)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.