

**SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 39TH HOPEFUL STAKES (G1)**

Established in 1984 under the name of Radio Tampa Hai Sansai Himba Stakes as a G3 race for two-year-old fillies run over 1,600 meters at Hanshin Racecourse, the race held in December has made various changes in its status over the years. The distance was extended to 2,000 meters while the runners were limited to colts and geldings in 1991, opened its doors once again to fillies and mares in 2000 and acquired international status in 2010. In 2014, the race was given the Hopeful Stakes name, upgraded to G2, excluded geldings and was shifted to a new venue, the Nakayama Racecourse where the first leg of the three-year-old Triple Crown, the Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1), is held over the same distance. In 2017, the race made its final elevation in grade and has become JRA's 24th G1 flat race.

Even before becoming a G1 race, the Hopeful Stakes was highly regarded as the championship event for two-year-old middle-distance prospects aiming for the three-year-old classics and chosen as the main target in place of the traditional two-year-old G1 championships, the Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes and the Hanshin Juvenile Fillies run over 1,600 meters. As a result, the 2,000-meter race attracted many talented runners and subsequent G1 title holders such as 2010 Satsuki Sho and 2011 Dubai World Cup (AW, 2,000m) winner Victoire Pisa (JPN, by Neo Universe), 2013 Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger, 3,000m) and 2014 Japan Cup (2,400m) victor Epiphaneia (JPN, by Symboli Kris S), 2017 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, 2,400m) champion Rey de Oro (JPN, by King Kamehameha), 2019 Satsuki Sho winner Saturnalia (JPN, by Lord Kanaloa) and 2020 Triple Crown victor Contrail (JPN, by Deep Impact).

**Gastrique** came off his victory in the Tokyo Sports Hai Nisai Stakes (G2, 1,800m, Nov.19), with **Hearts Concerto**, **Dura Erede** and **Fate** following in third, fourth and fifth, respectively. The top three finishers of the Kyoto Nisai Stakes (G3, 2,000m, Nov.26), **Gruner Green**, **Top Knife** and **Wurttemberg** in that order, were also among the field. Other key runners were **Phantom Thief**, **Sea Wizard**, **King's Reign**, **Seven Magician** and **Mikki Cappuccino**, respective winners of the Nojigiku Stakes (Open Class, 2,000m, Sep.24), the Fuyo Stakes (Open Class, 2,000m, Oct.1), the Hyakunichiso Tokubetsu (1 Win Class, 2,000m, Nov.6), the Kigiku Sho (1 Win Class, 2,000m, Nov.13) and the Habotan Sho (1 Win Class, 2,000m, Dec.3).

**THE 39TH HOPEFUL STAKES (G1)**

2-year-olds, Colts &amp; Fillies, 2,000 meters (about 10 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Wednesday, December 28, 2022 Nakayama Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:25

Total prize money: ¥ 152,200,000 (about US\$ 1,324,000 &lt;US\$1=¥115&gt;)

2-y-o: 55kg (about 121 lbs), 1 kg allowance for Fillies, 3 kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2020

Course Record: 1:58.9

Race Record: 2:00.6 [Killer Ability (JPN, by Deep Impact), 2021]

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	6	11	Dura Erede (JPN) Bauyrzhan Murzabayev	C2 d.b. 55.0	90.6 (14)	2:01.5 (35.0)	Duramente Marchesa (Orfevre)	Three H Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Manabu Ikezoe
2	4	8	Top Knife (JPN) Norihiro Yokoyama	C2 br. 55.0	18.7 (7)	Nose (35.0)	Declaration of War Be Wind (Spinning World)	Koji Yasuhara Kineusu Bokujo Mitsugu Kon
3	7	15	King's Reign (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	C2 b. 55.0	18.2 (6)	1-1/4 (34.3)	Rulership Touching Speech (Deep Impact)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Takahisa Tezuka
4	1	1	Phantom Thief (JPN) Yuichi Fukunaga	C2 b. 55.0	5.1 (2)	Neck (34.6)	Harbinger Lupin (Medaglia d'Oro)	Turf Sport Co., Ltd. Tanikawa Stud Masayuki Nishimura
5	8	18	Mikki Cappuccino (JPN) Keita Tosaki	C2 d.b. 55.0	3.0 (1)	1/2 (35.1)	Epiphaneia Steal Pass (Neo Universe)	Mizuki Noda Chiyoda Farm Shizunai Yoshito Yahagi
6	5	9	Seven Magician (JPN)	C2	7.0	Neck	Just a Way	Yoshiyuki Maesako

			Cristian Demuro	b. 55.0	(3)	(34.7)	Happiness Dancer (Meisho Samson)	Yoshiyuki Maesako Tomokazu Takano
7	1	2	Hearts Concerto (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	C2 b. 55.0	9.0 (5)	1 (34.6)	Heart's Cry Nasuno Sibelius (Unbridled's Song)	Green Farm Co., Ltd. Nasuno Bokujo Ryo Takei
8	2	4	Serendipity (JPN) Yutaka Take	C2 b. 55.0	19.8 (8)	Neck (34.9)	Duramente Jealousy (Harbinger)	Hideko Kondo Hideko Kondo Hidetaka Otonashi
9	2	3	Sea Wizard (JPN) Suguru Hamanaka	C2 b. 55.0	89.7 (13)	Head (35.3)	Beach Patrol Merryweather (Mejiro Bailey)	Makio Okada Symboli Stud Yuichi Shikato
10	7	14	J Palms (JPN) David Egan	C2 d.b. 55.0	34.3 (10)	1-1/4 (34.8)	Just a Way Killer Graces (Congaree)	M's Racing Northern Racing Noriyuki Hori
11	3	6	Gruner Green (JPN) Mirco Demuro	C2 ch. 55.0	29.9 (9)	Neck (35.3)	Lovely Day Lady Derby (Special Week)	Mitsumasa Saito Mitsumasa Saito Ikuo Aizawa
12	7	13	Wurttemberg (JPN) Takeshi Yokoyama	C2 b. 55.0	55.6 (11)	1-1/4 (34.8)	Kitsan Black Maruka Aichan (French Deputy)	Teruya Yoshida Shadai Farm Hiroshi Miyamoto
13	4	7	Born in Grande (JPN) Arata Saito	C2 b. 55.0	278.0 (17)	Neck (35.1)	Satono Crown Share the Joyful (Black Tide)	Grande Owners Co., Ltd. Grande Farm Naohiro Yoshida
14	8	17	Jun Tsubamegaeshi (JPN) Yukito Ishikawa	C2 b. 55.0	243.1 (16)	Head (35.5)	Just a Way Admire Teresa (Helissio)	Junji Kawai Northern Racing Yasuo Tomomichi
15	3	5	Fate (JPN) Ryusei Sakai	C2 b. 55.0	76.8 (12)	Head (35.7)	Real Steel Santa Fe Chief (Wiesenspfad)	Susumu Fujita Northern Racing Yoshito Yahagi
16	5	10	Gastrique (JPN) Kosei Miura	C2 b. 55.0	7.9 (4)	1 (35.1)	Just a Way A Shin Epona (Curlin)	Koji Maeda KK Eishindo Hiroyuki Uehara
17	6	12	Monde Plume (JPN) Kazuo Yokoyama	C2 b. 55.0	370.0 (18)	1-1/4 (35.0)	Satono Diamond Erimo Feather (Sinister Minister)	Yukihiko Ochiai Okada Stud Takahiro Mizuno
18	8	16	Ska Paradise (JPN) Seina Imamura	C2 d.b. 55.0	234.4 (15)	Head (34.9)	Silver State Family Song (Grass Wonder)	Tristar Racing Hikaru Bokujo Ryo Terashima

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: ¥ 16,441,505,500

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 25,367,462,700

Attendance: 15,669

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No. 11	¥ 9,060	Bracket Quinella	4-6	¥ 29,300	Quinella	8-11	¥ 64,580	
Place	No. 11	¥ 1,410		Quinella Place	8-11	¥ 13,070	Exacta	11-8	¥ 175,230
	No. 8	¥ 390			11-15	¥ 10,940	Trio	8-11-15	¥ 232,970
	No. 15	¥ 480			8-15	¥ 3,350	Trifecta	11-8-15	¥ 2,466,010

Winner= 5 starts: 2 wins, 1 second / Added money: ¥ 71,274,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 84,974,000

### **Dura Erede Wins by a Whisker in Hopeful Stakes**

14th favorite **Dura Erede** claimed this year's Hopeful Stakes nosing out his rival at the wire to outshine the other hopefuls in the year-end G1 test for two-year-olds. Debuting in June this year and breaking his maiden in his third career start in August, the son of Duramente came into this race after putting in a fourth-place finish in the G2 Tokyo Sports Hai Nisai Stakes (1,800m) on November 19. The dark brown colt has given trainer Manabu Ikezoe and Kazakhstan native-jockey Bauyrzhan Murzabayev—who is riding in Japan under a short-term license for the first time—their first JRA-G1 victories.

**Top Knife** was sent up front as the race got underway and led the 18-horse field while **Dura Erede** pressed the pace from the outside in second all the way into the stretch. As the two dueled running up the hill, **Top Knife** briefly shook off the persistent **Dura Erede** and put close to a length lead between him 100 meters out. However, the stubborn Duramente colt found another gear and dug in with enormous force to overtake his rival at the wire, notching a photo-finish victory.

“It’s the same good feeling as when I won my first G1 race in Germany—I’m very happy. I couldn’t tell if we won, it was so close, but my colt broke well and it was the plan to chase the pace in second so everything went well. After two close seconds last weekend, I’m so happy that I came in first in the last G1 race of the year,” commented jockey Bauyrzhan Murzabayev in an interview after the race.

**King’s Reign** was off a bit slow, first sitting in fourth from the rear and then improved position in the backstretch up to a mid-pack seat before taking the widest route into the lane. Although with a lot of ground to cover, the Rulership colt stormed down the straight with the fastest closing speed and put away **Phantom Thief** at the wire while finishing 1-1/4 lengths behind the runner-up for third place.

Race favorite **Mikki Cappuccino** rushed up close to the pace after breaking sharply from the widest stall and stalked the two frontrunners in third. The Epiphanea colt continued to chase the leaders in early stretch but failed to further threaten and was overtaken by **Phantom Thief** and then **King’s Reign** before the finishing line and was fifth.

#### Other Horses:

4th: (1) **Phantom Thief**—reserved in 7th on rails, switched paths for room, dug in with 2nd-tied fastest late speed but caught before wire

6th: (9) **Seven Magician**—sat in mid-field and 3-wide, closed in well while briefly dueling with **King’s Reign** 100m out

7th: (2) **Hearts Concerto**—saved ground in 10th, showed 2nd-tied fastest late speed, no match for winners

8th: (4) **Serendipity**—traveled in mid-pack, two-wide, bumped rival in early stretch, unable to reach contention

9th: (3) **Sea Wizard**—fourth on the rails, sustained bid until 100m out, nothing left thereafter

10th: (14) **J Palms**—settled 10th to 11th and 3-wide, struggled climbing hill, passed tired rivals

11th: (6) **Gruner Green**—sat in 6th, made rapid headway rounding final corner, showed little in stretch

12th: (13) **Wurtemberg**—bobbled at start, ran rails around 4th from rear, showed mild effort

13th: (7) **Born in Grande**—ran in 10th to 11th, near rear coming into lane, failed to respond

14th: (17) **Jun Tsubamegaeshi**—gradually made headway up to 7th in backstretch, drifted out in last turn, nothing left

15th: (5) **Fate**—traveled in 3rd, 5th entering lane, came up empty after early efforts

16th: (10) **Gastrique**—reserved 4th to 5th from rear, made bid turning into straight, never fired

17th: (12) **Monde Plume**—missed break, trailed near rear, was through early

18th: (16) **Ska Paradise**—followed in rear, never a factor

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.6 - 11.3 - 12.2 - 12.7 - 12.7 - 12.5 - 12.5 - 11.9 - 11.2 - 11.9  
Last 4 furlongs: 47.5 Last 3 furlongs: 35.0

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

**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.