

SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 64TH TAKARAZUKA KINEN (G1)

The Takarazuka Kinen, established in 1960, opened its doors to foreign-trained horses in 1997 and became the first international grade-one race designated by the International Cataloguing Standards Committee (ICSC) held in western Japan in 2001. The race joined the Breeders' Cup Challenge Series in 2011, enabling its winner to earn automatic starting position in the Breeders' Cup Turf (G1, 2,400m). The winner is also eligible to start in the Cox Plate (G1, 2,040m) since 2019. In 2018, the race welcomed Hong Kong's 2015/16 Horse of the Year Werther (NZ, by Tavistock) who finished a neck second. He was the second foreign contender to challenge the race since Australian-trained Seto Stayer (AUS, by Bellotto; 9th) in 1997.

It is a Grand Prix (All-Star) race, along with the year-end Arima Kinen (G1, 2,500m), in which the runners are selected by a fan poll. The fans can cast their votes online to select the ten most popular runners. Among the horses entered in the race, ten runners with the most votes are entitled to run in the race while the rest of the field is determined in order of earnings.

This year's contenders that were among the top ten horses voted included: **Equinox** (1st), Horse of the Year and Dubai Sheema Classic (G1, 2,410m, Mar.25) winner; **Geraldina** (3rd), victor of the 2022 Queen Elizabeth II Cup (G1, 2,200m); **Justin Palace** (5th), champion of the Tenno Sho (Spring) (G1, 3,200m, Apr.30); **Deep Bond** (6th), three-time runner-up in the Tenno Sho (Spring); **Ask Victor More** (7th), winner of the 2022 Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger, G1, 3,000m); and **Vela Azul** (10th), victor of last year's Japan Cup (G1, 2,400m).

Other contenders within the top 50 horses voted included **Dura Erede** (19th), **Danon the Kid** (31st), **Karate** (39th), **Lilac** (42nd), **Breakup** (43rd), **Geoglyph** (46th) and **Boccherini** (48th).

Horses that were ranked among the top ten but passed up their entry were: Titleholder (JPN, H5, by Duramente; 2nd); Jack d'Or (JPN, H5, by Maurice; 4th); Liberty Island (JPN, F3, by Duramente; 8th); and Do Deuce (JPN, C4, by Heart's Cry; 9th).

THE 64TH TAKARAZUKA KINEN (G1)

3-year-olds & up, 2,200 meters (about 11 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, June 25, 2023

Hanshin Racecourse

11th Race

Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 475,200,000 (about US\$ 3,628,000 <US\$1=¥131>)

3-y-o: 53kg (about 117 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 58kg (about 128 lbs), 2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares,

1kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2019, 3kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2020

Course Record: 2:09.7

Race Record: 2:09.7 [Titleholder (JPN, by Duramente), 2022]

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	3	5	Equinox (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	C4 br. 58.0	1.3 (1)	2:11.2 (34.8)	Kitasan Black Chateau Blanche (King Halo)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Tetsuya Kimura
2	3	6	Through Seven Seas (JPN) Kenichi Ikezoe	M5 b. 56.0	55.7 (10)	Neck (34.6)	Dream Journey Mighty Slew (Kurofune)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Tomohito Ozeki
3	5	9	Justin Palace (JPN) Katsuma Sameshima	C4 br. 58.0	8.5 (2)	1 (35.1)	Deep Impact Palace Rumor (Royal Anthem)	Masahiro Miki Northern Racing Haruki Sugiyama
4	6	11	Geraldina (JPN) Yutaka Take	M5 b. 56.0	13.8 (3)	Head (35.5)	Maurice Gentildonna (Deep Impact)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Takashi Saito
5	5	10	Deep Bond (JPN) Ryuji Wada	H6 br. 58.0	16.6 (5)	1 (35.5)	Kizuna Zephyranthes (King Halo)	Shinji Maeda Murata Bokujo Ryuji Okubo
6	4	7	Pradaria (JPN) Yuji Hishida	C4 b.	262.5 (16)	Neck (35.3)	Deep Impact Chasse' Roll	Nagoya Yuho Co., Ltd. Nagoyayuho Co., Ltd.

				58.0			(Kurofuno)	Manabu Ikezoe
7	2	4	Boccherini (JPN) Suguru Hamanaka	H7 ch. 58.0	28.3 (6)	Neck (35.1)	King Kamehameha Popcorn Jazz (Dance in the Dark)	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc. Yasutoshi Ikee
8	4	8	Vela Azul (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	H6 bl. 58.0	42.1 (9)	1-1/4 (35.2)	Eishin Flash Vela Blanca (Kurofuno)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Kunihiko Watanabe
9	7	13	Geoglyph (JPN) Mirai Iwata	C4 ch. 58.0	83.1 (11)	Nose (35.8)	Drefong Aromatico (King Kamehameha)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Tetsuya Kimura
10	8	17	Dura Erede (JPN) Hideaki Miyuki	C3 d.b. 53.0	30.2 (7)	2 (36.5)	Duramente Marchesa (Orfevre)	Three H Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Manabu Ikezoe
11	6	12	Ask Victor More (JPN) Takeshi Yokoyama	C4 b. 58.0	14.3 (4)	Neck (36.5)	Deep Impact Kartica (Rainbow Quest)	Hirosaki Toshihiro HD Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Yasuhito Tamura
12	7	14	Breakup (JPN) Yuga Kawada	H5 ch. 58.0	113.4 (12)	Neck (36.5)	Novellist Little Jun (Kurofuno)	Toako Abe Masayuki Watanabe Tatsuya Yoshioka
13	2	3	Danon the Kid (JPN) Yuichi Kitamura	H5 b. 58.0	35.1 (8)	1-1/2 (36.5)	Just a Way Epic Love (Dansili)	Danox Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Takayuki Yasuda
14	8	16	Mozu Bello (JPN) Taiga Tsunoda	H7 b. 58.0	480.4 (17)	Head (36.2)	Deep Brillante Harlan's Ruby (Harlan's Holiday)	Capital System Co., Ltd. Murata Bokujo Naoyuki Morita
15	8	15	Unicorn Lion (IRE) Ryusei Sakai	H7 d.b. 58.0	176.0 (14)	Nose (36.9)	No Nay Never Muravka (High Chaparral)	Lion Race Horse Co., Ltd. Desert Star Phoenix Jvc Yoshito Yahagi
16	1	2	Karate (JPN) Akira Sugawara	H7 d.b. 58.0	180.2 (15)	Nose (36.5)	To the Glory Lady no Punch (French Deputy)	Hikaru Odagiri Yuichi Odagiri Yasuyuki Tsujino
17	1	1	Lilac (JPN) Mirco Demuro	F4 b. 56.0	158.9 (13)	1/2 (36.4)	Orfevre Viva Bouquet (King Kamehameha)	Seichi Serizawa Seiichi Serizawa Ikuo Aizawa

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: ¥ 27,363,184,100

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 37,072,699,700

Attendance: 44,297

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.5	¥ 130	Bracket Quinella	3-3	¥ 2,280	Quinella	5-6	¥ 2,340
Place	No.5	¥ 110	Quinella Place	5-6	¥ 970	Exacta	5-6	¥ 2,660
	No.6	¥ 560		5-9	¥ 240	Trio	5-6-9	¥ 4,030
	No.9	¥ 170		6-9	¥ 2,930	Trifecta	5-6-9	¥ 13,630

Winner= 8 starts: 6 wins & 2 seconds / Added money: ¥ 223,696,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 1,489,188,100

Equinox Extends His G1 Winning Streak to Four in the All-Star Takarazuka Kinen

Overwhelming favorite **Equinox** who acquired the most votes from the fans won this year's Takarazuka Kinen to extend his G1 winning streak to four, which includes the Tenno Sho (Autumn) (2,000m) and the Arima Kinen (2,500m) last year and the Dubai Sheema Classic (2,410m) in March this year. The 2022 Horse of the Year also became the 16th horse to win both "Grand Prix" races, the Arima Kinen and this race. This is the fifth JRA-G1 win for trainer Tetsuya Kimura following last year's Arima Kinen with this colt. For jockey Christophe Lemaire, this is the 45th JRA-G1 victory following his win in this year's Tenno Sho (Spring) with Justin Palace and his second Takarazuka Kinen title since 2021 with Chrono

Genesis.

Equinox, breaking smoothly from stall five, eased back to second from last and continued to travel near the rear in the backstretch, saving his strength for the right time. The Kitasan Black colt gradually advanced forward turning the last two corners the widest, displayed a powerful turn of foot in the lane, passing his rivals one by one, and sustained his speed after taking the lead passing the 200-meter pole to hold off the strong challenge by **Through Seven Seas** by a neck.

“Though we were unable get a good position toward the front due to the fast pace at the beginning, the horse was relaxed in the rear and I wasn’t worried at all. As the inner track condition was not so good, we made bid from the outside early and turned wide to the straight where he stretched really well. Hanshin’s inner course is tricky and Takarazuka Kinen is a difficult race to win even for champion horses, so I’m very happy that I was able to win the race with the No. 1 horse in the World’s Best Racehorse Rankings. I realized again how strong he is. I hope to win more big races with him in Autumn,” commented Christophe Lemaire.

Tenth pick **Through Seven Seas** settled in the very rear and steadily advanced position behind the race favorite rounding the last corners. Though meeting traffic entering the lane, the five-year-old mare by Dream Journey weaved her way through the horses and closed in on **Equinox** with the fastest closing speed but was a neck short at the wire in second.

Second choice **Justin Palace**, unhurried around 12th and traveling in front of the winner, closed in on the frontrunners from the outer route after the third corner, dueled with **Equinox** at the top of the stretch and, although failing to keep up with the winner, sustained his late charge to secure third place just before the wire by a head.

Other Horses:

4th: (11) **Geraldina**—positioned around 14th early, made headway in backstretch, entered lane in 4th, rallied for lead, unable to find another gear in last 100m

5th: (10) **Deep Bond**—sat 3-wide around 7th, passed rivals one by one, needed more

6th: (7) **Pradaria**—traveled around 11th, showed effort between horses until 100m out

7th: (4) **Boccherini**—saved ground around 12th, quickened on inner stretch, weakened in last 100m

8th: (8) **Vela Azul**—settled around 14th near winner, entered stretch in last, passed tiring rivals

9th: (13) **Geoglyph**—ran 3-wide around 7th, lacked needed kick

10th: (17) **Dura Erede**—stalked leader, took brief lead just before 200m pole, failed to sustain bid

11th: (12) **Ask Victor More**—sat around 4th, rallied for lead up to 200m pole

12th: (14) **Breakup**—chased leaders around 3rd, remained in contention until 150m out

13th: (3) **Danon the Kid**—raced in 4-5th, gradually fell behind

14th: (16) **Moza Bello**—traveled 3-wide around 10th, outrun after 1,000m to go

15th: (15) **Unicorn Lion**—set pace, maintained lead up to 200m pole, used up

16th: (2) **Karate**—traced leaders around 3rd on rails, dropped back in last 250m

17th: (1) **Lilac**—hugged rails around 7th, faded after 3rd corner

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.4 - 10.5 - 11.1 - 12.6 - 12.3 - 12.4 - 12.5 - 11.9 - 11.7 - 12.0 - 11.8
Last 4 furlongs: 47.4 Last 3 furlongs: 35.5

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

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.