

**SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 40TH MILE CHAMPIONSHIP (G1)**

The Mile Championship is one of the most prestigious autumn grade-one events for milers together with the Yasuda Kinen (G1, 1,600m) in spring. Horse racing in Japan had been focusing on long distance racing for a long time, regarding stamina and strength as the most important quality of horses. However, with modern racing having increased its attention to speed horses suited to a mile or shorter distance races, the Mile Championship was established in 1984 in conjunction with Japanese races adopting the grading system. The current racing program now provides races for short, middle and long-distance racehorses. The race was temporarily shifted to Hanshin Racecourse due to renovations taking place at Kyoto Racecourse between 2020 and 2022.

After being designated an international race in 1998, the race welcomed several foreign contestants, including Sahpresa (USA, by Sahm) who ran three consecutive years—third in 2009 and 2011, fourth in 2010—but none has taken part since 2012.

Defending champion **Serifos** commenced his autumn campaign with this race after a runner-up effort in the Yasuda Kinen (G1, 1,600m, Jun.4). **Elton Barows** extended his winning streak to four in the Mainichi Okan (G2, 1,800m, Oct.8) with 2021 NHK Mile Cup (G1, 1,600m) winner **Schnell Meister** in third and G3 winner **Justin Cafe** in seventh. **Namur** claimed her second graded title in the Fuji Stakes (G2, 1,600m, Oct.21), followed by G2 winner **Red Mon Reve** in second, two-time G3 victors **So Valiant** and **Elusive Panther** in third and fourth, respectively. The field also included **Soul Rush** who came off his second grade-race victory in the Keisei Hai Autumn Handicap (G3, 1,600m, Sep.10), last year's runner-up **Danon the Kid**, two-time overseas graded winner **Bathrat Leon**, and 2022 NHK Mile Cup champion **Danon Scorpion**.

THE 40TH MILE CHAMPIONSHIP (G1) – Japan Autumn International -

3-year-olds & up, 1,600 meters (about 8 furlongs), right-handed, turf

Sunday, November 19, 2023 Kyoto Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 388,800,000 (about US\$ 2,968,000 <US\$1=¥131>)

3-y-o: 57kg (about 126 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 58kg (about 128 lbs),

2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 1kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2020

Course Record: 1:31.3

Race Record: 1:31.5 [Danon Shark (JPN, by Deep Impact), 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	8	16	Namur (JPN) Kota Fujioka	F4 b. 56.0	17.3 (5)	1:32.5 (33.0)	Harbinger Sambre et Meuse (Daiwa Major)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Tomokazu Takano
2	1	1 B	Soul Rush (JPN) Joao Moreira	H5 d.b. 58.0	5.8 (3)	Neck (33.6)	Rulership Eternal Bouquet (Manhattan Cafe)	Tatsue Ishikawa Shimokobe Farm Yasutoshi Ikee
3	3	5	Justin Cafe (JPN) Ryusei Sakai	H5 b. 58.0	27.5 (7)	1/2 (33.6)	Epiphaneia Casino Boogie (Workforce)	Masahiro Miki Shadai Farm Shogo Yasuda
4	4	7	Elton Barows (JPN) Atsuya Nishimura	C3 b. 57.0	7.5 (4)	3/4 (33.9)	Deep Brillante Shonan Carat (Brian's Time)	Hirotsugu Inokuma Hirotsugu Inokuma Haruki Sugiyama
5	3	6	Danon the Kid (JPN) Yuichi Kitamura	H5 b. 58.0	24.9 (6)	Neck (33.5)	Just a Way Epic Love (Dansili)	Danox Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Takayuki Yasuda
6	8	15	Elusive Panther (JPN) Mirai Iwata	H5 d.b. 58.0	102.8 (11)	Neck (33.5)	Heart's Cry Elusive Cat (King Kamehameha)	Tsunefumi Kusama Oiwake Farm Takashi Kubota
7	5	9	Schnell Meister (GER) Christophe Lemaire	H5 b. 58.0	2.5 (1)	1/2 (33.4)	Kingman Serienholde (Soldier Hollow)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Takahisa Tezuka

8	6	11	Serifos (JPN) Yuga Kawada	C4 ch. 58.0	3.2 (2)	Nose (34.4)	Daiwa Major Sea Front (Le Havre)	G1 Racing Co., Ltd. Oiwake Farm Mitsumasa Nakauchida
9	6	12	Red Mon Reve (JPN) Kazuo Yokoyama	C4 b. 58.0	28.5 (8)	Neck (34.0)	Lord Kanaloa Last Groove (Deep Impact)	Tokyo Horse Racing Co., Ltd. Hidetoshi Yamamoto Masayoshi Ebina
10	2	4	Eeyan (JPN) Mirco Demuro	C3 d.b. 57.0	49.8 (10)	4 (35.1)	Silver State Silk Venus (Timber Country)	Nissin Holdings Co., Ltd. Yoshitake Abe Daishi Ito
11	1	2	Be Astonished (JPN) Ryuji Wada	C4 d.b. 58.0	299.8 (16)	3/4 (35.1)	American Patriot Mao Rio (Neo Universe)	Toru Muranaka Versailles Farm Yuzo Iida
12	4	8	So Valiant (JPN) Kenichi Ikezoe	H5 b. 58.0	38.1 (9)	Nose (35.4)	Orfevre So Magic (Symboli Kris S)	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Masahiro Otake
13	2	3	Danon Scorpion (JPN) Taisei Danno	C4 b. 58.0	191.8 (15)	1-1/4 (35.4)	Lord Kanaloa Lexie Lou (Sligo Bay)	Danox Co., Ltd. K. I. Farm Takayuki Yasuda
14	5	10	Matenro Orion (JPN) Norihiro Yokoyama	C4 d.b. 58.0	172.8 (13)	1 (35.8)	Daiwa Major Parthenon (King Kamehameha)	Chiyono Terada Murakami Farm Mitsugu Kon
15	7	14	Bathrat Leon (JPN) Katsuma Sameshima	H5 b. 58.0	177.8 (14)	2-1/2 (36.4)	Kizuna Bathrat Amal (New Approach)	Hiroo Race Co., Ltd. Mishima Bokujo Yoshito Yahagi
16	7	13	Selberg (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	C4 b. 58.0	153.5 (12)	1-1/4 (36.5)	Epiphaneia Enachan (Kinshasa no Kiseki)	Natsumi Kuwahata Natsumi Kuwahata Takashi Suzuki

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: ¥ 17,365,622,900

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 25,583,953,100

Attendance: 27,917

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.16	¥ 1,730	Bracket	Quinella	1-8	¥ 3,530	Quinella	1-16	¥ 4,440
Place	No.16	¥ 510	Quinella	Place	1-16	¥ 1,820	Exacta	16-1	¥ 10,490
	No.1	¥ 250			5-16	¥ 5,140	Trio	1-5-16	¥ 30,930
	No.5	¥ 590			1-5	¥ 1,780	Trifecta	16-1-5	¥ 176,490

Winner= 13 starts: 5 wins, 2 seconds & 1 third / Added & stakes money: ¥ 183,360,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 436,551,000

Namur Captures First G1 against Male Foes in Mile Championship

Fifth favorite **Namur** captured her long-awaited first G1 title in this year's Mile Championship, her eighth attempt at the highest level under last-minute replacement jockey Kota Fujioka who rode four-year-old filly in place of Ryan Moore who was due to ride but fell from his mount (race 2) and underwent a medical checkup. The Harbinger filly, after registering her first grade-race victory in the Tulip Sho (G1, 1,600m) as a three-year-old, was third in the following Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks, G1, 2,400m) and second in the Shuka Sho (G1, 2,000m). While under par in her two G1 starts this spring, in which she finished seventh and 16th, she kicked off her fall campaign with a G2 triumph in the Fuji Stakes (1,600m) on October 21, prior to the mile G1. Trainer Tomokazu Takano, whose most recent JRA-G1 victory was with Stunning Rose in last year's Shuka Sho, landed his fifth JRA-G1 with the win while jockey Kota Fujioka claimed his second JRA-G1 title after the 2009 NHK Mile Cup with Jo Cappuccino.

Breaking from the outermost gate, **Namur** bolted out of the gate under replaced jockey Kota Fujioka but was quickly under control and held back off the pace, two wide and positioned in front of **Schnell**

Meister near the rear. As the field began to close in on the leader approaching the final corner, **Namur** made headway together with the race favorite and came charging from behind with a terrific turn of speed along the outside path to mow down her rivals and in time to pin the leader right before the wire for a neck victory.

“(replacing Ryan Moore who fell earlier in the day) I’d seen how the filly raced before and was aware of her ability in addition to receiving advice and information from the trainer as well as J. Moreira who had ridden her in her last start, so I was positive going into the race and just concentrated on keeping her relaxed. The break didn’t go very smoothly but she was in good rhythm once settling into the race and responded well, so I knew we could get a good run as long as I did my job of getting her into a good spot at the straight—from there she really showed her strength,” commented Kota Fujioka after the race.

Third choice **Soul Rush** was rated in mid division, around 11th, just off the rails. The son of Rulership split horses and loomed into contention at early stretch, already assuming command at the 200-meter pole. The five-year-old maintained his lead while driven out then was caught just before the wire although holding off the fast-closing third-place finisher.

Seventh favorite **Justin Cafe** raced outside **Soul Rush** around 12th, parted with that foe as the son of Epiphaneia chose to go wider into the straight, losing some ground and slower to get into gear while showing equally good turn of foot to threaten the leader while outrun by the winner to finish a close third.

Race favorite **Schnell Meister**, despite showing calmness both in the paddock and in the post parade, was rank once inside the starting gate, standing on his hind twice then missed his break. Having to travel at the very rear early, the son of Kingman angled out passing the 800-meter pole to close the gap while still well behind entering the homestretch. Though driven to follow the winner who geared up for the stretch run in front of him, the five-year-old bay failed to respond and finished seventh.

Other Horses:

4th: (7) **Elton Barows**—positioned wide around 7th, showed effort while no match for top finishers

5th: (6) **Danon the Kid**—settled around 11th, quickened in last 200m after finding opening

6th: (15) **Elusive Panther**—sat in front of eventual winner, passed tired rivals at stretch

8th: (11) **Serifos**—gradually advanced to 3rd, accelerated to rally briefly for lead, weakened in last 150m

9th: (12) **Red Mon Reve**—ran wide around 9th, checked 200m out, lost momentum

10th: (4) **Eeyan**—raced around 6th, showed brief effort until 200m pole

11th: (2) **Be Astonished**—saved ground around 9th, never fired

12th: (8) **So Valiant**—tracked leaders wide around 3rd, ran gamely until 200m pole

13th: (3) **Danon Scorpion**—traveled around 6th, showed little at stretch

14th: (10) **Matenro Orion**—chased leaders in 3rd, remained in contention until 200m pole

15th: (14) **Bathrat Leon**—set pace from wide draw, faded after 300m out

16th: (13) **Selberg**—pressed leader 2nd, outrun in last 300m

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.5 - 10.5 - 11.3 - 12.2 - 11.7 - 11.6 - 11.5 - 11.2

Last 4 furlongs: 46.0 Last 3 furlongs: 34.3

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

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

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.