

# Exclusive Topics for JAPAN AUTUMN INTERNATIONAL 2023 - 4th Edition -



November 2023  
The Japan Racing Association

Japan's top dirt specialists are getting ready to launch their fall seasons with full-fledged preparations for the Champions Cup (G1, dirt, 1,800m) at Chukyo Racecourse on December 3.

Jun Light Bolt (JPN, H6, by King Kamehameha), last year's winner, retired from racing in late spring, but the 2022 Champions Cup runner-up **Crown Pride (JPN, C4, by Reach the Crown)** kicked off his four-year-old campaign in the Middle East, where he finished fifth in both the Saudi Cup (G1, dirt, 1,800m) and the Dubai World Cup (G1, dirt, 2,000m). He then returned to Japan and just missed by a nose in the Teio Sho (dirt, 2,000m) in June. Back overseas, this time to South Korea for the Korea Cup (G3, dirt, 1,800m) on



Crown Pride,  
winner of 2022 UAE Derby

September 10, he scored an overwhelming 10-length victory against fellow Japanese raider **Gloria Mundi (JPN, H5, by King Kamehameha)**. Both **Crown Pride** and **Gloria Mundi** will head directly to the Champions Cup. This year's Saudi Cup champion Panthalassa (JPN, H6, by Lord Kanaloa), who passed up a trip to the U.K. in order to recover from desmitis in his right foreleg, was initially planned to make his comeback in the Champions Cup but will return a week earlier in the Japan Cup.

February Stakes (G1, dirt, 1,600m) champion **Lemon Pop (USA, H5, by Lemon Drop Kid)** claimed the Mile Championship Nambu Hai (dirt, 1,600m) on October 9 in dominant fashion, winning wire-to-wire as he separated from the field by an astonishing 2.0-second margin. He will now step up in distance for the first time in the 1,800-meter Champions Cup. **Geoglyph (JPN, C4, by Drefong)**, winner of last year's Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1, 2,000m) and fourth in the Saudi Cup earlier in the season, but below par since then and coming off a ninth in the Mile Championship Nambu Hai, is hoped to bounce back in the Champions Cup.



Gloria Mundi,  
winner of 2023 Heian Stakes



Lemon Pop,  
winner of 2023 February Stakes



Geoglyph,  
winner of 2022 Satsuki Sho

King's Sword (JPN, C4, by Sinister Minister) was sent to post fourth favorite in the JBC Classic (dirt, 2,000m) on November 3 and scored his third consecutive victory by an impressive four lengths, ahead of 2022 Japan Dirt Derby (dirt, 2,000m) winner **Notturmo (JPN, C4, by Heart's Cry)**, defending champion and 2021 Best Dirt Horse **T O Keynes (JPN, H6, by Sinister Minister)**, and back-to-back Teio Sho victor **Meisho Hario (JPN, H6, by Pyro)** in second, third and fourth, respectively. The Sinister Minister colt will aim for his first international G1 next in the Tokyo Daishoten (G1, dirt, 2,000m) on December 29. Meanwhile, **T O Keynes, Meisho Hario, Notturmo** and three-time NAR graded winner **Wilson Tesoro (JPN, C4, by Kitanasan Black)**, who also finished fifth in the JBC Classic, will head for the Champions Cup. The JRA dirt G1 will also include **Icon Tailor (JPN, M5, by Duramente)**, who captured the JBC Ladies' Classic (dirt, 1,800m) title as race favorite on the same day as the JBC Classic. The Duramente mare, who claimed the major NAR dirt title in only her third run after switching from turf, is hoped to become the first female to win the Champions Cup since Sambista in 2015.



Notturmo,  
winner of 2022 Japan Dirt Derby



T O Keynes,  
winner of 2021 Champions Cup



Meisho Hario,  
winner of 2022 Teio Sho

The Miyako Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,800m) on November 5, one of the Champions Cup trials, was won by **Seraphic Call (JPN, C3, by Henny Hughes)**, the first three-year-old colt winner and undefeated in five starts since his debut in February. Dry Stout (JPN, C4, by Sinister Minister) notched his third grade-race victory in the Musashino Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,600m), another trial held on November 11, but his connections decided against starting him in the Champions Cup and instead will give the colt plenty of rest to prepare for his five-year-old campaign.

This year's Champions Cup field will also include **Hagino Alegrias (JPN, H6, by Kizuna)**, winner of the Sirius Stakes (G3, dirt, 2,000m) on September 30 and **Dura Erede (JPN, C3, by Duramente)**,

victor of the 2022 Hopeful Stakes (G1, 2,000m) and runner-up in the 2023 UAE Derby (G2, dirt, 1,900m).



Seraphic Call,  
winner of 2023 Miyako Stakes



Hagino Alegrias,  
winner of 2023 Sirius Stakes



Dura Erede,  
winner of 2022 Hopeful Stakes

Meanwhile, fourteen Japanese horses are slated to race in the Hong Kong International Races on December 10. Aiming to become the seventh Japanese winner following Loves Only You (2021) in the Hong Kong Cup are:

- **Hishi Iguazu (JPN, H7, by Heart's Cry)**, runner-up in the 2021 edition of this race, who is hoped to bounce back from a ninth-place finish in the Tenno Sho (Autumn) (G1, 2,000m) on October 29.
- **Prognosis (JPN, H5, by Deep Impact)**, runner-up in the Hong Kong's Queen Elizabeth II Cup (G1, 2,000m) in April and coming off a third in the Tenno Sho (Autumn).
- **Rousham Park (JPN, C4, by Harbinger)**, who registered back-to-back graded victories in the Hakodate Kinen (G3, 2,000m) in July and the All Comers (G2, 2,200m) in September.



Hishi Iguazu,  
winner of 2023 Nakayama Kinen



Prognosis,  
winner of 2023 Sapporo Kinen



Rousham Park,  
winner of 2023 All Comers

Scheduled to race in the Hong Kong Mile (G1, 1,600m) and hoping to follow in the footsteps of Admire Mars, the last (2019) of four Japanese winners, are:

- **Danon the Kid (JPN, H5, by Just a Way)**, runner-up in last year's Hong Kong Cup who finished fifth in his first autumn start in the Mile Championship (G1, 1,600m) on November 19.
- **Divina (JPN, M5, by Maurice)**, victor of the Fuchu Himba Stakes who is coming off a seventh in the Queen Elizabeth II Cup (G1, 2,200m) on November 12.
- **Namur (JPN, F4, by Harbinger)**, who captured her long-awaited first G1 title in the Mile Championship, her eighth attempt at the highest level.





Danon the Kid,  
winner of 2020 Hopeful Stakes



Divina,  
winner of 2023 Fuchu Himba Stakes



Namur,  
winner of 2023 Mile Championship

- **Serifos (JPN, C4, by Daiwa Major)**, who was aiming to defend his title in the Mile Championship but finished eighth.
- **Soul Rush (JPN, H5, by Rulership)**, two-time graded winner who was a neck second in the Mile Championship.



Serifos,  
winner of 2022 Mile Championship



Soul Rush, winner of  
2023 Keisei Hai Autumn Handicap



Jasper Krone,  
winner of 2023 Kitakyushu Kinen

Bidding to bring home another Japanese victory in the Hong Kong Sprint (G1, 1,200m) after Lord Kanaloa (2012-13) and Danon Smash (2020) are:

- **Jasper Krone (USA, C4, by Frosted)**, winner of the CBC Sho (G3, 1,200m) in July and the Kitakyushu Kinen (G3, 1,200m) in August, but 12th in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1, 1,000m) on November 4.
- **Mad Cool (IRE, C4, by Dark Angel)**, who is coming off a runner-up effort in his first G1 attempt in the Sprinters Stakes (G1, 1,200m) on October 1.

The Hong Kong Vase (G1, 1,200m) will be challenged by four Japanese runners hoping to repeat the victories by Glory Vase in 2021 and Win Marilyn last year:

- **Geraldina (JPN, M5, by Maurice)**, winner of the 2022 Queen Elizabeth II Cup but fifth this year.
- **Lebensstil (JPN, C3, by Real Steel)**, who claimed his first grade-race title in his previous start, the St. Lite Kinen (G2, 2,200m) on September 18.
- **Shahryar (JPN, H5, by Deep Impact)**, a two-time G1 winner who is coming off a third in the Breeders' Cup Turf (G1, 2,400m) on November 4.



Geraldina,  
winner of 2022 Queen Elizabeth II Cup

- **Zeffiro (JPN, C4, by Deep Impact)**, winner of the Copa Republica Argentina (G2, 2,500m) on November 5.



Lebensstil,  
winner of 2023 St. Lite Kinen



Shahryar,  
winner of 2021 Tokyo Yushun



Zeffiro, winner of  
2023 Copa Republica Argentina