

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 146TH NAKAYAMA DAISHOGAI (J-G1)

The history of the Nakayama Daishogai dates back to 1934 when the biggest jump race in Japan was established in the aim of providing equal excitement to the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby), which was the most popular race in flat racing. The highest level of steeplechase racing was originally held as a biannual event held in April and December until the spring version was renamed the Nakayama Grand Jump (J-G1, 4,250m) in 1999. The two jump races continue to be the only two J-G1-level obstacle races of equal standard with their results serving as decisive factors in the selection of the seasonal JRA Award for Best Steeplechase Horse. In addition to the Nakayama Grand Jump, which was designated an international race in 2000, the Nakayama Daishogai became an international steeplechase event open to foreign contenders in 2011.

The Nakayama Daishogai features 11 jumps over the figure-of-eight-shaped course which includes six up-and-downs over the banks. The first half resembles that of the Nakayama Grand Jump while the Nakayama Daishogai does not include the movable hurdles along the outside turf track and the total distance is 150 meters shorter. The uphill stretch before the wire also is quite a test for many of the runners especially after running at a solid pace throughout the race.

Defending champion **Nishino Daisy** began his autumn campaign with an 11th in the Tokyo High-Jump (J-G2, 3,110m, Oct.15) held on yielding going, in which **Meiner Grand** extended his winning streak to three by marking his first graded title, and was followed by the Tokyo Jump Stakes (J-G3, 3,110m, Jun.24) and the Hanshin Jump Stakes (J-G3, 3,140m, Sep.16) victor **June Velocity** in fourth. **Ecoro Duel** won his first jump graded title in the Kyoto Jump Stakes (J-G3, 3,170m, Nov.11) where **Daishin Clover**, winner of the Kyoto High-Jump (J-G2, 3,930m, May.13), and **Meiner Leone**, last year's third-place finisher, finished fourth and sixth, respectively. The field also included **Village Eagle**, back-to-back winner of the Pegasus Jump Stakes (Open Class, 3,350m).

THE 146TH NAKAYAMA DAISHOGAI (J-G1)

3-year-olds & up, 4,100 meters (about 2.56 miles), turf

Saturday, December 23, 2023 Nakayama Racecourse 10th Race Post time: 15:05

Total prize money: ¥ 142,660,000 (about US\$ 1,089,008 <US\$1=¥131>)

3-y-o: 61kg (about 134-135 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 63kg (about 139 lbs), 2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares

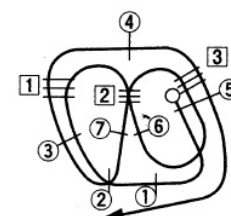
Course Record: 4:36.1

Race Record: 4:36.1 [Oju Chosan (JPN, by Stay Gold), 2017]

Safety factor: 16 runners

Going: Good to Firm

Weather: Fine



FP	BK	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	3	3	Meiner Grand (JPN) Shinichi Ishigami	H5 br. 63.0	2.0 (1)	4:37.9	Gold Ship Meine Nouvelle (Brian's Time)	Thoroughbred Club Ruffian Co., Ltd. Big Red Farm Takafumi Aoki
2	7	9	Nishino Daisy (JPN) Yusuke Igarashi	H7 b. 63.0	6.6 (3)	10	Harbinger Nishino Hinagiku (Agnes Tachyon)	Shigeyuki Nishiyama Nishiyama Stud Noboru Takagi
3	1	1	Ecoro Duel (JPN) Taro Kusano	C4 br. 63.0	9.6 (4)	6	Kitsan Black Clarinet (Giant's Causeway)	Masatoshi Haramura Shimokobe Farm Takaki Iwato
4	2	2	Village Eagle (JPN) Kei Oehara	H6 d.b. 63.0	13.9 (6)	5	Behkabad Tokino Nastia (New England)	Teruo Murayama Kawashima Bokujo Masahiro Takeuchi
5	4	4	June Velocity (JPN) Makoto Nishitani	H5 br. 63.0	4.1 (2)	3	Lord Kanaloa Admire Sabrina (Symboli Kris S)	Jun Yoshikawa Yoshikawa Holdings Hidenori Take
6	5	5	Daishin Clover (JPN) Jun Takada	G7 d.b. 63.0	12.5 (5)	2-1/2	Kinshasa no Kiseki Hishi Diva (Fusaichi Pegasus)	Nobuyuki Oyagi Kamii Stud Takayuki Yasuda

7	8	11	Meiner Leone (JPN) Kenji Hirasawa	H11 d.b. 63.0	19.2 (7)	2-1/2	Stay Gold Wembley (Soccer Boy)	Thoroughbred Club Ruffian Co., Ltd. Takashi Watanabe Hisashi Shimizu
8	6	7	Neviim (JPN) Kayata Komaki	H5 d.b. 63.0	27.1 (8)	1-1/2	Kizuna Velvet Queen (Singspiel)	Koki Maeda Hidenori Kimura Shozo Sasaki
9	5	6 B	Giga Bakken (JPN) Sho Ueno	G8 b. 63.0	188.9 (12)	6	I'll Have Another Windy Hill (Manhattan Cafe)	Normandy Thoroughbred Racing Co., Ltd. Okada Stud Takaki Iwato
10	6	8	Yep Yep Yep (JPN) Yusuke Eda	H7 ch. 63.0	131.3 (9)	4	King Kamehameha Mejiro Marian (Mejiro Bailey)	Hiroyuki Sonobe Lake Villa Farm Yoshitada Munakata
11	8	12 B	Heart's Symphony (JPN) Yasunori Minoshima	G6 br. 63.0	167.5 (11)	3-1/2	Heart's Cry Clarinet (Giant's Causeway)	DMM Dream Club Co., Ltd. Shimokobe Farm Tetsuhide Tsuji
12	7	10	Meiner Wasser (JPN) Yuta Onodera	H10 b. 63.0	142.9 (10)	3-1/2	Stay Gold Cosmo Splash (Mejiro Bright)	Thoroughbred Club Ruffian Co., Ltd. Big Red Farm Minoru Tsuchida

FP: Final Position / BK: Bracket Number / PP: Post Position / B: Blinker / S&A: Sex & Age / Wgt: Weight (kg) / DS=Distance / FF=Fail to Finish
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: ¥ 2,005,062,300

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 12,109,458,700

Attendance: 26,569

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.3	¥ 200	Bracket Quinella	3-7	¥ 790	Quinella	3-9	¥ 780
Place	No.3	¥ 120	Quinella Place	3-9	¥ 370	Exacta	3-9	¥ 1,090
	No.9	¥ 200		1-3	¥ 390	Trio	1-3-9	¥ 2,160
	No.1	¥ 230		1-9	¥ 970	Trifecta	3-9-1	¥ 5,590

Winner= 21 starts: 5 wins, 6 seconds & 2 thirds (10 starts: 5 wins, 2 seconds & 1 third *steeplechases only)

Added & stakes money: ¥ 66,427,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 168,071,000 (¥ 157,231,000 *steeplechases only)

Race favorite Meiner Grand Dominates Nakayama Daishogai

Heavily favored **Meiner Grand** claimed this year's Nakayama Daishogai by an emphatic ten-length margin, stretching his winning streak to four. The son of Gold Ship was winless in all 11 flat-race starts from his debut in September as a two-year-old and was then switched to steeplechase races in December of his three-year-old campaign. His first win came in his third steeplechase start, his second win was notched in March this year and, after adding another win the following month, **Meiner Grand**, who was sent off eighth pick, claimed his first graded victory in the Tokyo High-Jump (J-G2, 3,110m) on October 15. The five-year-old gave his trainer Takafumi Aoki his second grade-race title, his first J-G1, while jockey Shinichi Ishigami pocketed his 11th J-G1 trophy and fifth Nakayama Daishogai title—2016, 2017 and 2021 with Oju Chosan, and 2018 with Nihonpiro Baron.

The field of 12 broke with **June Velocity** taking a brief lead soon to be overtaken by **Village Eagle** by the second fence (water jump, no.1) while **Meiner Grand** saved ground in mid-pack. As **Village Eagle** and **Nishino Daisy** rallied for the lead five to six lengths up front, the son of Gold Ship advanced to third on the rails after the fifth fence (grand brush fence, no.6), made headway in the backstretch to catch **Village Eagle** at the 10th obstacle (no.4), and easily pinned the leader **Nishino Daisy** before the last dip. Showing no signs of fatigue, **Meiner Grand** entered the straight three to four lengths up front and easily stretched his lead to notch a ten-length victory.

“I had a lot of confidence in my horse—he proved his true strength today. Making bid in the backstretch might have been a bit early but the horse was so eager to go, he even had a lot left in him in the stretch. He is still a five-year-old and has so much potential—I hope his incredible stamina and explosive power he takes after his sire keeps him in the spotlight next year,” commented jockey Shinichi Ishigami after the race.

Third pick **Nishino Daisy** took a wide trip from a mid-pack position to come out of the first dip a few lengths from the pace in second, advanced to rally with **Village Eagle** while clearing the sixth obstacle (no.5) and took command before the seventh jump (grand hedge, no.7). Soon after the tenth obstacle (no.4), the defending champion was caught by the eventual winner and although unable to threaten from there, showed tenacity to draw away for second.

Fourth choice **Ecoro Duel** settled in around fifth early, briefly dropped position to seventh but steadily advanced to fourth by the tenth obstacle (no.4) and overtook the tiring **Village Eagle** in the final furlong but had too much ground to make up and finished 16 lengths from the winner and six lengths from the runner-up in third.

Other Horses:

4th: (2) **Village Eagle**—broke poorly, took command before 2nd jump (no.1), joined by eventual winner at 5th jump (no.6) and surrendered lead, passed by winner at 10th jump (no.4), failed to secure 3rd place in last 200m

5th: (4) **June Velocity**—led early, eased back to 3rd, overtaken by winner after 5th jump (no.6) then by third-place finisher before 10th jump (no.4)

6th: (5) **Daishin Clover**—traveled around 8th, passed rivals after 9th jump (no.3), failed to keep up with frontrunners

7th: (11) **Meiner Leone**—sat in 10-11th, gradually improved position while never threaten

8th: (7) **Neviim**—ran around 8th, unable to reach contention

9th: (6) **Giga Bakken**—positioned around 7th, weakened after 10th jump (no.4)

10th: (8) **Yep Yep Yep**—raced in 10th, showed little

11th: (12) **Heart's Symphony**—trailed in rear throughout trip, no factor

12th: (10) **Meiner Wasser**—traveled around 9th, advanced to 6th after 6th jump (no.5), faded at stretch

Fractional time: Last 1 mile: 1:48.0 Last 4 furlongs: 53.1 Last 3 furlongs: 39.8

Positions at each corner (2nd lap): 1st corner 9-2-3=4-1-10-6-5-7,8,11-12
2nd corner 9-2-3=4,1=10-6,5-7-11,8-12
3rd corner 3-(9,2)=1=4-(5,10)=(6,7)11,8=12
4th corner 3=9-2=1=4-5=10-11,7-8,6=12

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.