

SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 41ST FEBRUARY STAKES (G1)

Japanese horse racing, which is influenced by British racing, is held mainly on turf. However, dirt tracks that were popular in the U.S., quickly became widely used around the country since the Tokyo Racecourse implemented a new dirt track in 1960. While the mainstream of major JRA races remained over turf, the February Stakes (then called February Handicap), which was established in 1984 in conjunction with the new grading system, was one of just three graded dirt races at the time—the current number of graded dirt events is 15. The race was upgraded to G2 in 1994 and then to G1 in 1997, and stood as the highest-prized event until the Japan Cup Dirt (called the Champions Cup from 2014) took over in 2000. The race also joined the Breeders' Cup Challenge Series in 2016, enabling its winners to earn automatic starting position in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1, dirt, 2,000m).

Past winners include Wing Arrow (JPN, by Assatis; '00), Agnes Digital (USA, by Crafty Prospector; '02), Gold Allure (JPN, by Sunday Silence; '03), Admire Don (JPN, by Timber Country; '04), Kane Hekili (JPN, by Fuji Kiseki; '06), Vermilion (JPN, by El Condor Pasa; '08), Espoir City (JPN, by Gold Allure; '10), Transcend (JPN, by Wild Rush; '11), Copano Rickey (JPN, by Gold Allure; '14&'15), Gold Dream (JPN, by Gold Allure; '17), Cafe Pharoah (USA, by American Pharoah; '21&'22) and Lemon Pop (USA, by Lemon Drop Kid; '23)—all twelve are winners of multiple-G1 races as well as JRA Award winners.

Last year's edition welcomed the first foreign participant in the race's history, Shirl's Speight (USA, by Speightstown) from North America, who finished ninth.

Although defending champion Lemon Pop was pointed towards the Saudi Cup (G1, dirt, 1,800m) to be held a week later instead, this year's lineup included proven dirt specialists such as **Omega Guinness** who came off a second in the trial Tokai Stakes (G2, dirt, 1,800m), marking 3-2-0 out of all his five career starts, as well as last year's Champions Cup (G1, dirt, 1,800m) runner-up **Wilson Tesoro**, 2022 Hopeful Stakes (G1, 2,000m) winner **Dura Erede** and 2023 JBC Classic (dirt, 2,000m) champion **King's Sword** who finished second, third and fifth, respectively, in the year-end Tokyo Daishoten (G1, dirt, 2,000m, Dec.29). The field also included two-time graded victor **Don Frankie**; last year's runner-up **Red le Zel**; 2022 St. Lite Kinen (G2, 2,200m) victor **Gaia Force** who ran over dirt for the first time in this race; 2023 Kashiwa Kinen (dirt, 1,600m) runner-up **Tagano Beauty**; and three contenders from the NAR—**Igniter**, **Mick Fire** and **Speedy Kick**.

THE 41ST FEBRUARY STAKES (G1)

4-year-olds & up, 1,600 meters (about 8 furlongs), dirt, left-handed

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Tokyo Racecourse

11th Race

Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 259,200,000 (about US\$ 1,839,000 <US\$1=¥141>)

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

1 kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2020

Course Record: 1:33.5

Race Record: 1:33.8 [Cafe Pharoah (USA, by American Pharoah), 2022]

Safety factor: 16 runners

Going: Standard

Weather: Fine



FP	BK	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin (L3F)	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	5	9 B	Peptide Nile (JPN) Yusuke Fujioka	H6 b. 58.0	38.0 (11)	1:35.7 (37.5)	King Kamehameha Queen Olive (Manhattan Cafe)	Kazuhiko Numakawa Kineusu Bokujo Hidenori Take
2	4	7	Gaia Force (JPN) Yoshihito Nagaoka	H5 g. 58.0	13.0 (5)	1-1/4 (37.2)	Kitasan Black Natale (Kurofune)	KR Japan Oiwake Farm Haruki Sugiyama
3	4	8	Sekifu (JPN) Yutaka Take	H5 ch. 58.0	48.2 (13)	Neck (36.4)	Henny Hughes Siyabona (Kingmambo)	Akira Nakatsuji Bamboo Stud Koshiro Take
4	5	10 B	Tagano Beauty (JPN) Shu Ishibashi	H7 b.	17.1 (7)	Nose (37.0)	Henny Hughes Special Dinner	Ryoji Yagi Ryoji Yagi

				58.0			(Special Week)	Masato Nishizono
5	6	11	King's Sword (JPN) Mirai Iwata	H5 b. 58.0	9.4 (4)	1/2 (37.0)	Sinister Minister Kings Berry (King Halo)	Hidaka Breeders Union Co., Ltd. Nisshin Farm Ryo Terashima
6	7	13	Red le Zele (JPN) Yuichi Kitamura	H8 b. 58.0	13.5 (6)	3 (36.9)	Lord Kanaloa French Noir (French Deputy)	Tokyo Horse Racing Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Takayuki Yasuda
7	2	3	Mick Fire (JPN) Takayuki Yano	C4 b. 58.0	34.4 (9)	Nose (37.6)	Sinister Minister Mariage (Brian's Time)	Koichi Hoshika Kazuyoshi Yamagami Kazuo Watanabe
8	7	14	Wilson Tesoro (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	H5 b. 58.0	3.9 (2)	Head (38.5)	Kitasan Black Chesutoke Rose (Uncle Mo)	Ryotokuji Kenji Holdings Co., Ltd. Ryoken Farm Hitoshi Kotegawa
9	8	15	Don Frankie (JPN) Kenichi Ikezoe	H5 ch. 58.0	36.0 (10)	Head (38.7)	Daiwa Major Weemissfrankie (Sunriver)	Makoto Hayano Northern Racing Takashi Saito
10	8	16	Alpha Mom (JPN) Rachel King	M5 b. 56.0	41.7 (12)	3/4 (37.0)	Majestic Warrior Diopside (Fuji Kiseki)	Yu Hirai Kanaishi Stud Shozo Sasaki
11	1	1	Igniter (JPN) Atsuya Nishimura	H6 b. 58.0	34.1 (8)	Neck (38.6)	Espoir City Bianco (Warning)	Yoshiki Noda Haruki Farm Masashi Atarashi
12	2	4	Dura Erede (JPN) Bauyrzhan Murzabayev	C4 d.b. 58.0	5.5 (3)	Neck (38.5)	Duramente Marchesa (Orfevre)	Three H Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Manabu Ikezoe
13	6	12	Speedy Kick (JPN) Norifumi Mikamoto	M5 ch. 56.0	107.0 (15)	5 (38.9)	Taisei Legend Desert Flower (Silent Deal)	Suzuyuki Kato Suzuyuki Kato Tomoyuki Fujihara
14	3	5	Omega Guinness (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	C4 ch. 58.0	3.2 (1)	1-3/4 (39.5)	Logotype Start Up (Harbinger)	Reiko Hara Shadai Farm Naru Owada
15	3	6	Karate (JPN) Akira Sugawara	H8 d.b. 58.0	122.1 (16)	2 (39.2)	To the Glory Lady no Punch (French Deputy)	Hikaru Odagiri Yuichi Odagiri Yasuyuki Tsujino
16	1	2	Champagne Color (JPN) Hiroyuki Uchida	C4 ch. 58.0	61.3 (14)	1/2 (40.0)	Duramente Memorial Life (Reckless Abandon)	Yoichi Aoyama Yoichi Aoyama Tsuyoshi Tanaka

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: ¥ 16,594,747,000 Turnover for the Day: ¥ 27,588,163,900 Attendance: 48,432

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.9	¥ 3,800	Bracket Quinella	4-5	¥ 6,140	Quinella	7-9	¥ 27,850	
Place	No.9	¥ 850		Quinella Place	7-9	¥ 5,500	Exacta	9-7	¥ 62,030
	No.7	¥ 510			8-9	¥ 11,050	Trio	7-8-9	¥ 197,060
	No.8	¥ 1,030			7-8	¥ 4,820	Trifecta	9-7-8	¥ 1,530,500

Winner= 20 starts: 8 wins, 1 second & 1 third / Added & stakes money: ¥ 123,612,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 262,596,000

Eleventh Pick Peptide Nile Upsets in Dirt G1 February Stakes

Lightly regarded **Peptide Nile** turned in an astonishing performance in claiming his first G1 title in this year's February Stakes. After debuting in January as a three-year-old, the son of King Kamehameha was transferred to dirt racing from his third start and immediately showed potential with a three-race winning streak, but was only able to claim a win in his four-year-old campaign. Last season, including the Onuma Stakes (Listed, dirt, 1,700m) and the Betelgeuse Stakes (Listed, dirt, 1,800m), the bay landed three wins and had just come off a sixth in his latest outing, this year's Tokai Stakes (G2, dirt, 1,800m) on January

