

SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 85TH YUSHUN HIMBA (JAPANESE OAKS, G1)

The Japanese version of the prestigious British Oaks, the Yushun Himba was established in 1938 and contested among runners limited to home-bred three-year-old fillies. Initially called the “Hanshin Yushun Himba” and held during the fall season at Hanshin Racecourse, the race acquired its current status as the Japanese Oaks upon changing its venue to Tokyo Racecourse in 1946. The race was also shifted to the spring season, being the richest in prize money and longest in distance among the current JRA races limited to fillies/mares. The Yushun Himba opened its door to foreign-bred runners in 2003 and acquired international G1 status in 2010.

While the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas, G1, 1,600m) serves in gauging the speed potentials in the future broodmares, the Yushun Himba is a championship race in which to discover the added quality of stamina as well as speed, and winners of this race are highly rated as broodmares upon retirement to stud. Recent winners included fillies/mares that became high profile G1 winners. Last year’s winner Liberty Island (JPN, by Duramente) went on to capture the Shuka Sho (G1, 2,000m) that autumn to become the seventh filly to capture the fillies’ Triple Crown title.

The top five finishers of the Oka Sho (Apr.7) that were automatically eligible for the Oaks were: **Stellenbosch**, Ascoli Piceno (JPN, by Daiwa Major), **Light Back**, **Sweep Feet** and Etes Vous Prets (IRE, by Too Darn Hot) in that order, however, Ascoli Piceno headed to the NHK Mile Cup (G1, 1,600m, May.5), finishing second, while Etes Vous Prets will look to a shorter distance as well and race in the Aoi Stakes (G3, 1,200m, May.25) instead. Proven grade-race winners that also ran in the Oka Sho, **Queen’s Walk** (8th) and **Cervinia** (13th), hoped to improve on their performances in the 2,400-meter classic. Those who earned their tickets by faring well in Oaks trials were **Admire Belle** and **Lavanda**, top two finishers in the Flora Stakes (G2, 2,000m, Apr.21), as well as the Sweet Pea Stakes (Listed, 1,800m, Apr.28) winner **Koganeno Sora**. The field also included **Mi Anhelito** and **Tagano Elpida**, respective victors of the Flower Cup (G3, 1,800m, Mar.16) and the Wasurenagusa Sho (Listed, 2,000m, Apr.7).

THE 85TH YUSHUN HIMBA (JAPANESE OAKS, G1)

3-year-olds, Fillies, 2,400 meters (about 12 furlongs), turf, left-handed

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Tokyo Racecourse

11th Race

Post Time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 325,000,000 (about US\$ 2,305,000 <US\$1=¥141>)

3-y-o: 55 kg (about 121 lbs), 3 kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2021

Course Record: 2:20.6

Race Record: 2:22.8 [Loves Only You (JPN, by Deep Impact), 2019]

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	6	12	Cervinia (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	F3 b. 55.0	4.6 (2)	2:24.0 (34.0)	Harbinger Cecchino (King Kamehameha)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Tetsuya Kimura
2	4	7	Stellenbosch (JPN) Keita Tosaki	F3 b. 55.0	2.3 (1)	1/2 (34.0)	Epiphaneia Bloukrans (Rulership)	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Farm Sakae Kunieda
3	7	14	Light Back (JPN) Ryusei Sakai	F3 d.b. 55.0	7.9 (3)	1-3/4 (34.1)	Kizuna In The Spotlight (Exceed And Excel)	Kazuhiro Masuda Lake Villa Farm Taiki Chaki
4	1	2	Queen's Walk (JPN) Yuga Kawada	F3 d.b. 55.0	11.5 (5)	Neck (34.7)	Kizuna Wavell Avenue (Harlington)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Mitsumasa Nakauchida
5	8	18	Lance of Queen (JPN) Kazuo Yokoyama	F3 d.b. 55.0	107.9 (14)	Nose (34.9)	Talismanic My Puraana (Manhattan Cafe)	Yoshinori Itsukage Fujiwara Farm Yutaka Okumura
6	7	13	Sweep Feet (JPN) Yutaka Take	F3 ch. 55.0	10.3 (4)	1-1/2 (34.5)	Suave Richard Bijou Toshio (Deep Sky)	YGG Horse Club Co., Ltd. Seishindai Stud Ranch Yasushi Shono
7	3	6	Sunset View (JPN) Kosei Miura	F3 b. 55.0	157.2 (15)	3/4 (34.4)	Duramente Go in to the Window (Tapit)	Takahiro Iida Chiyoda Farm Shizunai Koichi Shintani

8	2	3	Ethelfleda (JPN) Miyabi Muto	F3 b. 55.0	78.0 (11)	1-1/4 (34.5)	Kitasan Black Derma Ogin (Harbinger)	Fumio Takahashi Shadai Farm Yoshinori Muto
9	5	10	Admire Belle (JPN) Takeshi Yokoyama	F3 ch. 55.0	21.1 (8)	Neck (35.1)	Suave Richard Belle Allure (Numerous)	Junko Kondo Northern Farm Yukihiro Kato
10	4	8	Hohelied (JPN) Yusuke Hara	F3 b. 55.0	100.4 (13)	Neck (35.2)	Rulership Golden Harp (Stay Gold)	Haruya Yoshida Oiwake Farm Toshiaki Tajima
11	5	9	Lavanda (JPN) Mirai Iwata	F3 d.b. 55.0	86.2 (12)	Neck (35.2)	Silver State God Pirates (Behkabad)	Satoshi Morinaga Satoshi Morinaga Naoya Nakamura
12	3	5	Koganeno Sora (JPN) Yukito Ishikawa	F3 g. 55.0	19.0 (7)	3/4 (35.0)	Gold Ship Meine Himmel (Roses in May)	Big Red Farm Big Red Farm Takanori Kikuzawa
13	7	15	Safira (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	F3 d.b. 55.0	56.6 (10)	3/4 (35.5)	Heart's Cry Salomina (Lomitas)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Manabu Ikezoe
14	1	1	Mi Anhelu (JPN) Akihide Tsumura	F3 b. 55.0	25.2 (9)	Nose (35.3)	Duramente Mi Sueno (Pulpit)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Toru Hayashi
15	2	4	Pareja (JPN) Hironobu Tanabe	F3 br. 55.0	215.8 (17)	Head (34.9)	Satono Crown Alma Mia (Deep Impact)	Tadahiko Nakamura North Hills Co., Ltd. Koichi Shintani
16	8	17	Tagano Elpida (JPN) Mirco Demuro	F3 d.b. 55.0	12.9 (6)	3 (36.1)	Kizuna Tagano Reventon (King Kamehameha)	Ryoji Yagi Ryoji Yagi Takashi Saito
17	8	16	Shonan Manuela (JPN) Yasunari Iwata	F3 d.b. 55.0	216.3 (18)	DS (41.3)	Just a Way Diagonal Cloth (Symboli Kris S)	Tetsuhide Kunimoto Tetsuhide Kunimoto Tomokazu Takano
18	6	11	Windstille (JPN) Hiroshi Kitamura	F3 b. 55.0	185.9 (16)	DS (44.9)	Maurice Pure Brise (Monsun)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Masaaki Koga

FP: Final Position / BK: Bracket Number / PP: Post Position / S&A: Sex & Age / Wgt: Weight (kg) / L3F: Time of Last 3 Furlongs (600m) / DS: Distance

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: ¥ 18,544,620,300

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 28,162,012,400

Attendance: 42,875

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.12	¥ 460	Bracket Quinella	4-6	¥ 640	Quinella	7-12	¥ 590
Place	No.12	¥ 140	Quinella Place	7-12	¥ 260	Exacta	12-7	¥ 1,300
	No.7	¥ 110		12-14	¥ 760	Trio	7-12-14	¥ 1,690
	No.14	¥ 190		7-14	¥ 380	Trifecta	12-7-14	¥ 8,060

Winner= 5 starts: 3 wins & 1 second / Added & stakes money: ¥ 177,433,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 215,190,000

Cervinia Claims Yushun Himba, Second Jewel of Fillies' Triple Crown

Second favorite **Cervinia** bounced back from her 13th-place heavy defeat in the Oka Sho to display an impressive closing drive, tagging Oka Sho victor **Stellenbosch** right before the wire to win this year's Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks). Foaled out of 2016 Yushun Himba runner-up Cecchino, **Cervinia** debuted in June (Tokyo, 1,600m) as a two-year-old and broke her maiden in her next start in August (Niigata, 1,800m) before registering her first graded title in the Artemis Stakes (G3, 1,600m) two months later. Withdrawn from the Hanshin Juvenile Fillies in December due to a minor problem in her hind leg, she commenced the current season in the Oka Sho on April 7. The latest JRA-G1 victory for both trainer Tetsuya Kimura and jockey Christophe Lemaire was in the 2023 Hopeful Stakes with Regaleira, and now Kimura has nine JRA-G1 titles under his name while Lemaire has 51. As for Lemaire, this is his fourth

Yushun Himba triumph following Soul Stirring (2017), Almond Eye (2018) and Stars on Earth (2022) which marks the most by a currently active jockey.

Breaking from stall 12, **Cervinia** was unhurried out of the gate and settled in mid-field right beside the race favorite while **Windstille** took a sole journey way up front setting a rapid pace. Hitting the final turn, the field fanned out in a wide row, overtaking the tired pacesetter in early stretch while **Cervinia** was seen taking a clear outer route. Once the field climbed up the hill, the Harbinger filly briefly rallied with rivals near the 200-meter marker but found another gear in the last 100 meters to dig in and overtake **Stellenbosch** in a half-length victory.

“I’m back,” said jockey Christophe Lemaire in a post-race interview. “It’s a wonderful feeling. The filly didn’t do well in the Oka Sho but I know how high her potential is and was very confident today. I tried not to let her make an early bid—let her find her stride after turning into the straight—and she just stretched beautifully from there.”

Sent off well backed as first choice, **Stellenbosch** was unhurried out of the gate and traveled in around ninth. The Oka Sho winner found herself briefly in traffic in early stretch but once finding a clear path, displayed her good turn of foot to take command 300 meters out, and although it was found later on that she had lost a shoe, the Epiphaneia filly held on well but was caught by the fast-closing **Cervinia** in the final strides for second place.

Posted third pick, **Light Back** was settled in 15th before turning wide in the last two corners behind the winner. Once finding a narrow opening around 350 meters out, the Oka Sho third-place runner launched the third fastest late drive and although unable to catch the top two finishers, won a three-horse rally to secure third place by a neck.

Other Horses:

4th: (2) **Queen’s Walk**—settled around 5th, rallied for lead after 400m pole, missed 3rd place in final strides after overtaken by top 2 finishers

5th: (18) **Lance of Queen**—prominent around 3rd, inherited lead after final corner, showed tenacity

6th: (13) **Sweep Feet**—trailed in rear, turned wide, showed effort but had too much ground to make up

7th: (6) **Sunset View**—raced near rear, circled wide, showed belated charge

8th: (3) **Ethelfleda**—hugged rails around 13th, passed tired rivals, needed more

9th: (10) **Admire Belle**—traveled wide around 7th, drifted 300m out, even paced thereafter

10th: (8) **Hohelied**—ran near rear, advanced in backstretch, turned wide, lacked needed kick

11th: (9) **Lavanda**—settled around 6th, rallied for lead at one point, weakened in last 200m

12th: (5) **Koganeno Sora**—positioned around 13th, checked 300m out, even paced

13th: (15) **Safira**—sat wide around 9th in front of top favorites, failed to respond

14th: (1) **Mi Anhele**—saved ground around 7th, showed brief effort, outrun in last 200m

15th: (4) **Pareja**—took economic trip around 9th early, gradually dropped position

16th: (17) **Tagano Elpida**—chased distant leaders around 3rd, remained in contention until 300m out

17th: (16) **Shonan Manuela**—set pace early then ran in 2nd, dropped back after early stretch

18th: (11) **Windstille**—led after 2nd corner with fast pace, faded after final corner

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.4 - 10.8 - 11.5 - 11.5 - 11.5 - 12.1 - 12.8 - 12.9 - 13.4 - 12.2 - 11.5 - 11.4
Last 4 furlongs: 48.5 Last 3 furlongs: 35.1

Positions at each corner: 1st corner (*16,11)-(17,18)2,9(1,10)(4,7,15)**12**(3,5)-14,6,8-13
2nd corner (16,*11)=(17,18)-2,9(1,10)(7,**12**,15)4,5(3,14)(6,8)13
3rd corner 11=16=18,17,2(9,10,15)(1,7,**12**)8(4,5,14)(3,6,13)
4th corner 11-(16,18)(17,2)(9,10,15,8)(1,**12**)(7,5,13)14(4,3,6)

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.