

**SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 25TH CHAMPIONS CUP (G1)**

Formerly run under the name Japan Cup Dirt until 2013, the Champions Cup takes place at Chukyo Racecourse which is situated in Chubu region between Tokyo and Osaka. The Japan Cup Dirt, which began as the dirt version of the Japan Cup in 2000 at Tokyo Racecourse held over the 2,100-meter left-handed course until 2007, was temporarily shifted to Nakayama Racecourse over the 1,800-meter right-handed course in 2002, then held at Hanshin Racecourse, also a right-handed track and over 1,800 meters, between 2008 and 2013. Eighteen of the past 24 winners of the Champions Cup, which is one of JRA's two dirt G1 races along with the February Stakes (G1, dirt, 1,600m), have won the season's JRA Award for Best Dirt Horse.

Lord Sterling (USA, by Black Tie Affair), who finished third in the inaugural year, was one of the first foreign contenders, while Fleetstreet Dancer (USA, by Smart Strike) became the first foreign winner in 2003. In the past, 29 runners from not only North America but also from France, Germany, Great Britain and Hong Kong have participated in the race including 2018 Stephen Foster Handicap (G1, dirt, 1,800m) winner Pavel (USA, by Creative Cause) from the U.S. who finished 15th in 2018.

This year's Champions Cup field included last year's champion **Lemon Pop**, who came off back-to-back victories in the Mile Championship Nambu Hai (Listed, dirt, 1,600m, Oct.14) in his bid to become the first horse to defend the Champions Cup title since Transcend in 2010 and 2011; and **Peptide Nile**, winner of this year's February Stakes (G1, dirt, 1,600m) and Mile Championship Nambu Hai runner-up, who aimed to become the fifth horse in history to win both JRA G1 dirt events in the same year.

The field also included **Gaia Force**, this year's February Stakes runner-up who commenced his autumn campaign with this race after finishing fourth in the Yasuda Kinen (G1, 1,600m, Jun.2); **Crown Pride** who successfully defended his Korea Cup (G3, dirt, 1,800m, Sep.8) title; **Hagino Alegrias**, winner of the 2023-24 Sirius Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,900m, Sep.28); **Sunrise Zipangu**, who finished third in the Japan Dirt Classic (Listed, dirt, 2,000m) and went on to claim the Miyako Stakes (G3, dirt, 1,800m, Nov.3); **Wilson Tesoro**, last year's runner-up who came off a victory in the JBC Classic (Listed, dirt, 2,000m, Nov.4); and NAR's Oi Racecourse-based **Mick Fire**, winner of the 2023 Japan Dirt Derby (Listed, dirt, 2,000m).

THE 25TH CHAMPIONS CUP (G1) – Japan Autumn International -

3-year-olds & up, 1,800 meters (about 9 furlongs), dirt, left-handed

Sunday, December 1, 2024 Chukyo Racecourse 11th Race

Post Time: 15:30

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

3-y-o: 56 kg (about 123-124 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 58 kg (about 128 lbs)

2 kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 2kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2021

Course Record: 1:47.6

Race Record: 1:48.5 [Chrysoberyl (JPN, by Gold Allure), 2019]

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	1	2	Lemon Pop (USA) Ryusei Sakai	H6 ch. 58.0	2.2 (1)	1:50.1 (36.9)	Lemon Drop Kid Unreachable (Giant's Causeway)	Godolphin Mr. & Mrs. Oliver S. Tait Hiroyasu Tanaka
2	4	8	Wilson Tesoro (JPN) Yuga Kawada	H5 b. 58.0	5.5 (2)	Nose (36.2)	Kitasan Black Chesutoke Rose (Uncle Mo)	Ryotokuji Kenji Holdings Co., Ltd. Ryoken Farm Hitoshi Kotegawa
3	3	6	Dura Erede (JPN) Ryan Moore	C4 d.b. 58.0	42.6 (9)	1-1/2 (36.4)	Duramente Marchesa (Orfevre)	Three H Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Manabu Ikezoe
4	2	3	Hagino Alegrias (JPN) Mirai Iwata	H7 b. 58.0	15.3 (6)	3/4 (36.7)	Kizuna Tanino Charis (Generous)	Yoshie Hinokuma Okada Stud Hirofumi Shii

5	2	4 B	Peptide Nile (JPN) Yusuke Fujioka	H6 b. 58.0	6.8 (3)	Nose (37.1)	King Kamehameha Queen Olive (Manhattan Cafe)	Kazuhiko Numakawa Kineusu Bokujo Hidenori Take
6	6	12	Sunrise Zipangu (JPN) Yutaka Take	C3 b. 56.0	7.4 (4)	1/2 (37.1)	Kizuna Saimaa (Zoffany)	Life House Co., Ltd. Oiwake Farm Hidetaka Otonashi
7	5	10	Ater Astraea (JPN) Yuji Hishida	M5 br. 56.0	82.9 (12)	Neck (36.3)	Reach the Crown Stars in Heaven (Workforce)	Field Racing Oiwake Farm Shinsuke Hashiguchi
8	3	5	Peisha Es (JPN) Kazuo Yokoyama	H5 ch. 58.0	72.7 (11)	1 (37.1)	Espoir City Lisa Psyche (Wild Rush)	Naoto Kitajo Shinichi Takamura Kazuo Konishi
9	8	15 B	Gloria Mundi (JPN) Hiroshi Kitamura	H6 b. 58.0	258.0 (16)	3 (37.6)	King Kamehameha Bettolle (Blu Air Force)	Kazumi Yoshida Northern Racing Ryuji Okubo
10	6	11	Mitono O (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	C4 ch. 58.0	167.5 (15)	1 (38.1)	Logotype Seductively (Thunder Gulch)	Royal Park Hiroshi Chikushi Koji Maki
11	1	1	Crown Pride (JPN) Takeshi Yokoyama	H5 d.b. 58.0	16.6 (7)	3-1/2 (38.4)	Reach the Crown Emmy's Pride (King Kamehameha)	Teruya Yoshida Shadai Farm Koichi Shintani
12	4	7 B	Seraphic Call (JPN) Cristian Demuro	C4 ch. 58.0	18.3 (8)	2 (38.7)	Henny Hughes Chant de l'Ange (Manhattan Cafe)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Ryo Terashima
13	7	13	Mick Fire (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	C4 b. 58.0	60.5 (10)	Neck (37.9)	Sinister Minister Mariage (Brian's Time)	KH Racing Kazuyoshi Yamagami Kazuo Watanabe
14	5	9	T O Drefong (JPN) Kosei Miura	H5 ch. 58.0	107.7 (14)	2-1/2 (38.8)	Drefong Eminent City (Brian's Time)	Tomoya Ozasa Wing Farm Tomoyuki Umeda
15	8	16	Gaia Force (JPN) Yoshihito Nagaoka	H5 g. 58.0	13.7 (5)	5 (40.0)	Kitatan Black Natale (Kurofune)	KR Japan Oiwake Farm Haruki Sugiyama
16	7	14 B	Suleyman (JPN) Arata Saito	H6 ch. 58.0	107.1 (13)	1/2 (40.1)	King Kamehameha Donna Blini (Bertolini)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Manabu Ikezoe

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: 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: ¥ 17,538,810,200

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 24,484,232,100

Attendance: 27,425

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.2	¥ 220	Bracket Quinella	1-4	¥ 520	Quinella	2-8	¥ 840
Place	No.2	¥ 140	Quinella Place	2-8	¥ 390	Exacta	2-8	¥ 1,190
	No.8	¥ 180		2-6	¥ 1,520	Trio	2-6-8	¥ 7,410
	No.6	¥ 560		6-8	¥ 2,200	Trifecta	2-8-6	¥ 18,050

Winner= 18 starts: 13 wins & 3 seconds / Added & stakes money: ¥ 123,444,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 760,200,000

Lemon Pop Caps off His Stellar Racing Career by Defending His Champions Cup Title

Race favorite **Lemon Pop** won out a close race in this year's Champions Cup to become the first horse to defend the title since Transcend in 2010 and 2011, when the race was held under the name, the Japan Cup Dirt. The 2023 Best Dirt Horse, boasting three JRA-G1 wins including last year's February Stakes (dirt, 1,600m) and three NAR titles in the 2023-2024 Mile Championship Nambu Hai (Listed, dirt, 1,600m) and the 2024 Sakitama Hai (Listed, dirt, 1,400m), will retire from racing after this race and stand as stallion at Darley Japan Stallion Complex next year. Trainer Hiroyasu Tanaka claimed his third JRA-G1 victory following last year's Champions Cup with this horse, while jockey Ryusei Sakai won his sixth after this year's Takamatsunomiya Kinen with Mad Cool.

