FROM: Media & Publicity Department, THE JAPAN RACING ASSOCIATION (JRA)

DATE: April 6, 2025

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 69TH OSAKA HAI (G1)



The Osaka Hai, renewing its name in 2017 from the familiarly known Sankei Osaka Hai, was established in 1957 as a handicap race open to runners of four years of age and upwards run over 1,800m at Hanshin Racecourse in March. After the distance was extended to 2,000m in 1972, the date was moved to one week earlier to the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas) in 1981. The race was given G2 status in conjunction with the new grading system in 1984, opened its doors to foreign competitors in 2003 and was upgraded to G1 in 2017. The winner of the race will automatically earn a starting position in the Irish Champion Stakes (G1, 2,000m) held in September.

Attracting strong contenders by serving as a prep race for G1 spring races for older horses such as the Tenno Sho (Spring) (G1, 3,200m) and the Takarazuka Kinen (G1, 2,200m), many Osaka Hai champions have gone on to achieve G1 successes; Meisho Samson (JPN, by Opera House) in 2007, Hiruno d'Amour (JPN, by Manhattan Cafe) in 2011, two-time Horse of the Year Kitasan Black (JPN, by Black Tide) in 2017, all went on to capture the Tenno Sho (Spring) that followed; and Dream Journey (JPN, by Stay Gold) in 2009 landed his Takarazuka Kinen victory two starts later. Winners who also showed extraordinary accomplishments include 2008 champion Daiwa Scarlet (JPN, by Agnes Tachyon), legendary 2013 winner Orfevre (JPN, by Stay Gold) and 2014 victor Kizuna (JPN, by Deep Impact).

Defending champion **Bellagio Opera** and 2024 Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas, G1, 1,600m) champion **Stellenbosch** began their current season with this race while 2023 Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1, 2,000m) champion **Sol Oriens** came into the race after finishing fifth in the Kyoto Kinen (G2, 2,200m, Feb.16), 0.4 second behind winner **Yoho Lake**. The field also included **Lord del Rey** and **Sixpence**, respective winners of the Nikkei Shinshun Hai (G2, 2,200m, Jan.19) and the Nakayama Kinen (G2, 1,800m, Mar.2) as well as 2023 Tenno Sho (Spring) (G1, 3,200m) champion **Justin Palace**, 2023 Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes (G1, 1,600m) runner-up **Ecoro Walz** and 2024 Tenno Sho (Autumn) (G1, 2,000m) third-place finisher **Ho O Biscuits**.

THE 69TH OSAKA HAI (G1)

4-year-olds & up, 2,000 meters (about 10 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, April 6, 2025 Hanshin Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 651,000,000 (about US\$ 4,147,000 <US\$1=¥157>)

4-y-o & up: 58kg (about 128 lbs),

2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 1kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2021 Course Record: 1:56.2 Race Record: 1:56.2 [Bellagio Opera (JPN, by Lord Kanaloa), 2025]

Safety factor: 16 runners Going: Good to Firm Weather: Fine



FP	вк	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin (L3F)	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	3	5	Bellagio Opera (JPN) Kazuo Yokoyama	H5 b. 58.0	5.1 (2)	1:56.2 (34.1)	Lord Kanaloa Air Routine (Harbinger)	Shorai Hayashida Tsunebumi Yoshihara Hiroyuki Uemura
2	7	13	Lord del Rey (JPN) Atsuya Nishimura	H5 b. 58.0	6.5 (4)	1 (33.8)	Lord Kanaloa Delfino (Heart's Cry)	Lord Horse Club Co., Ltd. K. I. Farm Mitsumasa Nakauchida
3	4	7	Yoho Lake (JPN) Mirai Iwata	H7 b. 58.0	13.6 (8)	1 (33.5)	Deep Impact Crow Canyon (French Deputy)	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc. Yasuo Tomomichi
4	8	14	Ecoro Walz (JPN) Mirco Demuro	C4 d.b. 58.0	32.3 (10)	Nose (33.8)	Black Tide Petit Princesse (King Kamehameha)	Masatoshi Haramura Shimokobe Farm Mitsunori Makiura
5	2	2	Ho O Biscuits (JPN) Yasunari Iwata	H5 b. 58.0	9.1 (5)	Neck (34.8)	Mind Your Biscuits Ho O Sabrina (Rulership)	Yoshihisa Ozasa Yoshihisa Ozasa Takeshi Okumura
6	4	6	Justin Palace (JPN) Katsuma Sameshima	H6 br. 58.0	10.4 (6)	Neck (34.2)	Deep Impact Palace Rumor (Royal Anthem)	Masahiro Miki Northern Racing Haruki Sugiyama

7	6	10	Sixpence (JPN) Takeshi Yokoyama	C4 b. 58.0	4.8 (1)	Nose (34.6)	Kizuna Finley'sluckycharm (Twirling Candy)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Sakae Kunieda
8	1	1	Boldog Hos (JPN) Hayato Yoshida	H6 ch. 58.0	48.1 (12)	1-1/4 (34.0)	Screen Hero Boldogsag (Layman)	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Hiroshi Miyamoto
8	5	9	Cosmo Kuranda (JPN) Yuji Tannai	C4 d.b. 58.0	20.1 (9)	DH (34.6)	Al Ain Southern Speed (Southern Image)	Big Red Farm Big Red Farm Shizuya Kato
10	3	4	Sol Oriens (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	H5 b. 58.0	38.0 (11)	1/2 (33.5)	Kitasan Black Skia (Motivator)	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Takahisa Tezuka
11	2	3	Ravel (JPN) Yuichi Kitamura	M5 b. 56.0	112.8 (13)	Nose (34.4)	Kitasan Black Sambre et Meuse (Daiwa Major)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Yoshito Yahagi
12	5	8	Karate (JPN) Ryuji Wada	H9 d.b. 58.0	316.5 (15)	3/4 (34.2)	To the Glory Lady no Punch (French Deputy)	Hikaru Odagiri Yuichi Odagiri Akishi Higashida
13	7	12	Stellenbosch (JPN) Joao Moreira	F4 b. 56.0	5.2 (3)	1-1/2 (34.5)	Epiphaneia Bloukrans (Rulership)	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Farm Sakae Kunieda
14	6	11	Desierto (JPN) Kenichi Ikezoe	H6 d.b. 58.0	12.2 (7)	2-1/2 (36.6)	Drefong Admire Sceptre (King Kamehameha)	La Mere Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Shogo Yasuda
15	8	15	Al Naseem (JPN) Norihiro Yokoyama	H6 b. 58.0	178.4 (14)	4 (36.1)	Maurice Jebel Ali (Deep Impact)	Lion Race Horse Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Shinsuke Hashiguchi

FP: Final Position / BK: Bracket Number / PP: Post Position / 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: ¥ 17,874,165,200 Turnover for the Day: ¥ 28,328,153,300 Attendance: 29,395

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.5	¥ 510	Bracket Quinella	3-7	¥ 650	Quinella	5-13	¥ 1,720
	No.5	¥ 180		5-13	¥ 730	Exacta	5-13	¥ 3,300
Place	No.13	¥ 260	Quinella Place	5-7	¥ 990	Trio	5-7-13	¥ 6,910
	No.7	¥ 340		7-13	¥ 1,460	Trifecta	5-13-7	¥ 30,910

Winner= 12 starts: 6 wins, 1 second & 1 third / Added & stakes money: ¥ 303,234,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 823,702,000

Bellagio Opera Defends Osaka Hai Title in Course-Record Win

Second favorite **Bellagio Opera** claimed his second G1 title in this year's Osaka Hai in his first appearance of the season, renewing the track record to 1:56.2, and has become the first horse to capture the title consecutively. After the victory in last year's Osaka Hai, the son of Lord Kanaloa had been winless but showed consistent performances finishing third in the Takarazuka Kinen (G1, 2,200m) and fourth in the year-end Arima Kinen (G1, 2,500m). Trainer Hiroyuki Uemura registered his third JRA-G1 title following last year's Hanshin Juvenile Fillies with Arma Veloce while jockey Kazuo Yokoyama scored his fourth JRA-G1 victory and his first since last year's Osaka Hai with this horse.

Bellagio Opera made his trademark good break and rushed toward the rails close behind the race favorite in fourth down the backstretch while **Desierto** set a fast pace and extended his lead by five lengths. As the field tightened up at the last bend, the son of Lord Kanaloa still in fourth quickened entering the stretch, unleashed a furious drive to tackle the frontrunners and took command at the 200-meter marker, pulling clear to land a length-win.

[&]quot;As always, he broke remarkably. I expected a fast pace, but being able to sit in an ideal position and the

horse finding his rhythm were definitely the key factors in today's win. Just as last year, I'm full of gratitude. Although the horse hasn't been able to show his true form since last year's victory, I'm hoping that this will mark a new start for him and that he'll be able to demonstrate that he still has a lot of potential," commented jockey Kazuo Yokoyama.

Breaking from a wide stall, fourth pick **Lord Del Rey** took a wide trip in mid-pack and shifted farther out rounding the final turn before showcasing a resounding closing kick in the final furlong to pick off all but the winner for second.

Eighth choice **Yoho Lake** was off a bit slow and trailed second from the rear on the rails. Although still struggling in 11th 200 meters out, the seven-year-old stormed down the lane with the tied-fastest finishing speed to mow down his rivals and deny **Ecoro Walz** the third-place trophy at the wire by the narrowest margin.

Forwardly placed after a sharp break, race favorite **Sixpence** settled near the eventual winner in third, but although coming into the straight in good striking position, struggled to find his best stride and finished seventh.

Other Horses:

4th: (14) **Ecoro Walz**—ran around 10th, quickened between horses, nosed out by Yoho Lake just before wire

5th: (2) Ho O Biscuits—chased leader in 2nd, took brief lead at stretch, weakened in last 100m

6th: (6) Justin Palace—sat wide in 7th, driven after 3rd corner, failed to threaten top finishers

8th: (1) **Boldog Hos**—hugged rails around 11th, improved position between horses but needed more

8th: (9) Cosmo Kuranda—settled around 5th, lacked needed kick

10th: (4) Sol Oriens—trailed in far rear, angled out, showed belated charge

11th: (3) Ravel—saved ground around 8th, showed effort until 100m out

12th: (8) **Karate**—positioned around 11th, even paced

13th: (12) Stellenbosch—raced around 11th, circled wide, failed to respond

14th: (11) **Desierto**—advanced to front after poor break to set fast pace, faded after 300m out

15th: (15) Al Naseem—traveled wide around 4th, dropped back after 3rd corner

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.5 - 11.2 - 11.2 - 11.4 - 11.2 - 11.7 - 11.9 - 12.0 - 11.4 - 11.7

Last 4 furlongs: 47.0 Last 3 furlongs: 35.1

Positions at each corner: 1st corner (2,*11)10,**5**(9,15)6(3,13,14)12(1,8)7-4

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.