

**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 &amp; 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 &lt;US\$1=¥157&gt;)

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

2kg allowance for Fillies &amp; 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 Kanaloo), 2025]

Safety factor: 16 runners

Going: Good to Firm

Weather: Fine



FP	BK	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 Kanaloo 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 Kanaloo 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
Place	No.5	¥ 180	Quinella Place	5-13	¥ 730	Exacta	5-13	¥ 3,300
	No.13	¥ 260		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.

“As always, he broke remarkably. I expected a fast pace, but being able to sit in an ideal position and the

