

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 27TH NAKAYAMA GRAND JUMP (J-G1)

The Nakayama Grand Jump, the biggest steeplechase event in spring, span off from the biannual Nakayama Daishogai (J-G1, 4,100m) steeplechase races in 1999. The history of the Nakayama Daishogai dates back to 1934 when the two races, one each in spring and autumn, were created for the purpose of making them the most prestigious and attractive races in steeplechase racing, just like the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) in flat racing.

In 2000, a year after the Nakayama Grand Jump received its current name, the race became an international event. Seven foreign runners from five countries took part and Boca Boca (IRE, by Mandalus) from France finished second to Gokai (JPN, by Judge Angelucci) that year. During 2000 - 2010 when the Nakayama Grand Jump was an invitational event, St. Steven (NZ, by Hula Town) was the first foreign contingent to claim the title in 2002. He finished third the following year while Australian contender Karasi (IRE, by Kahyasi) became the first horse to win three consecutive titles between 2005 and 2007. In 2013, eighth favorite Irish raider Blackstairmountain (IRE, by Imperial Ballet) became the first European contender to claim the title.

The Nakayama Grand Jump features 12 jumps over the figure-of-eight-shaped course, which includes five up-and-downs over the banks and three hurdles set on the outside turf towards the final stretch. The 310-meter uphill stretch before the wire also is quite a test for many of the runners especially after running at a solid pace throughout the race.

2023-2024 Nakayama Grand Jump champion Irogotoshi (JPN, H8, by Vincennes) resumed training after a tendon injury sustained last season but was unable to regain his form in time and was withdrawn from this race. 2023 Nakayama Daishogai champion and Best Steeplechase Horse **Meiner Grand** commenced the current season with this race. Last year's Nakayama Grand Jump runner-up **June Velocity** came off a close second in the Hanshin Spring Jump (J-G2, 3,900m, Mar.15) in which third-place **Neviim** and fourth-place **Ecoro Duel** were seen finishing third and second, respectively, in last year's Nakayama Daishogai. **Smile Through** came into the race after claiming his second graded title in the Kokura Jump Stakes (J-G3, 3,390m, Feb.15) where **Arundel** finished fourth. **Impress** extended his winning streak to four when winning the Pegasus Jump Stakes (Open Class, 3,350m, Mar.22), a prep-race in which **Burn Passion** was third.

THE 27TH NAKAYAMA GRAND JUMP (J-G1)

4-year-olds & up, 4,260 meters (about 2 and 2/3 miles), turf

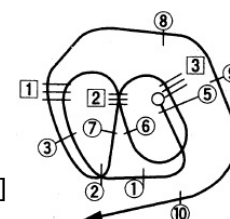
Saturday, April 19, 2025 Nakayama Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 152,900,000 (about US\$ 974,000 <US\$1=¥157>)

4-y-o: 62kg (about 137 lbs), 5-y-o & up: 63kg (about 139 lbs), 2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares

Course Record: 4:50.5 Race Record (4,250m): 4:43.0 [Oju Chosan (JPN, by Stay Gold), 2018]

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



FP	BK	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	6	7	Ecoro Duel (JPN) Taro Kusano	H6 br. 63.0	6.2 (5)	4:50.5	Kitasan Black Clarinet (Giant's Causeway)	Masatoshi Haramura Shimokobe Farm Takaki Iwato
2	1	1 B	Neviim (JPN) Tadashi Kosaka	H7 d.b. 63.0	16.2 (6)	8	Kizuna Velvet Queen (Singspiel)	Koki Maeda Hidenori Kimura Shozo Sasaki
3	6	8	Impress (JPN) Kayata Komaki	H6 d.b. 63.0	5.8 (4)	2-1/2	Kizuna Beatrice (Dr Fong)	Koji Maeda Shadai Farm Shozo Sasaki
4	4	4	June Velocity (JPN) Kazuma Mori	H7 br. 63.0	3.8 (2)	7	Lord Kanaloa Admire Sabrina (Symboli Kris S)	Jun Yoshikawa Yoshikawa Holdings Hidenori Take

5	3	3	Meiner Grand (JPN) Shinichi Ishigami	H7 br. 63.0	3.4 (1)	4	Gold Ship Meine Nouvelle (Brian's Time)	Thoroughbred Club Ruffian Co., Ltd. Big Red Farm Takafumi Aoki
6	5	6	Smile Through (JPN) Jun Takada	H5 b. 63.0	4.0 (3)	Neck	Rulership Smile Shower (Symboli Kris S)	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Farm Takashi Saito
7	5	5	Arundel (JPN) Sho Ueno	G7 b. 63.0	37.8 (7)	3-1/2	Harbinger Gala Dinner (Sunday Silence)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Masahiro Otake
8	8	12	Pietersite (JPN) Keita Ban	H5 d.b. 63.0	263.2 (12)	10	One and Only Victoria Eye (Brian's Time)	North Hills Co., Ltd. North Hills Co., Ltd. Issei Murata
9	7	9 B	Platina Dream (JPN) Masayuki Nakamura	H6 b. 63.0	242.2 (11)	2-1/2	Hokko Tarumae Satine Arome (Symboli Kris S)	Masatake Iida Chiyoda Farm Shizunai Masatatsu Kikukawa
10	7	10 B	The Rest Nowhere (JPN) Yusuke Igarashi	H7 b. 63.0	187.4 (10)	8	Deep Impact Musical Way (Gold Away)	Ryoichi Otsuka Northern Farm Koichi Shinkai
11	2	2 B	T M Tatsumaki (JPN) Yu Kuroiwa	H7 br. 63.0	119.6 (9)	DS	Kizuna Willow Paddock (Kurofune)	Masatsugu Takezono Mikita Stud Hidenori Take
FF	8	11	Burn Passion (JPN) Kei Oehara	H8 d.b. 63.0	56.5 (8)		Eishin Flash D Passion (Daiwa Major)	Makio Okada Mauta Tanaka Bokujo Shoichi Temma

FP: Final Position / BK: Bracket Number / PP: Post Position / B: Blinker / S&A: Sex & Age / Wgt: Weight (kg) / DS: Distance / FF: Fail to Finish
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: ¥ 2,008,261,900

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 8,731,592,700

Attendance: 21,934

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.7	¥ 620	Bracket Quinella	1-6	¥ 1,760	Quinella	1-7	¥ 2,360
Place	No.7	¥ 180	Quinella Place	1-7	¥ 670	Exacta	7-1	¥ 4,300
	No.1	¥ 270		7-8	¥ 610	Trio	1-7-8	¥ 4,050
	No.8	¥ 220		1-8	¥ 1,030	Trifecta	7-1-8	¥ 23,960

Winner= 22 starts: 5 wins, 4 seconds & 2 thirds (12 starts: 4 wins, 3 seconds & 1 third *steeplechases only)

Added & stakes money: ¥ 70,427,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 224,330,000 (¥ 213,290,000 *steeplechases only)

Ecoro Duel Scores Powerful Nakayama Grand Jump Win

Posted fifth favorite after a fourth-place finish in his previous start in the Hanshin Spring Jump (J-G2, 3,900m) on March 15, **Ecoro Duel** claimed his first J-G1 title in his fourth challenge at that level in this year's Nakayama Grand Jump. The six-year-old began his racing career in January as a three-year-old and registered 1-1-1 out of 10 starts on flat before switching to steeplechase racing in his first start or his four-year-old season. The son of Kitasan Black notched his first graded title in the Kyoto Jump Stakes (J-G3, 3,170m) that year and while winless since, scored a third and a second, respectively, in the 2023 and 2024 Nakayama Daishogai (J-G1, 4,100m) and a fourth in last year's Nakayama Grand Jump. Trainer Takaki Iwato, who opened his yard in 2002, captured his fourth grade-race and first G1 title at jump racing while winning four at the graded level on flat. Jockey Taro Kusano also marked his first G1 and fifth graded jump racing victory in his 19th season.

Breaking from stall seven, **Ecoro Duel** settled in third while **Pietersite** set the pace before overtaken by second favorite **June Velocity** at the fifth jump (obstacle no.6). Coming out of the center dip (no.2) the second time around, the son of Kitasan Black moved up pressing the pace in second after the seventh jump (grand hedge, no.7), and went on to make an early bid in the backstretch, overtaking **June Velocity** before

the 10th hurdle (no.8). The fourth-place finisher in last year's version easily stretched his lead there on and was unchallenged to the wire, landing a comfortable eight-length victory.

"I couldn't hold back the tears. I'd been riding him in almost all of his races (after his switching to steeple chase races) so winning the Grand Jump, which is always a jump-jockey's dream and since it had also been a while from my last Grand Jump challenge due to injuries, is just wonderful," commented Taro Kusano after the race.

Sent off sixth choice, **Neviim** raced around seventh before gradually advancing after the seventh jump (no.7) and increased speed from the second corner (2nd lap). While never a threat to the winner, the son of Kizuna picked off **Impress** and **Meiner Grand** after the final jump (no.10) and was driven to the wire to secure the runner-up seat by 2-1/2 lengths.

Fourth pick **Impress** was forwardly positioned in third to fourth and briefly retreated to fifth after the seventh jump (no.7) but made headway in the backstretch to clear the 10th fence (no.8) in third. With furious speed, **Impress** picked off the tired **June Velocity** before the last turn to enter the stretch in second but failed to find another gear and finished third.

Race favorite and last year's sixth-place finisher **Meiner Grand** was off slow, unhurried in third from the rear and dropped back to trail second from last after the fifth fence (grand brush fence, no.6). Gradually accelerating to mid-division after the eighth obstacle (no.2), the seven-year-old shifted out to enter the straight in fourth and briefly rallied with two rivals for the runner-up seat but was eased after the last obstacle (no. 10) due to heatstroke and was fifth.

Other Horses:

4th: (4) **June Velocity**—tracked leader in 2nd, took command after 5th jump (no.6), challenged by winner after 7th jump (no.7), surrendered lead after 10th jump (no.8), weakened

6th: (6) **Smile Through**—settled in 5th, lost balance at 7th jump (no.7), failed to threaten

7th: (5) **Arundel**—sat 2nd from rear, gradually improved position after 5th jump (no.6), showed little after 11th jump (no.9)

8th: (12) **Pietersite**—set pace, maintained lead up to 5th jump (no.6), faded after 9th jump (No.3)

9th: (9) **Platina Dream**—ran in 9-10th, unable to reach contention

10th: (10) **The Rest Nowhere**—trailed in rear, no factor

11th: (2) **T M Tatsumaki**—traveled around 6th, outrun after 6th jump (no.5)

FF: (11) **Burn Passion**—raced around 7th, advanced to 3rd at 7th jump (no.7), dropped back after 10th jump (no.8), unseated rider at final jump (no.10)

Fractional time: Last 1 mile: 1:44.3 Last 4 furlongs: 53.7 Last 3 furlongs: 40.4

Positions at each corner (2nd lap):	1st corner	(*4, <u>7</u>)=11-12-8-1-5-6-3,9-2,10
	2nd corner	(4,* <u>7</u>)=11-12,8=(1,5)=(6,3)=9-(2,10)
	3rd corner	<u>7</u> -4=8=1(11,5,3)-6-12=9=2-10
	4th corner	<u>7</u> =8-(4,1,3)=5,6=(11,12)=9=2-10

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.