

SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 86TH KIKUKA SHO (JAPANESE ST. LEGER, G1)

The history of Kikuka Sho, the Japanese St. Leger and the last leg of the Triple Crown race for three-year-old colts and fillies, dates back to 1938—a year after Japan’s 11 racing clubs integrated into one organization named Nihon Keiba Kai (forerunner of the JRA). Initially called “Kyoto Norin-sho Shoten Yonsai Yobiuna Kyoso”, the race was renamed to Kikuka Sho in 1948. The race was held at its temporary venue of Hanshin Racecourse in 2021 and 2022 while Kyoto Racecourse was undergoing renovation.

The Kikuka Sho features three-year-olds, most of who have matured dramatically during the five months following the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m) and their summer break. The Kikuka Sho winners have both the speed and the stamina to prove their caliber as potential breeding stock. The last of the eight Triple Crown winners in JRA history was Contrail (JPN, by Deep Impact) who followed in the footsteps of his sire by accomplishing the feat undefeated in 2020.

Satsuki Sho victor Museum Mile (JPN, by Leontes) won the first of the Kikuka Sho trials, the St. Lite Kinen (G2, 2,200m; Sep.15) but chose to run in the Tenno Sho (Autumn) (G1, 2,000m) against older foes a week later instead. Coming off the St. Lite Kinen included **Yamanin Bouclier** (2nd) and **Red Bande** (3rd). In another trial, the Kobe Shimbun Hai (G2, 2,400m; Sep.21), **Eri King** claimed his second graded title. Tokyo Yushun third-place finisher **Shohei** followed in second and the Hopeful Stakes (G1, 2,000m) runner-up **Giovanni** in third. Also among the Kikuka Sho field were **Excite Bio** and **Goltzschtal**, respective winners of the Radio Nikkei Sho (G3, 1,800m; Jun.29) and the Nihonkai Stakes (3 Wins Class, 2,200m; Aug.30) as well as Aoba Sho (G2, 2,400m) victor **Energico** who came off a second in the Niigata Kinen (G3, 2,000m; Aug.31).

THE 86TH KIKUKA SHO (JAPANESE ST. LEGER, G1)

3-year-olds, Colts and Fillies, 3,000 meters (about 15 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Kyoto Racecourse

11th Race

Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 434,000,000 (about US\$ 2,765,000 <US\$1=¥157>)

3-y-o: 57 kg (about 126 lbs), 2 kg allowance for Fillies, 2 kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2022

Course Record: 3:01.0

Race Record: 3:01.0 [Toho Jackal (JPN, by Special Week), 2014]

Safety factor: 18 runners

Going: Good

Weather: Drizzle



FP	BK	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin (L3F)	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	5	9	Energico (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	C3 d.b. 57.0	3.8 (1)	3:04.0 (35.0)	Duramente Enora (Noverre)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Mizuki Takayanagi
2	7	15	Eri King (JPN) Yuga Kawada	C3 b. 57.0	4.3 (2)	2 (35.2)	Kizuna Youngstar (High Chaparral)	Susumu Fujita Northern Racing Mitsumasa Nakauchida
3	7	14	Excite Bio (JPN) Kiwamu Ogino	C3 b. 57.0	82.6 (13)	3/4 (35.7)	Rey de Oro Animate Bio (Zenno Rob Roy)	Bio K. Bio Co., Ltd. Teiichi Konno
4	6	12	Goltzschtal (JPN) Ryusei Sakai	C3 b. 57.0	9.2 (5)	Nose (35.2)	Bricks and Mortar Killer Beauty (Zenno Rob Roy)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Haruki Sugiyama
5	8	18	Red Bande (JPN) Daisuke Sasaki	C3 b. 57.0	17.4 (9)	Neck (35.5)	Kizuna Feodora (Lord of England)	Tokyo Horse Racing Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Masahiro Otake
6	3	6	Mirage Knight (JPN) Yusuke Fujioka	C3 d.b. 57.0	15.2 (8)	Neck (35.1)	Bago Lachesis (Deep Impact)	Masaya Oshima Masaya Oshima Yasuyuki Tsujino
7	1	1	Coachella Valley (JPN) Atsuya Nishimura	C3 br. 57.0	107.0 (15)	3/4 (35.3)	Kizuna Camprock (Myboycharlie)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Shogo Yasuda
8	3	5	Giovanni (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	C3 b. 57.0	11.9 (6)	Neck (35.2)	Epiphaneia Barefoot Lady (Footstepsinthesand)	KR Japan Taihei Stud Farm Co. Ltd Haruki Sugiyama
9	4	8	Rex Novus (JPN) Kazuo Yokoyama	C3 b. 57.0	20.4 (10)	Neck (36.0)	Kitasan Black Ultima Muse (King Kamehameha)	Normandy Thoroughbred Racing Co., Ltd. Maekawa Kikaku Ltd Hiroyuki Uemura

10	7	13	Arrondi (JPN) Taisei Danno	C3 b. 57.0	214.4 (17)	2 (35.9)	Harbinger Pas de Valse (Epiphaneia)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Hidenori Take
11	1	2	Amakihi (JPN) Keita Tosaki	C3 d.b. 57.0	45.9 (12)	2 (35.7)	Black Tide Apapane (King Kamehameha)	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc. Sakae Kunieda
12	2	3	Right Track (JPN) Ryuji Wada	C3 b. 57.0	41.9 (11)	3/4 (36.3)	Kitasan Black Red Rachel (Medaglia d'Oro)	Osamu Hirata Shadai Farm Yasuo Tomomichi
13	6	11	My Universe (JPN) Yutaka Take	C3 b. 57.0	9.1 (4)	Neck (36.7)	Rey de Oro Church Choir (Neo Universe)	Toshio Terada Northern Farm Koshiro Take
14	4	7	Shohei (JPN) Mirai Iwata	C3 d.b. 57.0	7.9 (3)	Neck (36.7)	Saturnalia Oro Trajet (Orfevre)	Tatsue Ishikawa Shunsuke Yoshida Yasuo Tomomichi
15	8	17	Layered Red (JPN) Junji Shimada	C3 b. 57.0	265.1 (18)	4 (36.9)	Fierement Echinacea (Snitzel)	Mill Farm Co., Ltd. Mill Farm Takahisa Tezuka
16	2	4	Yamanin Bouclier (JPN) Norihiro Yokoyama	C3 g. 57.0	14.1 (7)	1/2 (37.3)	Kitasan Black Yamanin Poudrer (Chichicastenango)	Hajime Doi Hajime Doi Mikio Matsunaga
17	8	16 B	Ra Shalom (JPN) Yasunari Iwata	C3 ch. 57.0	179.1 (16)	DS (39.2)	Tosen Ra Angelicus (Harbinger)	Normandy Thoroughbred Racing Co., Ltd. Afleet Farm Ltd Takeshi Okumura
18	5	10	G T Adamant (JPN) Yuichi Kitamura	C3 d.b. 57.0	85.2 (14)	DS (42.0)	Rulership Kaunis Kukka (Manhattan Cafe)	Toshihiko Tabata Orion Farm Hiroyuki Uemura

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)
DS* Distance

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: ¥ 20,548,039,900

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 30,438,746,300

Attendance: 37,598

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.9	¥ 380	Bracket	Quinella	5-7	¥ 1,010	Quinella	9-15	¥ 1,110
Place	No.9	¥ 180	Quinella	Place	9-15	¥ 540	Exacta	9-15	¥ 2,100
	No.15	¥ 190			9-14	¥ 5,480	Trio	9-14-15	¥ 45,690
	No.14	¥ 1,180			14-15	¥ 8,370	Trifecta	9-15-14	¥ 140,270

Winner= 5 starts: 4 wins & 1 second / Added & stakes money: ¥ 227,559,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 318,219,000

Energico Dominates in Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger)

Race favorite **Energico** claimed the last leg of this year's Triple Crown, the Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger), for his first G1 and second graded victory. The Duramente colt won his only start in October as a two-year-old and marked another win in his three-year-old debut, the Saintpaulia Sho (1 Win Class, 1,800m) in February, then extended his winning streak to three in the Aoba Sho (G2, 2,400m) in April. Although withdrawn from the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) due to a poor health condition, he commenced his autumn campaign with a runner-up effort in the Niigata Kinen (G3, 2,000m) against older foes in late August and demonstrated both his stamina and speed to stand atop his fellow three-year-olds with this win. Trainer Mizuki Takayanagi registered his third JRA-G1 win after the 2022 Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks) with Stars on Earth, and jockey Christophe Lemaire scored his 56th G1 victory only a week after the Shuka Sho with Embroidery. Lemaire became the first jockey to win the Kikuka Sho three consecutive years and tied with Yutaka Take for most wins (five) in the last leg of the Triple Crown—previously having won in 2016 (Satono Diamond), 2018 (Fierement), 2023 (Durezza) and 2024 (Urban Chic).

Energico was unhurried out of the gate and rated well off the pace further back than mid-division early and

more near the rear and two wide traveling in front of the stands the first time around. Shifting out for a clear path going uphill towards the third corner and making use of the downhill towards the last turn to quickly make ground, four-time Kikuka Sho winner Christophe Lemaire moved the Duramente colt up to fifth position entering the final straight and didn't waste time to pin the leader before the furlong pole then easily drew away uncontested to win comfortably by two lengths.

“It’s hard to believe that I won three in a row in this race! It’s a long-distance G1 and very difficult to win at G1 level, but I’ve been fortunate to have been given rides on such great horses with stamina every year. Energico also has lots of stamina, and although he is not so sharp out of the gate, we had plenty of time to keep patient and make our way to a good spot. I took the opportunity to grab a good route on the outside and the colt responded well with a lasting finishing speed. Winning at Kyoto is special because I reside at Kyoto and winning two weeks in a row feels so great!” commented jockey Christophe Lemaire.

Eri King was positioned near the rear early while keeping a close eye on the race favorite. Making a similar move approaching the last corner while stalking the eventual winner, the Kizuna colt was a little slow to pick up speed entering the stretch but turned in a terrific turn of foot especially in the last 100 meters to outrun all but the winner for second place.

Excite Bio broke sharply and was forwardly positioned outside a rival and close behind pacesetter **G T Adamant** in second or third. After given a breather passing the grand stand first time around, settling a few lengths further behind the pace, the Rey de Oro colt reemerged to the front approaching the final bend and took command entering the homestretch and, while caught by the winner and challenged by other rivals from behind, held on gamely, only beaten for second place by **Eri King** with 50 meters to go and prevailing the rest of the challenge by a nose.

Other Horses:

- 4th: (12) **Goltzschtal**—sat wide around 9th, stretched well inside **Eri King**, nose short of the money in 4th
- 5th: (18) **Red Bande**—raced around 7th, briefly rallied for lead, weakened in last 100m
- 6th: (6) **Mirage Knight**—trailed in rear, showed 2nd fastest late kick but too late
- 7th: (1) **Coachella Valley**—unhurried around 15th, circled wide launched belated charge
- 8th: (5) **Giovanni**—rated on rails around 9th, showed response until 100m out
- 9th: (8) **Rex Novus**—chased leaders in 3rd, ran out of steam last 100m
- 10th: (13) **Arrondi**—settled around 11th, showed brief effort at 200m out
- 11th: (2) **Amakihi**—hugged rails around 11th, entered lane in last, passed tired rivals
- 12th: (3) **Right Track**—took economic trip around 6th, failed to respond at stretch
- 13th: (11) **My Universe**—ran on rails around 11th, advanced to 3rd in backstretch, came up empty at stretch
- 14th: (7) **Shohei**—sat in 4th, closed in on leaders before 3rd corner, ran gamely up to 200m pole
- 15th: (17) **Layered Red**—raced around 11th, gradually dropped position
- 16th: (4) **Yamanin Bouclier**—tracked leader in 2nd, used up with 1,200m to go
- 17th: (16) **Ra Shalom**—traveled around 6th early, dropped back after 3rd corner
- 18th: (10) **G T Adamant**—set pace faded after final corner

Fractional time: 13.1 - 11.6 - 11.7 - 12.8 - 11.6 - 12.7 - 13.2 - 12.9 - 12.8 - 12.2 - 12.0 - 12.1 - 11.9 - 11.5 - 11.9
(sec./furlong) Last 4 furlongs: 47.4 Last 3 furlongs: 35.3

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

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.