

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE 70TH 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.

The Osaka Hai has established its role as the season's first target for middle-distance runners since acquiring G1 status, attracting top-tier 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). Former champions went on to achieve further success; 2017 champion Kitanan Black (JPN, by Black Tide) registered three more G1 wins that year and earned his second Horse of the Year title; Suave Richard (JPN, by Heart's Cry), who won the 2018 edition, added another G1 title in the 2019 Japan Cup (2,400m); and 2024 victor Bellagio Opera (JPN, by Lord Kanaloa) successfully defended his Osaka Hai title last year and marked two G1 runner-up efforts before capping off his racing career at the end of the season.

2024 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m) winner **Danon Decile** was initially entered in the Dubai Sheema Classic (G1, 2,410m) in aim for a back-to-back victory but canceled his trip and commenced the current season with this race. 2025 Tokyo Yushun victor **Croix du Nord** and Takarazuka Kinen champion **Meisho Tabaru**, who were last seen marking a fourth in the Japan Cup and 13th in the Arima Kinen (G1, 2,500m), respectively, also began their 2026 campaigns in this race. Coming off their respective graded wins were **David Barows** (Naruo Kinen [G3, 1,800m]), **Shohei** (American Jockey Club Cup [G2, 2,200m]), **Tagano Dude** (Kokura Daishoten [G3, 1,800m]) and **Lebensstil** (Nakayama Kinen [G2, 1,800m]). This year's race also welcomed back last year's runners **Yoho Lake** and **Ecoro Walz**, who were third and fourth, respectively, and also two-time graded winner **Seiun Hades**.

THE 70TH OSAKA HAI (G1)

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

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Hanshin Racecourse

11th Race

Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 651,000,000 (about US\$ 4,200,000 <US\$1=¥155>)

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

2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 1kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2022

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	BK	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin (L3F)	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	8	15	Croix du Nord (JPN) Yuichi Kitamura	C4 br. 58.0	2.5 (1)	1:57.6 (34.9)	Kitanan Black Rising Cross (Cape Cross)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Takashi Saito
2	4	6	Meisho Tabaru (JPN) Yutaka Take	H5 b. 58.0	4.8 (3)	3/4 (35.6)	Gold Ship Meisho Tsubakuro (French Deputy)	Yoshitaka Matsumoto Mishima Bokujo Mamoru Ishibashi
3	3	4	Danon Decile (JPN) Ryusei Sakai	H5 ch. 58.0	3.9 (2)	1 (34.9)	Epiphaneia Top Decile (Congrats)	Danox Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Shogo Yasuda
4	8	14	Tagano Dude (JPN) Yoshihiro Furukawa	H5 b. 58.0	113.2 (13)	Neck (34.8)	Yamakatsu Ace Tagano Mu Chan (Heart's Cry)	Ryoji Yagi Ryoji Yagi Toru Miya
5	2	3 B	Seiun Hades (JPN) Hideaki Miyuki	H7 d.b. 58.0	64.9 (9)	Neck (35.3)	Silver State High Knowledge (Manhattan Cafe)	Shigeyuki Nishiyama Keiichi Samekawa Shinsuke Hashiguchi

6	7	12	Lebensstil (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	H6 b. 58.0	9.9 (5)	3/4 (35.2)	Real Steel Tokai Life (Tokai Teio)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Hirotomi Bokujo Hiroyasu Tanaka
7	5	9	Yoho Lake (JPN) Atsuya Nishimura	H8 b. 58.0	68.0 (11)	Neck (35.0)	Deep Impact Crow Canyon (French Deputy)	Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co., Ltd. Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc. Yasuo Tomomichi
8	6	11	David Barows (JPN) Mirai Iwata	G7 b. 58.0	58.9 (8)	1 (35.4)	Lord Kanaloa French Bikini (Sunday Silence)	Hirotsugu Inokuma Shadai Farm Hiroyuki Uemura
9	6	10	Boldog Hos (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	H7 ch. 58.0	162.1 (14)	1-1/2 (35.1)	Screen Hero Boldogsag (Layman)	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Hiroshi Miyamoto
10	3	5	Shohei (JPN) Yuga Kawada	C4 d.b. 58.0	6.1 (4)	1-1/4 (36.2)	Saturnalia Oro Trajet (Orfevre)	Tatsue Ishikawa Shunsuke Yoshida Yasuo Tomomichi
11	2	2	Matenro Leo (JPN) Norihiko Yokoyama	H7 d.b. 58.0	66.7 (10)	3/4 (35.7)	Heart's Cry Saratoga Venus (Brian's Time)	Chiyono Terada Inoke Bokujo Mitsugu Kon
12	1	1	Sun Stockton (JPN) Riki Takasugi	H7 ch. 58.0	336.7 (15)	2-1/2 (35.7)	World Ace Sinar (King Kamehameha)	Kato Stable Co., Ltd. Kato Stable Inc. Takeshi Horiuchi
13	7	13 B	Faust Rasen (JPN) Yasunari Iwata	C4 b. 58.0	102.1 (12)	8 (38.2)	Mozu Ascot Peisha Felice (Special Week)	Toshiya Miyazaki Tomoda Bokujo Naosuke Sugai
14	5	8	Ecoro Walz (JPN) Suguru Hamanaka	H5 d.b. 58.0	45.4 (7)	1-1/4 (37.9)	Black Tide Petit Princesse (King Kamehameha)	Masatoshi Haramura Shimokobe Farm Mitsunori Makiura
15	4	7	Ecoro Dinos (JPN) Kenichi Ikezoe	C4 d.b. 58.0	44.9 (6)	DS (45.4)	Kitasan Black Mystic Lips (Generous)	Masatoshi Haramura Northern Farm Ryuji Okubo

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: ¥ 18,673,814,200

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 30,000,693,100

Attendance: 41,875

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.15	¥ 250	Bracket Quinella	4-8	¥ 800	Quinella	6-15	¥ 830
Place	No.15	¥ 120	Quinella Place	6-15	¥ 350	Exacta	15-6	¥ 1,600
	No.6	¥ 180		4-15	¥ 230	Trio	4-6-15	¥ 1,050
	No.4	¥ 140		4-6	¥ 410	Trifecta	15-6-4	¥ 5,240

Winner= 9 starts: 6 wins & 1 second / Added & stakes money: ¥ 303,192,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 916,648,600

Favorite Croix du Nord Shines in Osaka Hai Win

Race favorite **Croix du Nord** claimed his third G1 title in this year's Osaka Hai in his first appearance of the season. Sired by Kitasan Black, who won the Osaka Hai in 2017, the brown colt was undefeated in three starts including the Hopeful Stakes (G1, 2,000m) as a two-year-old and landed another major triumph in the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m) the following season. In his first overseas challenge in France that autumn, the son of Kitasan Black notched the Prix du Prince d'Orange (G3, 2,000m) before disappointing to 14th in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1, 2,400m) and concluded the season with a good fourth in the Japan Cup (G1, 2,400m). Both trainer Takashi Saito and jockey Yuichi Kitamura celebrate their first JRA-G1 victory since last year's Tokyo Yushun title with this colt, resulting in Saito achieving ten G1 titles in total while Kitamura now has eight.

Breaking from the widest stall, **Croix du Nord** steadily advanced to travel in the middle of the field, three wide and close to rival **Danon Decile** running on the rails. After rounding the third corner, the Kitasan Black colt made rapid headway to enter the lane in second and briefly struggled to find his best stride but

finally showed a change of gear in the last 100 meters and finished strong, overtaking the pacesetter in the final strides for a 3/4-length win.

“To be honest, I’m relieved that we were able to win and live up to the expectations as race favorite. The going was tough to handle and the incredible speed of the pacesetter, Meisho Tabaru, was also tough to beat but I gave my all to drive the colt to the wire in which he responded beautifully. I’m confident that this season will be all about Croix du Nord and that he will play the leading role in all of his starts,” commented jockey Yuichi Kitamura.

Third pick **Meisho Tabaru**, although a touch late out of the gate, gunned for the lead to set the pace as expected, distancing himself with the rest of the field by more than three lengths in the backstretch. Still maintaining the lead with only 100 meters to the wire, last year’s Takarazuka Kinen champion held on stubbornly but surrendered to the fast-closing **Croix du Nord** and finished second.

Second pick and 2024 Tokyo Yushun champion **Danon Decile** settled around sixth in front of **Croix du Nord** and saved ground rounding the last corners. Turning into the lane, the son of Epiphaneia briefly met traffic but found space for clear running too late, failing to track the winner nor overtake **Meisho Tabaru**, finishing a length behind in third.

Other contenders:

4th: (14) **Tagano Dude**—unhurried in 13th, launched charge after 3rd corner to time fastest over last 3 furlongs, neck short for 3rd

5th: (3) **Seiun Hades**—tracked leaders on rails around 3rd, ran gamely, weakened in final strides

6th: (12) **Lebensstil**—kept eye on winner around 11th, driven after 3rd corner, needed more in last 200m

7th: (9) **Yoho Lake**—raced inside winner around 9th, lacked needed kick

8th: (11) **David Barows**—positioned wide around 6th, even paced at stretch

9th: (10) **Boldog Hos**—trailed in rear, passed tired rivals on inner stretch

10th: (5) **Shohei**—sat around 5th, gradually advanced, failed to sustain bid

11th: (2) **Matenro Leo**—ran around 12th, switched to outside rounding last corners, never fired

12th: (1) **Sun Stockton**—raced near rear, circled wide, unable to reach contention

13th: (13) **Faust Rasen**—tracked leader in second, faded after final corner

14th: (8) **Ecoro Walz**—traveled near winner around 8th, showed little at stretch

15th: (7) **Ecoro Dinos**—chased leaders in 3rd, fell back after 3rd corner

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.4 - 11.0 - 11.5 - 11.7 - 11.5 - 12.1 - 11.9 - 11.8 - 11.6 - 12.1

Last 4 furlongs: 47.4 Last 3 furlongs: 35.5

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

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.