

**SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 173RD TENNO SHO (SPRING) (G1)**

The forerunner of the Tenno Sho was established in 1905 under the name “Emperor’s Cup,” in which the winner received the silver comport bestowed by the Emperor. The race was renamed to “Teishitsu Goshoten Kyoso” the following year. The race became biannual events—held at Hanshin in spring and at Tokyo in autumn—a year after the establishment of the Japan Racing Society (the forerunner of the Japan Racing Association) in 1936 and was officially named the “Tenno Sho” from the autumn of 1947. The Tenno Sho (Spring) became the ultimate competition to determine the champion stayer, having altered its distance to 3,200 meters in 1938 while its counterpart in autumn run over 2,000 meters is one of the biggest middle-distance events contested between the proven older horses with the addition of the three-year-old hopefuls. The venue of the spring version was moved to Kyoto Racecourse in 1948 and was temporarily shifted to Hanshin in 2021 and 2022 during the renovation of Kyoto’s grandstand.

The Tenno Sho (Spring) was designated as an international race in 2005 and welcomed Makybe Diva (GB, by Desert King) of Australia as the first foreign contender the same year when she finished seventh before winning her third consecutive Melbourne Cup (G1, 3,200m). Red Cadeaux (GB, by Cadeaux Genereux) was the latest foreign contender of this race in 2014, running for the second time after finishing third in the 2013 edition, but was unable to perform over the firm turf and finished 14th.

This year, defending champion **Redentor** came off an eighth in the Kyoto Kinen (G2, 2,200m; Feb.15), his comeback start from a femur fracture in his right hind leg. **Admire Terra** won his second graded title in his last start, the Hanshin Daishoten (G2, 3,000m; Mar.22), in which **Aqua Vernal** followed in second. 2025 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m) champion **Croix du Nord** registered his third G1 title in the Osaka Hai (G1, 2,000m; Apr.5) with the Kokura Daishoten (G3, 1,800m) winner **Tagano Dude** in fourth. The field also included **Wurttemberg** and the Stayers Stakes (G2, 3,600m) victor **Hohelied**, who came off fourth and fifth, respectively, in the Diamond Stakes (G3, 3,400m; Feb.21); two-time graded winner **Shin Emperor**; and Copa Republica Argentina (G2, 2,500m) victor **Mystery Way**.

**THE 173RD TENNO SHO (SPRING) (G1)**

4-year-olds &amp; up, 3,200 meters (about 16 furlongs), turf, right-handed

Sunday, May 3, 2026 Kyoto Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 651,000,000 (about US\$ 4,200,000 &lt;US\$1=¥155&gt;)

4-y-o &amp; up: 58kg (about 128 lbs), 2kg allowance for Fillies &amp; Mares,

1kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2022

Course record: 3:12.5

Race record: 3:12.5 [Kitasan Black (JPN, by Black Tide), 2017]

Safety factor: 18 runners

Going: Good to Firm

Weather: Drizzle



FP	BK	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin (L3F)	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	4	7	Croix du Nord (JPN) Yuichi Kitamura	C4 br. 58.0	1.8 (1)	3:13.7 (34.9)	Kitasan Black Rising Cross (Cape Cross)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Takashi Saito
2	8	15	Wurttemberg (JPN) Fuma Matsuwaka	H6 b. 58.0	208.4 (12)	Nose (34.3)	Kitasan Black Maruka Aichan (French Deputy)	Teruya Yoshida Shadai Farm Hiroshi Miyamoto
3	2	3	Admire Terra (JPN) Yutaka Take	H5 g. 58.0	3.0 (2)	1/2 (34.7)	Rey de Oro Admire Miyabi (Heart's Cry)	Junko Kondo Junko Kondo Yasuo Tomomichi
4	3	4	Aqua Vernal (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	M5 g. 56.0	26.4 (4)	1/2 (35.0)	Epiphaneia April Mist (Deep Impact)	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Racing Hirofumi Shii
5	7	12	Redentor (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	H5 d.b. 58.0	5.0 (3)	1-1/4 (35.1)	Rulership Corcovado (Stay Gold)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Tetsuya Kimura
6	6	11	Tagano Dude (JPN) Damian Lane	H5 b. 58.0	28.2 (5)	2-1/2 (35.2)	Yamakatsu Ace Tagano Mu Chan (Heart's Cry)	Ryoji Yagi Ryoji Yagi Toru Miya

7	5	8	Shin Emperor (FR) Mirai Iwata	H5 ch. 58.0	30.2 (6)	3/4 (35.5)	Siyoni Starlet's Sister (Galileo)	Susumu Fujita Ecurie Des Monceaux Yoshito Yahagi
8	7	13	Mystery Way (JPN) Hiroki Matsumoto	G8 d.b. 58.0	64.7 (8)	1-1/4 (36.5)	Just a Way Gypsy Highway (High Chaparral)	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Shinya Kobayashi
9	1	1	Vermicelles (JPN) Katsuma Sameshima	M6 ch. 56.0	111.6 (9)	1-1/4 (36.1)	Gold Ship Maroon Drop (Conduit)	Normandy Thoroughbred Racing Co., Ltd. Okada Stud Keiji Yoshimura
10	6	10	Meiner Campana (JPN) Akihide Tsumura	H6 b. 58.0	143.3 (10)	2 (36.6)	Gold Ship Manbala (Linamix)	Thoroughbred Club Ruffian Co., Ltd. Big Red Farm Takafumi Aoki
11	2	2	Sunrise Soleil (JPN) Kenichi Ikezoe	H5 d.b. 58.0	223.9 (13)	1-1/2 (37.3)	Kizuna Solaria (Scat Daddy)	Life House Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Yoshito Yahagi
12	3	5	Keiai Sandera (JPN) Takashi Fujikake	G6 b. 58.0	270.9 (14)	1/2 (36.3)	Silver State Queen's Millicent (Empire Maker)	Keiai Stallion Co., Ltd. Queens Ranch Ltd Shinya Kobayashi
13	5	9	Precious Day (JPN) Seinosuke Yoshimura	C4 d.b. 58.0	308.4 (15)	1-3/4 (36.6)	New Year's Day Splendor Clan (Rulership)	Kazutaka Hosaka Northern Farm Shigenobu Isaka
14	8	14	Hohelied (JPN) Keita Tosaki	M5 b. 56.0	45.4 (7)	1/2 (37.4)	Rulership Golden Harp (Stay Gold)	Haruya Yoshida Oiwake Farm Toshiaki Tajima
15	4	6	Echt (JPN) Yuga Kawada	H9 b. 58.0	147.4 (11)	1-1/2 (37.4)	Rulership Hela (Deep Impact)	Yu Hirai Yu Hirai Hideyuki Mori

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: ¥ 21,494,622,600      Turnover for the Day: ¥ 31,678,555,000      Attendance: 55,974

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.7	¥ 180	Bracket Quinella	4-8	¥ 2,530	Quinella	7-15	¥ 18,240
Place	No.7	¥ 110	Quinella Place	7-15	¥ 3,640	Exacta	7-15	¥ 20,000
	No.15	¥ 940		3-7	¥ 170	Trio	3-7-15	¥ 10,370
	No.3	¥ 120		3-15	¥ 3,490	Trifecta	7-15-3	¥ 70,630

Winner= 10 starts: 7 wins & 1 second / Added & stakes money: ¥ 303,192,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 1,219,840,600

### **Croix du Nord Lands Narrow Victory in Tenno Sho (Spring)**

Heavy favorite **Croix du Nord** claimed his fourth G1 victory in this year's Tenno Sho (Spring), having won the 2024 Hopeful Stakes (2,000m), 2025 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, 2,400m) and this year's Osaka Hai (2,000m) which was his last start four weeks ago. The brown colt became the first Derby winner to notch this race after Meisho Samson in 2007 while also marking the seventh father-and-son victory in JRA history—his sire, Kitasan Black, was a two-time Tenno Sho (Spring) winner (2016-2017). Both trainer Takashi Saito and jockey Yuichi Kitamura claimed their JRA-G1 victory following the Osaka Hai with this colt and this victory secured the former's 11th and the latter's ninth G1 in total.

**Croix du Nord** broke smoothly and was forwardly positioned around sixth, three wide throughout most of the 3,200-meter trip. Maintaining good position in his first long-distance challenge, the Kitasan Black colt was given the go at early stretch and responded immediately to draw away along the flat Kyoto stretch, looking very much a clear winner before **Wurtemberg** came storming from behind, forcing a careful deliberation by the racing stewards who ultimately determined the four-year-old colt as the winner.

“I really didn't know whether we had won or not and it was a long time waiting for the final results but I

feel relieved that we were the winner. The plan was to have him relaxed going downhill in the first lap but the colt got a little keen but all in all, he proved himself to be a terrific colt with all-round capabilities and power,” commented Yuichi Kitamura.

**Wurtemberg** raced well off the pace at the very rear for most of the way, made headway going downhill towards the last corner and circled wide into the straight. Showing good speed from then on, the six-year-old son of Kitasan Black was quickly at the heels of **Admire Terra** with 200 meters to go and matched the finishing speed of the eventual winner to pass all but **Croix du Nord** to just miss by a nose.

**Admire Terra** was positioned in mid-field and eased further back passing the grandstand for the first lap. Allowed to relax fourth from the rear along the backstretch while securing a clear path in front along the outside, the son of Rey de Oro picked up speed as soon as **Croix du Nord** made his move entering the stretch and closed in impressively to threaten the eventual winner to half a length at the wire while overtaken in the last strides by **Wurtemberg**.

Other contenders:

4th: (4) **Aqua Vernal**—ran wide behind winner, rallied gamely, outrun in last 100m, finished close

5th: (12) **Redentor**—sat around 9th, showed effort but no match for top finishers

6th: (11) **Tagano Dude**—settled around 13th, angled out, passed tired rivals

7th: (8) **Shin Emperor**—saved ground around 10th, needed more in last 200m

8th: (13) **Mystery Way**—set pace, maintained 5-length lead at one point, ran gamely until 100m out

9th: (1) **Vermicelles**—hugged rail around 6-7th, lacked needed kick in last 200m

10th: (10) **Meiner Campana**—raced around 5th, failed to sustain bid in last 300m

11th: (2) **Sunrise Soleil**—ran in 5th early, advanced to 2nd in backstretch, took brief lead at early stretch, weakened in last 200m

12th: (5) **Keiai Sandera**—took economic trip around 10th, unable reach contention

13th: (9) **Precious Day**—unhurried around 13th, no factor

14th: (14) **Hohelied**—chased leader in 2nd, dropped back at stretch

15th: (6) **Echt**—traveled in 3rd, faded after final corner

Fractional time: 12.9 - 11.3 - 11.8 - 11.9 - 12.0 - 11.6 - 11.8 - 13.2 - 13.1 - 12.0 - 12.6 - 12.4 - 11.7 - 11.7 - 11.6 - 12.1  
(sec./furlong) Last 4 furlongs: 47.1 Last 3 furlongs: 35.4

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

**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.