

SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 87TH YUSHUN HIMBA (JAPANESE OAKS, G1)

The Japanese version of the prestigious British Oaks, the Yushun Himba was established in 1938 and contested among runners limited to home-bred three-year-old fillies. Initially called the “Hanshin Yushun Himba” and held during the fall season at Hanshin Racecourse, the race acquired its current status as the Japanese Oaks upon changing its venue to Tokyo Racecourse in 1946. The race was also shifted to the spring season, being the richest in prize money and longest in distance among the current JRA races limited to fillies/mares. The Yushun Himba opened its door to foreign-bred runners in 2003 and acquired international G1 status in 2010.

While the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas, G1, 1,600m) serves in gauging the speed potentials in the future broodmares, the Yushun Himba is a championship race in which to discover the added quality of stamina as well as speed, and winners of this race are highly rated as broodmares upon retirement to stud. Recent winners included fillies/mares that became high profile G1 winners. 2023 winner Liberty Island (JPN, by Duramente) went on to capture the Shuka Sho (G1, 2,000m) that autumn to become the seventh filly to capture the fillies’ Triple Crown title.

The top five finishers (in that order) of the Oka Sho (Apr.12) that were automatically eligible for the Oaks were **Star Anise**, Garavogue (JPN, by Lord Kanaloa), Zippy Tune (JPN, by Lord Kanaloa), I Need You (JPN, by Fine Needle) and **Alankar**. However, Garavogue and Zippy Tune cancelled their entries, the former due to a cellulitis and the latter with a chip fracture, both in their right foreleg, while I Need You was in need for a rest following her last start and also withdrawn. **Dream Core** and **Sweet Happiness**, already proven winners in graded/listed events but ninth and 13th, respectively, in the Oka Sho, ran in the Yushun Himba, hoping to improve in the 2,400-meter classic. Those who earned their tickets to make the lineup by faring well in Oaks trial, the Flora Stakes (G2, 2,000m; Apr.26) were winner **Laughterlines** and runner-up **Enne**. The field also included **Smart Priere**, **Ange de Joie**, **Juryoku Pierrot** and **Trinity**, respective winners of the Flower Cup (G3, 1,800m; Mar.21), the Kunshiran Sho (1 Win Class, 1,800m; Mar.28), the Wasurenagusa Sho (Listed, 2,000m; Apr.12) and the Yaguruma Sho (1 Win Class, 2,200m; May.2).

THE 87TH YUSHUN HIMBA (JAPANESE OAKS, G1)

3-year-olds, Fillies, 2,400 meters (about 12 furlongs), turf, left-handed

Sunday, May 24, 2026

Tokyo Racecourse

11th Race

Post time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 326,500,000 (about US\$ 2,107,000 <US\$1=¥155>)

3-y-o: 55 kg (about 121 lbs), 3 kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2023

Course record: 2:20.3

Race record: 2:22.8 [Loves Only You (JPN, by Deep Impact), 2019]

Safety factor: 18 runners

Going: Good to Firm

Weather: Cloudy



FP	BK	PP	Horse Jockey	S&A Color Wgt	Odds (Fav)	Margin (L3F)	Sire Dam (Dam's Sire)	Owner Breeder Trainer
1	8	16	Juryoku Pierrot (JPN) Seina Imamura	F3 ch. 55.0	10.9 (5)	2:25.6 (33.1)	Orfevre Happy Value (Zenno Rob Roy)	Kensuke Kondo Tobino Bokujo Ryo Terashima
2	6	12	Dream Core (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	F3 b. 55.0	5.2 (3)	Neck (34.3)	Kizuna Normcore (Harbinger)	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Racing Masahiro Otake
3	8	18	Laughterlines (JPN) Damian Lane	F3 d.b. 55.0	3.2 (2)	Neck (33.3)	Al Ain Bangor (King Kamehameha)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Michihiro Ogasa
4	3	5	Realize Luminous (JPN) Akihide Tsumura	F3 d.b. 55.0	99.7 (10)	Neck (34.6)	Silver State Je Reviens (Rulership)	Yosuke Imafuku Oyanagi Farm Shinsuke Hashiguchi
5	8	17	Sweet Happiness (JPN) Riki Takasugi	F3 ch. 55.0	112.0 (11)	Head (34.1)	Real Impact Jurar (Workforce)	Kodai Maeda North Hills Co., Ltd. Yoshihito Kitade
6	1	2	Lay Classic (JPN) Michael Dee	F3 b. 55.0	124.4 (12)	Neck (33.6)	Kitasan Black Mejiro Jennifer (White Muzzle)	Morimasa Hasegawa Lake Villa Farm Koichi Shintani

7	7	13	Enne (JPN) Ryusei Sakai	F3 d.b. 55.0	7.6 (4)	3/4 (33.1)	Kizuna Lupin (Medaglia d'Oro)	Tanigawa B. Tanikawa Stud Tatsuya Yoshioka
8	2	3	Alankar (JPN) Yutaka Take	F3 b. 55.0	12.5 (6)	1/2 (33.9)	Epiphaneia Sinhelite (Deep Impact)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Takashi Saito
9	7	15	Ange de Joie (JPN) Mirai Iwata	F3 g. 55.0	33.7 (7)	Neck (33.4)	Kitasan Black Peace Angel (Dark Angel)	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Corporation Inc. Yuichi Fukunaga
10	5	9	Trinity (JPN) Atsuya Nishimura	F3 d.b. 55.0	59.2 (9)	1-1/4 (35.4)	Saturnalia Nuovo Record (Heart's Cry)	Reiko Hara Hara Reiko Racing Co., Ltd. Shogo Yasuda
11	2	4	Long Tall Sally (JPN) Keita Tosaki	F3 b. 55.0	260.5 (14)	Neck (34.4)	Kitasan Black Global Beauty (Global Hunter)	M's Racing Northern Racing Yuichi Fukunaga
12	5	10	Star Anise (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	F3 ch. 55.0	3.0 (1)	1 (34.3)	Drefong Epice Arome (Daiwa Major)	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Farm Tomokazu Takano
13	7	14	Sorpassare (JPN) Suguru Hamanaka	F3 b. 55.0	309.3 (15)	2 (34.3)	Kizuna Barefoot Lady (Footstepsinthesand)	TN Racing Taihei Stud Farm Co. Ltd Hirofumi Shii
14	6	11	Ametista (JPN) Takeshi Yokoyama	F3 b. 55.0	157.7 (13)	3/4 (35.5)	Kitasan Black Ti Amo (King Kamehameha)	Lord Horse Club Co., Ltd. K. I. Farm Mitsunori Makiura
15	4	8	Smart Priere (JPN) Yusuke Hara	F3 d.b. 55.0	37.9 (8)	Neck (35.2)	Epiphaneia Smart Layer (Deep Impact)	Toru Okawa Smart Ltd Ryuji Okubo
16	1	1	Mitsukane Venera (JPN) Kazuo Yokoyama	F3 b. 55.0	471.8 (18)	Nose (33.9)	Maurice Nasu Kazan (Daiwa Major)	Mitsuru Oyamada Oyamada Holdings Ltd Nobuhiro Suzuki
17	3	6	Longing Celine (JPN) Shu Ishibashi	F3 g. 55.0	356.1 (16)	5 (36.3)	Maurice Passenger Ship (Daiwa Major)	Koichi Sakamoto Shadai Farm Masahiro Takeuchi
18	4	7	Stunning Lady (JPN) Kosei Miura	F3 b. 55.0	364.2 (17)	Neck (36.4)	Benbatl Foxy Lady (Deep Impact)	Thoroughbred Club Ruffian Co., Ltd. Big Red Farm Noboru Takagi

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: ¥ 21,116,924,300

Turnover for the Day: ¥ 31,986,876,400

Attendance: 44,539

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.16	¥ 1,090	Bracket Quinella	6-8	¥ 700	Quinella	12-16	¥ 3,210
Place	No.16	¥ 330	Quinella Place	12-16	¥ 1,150	Exacta	16-12	¥ 8,450
	No.12	¥ 190		16-18	¥ 790	Trio	12-16-18	¥ 3,220
	No.18	¥ 140		12-18	¥ 390	Trifecta	16-12-18	¥ 30,330

Winner= 6 starts: 4 wins / Added & stakes money: ¥ 176,369,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 213,370,000

Juryoku Pierrot and Seina Imamura Achieve Historic Victory in Yushun Himba

Fifth favorite **Juryoku Pierrot** claimed this year's Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks) and became the first dirt-debut filly to win the second leg of the fillies' Triple Crown in 26 years. The daughter of Orfevre began her career with a win on dirt (Hanshin, 1,800m) in September as a two-year-old which was followed by two seventh-place finishes on the same surface then claimed her first win on turf in January (Kyoto, 2,000m) before capturing another win in the listed Wasurenagusa Sho (Hanshin, 2,000m) on April 12. Trainer Ryo Terashima, who opened his yard in 2016, scored his sixth graded and first G1 title in JRA. In her fifth season as a jockey, Seina Imamura, who was awarded the Best Newcomer Jockey in 2022 and had won one graded victory prior to this event, became the first Japanese female jockey to win a JRA-G1 let alone a classic title in her third G1 attempt.

Juryoku Pierrot broke smoothly from an outside stall and went with the flow with the other horses before eventually settling further back than mid-field off the rails, about six horses from the rear. Unhurried along the backstretch and still well behind approaching the last turn, Imamura waited patiently when her mount began to show keenness entering the stretch then acted quickly with 400 meter to go when an opening appeared in front down the center lane, allowing the filly to stretch out and make ground impressively. Reaching contention and in rally for the lead with about five other rivals on both sides, the Orfevre filly outran the best three-year-old fillies in the final strides with sheer guts to claim her first G1 victory and second jewel of the fillies' Triple.

“It’s like I’m dreaming! I’ve gone through tough losses in other attempts and I would always dream of doing better next time during the week-days and dream of winning a big race...but today, it’s a dream come true and, while I’m still not satisfied with my riding, I am so grateful to have been able to claim such a big title. I truly appreciate the support I have been getting towards my first classic challenge and it is such an encouragement as a jockey which makes me so happy to have chosen this career. There may have been concerns about how my filly would handle her first 2,400-meter distance but I had every faith in her. She did get a little bit excited early in the stretch but calmed down nicely and I was careful not to pull her back or shift lanes...then she responded with such power as she was taking me there (instead of my driving her)—she’s one tough girl,” commented Seina Imamura.

Third favorite **Dream Core** straightened herself after being shuffled back right briefly after the break and picked up speed to efficiently move up to eighth position before the first turn, then further up around fourth along the backstretch. In third position while wide into the stretch, the Kizuna filly held on gamely as horses behind began to gain ground with **Juryoku Pierrot** and **Laughterlines** joining her on both sides. The frontrunners also lingered from the generally slow-paced race to rally. In a neck-and-neck rally, she gave way to the winner while managing to hold off **Laughterlines** for the runner-up spot.

Laughterlines was rated three-wide and just in front of the eventual winner among the rear group and circled wide into the homestretch giving her a slight disadvantage of having to make more ground than the first two finishers while showing impressive speed in the last three furlongs.

Race favorite **Star Anise** was squeezed back by rivals rushing to gain good positions before the first turn then finally managed to settle in mid-division between horses along the backstretch around seventh or eighth position. The Drefong filly met traffic yet again rounding the final corner and appeared to have lost momentum in the final 400 meters from which she failed to emerge from the crowded rally and disappointed to 12th.

Other contenders:

- 4th: (5) **Realize Luminous**—ran around 10th early, advanced to 2nd, led 300m out, outran in final strides
- 5th: (17) **Sweet Happiness**—sat around 5th, responded but a little bit short of top finishers
- 6th: (2) **Lay Classic**—saved ground around 12th, joined rally for lead, weakened in final strides
- 7th: (13) **Enne**—near rear early, angled out and in early stretch, quickened to reach contention 100 meters tying fastest finishing speed but belatedly
- 8th: (3) **Alankar**—ran around 10th on rails early, switched to outside in backstretch, lacked needed kick
- 9th: (15) **Ange de Joie**—broke slowly, settled wide around 15th, passed tired rivals
- 10th: (9) **Trinity**—set slow pace, showed tenacity until 200m pole, weakened thereafter
- 11th: (4) **Long Tall Sally**—hugged rails around 9th, showed effort, needed more in last 200m
- 13th: (14) **Sorpassare**—ran around 15th, checked by rival 300m out, unable to reach contention
- 14th: (11) **Ametista**—chased leaders in 2nd or 3rd, ran out of steam 300m out
- 15th: (8) **Smart Priere**—raced wide around 8th, showed effort until 300m out

16th: (1) **Mitsukane Venera**—broke poorly, trailed in rear, no factor

17th: (6) **Longing Celine**—took economic trip, around 5th, nothing left at stretch

18th: (7) **Stunning Lady**—traveled wide around 7th behind favorite, outrun in stretch

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.8 - 11.3 - 12.7 - 12.8 - 12.6 - 12.2 - 12.3 - 12.2 - 11.9 - 11.6 - 11.4 - 11.8
Last 4 furlongs: 46.7 Last 3 furlongs: 34.8

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

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.