FROM: Media & Publicity Department, THE JAPAN RACING ASSOCIATION (JRA)
DATE: November 22, 2026

SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 43RD MILE CHAMPIONSHIP (G1)

The Mile Championship is one of the most prestigious autumn grade-one events for milers together with the Yasuda Kinen (G1, 1,600m) in spring. Horse racing in Japan had been focusing on long-distance racing for a long time, regarding stamina and strength as the most important quality of horses. However, with modern racing having increased its attention to speed horses suited to a mile or shorter distance races, the Mile Championship was established in 1984 in conjunction with Japanese races adopting the grading system. The current racing program now provides races for short, middle and long distance racehorses. The race was temporarily shifted to Hanshin Racecourse while Kyoto Racecourse underwent renovations between 2020 and 2022.

After being designated an international race in 1998, the race welcomed several foreign contestants, including Sahpresa (USA, by Sahm) who competed in three consecutive years, finishing third in 2009 and 2011 and fourth in 2010; Charyn (IRE, by Dark Angel), winner of the Cartier Racing Awards' Best Older Horse who was fifth in 2024; and Docklands (GB, by Massaat), 2025 Queen Anne Stakes (G1, 1,600m) winner who finished ninth last year. This year, French-based **Erdenali**, winner of the Prix du Moulin de Longchamp (G1, 1,600m), challenged the Japanese top milers.

With defending champion Jantar Mantar (JPN, by Palace Malice) retiring to stud in June, Yasuda Kinen victor **Sixpence** aimed to bounce back from a tenth in the Prix Jacques le Marois (G1, 1,600m, Aug.16) in this race. Victoria Mile (G1, 1,600m) winner **Embroidery** and last year's runner-up **Gaia Force** began their autumn campaigns here. The field also included the NHK Mile Cup (G1, 1,600m) champion **Rodeo Drive** and the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas, G1, 1,600m) victor **Star Anise**, who came off a second in the Niigata Kinen (G3, 2,000m, Aug.30) and a fourth in the Sprinters Stakes (G1, 1,200m, Sep.27), respectively. Other notable runners were Sekiya Kinen (G3, 1,600m) winner **Ampadu**, 2024 Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes (G1, 1,600m) champion **Admire Zoom** and last year's third-place finisher **Water Licht**, who finished second, sixth and seventh, respectively, in the Fuji Stakes (G2, 1,600m, Oct.17), as well as **World's End**, runner-up in the Yasuda Kinen and the Sprinters Stakes.

THE 43RD MILE CHAMPIONSHIP (G1)



3-year-olds & up, 1,600 meters (about 8 furlongs), right-handed, turf
Sunday, November 22, 2026 Kyoto Racecourse 11th Race Post time: 15:40
Total prize money: ¥ 390,600,000 (about US$ 2,520,000 <US$1=¥155>)
3-y-o: 57kg (about 126 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 58kg (about 128 lbs),
2kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 1kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2023
Course record: 1:31.3 Race record: 1:31.3 [Jantar Mantar (JPN, by Palace Malice), 2025]
Safety factor: 18 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	1	1	Erdenali (FR) Mickael Barzalona	G3 g. 57.0	7.4 (4)	1:31.8 (33.2)	Caravaggio Erdana (Sea The Stars)	Aga Khan Studs SC HH The Aga Khan's Studs SC Francis-Henri Graffard
2	1	2	Embroidery (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	F4 b. 56.0	5.7 (3)	3/4 (33.6)	Admire Mars Rottenmeier (Kurofune)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Tenei Horse Park Ltd Kazutomo Mori
3	7	14	Star Anise (JPN) Kohei Matsuyama	F3 ch. 55.0	4.2 (1)	Neck (33.5)	Drefong Epice Arome (Daiwa Major)	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Farm Tomokazu Takano
4	8	18	Off Trail (GB) Akira Sugawara	H5 b. 58.0	28.1 (9)	Head (32.8)	Farhh Rose Trail (Kingmambo)	Godolphin Godolphin Keiji Yoshimura
5	8	16	Suzu Khalom (JPN) Takashi Fujikake	H6 b. 58.0	40.1 (11)	3/4 (32.6)	Satono Diamond Eye Line (Laurel Guerreiro)	Tatsuro Mori Araki Farm Kazuya Makita
6	6	11	Gaia Force (JPN) Atsuya Nishimura	H7 g. 58.0	10.4 (6)	1/2 (33.5)	Kitasan Black Natale (Kurofune)	KR Japan Oiwake Farm Haruki Sugiyama

7	4	8	Rodeo Drive (JPN) Joao Moreira	C3 b. 57.0	5.6 (2)	1 (33.9)	Saturnalia Beverly Hills (Snitzel)	Katsumi Yoshida Northern Racing Tetsuhide Tsuji
8	5	10	Water Licht (JPN) Hideaki Miyuki	H5 ch. 58.0	86.5 (16)	Nose (33.5)	Drefong Water Peony (Victoire Pisa)	Masato Yamaoka Masato Yamaoka Mamoru Ishibashi
9	5	9	June Take (JPN) Yuga Kawada	H5 d.b. 58.0	74.1 (13)	1/2 (33.6)	Kizuna Admire Sabrina (Symboli Kris S)	Jun Yoshikawa Yoshikawa Holdings Hidenori Take
10	7	13	Reservation (JPN) Kanta Taguchi	C3 br. 57.0	83.3 (15)	Neck (33.6)	Danon Premium Prenotato (Jungle Pocket)	Isami Nakamura Matsuda Bokujo Takeshi Matsushita
11	2	3	Dragon Boost (JPN) Suguru Hamanaka	C4 b. 58.0	115.0 (17)	Nose (34.3)	Screen Hero Toko Dione (Empire Maker)	Miho Mizutani Z Stable Kenta Fujino
12	7	15	Ecoro Bloom (JPN) Ryusei Sakai	H5 ch. 58.0	80.5 (14)	Head (33.8)	Daiwa Major Sugar Shock (Candy Ride)	Masatoshi Haramura Northern Farm Yukihiro Kato
13	4	7	Coconuts Brown (JPN) Yuichi Kitamura	M6 b. 56.0	41.4 (12)	1-1/4 (33.6)	Kitasan Black Lewers Street (King Kamehameha)	Takayuki Shimokobe Shimokobe Farm Hiroyuki Uemura
14	3	6	Piko Rose (JPN) Kosei Miura	F4 b. 56.0	120.6 (18)	Neck (34.1)	Satono Diamond Rouge Noire (Storming Home)	BIJOUPIKO Co., Ltd. Champions Farm Daishi Ito
15	6	12	World's End (JPN) Cristian Demuro	H5 d.b. 58.0	11.4 (7)	Head (34.4)	Lord Kanaloa Lilavati (Zenno Rob Roy)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Manabu Ikezoe
16	3	5	Admire Zoom (JPN) Yutaka Take	C4 b. 58.0	8.3 (5)	Neck (34.2)	Maurice Daiwa Zoom (Heart's Cry)	Junko Kondo Shadai Farm Yasuo Tomomichi
17	8	17	Ampadu (GB) Mirai Iwata	H5 b. 58.0	18.7 (8)	1-1/2 (34.1)	Iffraaj Latharna Skies (Dubawi)	Godolphin Godolphin Tetsuya Kimura
18	2	4 B	Sixpence (JPN) Alexis Pouchin	H5 b. 58.0	36.5 (10)	3-1/2 (35.3)	Kizuna Finley'sluckycharm (Twirling Candy)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Hiroyasu Tanaka

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: ¥ 20,542,078,200 Turnover for the Day: ¥ 30,610,904,800 Attendance: 36,792

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.1	¥ 740	Bracket Quinella	1-1	¥ 2,490	Quinella	1-2	¥ 2,690
Place	No.1	¥ 280	Quinella Place	1-2	¥ 1,340	Exacta	1-2	¥ 4,760
	No.2	¥ 190		1-14	¥ 890	Trio	1-2-14	¥ 4,730
	No.14	¥ 170		2-14	¥ 640	Trifecta	1-2-14	¥ 24,610

Winner= 6 starts: 5 wins & 1 third / Added & stakes money: ¥ 183,822,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 279,922,000

Erdenali Makes History with First Foreign Victory in This Year's Mile Championship

Fourth favorite **Erdenali**, winner of the Prix du Moulin de Longchamp (G1, 1,600m), prevailed over a strong field that included six G1 winners to become the first foreign-based runner to win the Mile Championship, where 13 foreign horses had previously competed in the past. The son of Caravaggio also became the second gelded horse to win the Mile Championship since Tokai Point in 2002. Owner Aga Khan Studs, trainer Francis-Henri Graffard and jockey Mickael Barzalona all celebrates their second JRA-G1 title following last year's Japan Cup victory with Calandagan.

French raider **Erdenali** broke somewhat slowly from the innermost stall, quickly moved up to 6th-7th by

the rails and continued to hug the rails behind **Embroidery** rounding the corners. As the field fanned out entering the stretch, the Caravaggio gelding found an opening on the inside and produced a powerful turn of foot, taking the lead 100 meters out and holding off the challenges of a strong field to cross the wire 3/4 length in front.

“We’re extremely thrilled. Obviously, this was a big challenge. It was a very long trip and he’s a young horse, but we knew he was a very good horse and we’re absolutely ecstatic to win. Halfway up the straight, he still had quite a lot of ground to make up, but I felt he was very tough today. He really fought for the win because, although we know he’s a very good horse, he has never had to battle like he did today. He showed that he’s a tough horse and I’m very proud of him. He’s been invited to the Hong Kong Mile and we need to make a decision probably within the next day as to whether he goes back to France or continues on to Hong Kong,” commented owner’s representative Nemone Routh.

“I'm very very happy for the whole team back in Chantilly. It was a big challenge and required a lot of work, so we couldn’t be happier. We had the best result possible, and it was a very difficult race to win. But we have a very nice horse, so I’m very happy for the team. We had a perfect trip around. Mickael had a very good position behind Embroidery, so I thought my horse was traveling nicely. Then, in the straight, he didn’t lose any ground. It took a while for him to come through, but in the last 200 meters, he was already accelerating, and he kept accelerating all the way to the wire. It was a very strong performance. He’s a lovely horse with a good temperament and a lot of ability. Regarding his next race, it depends on how the horse comes out of the race. He seems nice and relaxed after the race, so I will discuss with the team here to see how he has taken it. He has the option of going to Hong Kong, but we will make that decision based on the horse himself and how he’s doing,” commented trainer Francis-Henri Graffard.

“I’m very happy. It wasn’t an easy race and I’m very proud of Erdenali. The pace was quite fast early on. I just had to go with it a little bit to make sure we could maintain a good position. Being able to get through on the inside and stay close to Embroidery was a big help. When we came up to the top of the hill, it was very tight and we were all very close to each other. We needed a bit of luck to find a gap, but everything came together on the inside at the beginning of the straight. Once he found his rhythm, he really picked up and went on to win quite easily in the end. Our plan was to try to stay close to the pace, but in the end, I didn’t have much other option, to be honest. The horses two wide off the rail were getting tired, so I had to take my chance on the inside. The gap came, and we ended up having a good trip. The horse has always been very talented, and if I hadn’t been boxed at Chantilly that day, he would have won (the Prix Messidor) and would be unbeaten. But that’s how racing goes. He has proved himself in the last two Group One races. He’s a top-class horse with a very good temperament and a big engine,” commented jockey Mickael Barzalona.

Third pick **Embroidery** pressed the pace in second to third after a smooth break and raced along the rails for most of the trip. The four-year-old filly briefly took the lead passing the 200-meter marker and, while overtaken by the winner in the final 100 meters, managed to fend off the rest of the field by a neck to finish second.

Breaking alertly from stall 14, race favorite **Star Anise** traveled wide in mid-division, around sixth, made bid from the outside entering the lane and threatened the front runners with a powerful kick but fell a neck short of the runner-up to finish third.

<u>Other contenders:</u>
4th: (18) **Off Trail**—unhurried 2nd from rear, showed 2nd fastest late kick, had too much ground to cover
5th: (16) **Suzu Khalom**—trailed in rear, circled wide, timed fastest over last 600m but belatedly

6th: (11) **Gaia Force**—sat wide around 10th, lacked needed kick
7th: (8) **Rodeo Drive**—settled around 5th, remained in contention until 150m out
8th: (10) **Water Licht**—positioned around 12th, needed more
9th: (9) **June Take**—saved ground around 13th, showed effort until 200m pole
10th: (13) **Reservation**—ran wide around 13th, unable to reach contention
11th: (3) **Dragon Boost**—set pace, faded after 200m pole
12th: (15) **Ecoro Bloom**—traveled wide around 10th, rounded corners widest, even paced
13th: (7) **Coconuts Brown**—ran around 13th, unable to find open space in stretch
14th: (6) **Piko Rose**—raced in mid-field, angled in for open space at top lane, no factor
15th: (12) **World's End**—raced toward front, entered lane first, weakened thereafter
16th: (5) **Admire Zoom**—sat wide around 7th, dropped back in last 200m
17th: (17) **Ampadu**—good start, eased back toward rear, failed to respond at stretch
18th: (4) **Sixpence**—rallied to set pace, turned corners in 2nd, faded in stretch

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.4 - 10.6 - 11.0 - 12.2 - 11.9 - 11.6 - 11.0 - 11.1
Last 4 furlongs: 45.6 Last 3 furlongs: 33.7

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

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.