

# Japan Racing Journal

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2

**Japan Cup  
Weekend 2005  
– Two by a Nose**

4

**Deep Impact's  
Achievement:  
1st Triple Crown  
Winner in 21  
Years**

6

**GSC & AMC  
2005 – 2006**

7

**Police Agency  
Pursues Illegal  
Overseas Internet  
Gambling Sites**

8

**Japanese  
Graded Race  
Results**

**2005 ARF  
Specialized  
Study Program**



# Japan Cup Weekend 2005 – Two by a Nose

by Barbara Bayer



Japan Cup award ceremony



Japan Cup Dirt award ceremony.

The weekend of the sixth running of the Japan Cup Dirt and the 25th running of the Japan Cup at Tokyo Racecourse brought racegoers what were likely two of the most exciting Japan Cups in years. Win or lose, satisfied nods and exclamations of “great race, great weekend” were heard long after Nov. 26 and 27, two days of exciting racing that undoubtedly left few fans disappointed.

A three-way photo finish in the Japan Cup Dirt kept the money firmly in Japan for the race’s sixth running and turned out to be a preview of the close calls that typified both of the weekend’s main events. Overwhelming race favorite, the Fuji Kiseki-sired Kane Hekili, struggled to victory over local runners Seeking the Dia and Star King Man after the 3-year-old Kane Hekili held on bravely in a furious stretch battle. The race was so close that jockey Yutaka Take, not realizing he had won, congratulated Norihiro Yokoyama on Seeking the Dia.

Take explained with a sheepish, but wholly unapologetic grin, “(Yokoyama) said, ‘No, you won,’ and it was like ‘Whoops!’” With the win, Yutaka Take snared his 200th win of the year and a personal best 11 GI wins in a year, including victories in six top-level JRA races.

A solid victory for Japan as the foreign-based runners were thoroughly trounced. American runners Lava Man and Tap Day finished far down the line in 11th and 13th place, respectively, while U.K. horse Eccentric saw all 15 of the rest of the field home ahead of him. Lava Man suffered a hoof injury down the backstretch and returned bleeding profusely from his left front hoof. Jockey Corey Nakatani said the race ended for them at that point when the accident occurred less than halfway through the race. The horse immediately put his head up, apparently in pain.

For many racing fans, this year’s race

brought back memories of another 3-year-old who raced to victory under Take – Kurofune. Kurofune, like Kane Hekili (which means “spirit of thunder” in Hawaiian), was also owned by Makoto Kaneko, currently having a dream year with Japan’s Triple Crown winner Deep Impact. Take, however, chuckled when he remembered the ease with which he had ridden Kurofune to victory by 7 lengths in the race’s second running in 2001. Getting Kane Hekili to the line ahead of the others was quite a different matter, he explained. “Until I got to the front, things felt great. But when we did and took on the other two, he was a bit unnerved, no doubt because of his inexperience. The last 300 meters were really tough. All I could do was keep praying he would hold on and keep trying.” Kane Hekili covered the 2,100 meters of dirt in a time of 2:08.

Trainer Katsuhiko Sumii was non-committal as to any plans for running

the Northern Farm-bred Kane Hekili overseas. Sumii, 41, who is based at Ritto, was of the opinion that a successful excursion to the United States or Dubai would most likely require a total revamp of training methods to adapt to the different surfaces. Sumii indicated that the Japan Cup Dirt was the colt's last race for the year.

Not to be upstaged by the dirt version of the international spectacular, the following day on Nov. 27, the Japan Cup proved a day of high emotion, and nerve-wracking suspense. It was a day that Frankie Dettori admitted made him "suffer and sweat" before it gave him and the connections of the U.K.-based Alkaased what was assuredly their biggest day this year.

A hot pace set by Tap Dance City pulled the full gate of 18 over the first 1,600 meters in fractions of 0:23.40, 0:46.50, 1:10.20 and 1:34.0. Dettori was able to take advantage of the speed to bring his outside-drawn Alkaased in, a position trainer Luca Cumani, 56, had hoped Dettori could get and a request that had elicited the comment from the ace rider, "Who do you think I am, Houdini?" In fact, Dettori did seem to resemble the famed escape artist as he settled Alkaased neatly on the rail.

Ouija Board of the U.K. and race favorite Zenno Rob Roy looked strong in the stretch. The defending champion Zenno Rob Roy briefly took the lead as the front of the pack lined up across the stretch at the bottom of the hill. A rally by Alkaased, however, put the latter in the lead with 100 meters to go, at which point Cumani said, "I thought we had it won." But, second choice Heart's Cry, a local runner with French jockey

Ch r i s t o p h e Lemaire up, made a furious bid up the inside and, in a finish too close to call, looked as if he had snatched the race from third-pick Alkaased. Nearly 20 excruciatingly long minutes followed before the decision was in, further complicated by an inquiry. "I felt in my gut that I had won," Dettori said, "but I didn't know whether I'd had my eyes open or shut."

When the win was officially given to Alkaased, his connections waiting anxiously outside the weighing room erupted in a frenzy, with Dettori leaping into the arms of Cumani and owner Michael Charlton, 54. Screams, cheers and tears burst from all in unison. Cumani, tearing up as he made his way to the award ceremony, summed it up, saying, "I am over the moon!"

Settling for far less was Zenno Rob Roy in third place a length and three-quarters behind Heart's Cry. Lincoln and Ouija Board made it on the board in fourth and fifth place, respectively.

Alkaased covered the 2,400 meters in 2:22.10, a time that toppled a record that had held for 16 years, set in 1989 by the New Zealand mare Horlicks.

The Kingmambo-sired Alkaased was bred in Kentucky at Clovelly Farm. The 5-year-old was aimed at the Japan Cup as well as the Arc and Breeders' Cup



Alkaased by Kingmambo

Turf, though he raced in neither. He missed the Arc due to a leg infection and was pulled from the Turf when Cumani decided the horse was not in peak condition, nor was he suited to the going at Belmont. The horse "made the decisions," Charlton said. "He knew he would win in Japan."

More than 95,000 people attended the Japan Cup, with nearly 22 billion yen wagered on the race alone, nearly 32 billion yen on the day. The Japan Cup win gave Cumani his first victory in the race on his second bid. Dettori became the first jockey to bag the Japan Cup three times. The Italian-native captured the 1996 JC with Singspiel and the 2002 version with Falbrav. All three races were won by a nose.

Alkaased, though originally aimed for the Hong Kong Vase after the Japan Cup, was withdrawn from the race shortly following the Japan Cup after reportedly being sold to Japanese interests as a stallion. He is expected to stand

stud duty in Japan after first serving quarantine in England. Takahiro Wada, of Symboli Farm, is part-owner of Alkaased. Wada, 53, had reportedly been strongly behind running Alkaased in the Japan Cup, believing that the horse was exceptionally well-suited to the hard, fast going usually seen in Japan.



Lead Pony with international flags.



Japan Cup paddock.

# Deep Impact's Achievement: 1st Triple Crown Winner in 21 Years

By Masanori Ariyoshi



Finally, Deep Impact made his Triple Crown Winning on Kikuka Sho.

Which horse is the true champion? This question has become more difficult to answer recently in every country.

By winning the Triple Crown, Deep Impact (JPN, by Sunday Silence) helps to answer one element of this difficult question, which confronts the world's racing industry.

Japanese horse racing was based on the traditions of British racing. The Triple Crown races – the April Satsuki Sho (GI, 2,000 meters), the Japanese Derby (GI, 2,400 meters) in May, and October's Kikuka Sho (GI, 3,000 meters) – were modeled on the British 2,000 Guineas (around 1,600 meters) held in April, the June Derby (around 2,400 meters), and the September St. Leger (around 2,940 meters), in terms

of when they are held and the distances.

However, it was the U.K. that jettisoned the Triple Crown concept quicker than any other country.

The impetus was the 1970s champion Nijinsky (CAN, by Northern Dancer). From the time of his debut, he was the leader of the pack. He won the St. Leger 11 times, logging no defeats, and sparkled as a Triple Crown winner. However, he was then beaten in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and the English Champion Stakes. It is thought that running the St. Leger, which was too long a distance for Nijinsky, was the reason why he lost the last two races of his career. It was whispered that he could have retired without a loss if all eyes had not been fixated on the Triple

Crown.

Nijinsky was the last British Triple Crown winner. In the 35 years since then, no horse has succeeded in capturing this prize. There had not even been a desire to take up the challenge.

This year, once again, no horse was entered in all the U.K. Triple Crown legs. Oratorio (IRE, by Danehill) and Dubawi (IRE, by Dubai Millennium) were the only two horses entered in both the 2,000 Guineas and Derby. Reference Point (UK, by Mill Reef) was the last Derby winner to contest the St. Leger, and that was in 1987. Since then, there has not been one example of a Derby winner heading to Doncaster.

The specialization of race horses proceeded rapidly, and events correspon-



Fans welcome the winning horse at the main stand.

ding to this specialization have been planned. All sorts of classifications – by distance, age and sex – have been set in place, producing a succession of champions in each category. The graded Classic race system began in Japan in 1984.

Perceptions of horse racing had matured to the point where Taiki Shuttle, active in the world of sprints and winner of the French GI Prix Jacques le Marois, was chosen 1998 Horse of the Year.

Champions in each category have been properly recognized and awarded. To the extent that horse racing is confined to those in the racing industry itself, this is the correct approach. However, when it comes to the fans who place bets and spend money on the industry, that is not always what happens.

How many weight classes are there in pro-boxing? How many track events is track and field divided into? This system ends up producing numerous world

and Olympic champions. It may suit sponsors and the most knowledgeable fans, but what about people who ordinarily do not follow those sports? Might they not find it too complicated and difficult, and then decide not to check these sports out.

I started covering horse racing in 1982 and came to consider myself a professional racing columnist.

Immediately after Deep Impact won the Satsuki Sho and the Japanese Derby, trainer Yasuo Ikee said, “We’ll go for the Triple Crown at the Kikuka Sho.” At the time, I felt that it might be better to try for the autumn Tenno Sho. My thinking was that beating the same 3-year-olds again and again was meaningless and that stepping up to a new challenge against older horses was the right thing to do. However, in hindsight, this was the kind of mistaken thinking a specialist tends to make.

The words “Triple Crown” are easily understood even by people unfamiliar with racing and have come to indicate something of value. Let’s assume it was decided to run Deep Impact in the fall Tenno Sho. No matter how many times I would have written, “This is a very challenging trial and has great significance for the world of horse racing,” I do not believe I would have created any interest or amazement. But the Triple Crown – these words have a nice ring to



them and are easily grasped even by people unfamiliar with racing.

“Triple Crown” is now a reality in Japan. This year, five 3-year-olds, including Deep Impact, completed the entire Satsuki Sho, Derby and Kikuka Sho event program. As much as racing industry members understood the value of this feat, it was all the more so for the fans.

On October 23, the day Deep Impact would try for the Triple Crown by entering the Kikuka Sho at Kyoto Racecourse, the track was packed with 137,000 spectators, the highest ever for the Kikuka Sho. This was a demonstration of the hopes of people who had waited so long for the appearance of a true champion, one above all other categories.



First win at Satsuki Sho.



Second win at Japanese Derby.

# Global Sprint Challenge & Asian Mile Challenge 2005 – 2006

## Global Sprint Challenge

Global Sprint Challenge, the new international sprint race series has ended with an award ceremony at the Nakayama Racecourse. Starting with the Lightning Stakes in Australia, races were also held in Great Britain and Japan. Cape of Good Hope of Hong

Kong was the first among the winning horses, and was victorious in two races. Trophies were awarded to the owner, trainer and jockey. Sponsors will provide free tours to major races such as the Japan Cup and Melbourne Cup. A \$1 million bonus prize will be awarded to

horses that win three G1 races in three countries during the 2006 season. The Hong Kong Sprint will be the Challenge's last leg next year and will surely increase the series' excitement.

### 2005 Result

	Date	Race Name	Racecourse	Authority (Country)	Length	Winning Horse
1	2/5	Lightning Stakes	Flemington RC	Racing Victoria (Aus)	1000m (Turf)	Fastnet Rock (Aus)
2	2/19	Australia Stakes	Mooney Valley	Racing Victoria (Aus)	1200m (Turf)	Cape of Good Hope (HK)
3	6/14	King's Stand Stakes	York RC	Ascot (GB)	1000m (Turf)	Chineur (FR)
4	6/18	Golden Jubilee Stakes	York RC	Ascot (GB)	1200m (Turf)	Cape of Good Hope (HK)
5	9/11	Centaur Stakes	Hanshin RC	JRA (JPN)	1200m (Turf)	Golden Cast (JPN)
6	10/2	Sprinters Stakes	Nakayama RC	JRA (JPN)	1200m (Turf)	Silent Witness (HK)

### 2006 Racing Calendar

	Race Date	Race Name	Racecourse	Authority (Country)
1	2/4	Lightning Stakes	Flemington RC	Racing Victoria (Aus)
2	2/18	Australia Stakes	Mooney Valley	Racing Victoria (Aus)
3	6/20	Kings Stand Stakes	York RC	Ascot (GB)
4	6/24	Golden Jubilee Stakes	York RC	Ascot (GB)
5	9/10	Centaur Stakes	Hanshin RC	JRA (JPN)
6	10/1	Sprinters Stakes	Nakayama RC	JRA (JPN)
7	12/10	Hong Kong Sprint	Sha Tin RC	HKJC (HK)



## Asian Mile Challenge

Hong Kong's Champions Mile and Japan's Yasuda Kinen became a new international mile race series this year. The series was a great success in terms of attendance and turnover in Japan.

ARF countries are willing to hold good international races and invite good horses to make the races more exciting.

Australia's Futurity Stakes and the UAE's Dubai Duty Free will join the

series in 2006.

Bonuses will be awarded for winning two, three or all four races in the series.

### 2005 Results

	Date	Race Name	Racecourse	Authority (Country)	Length	Winning Horse
1	5/14	The Champions Mile	Sha Tin RC	HKJC (HK)	1600m (Turf)	Bullish Luck (HK)
2	6/5	Yasuda Kinen	Tokyo RC	JRA (JPN)	1600m (Turf)	Asakusa Den'en (JPN)

### 2006 Racing Calendar

	Date	Race Name	Racecourse	Authority (Country)
1	3/4	Futurity Stakes	Caufield RC	Melborne RC (Aus)
2	3/25	Dubai Duty Free	Dubai RC	Dubai RC (UAE)
3	5/14	The Champions Mile	Sha Tin RC	HKJC (HK)
4	6/5	Yasuda Kinen	Tokyo RC	JRA (JPN)



# Police Agency Pursues Illegal Overseas Internet Gambling Sites

The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department's public security division issued an international arrest warrant through Interpol on the 9th for company director Kazuo Yatsuda, 52, suspected of violating the horse racing law through internet racing bookmaking activities and whose whereabouts have been unknown since he fled to Canada in 2002, and referred four of his customers to the public prosecutor's office.

According to the public security division, Yatsuda set up a site called "IRF International Racing Federation" around 1998, using servers in Canada and Hong Kong. He is believed to have collected hundreds of millions of yen up to now.

The site took ¥100 bets on JRA race results, paying winners at the same rates as JRA. Customers were lured with assertions that even bets that failed would repay 10 percent. JRA reported the site to the police agency in September 2003.

The investigation has shown that Yatsuda took bets totaling ¥2.5 million from a 60-year-old Machida company employee and nine others from 2003 to January this year, but apparently never placed any bets.

On his site Yatsuda described IRF as having its headquarters in the Caribbean and membership of around 30,000 racing fans and horse owners, with approval from several Central and North American countries. (Kyodo News)

## JRA Statement

JRA has long taken every opportunity to stress to horse racing fans that internet transactions other than those through legitimate JRA sites are illegal. Information about International Racing Federation's illegal internet gambling activities was gathered and reported to the police. With the cooperation of relevant government agencies, the credit

card industry, and internet organizations preventive measures such as the freezing of credit card payments and prevention of searches related to bookmaking sites have been implemented. Moreover, in view of the international character of illegal internet wagering, we have worked together with overseas racing authorities through the Asian Racing Federation and International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities to develop a mutual "good neighbor" policy designed to prevent illegal overseas gambling activities.

We sincerely appreciate the national police agency's recent investigative efforts. They will undoubtedly strongly supplement JRA's efforts up to now. We hope that the latest arrests will serve as an opportunity to control illegal internet gambling and increase recognition of its illegality.

## 2005 ARF Specialized Study Program

***This year's ARF specialized study programs were held from September to October.***

From September 20 to 27, Thomas Anthony from Selangor Turf Club, Jaslyn Tan from Singapore Turf Club, and Mario Elessis from Philippine Racing Club, Inc. attended a betting course.



From October 3 to 12, Dr. Lawrence W.H. Chan from Hong Kong Jockey Club and Dr. Chumnant Trinarong from Royal Bangkok Sports Club attended the veterinarian course.



## New website opens: Horse Racing In Japan

<http://japanracing.jp/>

JAIR opened a new website in November 2005, providing the latest information about horse racing in Japan. The site covers JRA, NAR, and international challenges.

The page is currently only in English, but information in French, Korean and Chinese will be available in the near future.



# Japanese Graded Race Results -2005-



Pari-mutuel handle: ¥26,450,915,800  
On-course: 4.5% Off-course: 95.5%

## 30<sup>th</sup> Running THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II COMMEMORATIVE CUP (GI)

Kyoto Racecourse	November 13	Value of race: ¥195,580,000	3-Year-Olds & Up, Entire Fillies & Mares
2,200m	Turf (firm)	2:12.5/10 (Course record 2:10.2)	18 Runners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sweep Tosho (Kenichi Ikezoe, 56.0 kg), b., f.4; End Sweep - Tabatha Tosho by Dancing Brave  
O-Tosho Sangyo, T-Akio Tsurudome, B-Tosho Sangyo Corporation Tosho Bokujo, Winning money:  
¥103,906,000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Osumi Haruka (Shinji Kawashima, 56.0 kg), b., m.5; Fusaichi Concorde - Hokko Oka by Lindo  
Shaver
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Admire Groove (Hiroyuki Uemura, 56.0 kg), b., m.5; Sunday Silence - Air Groove by Tony Bin
- 4<sup>th</sup> Yamanin Sucre (Hirofumi Shii, 56.0 kg), dk.b., f.4; Tokai Teio - Yamanin Jewelry by Nijinsky
- 5<sup>th</sup> Air Messiah (Yutaka Take, 54.0 kg), b., f.3; Sunday Silence - Air Deja Vu by Northern Taste
- Margin: 1/2, 2-1/2, 3/4, NK, THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II COMMEMORATIVE CUP ONLY:  
¥18,780,066,300, Attendance: 69,728



Pari-mutuel handle: ¥28,508,296,200  
On-course: 4.2% Off-course: 95.8%

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Running THE MILE CHAMPIONSHIP (GI)

Kyoto Racecourse	November 20	Value of race: ¥184,980,000	3-Year-Olds & Up
1,600m	Turf (firm)	1:32.1/10 (Course record 1:32.1/10)	17 Runners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Hat Trick (Olivier Peslier, 57.0 kg), br., c.4; Sunday Silence - Tricky Code by Lost Code  
O-Carrot Farm, T-Katsuhiko Sumii, B-Oiwake Farm, Winning money: ¥97,906,000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Daiwa Major (Christophe Lemaire, 57.0 kg), ch., c.4; Sunday Silence - Scarlet Bouquet by Northern  
Taste
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Rhein Kraft (Yuichi Fukunaga, 54.0 kg), b., f.3; End Sweep - Must Be Loved by Sunday Silence
- 4<sup>th</sup> Dance in the Mood (Hiroshi Kitamura, 55.0 kg), br., f.4; Sunday Silence - Dancing Key by Nijinsky
- 5<sup>th</sup> Balance of Game (Hatsuhiko Kowata, 57.0 kg), b., h.6; Fusaichi Concorde - Hall of Fame by Allez  
Milord
- Margin: NS, 1, NK, NK, THE MILE CHAMPIONSHIP ONLY: ¥19,916,457,500, Attendance: 48,927



Pari-mutuel handle: ¥17,312,704,600  
On-course: 7.1% Off-course: 92.9%

## 6<sup>th</sup> Running THE JAPAN CUP DIRT (GI)

Tokyo Racecourse	November 26	Value of race: ¥253,100,000	3-Year-Olds & Up
2,100m	Dirt (Standard)	2:08.0/10 (Course record)	16 Runners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kane Hekili (Yutaka Take, 55.0 kg), ch., c.3; Fuji Kiseki - Life Out There by Deputy Minister  
O-Kaneko Makoto Holdings Co. Ltd., T-Katsuhiko Sumii, B-Northern Farm, Winning money:  
¥133,570,000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Seeking the Dia (Norihiro Yokoyama, 57.0 kg), b., c.4; Storm Cat - Seeking the Pearl by Seeking the  
Gold
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Star King Man (Kent Desormeaux, 57.0 kg), ch., h.6; Kingmambo - Princesse Timide by Blushing  
Groom
- 4<sup>th</sup> Time Paradox (Olivier Peslier, 57.0 kg), ch., h.7; Brian's Time - Jolie Zaza by Alzao
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunrise Bacchus (Tetsuzo Sato, 55.0 kg), dk.b., c.3; Hennessy - Real Sapphire by Real Shadai
- Margin: NS, NK, 1-1/4, NS, THE JAPAN CUP DIRT ONLY: ¥9,501,168,100, Attendance: 56,261



Pari-mutuel handle: ¥31,394,481,600  
On-course: 6.5% Off-course: 93.5%

## 25<sup>th</sup> Running THE JAPAN CUP (GI)

Tokyo Racecourse	November 27	Value of race: ¥481,520,000	3-Year-Olds & Up
2,400m	Turf (firm)	2:22.1/10 (Course record)	18 Runners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Alkaased (Lanfranco Dettori, 57.0 kg), b., h.5; Kingmambo - Chesa Plana by Niniski  
O-Michael Charlton, T-Luca Cumani, B-Clovelly Farms, Winning money: ¥253,864,000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Heart's Cry (Christophe Lemaire, 57.0 kg), b., c.4; Sunday Silence - Irish Dance by Tony Bin
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Zenno Rob Roy (Kent Desormeaux, 57.0 kg), dk.b., h.5; Sunday Silence - Roamin Rachel by Mining
- 4<sup>th</sup> Lincoln (Yutaka Take, 57.0 kg), b., h.5; Sunday Silence - Grace Admire by Tony Bin
- 5<sup>th</sup> Ouija Board (Kieren Fallon, 55.0 kg), b., f.4; Cape Cross - Selection Board by Welsh Pageant
- Margin: NS, 1-3/4, NS, NK, THE JAPAN CUP ONLY: ¥21,553,638,100, Attendance: 95,635



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