

FROM: Media & Publicity Department,
THE JAPAN RACING ASSOCIATION (JRA)
DATE: November 26, 2023



SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 43RD JAPAN CUP (G1)

The Japan Cup, in its 43rd year, continues to attract some of the top turf horses from around the world—67 runners from North America, 154 from Europe, 26 from Oceania and five from Asia—while a number of runners have made this race their starting point towards further international success in following years.

Last year, **Vela Azul** claimed his first G1 title in this race which was his sixth start after switching to turf racing. In second was **Shahryar** (JPN, by Deep Impact) and **Weltreisende** (JPN, by Dream Journey) was behind that in third. **Grand Glory** (GB, by Olympic Glory) crossed the wire in sixth with fellow French runners **Onesto** (IRE, by Frankel) and **Simca Mille** (IRE, by Tamayuz) following in seventh and 15th, respectively, while **Tunnes** (GER, by Guilian) from Germany was ninth.

This year, the Japan Cup welcomed France's **Iresine** who claimed the Prix Ganay (G1, 2,100m) in April following his victory in the Prix Royal-Oak (G1, 3,100m) last year and came into the race from his fifth group-place victory in the Prix du Conseil de Paris (G2, 2,200m, Oct.15).

The home team taking on the challenge included Tenno Sho (Autumn) (G1, 2,000m; Oct.29) runners: 2022 Horse of the Year **Equinox** (1st), who extended his G1-winning streak to five while defending his Tenno Sho (Autumn) title; **Danon Beluga** (4th), runner-up in the Dubai Turf (G1, 1,800m) in March; and **Do Deuce** (7th), victor of last year's Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m).

Two contenders coming off their All Comers (G2, 2,200m, Sep.24) starts were three-time G1 winner **Titleholder** (2nd) and **Chestnut Coat** (15th), former JRA-based horse who is now based at NAR Hyogo.

Kyoto Daishoten (G2, 2,400m, Oct.9) finishers entered included **Deep Bond** (3rd), who registered three consecutive runner-up efforts in the Tenno Sho (Spring) (G1, 3,200m); **Vela Azul** (7th), who aimed to defend his Japan Cup title; and **Impress** (12th), third-place finisher in the Niigata Kinen (G3, 2,000m) in September.

Three-year-olds who were in their first challenges against older foes were **Liberty Island**, who won the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas, G1, 1,600m), the Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks, G1, 2,400m) and the Shuka Sho (G1, 2,000m, Oct.15) to become the seventh Triple Crown filly, along with **Shonan Bashitto**, fifth-place finisher in the Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1, 2,000m) who came off an 11th in the Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger, G1, 3,000m, Oct.22).

Also among the field were **Panthalassa**, winner of the 2022 Dubai Turf and the 2023 Saudi Cup (G1, dirt, 1,800m) who made his comeback in this race from a 10th-place finish in the Dubai World Cup (G1, dirt, 2,000m, Mar.25); **Stars on Earth**, champion of the 2022 Oka Sho and the Yushun Himba who passed up the Tenno Sho (Autumn) with a leg problem; **Studley** and **Forward Again**, who finished second and sixth, respectively, in the Cepheus Stakes (2,000m, Sep.16); **Win Erfolg**, whose latest win was partnered with Nanako Fujita who marked a milestone this year in becoming the first JRA-based female jockey to ride in the Japan Cup; **Trust Kenshin** who was 13th in last year's edition; and **Kurino Megami Ace**, another NAR Hyogo-based filly.

The 43rd Japan Cup (G1) in association with LONGINES – Japan Autumn International –

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

Sunday, November 26, 2023 Tokyo Racecourse 12th Race Post Time: 15:40

Total prize money: ¥ 1,085,000,000 (about US\$ 8,282,443 <US\$1=¥131>)

3-y-o: 56 kg (about 124 lbs), 4-y-o & up: 58 kg (about 128 lbs)

2 kg allowance for Fillies & Mares, 2 kg allowance for Southern Hemisphere-bred born in 2020

Course Record: 2:20.6

Race Record: 2:20.6 [Almond Eye (JPN), 2018]



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	1	2	Equinox (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	C4 br. 58.0	1.3 (1)	2:21.8 (33.5)	Kitasan Black Chateau Blanche (King Halo)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Tetsuya Kimura
2	1	1	Liberty Island (JPN) Yuga Kawada	F3 b. 54.0	3.7 (2)	4 (33.9)	Duramente Yankee Rose (All American)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Mitsumasa Nakauchida
3	8	17	Stars on Earth (JPN) William Buick	F4 d.b. 56.0	26.6 (5)	1 (34.0)	Duramente Southern Stars (Smart Strike)	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Mizuki Takayanagi
4	3	5	Do Deuce (JPN) Keita Tosaki	C4 b. 58.0	13.2 (3)	3/4 (33.7)	Heart's Cry Dust and Diamonds (Vindication)	Kieffers Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Yasuo Tomomichi
5	2	3	Titleholder (JPN) Kazuo Yokoyama	H5 b. 58.0	19.2 (4)	2 (35.0)	Duramente Mowen (Motivator)	Hiroshi Yamada Okada Stud Toru Kurita
6	5	10	Danon Beluga (JPN) Joao Moreira	C4 b. 58.0	32.5 (6)	1 (33.8)	Heart's Cry Coasted (Tizway)	Danox Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Noriyuki Hori
7	5	9	Vela Azul (JPN) Hollie Doyle	H6 bl. 58.0	99.7 (9)	Neck (33.8)	Eishin Flash Vela Blanca (Kurofune)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Kunihiko Watanabe
8	2	4	Studley (JPN) Tom Marquand	H5 b. 58.0	547.0 (13)	Neck (34.2)	Harbinger Win Floraison (Fuji Kiseki)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Yutaka Okumura
9	4	7	Iresine (FR)* Marie Velon	G6 d.b. 58.0	111.2 (10)	1-1/2 (34.2)	Manduro Inanga (Oasis Dream)	Bertrand Milliere P. Joyaux & Bnne ML.Van Dedem Jean-Pierre Gauvin
10	7	14	Deep Bond (JPN) Ryuji Wada	H6 br. 58.0	83.8 (8)	1/2 (34.7)	Kizuna Zephyranthes (King Halo)	Shinji Maeda Murata Bokujo Ryuji Okubo
11	7	15	Shonan Bashitto (JPN) Mirco Demuro	C3 b. 56.0	513.1 (12)	1 (34.8)	Silver State Guillem (Medaglia d'Oro)	Tetsuhide Kunimoto Northern Racing Naosuke Sugai
12	4	8	Panthalassa (JPN) Yutaka Yoshida	H6 b. 58.0	46.4 (7)	1-1/4 (38.7)	Lord Kanaloa Miss Pemberley (Montjeu)	Hiroo Race Co., Ltd. PANGLOSS Y.K., Toshihiro Hirosaki et al. Yoshito Yahagi
13	8	16	Impress (JPN) Kosei Miura	C4 d.b. 58.0	666.1 (14)	7 (35.0)	Kizuna Beatrice (Dr Fong)	Koji Maeda Shadai Farm Shozo Sasaki
14	3	6	Forward Again (JPN) Hiroto Mayuzumi	G6 d.b. 58.0	866.4 (16)	3/4 (35.3)	Rose Kingdom A Shin Shiner (Grass Wonder)	Koji Asakawa Nobuta Bokujo Eiji Nakano
15	8	18	Win Erfolg (JPN) Nanako Fujita	H6 b. 58.0	430.8 (11)	5 (35.1)	Gold Ship Success Strain (Tikkanen)	Naoyuki Naridomi Cosmo View Farm Yasuhiro Nemoto
16	6	11	Trust Kenshin (JPN) Kiwamu Ogino	H8 b. 58.0	871.9 (17)	2 (36.4)	Heart's Cry Aphelandra (El Condor Pasa)	Richiko Suganami Kinya Murakami Fumimasa Takahashi
17	6	12	Chestnut Coat (JPN) Hironobu Tanabe	H9 ch. 58.0	827.0 (15)	2-1/2 (36.4)	Heart's Cry White Veil (Kurofune)	Takuya Fujita Shimokobe Farm Ikko Tanaka
18	7	13	Kurino Megami Ace (JPN) Tomohiro Yoshimura	F4 ch. 56.0	878.1 (18)	5 (38.2)	Espoir City Kurino Bandaisan (French Deputy)	Yae Kurimoto Nissei Bokujo Mitsuru Ishibashi

FP: Final Position / BK: Bracket Number / PP: Post Position / 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 1: *Foreign contender

NOTE 2: 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: ¥ 26,058,995,600 Turnover for the Day: ¥ 37,285,557,900 Attendance: 85,866

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.2	¥ 130	Bracket Quinella	1-1	¥ 180	Quinella	1-2	¥ 180
Place	No.2	¥ 110	Quinella Place	1-2	¥ 130	Exacta	2-1	¥ 260
	No.1	¥ 110		2-17	¥ 310	Trio	1-2-17	¥ 600
	No.17	¥ 210		1-17	¥ 440	Trifecta	2-1-17	¥ 1,130

Winner= 10 starts: 8 wins & 2 seconds / Added & stakes money: ¥ 503,864,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 2,215,446,100

Equinox Overwhelms in Japan Cup

Equinox was a class above in this year's Japan cup, easily beating a stellar field which included eight G1 champions from Japan and abroad. Billed as a showdown between the brown colt and this year's Triple Tiara victor **Liberty Island**, the highest rated horse in the world prevailed while extending his G1 winning streak to six, becoming the third horse in JRA history to do so following T. M. Opera O (2000 ~ 2001) and Lord Kanaola (2012 ~ 2013). Following the footsteps of his sire Kitanasan Black who won the Japan Cup in 2016, **Equinox** has marked a milestone with this victory in becoming the first horse ever to exceed 2 billion yen in earnings (JPY 2,215,446,100). The colt has given his trainer Tetsuya Kimura his seventh JRA-G1 title—his latest being with the colt in the Tenno Sho (Autumn) last month—while jockey Christophe Lemaire, who notched the Queen Elizabeth II Cup with Brede Weg two weeks earlier, scored his 49th overall JRA-G1 win and is now tied with Yutaka Take in landing four Japan Cup titles (Vodka in 2009, Almond Eye in 2018 and 2020), more than any other jockey so far.

The full field of 18 started in front of the packed stands and, as expected, **Panthalassa** rushed to the front, setting a rapid pace that timed 57.6 seconds in the first 1,000 meters, widening an unmeasurable lead in the backstretch while three-time G1 winner **Titleholder** followed in second and **Equinox** a length behind in third. By the last corner, **Panthalassa** had gradually squandered his huge lead but was still about 100 meters ahead of the others in early stretch when the hot favorite unleashed his signature stretch drive. The top-rated horse in the world easily caught **Titleholder** 400 meters out and then inherited the lead from the used-up pacesetter just before the 200-meter marker to cruise to an incredible four-length victory.

Trainer Tetsuya Kimura:

“Equinox was able to come into the race in good condition. He was aggressive from the start and was relaxed during the race despite the fast pace of the frontrunner. With Equinox extending his G1 winning streak for over a year, the pressure was so great before the Japan Cup that I felt relieved when he won the race. He is a very well-balanced horse—shape of his hooves, bone structure and firm muscle—everything is perfectly balanced. It's a miraculous combination. So, we try to maintain this balance when we train him.”

Jockey Christophe Lemaire:

“I felt happy and relieved. Many emotions came to my mind because it was an unbelievable race. Horseracing fans and lovers were able to see something very special. He is a top horse and can adapt to any kind of race or surface. When we came back in front of the huge happy crowd who witnessed the race, I became very emotional. As a professional jockey for many years, I work hard to ride to perfection, so today was very special. Equinox is easy to ride—he knows his job very well and he doesn't use too much energy—so riding a horse like him is a pleasure and I felt very privileged to be in the saddle of such a fantastic horse.”

Three-year-old Triple Crown filly **Liberty Island** took a ground-saving trip behind the eventual winner in fourth. Although unable to match the speed of the winner, the second pick did not disappoint, displaying her good turn of foot and pinned **Titleholder** 250 meters out then **Panthalassa** 150 meters to the wire for second place.

Fifth choice and 2022 Best Three-Year-Old Filly **Stars on Earth** was settled behind **Equinox** and right next to **Liberty Island** most of the way. After entering the stretch side by side, the two fillies rallied briefly in early stretch but while unable to keep up with the eventual runner-up, **Stars on Earth** closed tenaciously for third while holding off a late charge by **Do Deuce**.

French raider and tenth pick **Iresine** was a touch late out of the gate, traveled on the rails in mid-pack and showed effort in the stretch but lacked the needed kick, unable to reach contention, to finish ninth.

Trainer Jean-Pierre Gauvin after the race:

“I think **Iresine** ran a good race. The gate was different from France, so he couldn’t get a good start, and he was unable to run in his usual style because the pace was too fast. However, Marie and I are satisfied with his performance. I have no regrets about racing him in the Japan Cup, and I’m happy that he was able to finish the race without any problem.”

Jockey Marie Velon:

“I’m very happy with **Iresine**. He gave his best. The race did not develop in his favor but he tried hard to keep up with the fast pace and strived in the straight. Tokyo Racecourse is a wonderful racecourse. Equinox was just spectacular.”

Other horses:

4th: (5) **Do Deuce**—hugged rails around 6th, swung wide entering lane for clear path, chased leaders with 2nd fastest closing speed.

5th: (3) **Titleholder**—led the field in 2nd, outdistanced from frontrunner, ran persistently in stretch but overtaken by rivals in last 400m.

6th: (10) **Danon Beluga**—reserved in 11th by rails, angled out at top stretch to make bid, passed rivals with tied 3rd fastest final kick.

7th: (9) **Vela Azul**—ran 2-wide around 13th, switched to inside at lane, good effort with tied 3rd fastest late drive.

8th: (4) **Studley**—eased back to 8th after good start, met brief traffic at top stretch, unable to improve position.

10th: (14) **Deep Bond**—settled 2-wide in 6th, turned final corners wide, even paced at stretch.

11th: (15) **Shonan Bashitto**—traveled 3-wide in around 8th, never reached contention.

12th: (8) **Panthalassa**—surged out to take command as expected, widened gap, ran gamely until 200m pole.

13th: (16) **Impress**—slow break, traveled 2nd from rear, passed tired rivals at stretch.

14th: (6) **Forward Again**—broke smoothly, settled toward rear, never fired.

15th: (18) **Win Erfolg**—trailed in rear, advanced after final corner.

16th: (11) **Trust Kenshin**—ran 3rd from rear after poor break, angled out to make bid but no factor.

17th: (12) **Chestnut Coat**—rated 3rd-4th from rear, never a threat.

18th: (13) **Kurino Megami Ace**—traveled 2-wide in 11th, weakened after final turn.

Fractional time (sec./furlong): 12.7 - 11.3 - 11.5 - 11.0 - 11.1 - 11.5 - 12.0 - 12.1 - 12.1 - 12.4 - 12.4 - 11.7

Last 4 furlongs: 48.6 Last 3 furlongs: 36.5

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

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.