FROM: Media & Publicity Department,
THE JAPAN RACING ASSOCIATION (JRA)
DATE: November 29, 2026

SUBJECT: RESULT OF THE 46TH JAPAN CUP (G1)

The Japan Cup, in its 46th year, continues to attract some of the top turf horses from around the world—68 runners from North America, 164 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.
In last year's edition, French-based **Calandagan** registered his fourth consecutive G1 victory and became the first foreign winner in 20 years following Alkaased (USA, by Kingmambo) to claim the Japan Cup title. Followed in head second was **Masquerade Ball** with **Danon Decile** in third and **Croix du Nord** in fourth.
This year, the Japan Cup welcomed six runners from Europe and North America. **Calandagan**, who since added two G1 titles in the Dubai Sheema Classic (2,410m) and the Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud (2,400m) this year, aimed to become the first horse to win the Japan Cup two years in a row after Gentildonna (2012-2013). His stablemate **Goliath** came off his third G1 victory in the Preis von Europa (2,400m, Sep.27) and made his second Japan Cup challenge—he finished sixth in his first try in 2024. British raider **Ombudsman**, named Cartier Horse of the Year this year, claimed his fifth G1 title in the Champion Stakes (1,990m, Oct.17) in which he out-finished **Calandagan** by 3-3/4 lengths.
Irish-trained **Minnie Hauk**, who completed the Oaks triple last year, registered a second behind **Ombudsman** in the Prince Of Wales's Stakes (G1, 1,990m) and scored her fourth G1 win in the British Champions Fillies & Mares Stakes (2,390m, Oct.17). Last year's Breeders' Cup Turf (G1, 2,400m) winner **Ethical Diamond**, also from Ireland, won the Ballyroan Stakes (G3, 2,000m) this August before finishing ninth in this year's Breeders' Cup Turf. Chile-bred **Teao** recorded four G1 victories, two on dirt and two on turf—the latter being the El Derby (2,400m) and the Gran Premio Latinoamericano (2,000m) in South America after which he was transferred to the United States and made his first outing in seven months in the Japan Cup.
The home field taking on the challenge included runners coming off the Tenno Sho (Autumn) (G1, 2,000m, Nov.1): **Danon Decile** (winner), who scored his third G1 title in the race, following the 2024 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby, G1, 2,400m) and the 2025 Dubai Sheema Classic; **Tagano Dude** (4th), winner of the Kokura Daishoten (G3, 1,800m) who thereafter turned in respectable finishes, within sixth in all four starts at G1 level; **Croix du Nord** (5th), last year's Tokyo Yushun victor who won the Osaka Hai (G1, 2,000m) and the Tenno Sho (Spring) (G1, 3,200m) this spring; **Shake Your Heart** (6th), a three-time graded winner including in this year's Kinko Sho (G2, 2,000m) and the Sapporo Kinen (G2, 2,000m); **Cosmo Kuranda** (9th), runner-up in the 2024 Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas, G1, 2,000m) and the 2025 Arima Kinen (G1, 2,500m); and **Masquerade Ball** (11th), the Tenno Sho (Autumn) defending champion who met disadvantages in his last start and hoped to show his true form in the Japan Cup.
Coming off the Kyoto Daishoten (G2, 2,400m, Oct.4) were: **Redentor** (5th), last year's Tenno Sho (Spring) champion who finished fifth this year prior to the Kyoto Daishoten; and **Wurttemberg** (7th), who missed this year's Tenno Sho (Spring) by a nose in second.
Also among the field were: **Excite Bio**, last year's Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger, G1, 3,000m) third-place finisher who came into the race from a long break due to a leg problem; **Feiern Kranz**, who claimed his first grade-race title in the Meguro Kinen (G2, 2,500m) but finished eighth in the Copa Republica Argentina (G2, 2,500m, Nov.8); **Meisho Tabaru**, who successfully defended his title in the Takarazuka Kinen (G1, 2,200m) beating Croix du Nord but disappointed to 14th in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1, 2,400m, Oct.4); and 2024 Kikuka Sho victor **Urban Chic**, who came off a fifth in the Niigata Kinen (G3, 2,000m, Aug.30).

The 46th Japan Cup (G1) in association with LONGINES
3-year-olds & up, 2,400 meters (about 12 furlongs), turf, left-handed
Sunday, November 29, 2026 Tokyo Racecourse 12th Race Post Time: 15:40
Total prize money: ¥ 1,090,000,000 (about US$ 7,033,000 <US$1=¥155>)
3-y-o: 56 kg (about 123-124 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 2023
Course Record: 2:20.3 Race Record: 2:20.3 [Calandagan (IRE), 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	4	8	Ombudsman (IRE) William Buick	H5 b. 58.0	4.0 (1)	2:22.7 (34.4)	Night of Thunder Syndicate (Dansili)	Godolphin Management Co., Ltd. J. Hanly John & Thady Gosden
2	5	9	Calandagan (IRE) Mickael Barzalona	G5 b. 58.0	4.6 (3)	1-1/2 (34.2)	Gleneagles Calayana (Sinndar)	Aga Khan Studs SCEA Haras De S.A. Aga Khan Scea Francis-Henri Graffard
3	8	16	Danon Decile (JPN) Keita Tosaki	H5 ch. 58.0	4.6 (2)	1/2 (34.0)	Epiphaneia Top Decile (Congrats)	Danox Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Shogo Yasuda
4	3	6	Masquerade Ball (JPN) Christophe Lemaire	C4 d.b. 58.0	5.5 (4)	1/2 (35.1)	Duramente Mask Off (Deep Impact)	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd. Shadai Farm Takahisa Tezuka
5	2	4	Croix du Nord (JPN) Cristian Demuro	C4 br. 58.0	6.1 (5)	1/2 (35.4)	Kitasan Black Rising Cross (Cape Cross)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Takashi Saito
6	8	17	Goliath (GER) Christophe Soumillon	G6 b. 58.0	100.2 (11)	1/2 (34.8)	Adlerflug Gouache (Shamardal)	Resolute Bloodstock & Baron Philip Von Ullmann Gestut Schlenderhan Francis-Henri Graffard
7	7	14	Tagano Dude (JPN) Mirco Demuro	H5 b. 58.0	118.0 (12)	3/4 (35.2)	Yamakatsu Ace Tagano Mu Chan (Heart's Cry)	Ryoji Yagi Ryoji Yagi Toru Miya
8	1	1	Redentor (JPN) Tom Marquand	H5 d.b. 58.0	46.0 (8)	Head (34.6)	Rulership Corcovado (Stay Gold)	Carrot Farm Co., Ltd. Northern Farm Tetsuya Kimura
9	5	10	Minnie Hauk (IRE) Ryan Moore	F4 b. 56.0	23.1 (7)	1-1/4 (35.6)	Frankel Multilingual (Dansili)	Derrick Smith, Mrs. John Magnier & Michael Tabor B. V. Sangster Aidan O'Brien
10	6	12	Teao (CHI) Luis Torres	C4 g. 58.0	53.2 (9)	2-1/2 (34.7)	Ya Primo Ti Ricorderai (Seeking the Dia)	Don Alberto Stable Haras Don Alberto John Sadler
11	2	3	Meisho Tabaru (JPN) Yutaka Take	H5 b. 58.0	12.1 (6)	Nose (36.4)	Gold Ship Meisho Tsubakuro (French Deputy)	Yoshitaka Matsumoto Mishima Bokujo Mamoru Ishibashi
12	4	7	Feiern Kranz (JPN) Joao Moreira	C4 b. 58.0	147.1 (13)	Neck (35.1)	Duramente Colorful Blossom (Heart's Cry)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd. Northern Racing Noriyuki Hori
13	8	18	Ethical Diamond (IRE) Ryusei Sakai	G6 d.b. 58.0	187.1 (16)	1-1/2 (34.9)	Awtaad Pearl Diamond (Areion)	H.O.S.Syndicate Mr W. J. Kennedy William Mullins
14	6	11	Wurttemberg (JPN) Norihiro Yokoyama	H6 b. 58.0	234.6 (17)	2 (35.4)	Kitasan Black Maruka Aichan (French Deputy)	Teruya Yoshida Shadai Farm Hiroshi Miyamoto
15	1	2 B	Cosmo Kuranda (JPN) Yuji Tannai	H5 d.b. 58.0	172.4 (15)	1/2 (38.1)	Al Ain Southern Speed (Southern Image)	Big Red Farm Big Red Farm Shizuya Kato
16	3	5	Shake Your Heart (JPN) Yoshihiro Furukawa	H6 ch. 58.0	84.5 (10)	1-1/2 (36.5)	Heart's Cry Rumba Loca (Sri Pekan)	Chizu Yoshida Shadai Farm Toru Miya
17	7	15	Excite Bio (JPN) Kiwamu Ogino	C4 b. 58.0	295.8 (18)	8 (38.5)	Rey de Oro Animate Bio (Zenno Rob Roy)	Toshihisa Takeda Bio Co., Ltd. Teiichi Konno
18	7	13	Urban Chic (JPN) Alexis Pouchin	H5 ch. 58.0	151.0 (14)	DS (39.3)	Suave Richard Edgy Style (Harbinger)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd. Shunsuke Yoshida Ryo Takei

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)
DS：Distance
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: ¥ 25,594,342,700 Turnover for the Day: ¥ 37,308,085,400 Attendance: 79,787

Pay-off (for ¥100)

Win	No.8	¥ 400	Bracket Quinella	4-5	¥ 760	Quinella	8-9	¥ 830
Place	No.8	¥ 170	Quinella Place	8-9	¥ 340	Exacta	8-9	¥ 1,350
	No.9	¥ 150		8-16	¥ 380	Trio	8-9-16	¥ 1,020
	No.16	¥ 150		9-16	¥ 270	Trifecta	8-9-16	¥ 3,710

Winner= 15 starts: 11 wins, 3 seconds / Added & stakes money: ¥ 503,780,000 / Career earnings: ¥ 1,672,880,000

Ombudsman Showcases Top Class Performance in Japan Cup Victory

Ombudsman capped off his outstanding racing career with his sixth G1 victory in this year's Japan Cup, giving the Japanese racing fans a live performance of the season's Cartier Horse of the Year winner while making it two years in a row for the title to be claimed by a foreign contender. **Ombudsman** is also the fifth UK-based Japan Cup winner following Jupiter Island (1986), Singspiel (1996), Pilsudski (1997) and Alkaased (2005). While the Japan Cup was his first challenge at the 2,400-meter distance, the son of Night of Thunder traveled the extra distance and the uphill stretch effortlessly, holding off Calandagan by a comfortable 1-1/2 lengths. For owner Godolphin, this win marks their second JRA-G1 title following the Yasuda Kinen with Heart Lake in 1995. Trainer John Gosden, in partnership with Thady Gosden, scored their first win in Japan (John saddled 1985 Japan Cup fourth-place finisher Alydar's Best). Jockey William Buick claimed his second JRA-G1 victory after the 2018 Mile Championship with Stelvio while previously having ridden in six Japan Cup starts in which he registered one second and two thirds.

With a total of 12 G1 winners in the line-up as well as defending champion **Calandagan** present for the match up, the race consisting of Japan's best middle-distance runners taking on the challenge of six outstanding foreign contenders unfolded as a true quality race with the top five favorites performing as advertised and dominating the top five finishes.

Ombudsman broke sharply and was immediately allowed to settle in mid-pack around 8th or 9th position while saving ground along the rails behind **Cosmo Kuranda** who was in command early to set a brisk pace and holding a clear lead from the rest of the field by more than five lengths along the backstretch. While the leader still was several lengths in front, the rest of the pack crowded entering the straight. William Buick shifted his mount slightly away from the rails just before the last turn in his effort to secure a clear path but still struggled to find room until the 400-meter pole where a few horses weakened before the uphill at which point **Ombudsman** quickly got into gear along the center lane. Reaching the leaders at the furlong pole, the five-year-old carried on with tremendous power and pulled away to an undisputable victory with only **Calandagan** and **Danon Decile** launching anything near a challenge for second and third place, respectively, more than a length behind.

Owner Representative Hugh Anderson:
"First and foremost, this is for His Highness Sheikh Mohammed. He watched the race in Dubai, and he is thrilled. He is delighted with John, Thady and Buick. He has been sending horses to the Japan Cup since 1983, and he personally won it with Singspiel in 1996. However, this is the first time Godolphin has won it, so we are very proud. What we have noticed in international racing over the last five years is how strong Japanese runners have become in America, Europe and Australia. Japanese racing is very strong. We would only bring a horse to the Japan Cup if it were of the very highest quality. Finally, if the best horse in the world wins the Japan Cup, it must mean that the Japan Cup itself is a top-level race."

Trainer John Gosden:

“We knew Ombudsman was going to retire this season. Thady and I, together with Sheikh Mohammed, decided that this top race would be a very important final addition to his career. It was a very good decision, as we have all seen today. He has fulfilled his role as a racehorse in an unparalleled and brilliant manner. He has always shown great conviction in what he is doing and great mental determination.”

Trainer Thady Gosden:
“We naturally took inspiration from Calandagan’s success last year. Travelling from Europe is a long journey, but seeing that success naturally encouraged us to take on the challenge and come to Japan. The respect, enjoyment and love of horses here are very unique. The love of horses and racing among Japanese racing fans is something very special. The horse showed a wonderful performance in Dubai and ran a perfect race this time over the 2,400-meter distance. I think he is going to enjoy a second career, and deservedly so.”

Jockey William Buick:
“I feel amazing. I felt a great responsibility to perform well today, and we all really wanted him to go out on a high, as he did. In many ways, we saw the same quality from him as we do over 2,000 meters. The distance was new, and obviously we were not going to find out until the race itself. But we knew he had the ability and racing style to handle it. The race went as we had planned. (A field of) eighteen runners is always tough, but we had a good gate in eight, and we wanted to make use of that by finding a position around midfield or a little bit closer. He jumped well from the gate, and I saw Masquerade Ball in front of me. He was always going to be a good horse to follow. I was very happy with the position we found ourselves in, and he relaxed beautifully. I wanted to come out in the straight because the ground on the inside was a little bit rough. Once I found a gap, he got through it quickly and well. He was faultless every step of the way.”

Calandagan was unhurried and rated further back than mid-division with the eventual winner in view, a few lengths in front of him. Angling out to avoid the traffic before the uphill stretch, the Gleneagles gelding picked up speed along the outside route in pursuit of **Ombudsman** while much of the field began to weaken after the final furlong, and continued gamely but had too much ground to make up to match the winner at the wire, finishing an admirable second.

Francis-Henri Graffard:
“He ran a very good race and I'm very proud of him. He was just beaten by the champion who is the best horse in the world.”

Jockey Mickael Barzalona:
“The race went pretty much as we expected. We went a little strong early on, and I wasn't able to get the ideal position at first. However, I was able to settle into a good position afterwards and had a nice trip. We had a good gallop, and he finished strongly. Overall, I'm very happy with his performance. Ombudsman was just too good again today.”

Danon Decile broke smoothly from an outside barrier 16 and was in hand, nearer to the rear than mid-division around 14th position and raced close behind the defending champion along the backstretch. Entering the stretch at the heels of that foe, the Tenno Sho (Autumn) champion turned in the fastest finishing kick over the last three furlongs but had to make his bid from the outermost route and finished third.

With two G1 victories added to his name since his last Japan Cup attempt in 2024, **Goliath** was positioned at the heels of winner early and smartly chose an inside opening in the homestretch to make bid going uphill,

held on well to stay competitive to the wire and finished sixth as he did last time, but against a stronger field consisting of multiple world class G1 winners.

Trainer Francis-Henri Graffard:
"He ran really well, I was happy. It's a shame he lost at the very end because he came really strong and he ran better than just sixth place. He traveled well and he quickened nicely. I think it was a good performance. About the Arima Kinen, I will decide after I see how he comes out of the race."

Jockey Christophe Soumillon:
"The draw was not ideal, and he was a little excited at the start. I was right behind Ombudsman, so I ended up getting trapped on the inside. He showed a fantastic turn of foot in the home straight."

Oaks triple winner **Minnie Hauk** secured a forward position from a good break, kept up with the fast pace and stayed well while overtaken by the winner at the 400-meter pole, showing good effort to the wire to finish ninth.

Jockey Ryan Moore:
"She ran super. Everything went nice, she was a tough girl."

Chile's Horse of the Year **Teao** was keen early and held back between rivals, settled near the rear of the field that stretched into a long file along the backstretch. He appeared a little even-paced early in the stretch but found another gear in the final 200 meters and improved position to finish tenth.

Trainer John Sadler:
"The race went very well. From the jockey's perspective I wish there was a little more pace in front. The pace was slow and he was unable to use his finishing kick, but we thought he ran a credible race."

Jockey Luis Torres:
"I thought he ran very well overall. However, he had a six to seven-month layoff before coming here, so he may have lacked the form. It would have been better if he could have prepped before the Japan Cup. I would also have liked him to sustain his finishing effort a little longer."

2025 Breeders' Cup Turf victor **Ethical Diamond** was rated second from the rear and was last going into the backstretch. He found his finishing speed a little late and had too much ground to cover with the whole field in front and was unable to reach contention, finishing 13th.

Trainer William Mullins:
"I was disappointed with my horse's performance today, but I thought the race itself was excellent and a brilliant result for the Japan Cup. The draw was very tough to overcome, so I don't think my horse performed to his best. We'll have to wait until next year. We have no excuses, and I'm very sorry."

Jockey Ryusei Sakai:
"He never gave up and kept fighting all the way to the finish. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to ride in a race like this."

<u>Other horses:</u>
4th: (6) **Masquerade Ball**—good break to chase pace in sixth 2-wide, followed Croix du Nord for bid, managed to overtake that foe but well beaten by winner for fourth
5th: (4) **Croix du Nord**—raced in prominent position along rails, down center lane along straight to inherit

lead around 300m out, overtaken by winner soon after furlong pole but ran on gamely while unable to keep up with winning pace
7th: (14) **Tagano Dude**—traveled mid-pack outside winner, tried to follow Calandagan up the hill for bid but unable to keep up with that foe while continuing to run willingly
8th: (1) **Redentor**—hugged rails in mid-division, met traffic early stretch but good speed from 200m pole
11th: (3) **Meisho Tabaru**—ran in 2nd, caught 400m out, had nothing left in last furlong
12th: (7) **Feiern Kranz**—ran on rails 4th to 5th from rear, showed effort in stretch but lacked needed kick
14th: (11) **Wurttemberg**—off slow, trailed in rear, mild bid at final corner, never fired
15th: (2) **Cosmo Kuranda**—broke sharply, set pace, 5 lengths ahead of field, used up from early efforts
16th: (5) **Shake Your Heart**—sat in mid-pack behind eventual winner, met traffic early stretch, lost momentum
17th: (15) **Excite Bio**—broke eagerly, sat in 3rd, entered straight in 4th, dropped away
18th: (13) **Urban Chic**—saved ground 3rd from rear, never a factor

Fractional time (sec./furlong):	12.5 - 11.1 - 11.6 - 11.8 - 11.9 - 12.1 - 12.1 - 12.0 - 11.7 - 12.0 - 12.1 - 11.8	
	Last 4 furlongs: 47.6	Last 3 furlongs: 35.9
Positions at each corner:	1st corner	2-3(4,15)10,6(**8**,14)(5,17)(9,16)1,12(7,13)18-11
	2nd corner	2=3(4,15)10,6(**8**,14)17,5,9,1,16(7,12)13-18-11
	3rd corner	2=3(4,15)10,6(**8**,14)(5,17)(1,9)(7,16)-12,13(18,11)
	4th corner	2=3(4,15)(6,10)(**8**,14)(5,17)(1,9)(7,16)(13,12,11)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.