



PEDIGREE PROFILE

Vodka lifts spirits with stirring Japan Cup win

by Rommy Faversham

On November 29 in the world's richest turf race, five-year-old race-mare and reigning Japanese Horse of the Year Vodka thrilled her many supporters as she held off a furious charge from fellow classic winner Oken Bruce Lee to claim victory by the slimmest of margins in the \$5,561,556 Japan Cup (Jpn-G1) at Tokyo Racecourse.



Masakazu Takahashi photo

The enthusiastic crowd numbering 98,811 sent Vodka off as the 3.60-to-1 favorite in the 18-horse field. The bay Tanino Gimlet mare completed the 2,400-meter (11.93-furlong) contest in 2:22.40 on turf rated as firm.

VODKA (RIGHT)

Adding this tour de force to her resume, Vodka has left little doubt she is the greatest race-mare in Japanese Thoroughbred racing history.

Her seven victories at the highest level in Japan equal the accomplishments of males Symboli Rudolf (Jpn), T.M.Opera O, and Deep Impact, all Japan Cup winners.

Vodka became the first filly in 64 years to capture the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby). Her ten victories from 25 lifetime starts also include the 2008 Tenno Sho (Autumn) (Jpn-G1) and back-to-back editions of the Yasuda Kinen (Jpn-G1) in 2008 and '09.

The first Japanese-bred filly or mare to win the Japan Cup, Vodka's career bankroll soared to \$13,102,306 moving her past five others and into second place on the list of the world's all-time leading earners—behind only T.M.Opera O with \$16,200,337.

Vodka was bred by Country Bokujo, also the breeder of her sire. She is one of three winners from five starters out of the Rousillon mare Tanino Sister, a winner of five races from 33 starts in four seasons.

Female winners of the Japan Cup

Year	Winner (Age)	Where Bred	Sire
2009	Vodka (5)	Japan	Tanino Gimlet
1989	Horlicks (6)	New Zealand	Three Legs
1983	Stanerra (Ire) (5)	Ireland	Guillaume Tell
1981	Mairzy Doates (5)	Kentucky	Nodouble

Vodka, b. m., 2004

=Tanino Gimlet (Jpn) 99 267 fls, 6 SWs SI 0.99 DI=0.84	Brian's Time 85 5 wins, \$1,001,269, SW 1124 fls, 54 SWs SI 1.30 DI=1.33	Roberto 69 500 fls, 85 SWs SI 3.90 DI=2.50	Hail to Reason 58 Bramalea 59 Graustark 63 Golden Trail 58	*Turn-to 51 Nothridchance 48 Nashua 52 Rarelea 49 *Ribot 52 Flower Bowl 52 Hasty Road 51 Sunny Vale 46
	=Tanino Crystal (Jpn) 88 3 wins, \$895,951, Spl 7 fls, 1 SW DI=0.89	=Crystal Palace (Fr) 74 506 fls, 18 SWs SI 1.37 DI=1.80	Caro (Ire) 67 =Hermieres (Fr) 58	=Fortino II (Fr) 59 =Chambord (GB) 55 =Sicambre (Fr) 48 =Vieille Pierre (Fr) 51
		Tanino Sea-Bird 72 13 fls, 1 SW DI=0.61	*Sea-Bird 62 Flaxen 68	Dan Cupid 56 =Sicalade (Fr) 56 Graustark 63 Flavia 58
	=Tanino Sister (Jpn) 93 5 fls, 1 SW DI=4.00	Rousillon 81 7 wins, \$355,273 Champion 380 fls, 20 SWs SI 1.41 DI=4.41	Riverman 69 973 fls, 128 SWs SI 2.76 DI=3.87	Never Bend 60 River Lady 63
=Energy Tosho (Jpn) 87 Unraced 12 fls, 1 SW DI=1.86		=Tosho Boy (Jpn) 73 650 fls, 24 SWs SI 1.14 DI=2.38	Marshua's Dancer 68 Palsy Walsy 60	Raise a Native 61 Marshua 62 Sea O Erin 51 Allie's Pal 45
		=Cornice Tosho (Jpn) 77 13 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.67	=Tesco Boy (GB) 63 Social Butterfly 57	=Princely Gift (GB) 51 =Suncourt (GB) 52 Your Host 47 Wisteria 48
			=Dandy Lute (Fr) 72 =Rose Tosho (Jpn) 65	=Luthier (Fr) 65 =Dentreluc (Fr) 65 =Tudor Period (GB) 57 =Waka Shiraoki (Jpn) 60

Vodka's grandam, Energy Tosho, by 1976 Japan Horse of the Year Tosho Boy, is the dam of Japanese Group 3 winner Three Avenue, by Affleet. This also is the immediate family of 1991 Japanese champion three-year old filly and classic winner Sister Tosho.

Vodka hails from the first crop of the Brian's Time stallion Tanino Gimlet and is one of her sire's four group or graded stakes winners to date.

Winner of the 2002 Japanese Derby, Tanino Gimlet stands at Shadai Stallion Station on the Japanese island of Hokkaido.

Even though Vodka is a five-generation outcross, her pedigree does feature at least one valuable family tie. Her sire, Tanino Gimlet, is closely inbred, 3x4, to Graustark, whose stakes-winning dam, Flower Bowl (*Alibhai—Flower Bed), is a three-quarter sister to Your Host (*Alibhai—Boudoir II), who appears as Tosho Boy's broodmare sire.

Rommy Faversham is a pedigree specialist and author living in Los Angeles. More of his work is available at <http://www.equicross.com>.