

TDN **Q&A**

While there are many successful owners and breeders in Japan, there is no doubt that brothers Teruya and Katsumi Yoshida are the dominant forces. With



Teruya Yoshida
M MacDonald

broodmare bands that place them among the handful of breeders atop the world judging by both numbers and quality, they perennially are 1-2 on Japan's lists of leading owners and breeders and are resolutely competitive even with each other. Their horses have won premier international prizes--such as Teruya Yoshida's Heart's Cry (Jpn) (Sunday Silence), who won the G1 Dubai Sheema Classic, and Katsumi Yoshida's Delta Blues (Jpn) (Dance in the Dark {Jpn}), victor in Australia's G1

Melbourne Cup--and thus have elevated the reputation of Japanese-breds around the globe.

Joined by their younger brother, owner and breeder Haruya Yoshida, in running the powerhouse Shadai Stallion Station, the Yoshidas' influence stretches into North America and Europe as they are frequent buyers at the top of elite bloodstock markets on both continents. Before the Japan Racing Horse Association's benchmark sale of yearlings and foals began on Monday, Teruya Yoshida, the master of Shadai Farm, discussed the state of Japan's market and other topics with Michele MacDonald. Katsumi Yoshida, owner of Northern Farm, plans to do a similar interview at the completion of the sale.

Q: How would you describe the state of the bloodstock market in Japan now after several years of general economic declines?

Teruya Yoshida: The general economy is very tough. We can't be so optimistic in this environment. We haven't experienced such a bad economy before, so we want to see what's going on with the horse market in the next few days. The prizemoney in this country is still very, very good, so that helps, and there are many horse lovers who are keen to own racehorses even in this economy. Some are looking forward to a weaker market because it is a good opportunity to buy, but the number of buyers at the very top of the market is reduced.

Q: What are your expectations regarding your own consignment of 89 horses (54 yearlings and 35 foals) considering the economic situation?

Teruya Yoshida: I am not so much worried about the economy. [Shadai] is receiving so many owners and trainers who want to see our horses. The prices might not be so great, but there should be plenty of buyers.

Q: Do you foresee a continuing shift in the preference of Japanese buyers toward yearlings and away from foals?

Teruya Yoshida: I don't know yet. There is only one foal session this year, so the number of foals on the market is small, but there are many people who want to see foals here [at Shadai Farm], so the interest remains strong."

Q: As the economy has tightened, have you diverted more of your young stock to racing rather than to sales?

Teruya Yoshida: Shadai Farm has clients who are still very active in racing and when they are happy to buy, I am happy to sell. There is no difficulty in finding clients, and when the cost of horses bred by Shadai is the same, the quality is much better [in this kind of market], so the benefit to clients is good. My business plan has not changed.

Q: How many racing syndicates or groups is Shadai involved with in racehorse ownership?

Teruya Yoshida: Most of the horses bought by clients have one owner, although there is one large partnership. With some expensive horses, like [G1 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) winner] Eishin Flash (Jpn) (King's Best), we kept a half interest."

Q: How many horses in training do you own?

Teruya Yoshida: Plenty (laughs). Including horses in which we keep 10-percent ownership, we have about 200 in training now. There are a few I have 100-percent ownership in, like [G1 Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks) dead-heat winner] Saint Emilion (Jpn) (Zenno Rob Roy {Jpn}), and some others I have a 50-percent interest in. Horses I have bred have been doing well, so it doesn't matter so much how big my interest is. (smiles)

Q: Shadai is one of the world's most prolific and successful breeding farms. How much land does it encompass and how many mares are in your broodmare band?

Teruya Yoshida: "There are about 500 hectares [about 1,236 acres] total, with the main area about 300 hectares [741 acres] and another branch and a training center. There are 450 mares, and we have about 60 to 70 mares owned by clients that we board."



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Q: Do you keep horses in other countries?

Teruya Yoshida: We have one mare in America now and I have three two-year-olds in France that are European-breds. Every summer we go to Deauville and it is fun to have horses there. My trainers are Andre Fabre, David Smaga and Pascal Bary because we see those people almost every morning at breakfast at our hotel and I can greet them with a big smile.”

Q: You have acquired many outstanding mares in recent years in Europe and America. What selection criteria do you use and has there been any market that has been particularly productive for you?

Teruya Yoshida: Any group (or graded) stakes winner is OK, but from my economic status, I buy many Italian and German group winners. Sometimes I buy French mares because I have a good French agent [Patrick Barbe]. There have been many good mares I've bought in America and at Tattersalls. If they are good, they will be good anywhere. But we don't know what will happen until they produce foals, so I have to buy a number of mares. Sometimes the expensive ones aren't successful and the so-so ones are. Maybe one or two from 10 will be good ones. It's fun to see how they go. We are always looking if the price is OK.”

Q: Which horses would you rate the best you have bred?

Teruya Yoshida: Heart's Cry (Jpn) (Sunday Silence), the G1 Dubai Sheema Classic winner [and the only Japanese-bred to defeat Triple Crown winner Deep Impact (Jpn) {Sunday Silence}], and Neo Universe (Jpn) (Sunday Silence), who won two Japanese Classic races and now is a successful sire. We've been doing very well. Our percentages of starters and winners are very high and that is a good characteristic of this farm.

Q: Which horse in your consignment do you feel has outstanding potential?

Teruya Yoshida: The Zenno Rob Roy colt foal ([Hip 377](#)) out of winner Festa Delle Donna (Jpn) (Hector Protector). Everybody likes him, so maybe he will be fairly expensive.

Q: With more than half the sale catalog formed by the offspring of Sunday Silence or out of daughters or granddaughters of Sunday Silence, has the influence of that blood exceeded a saturation point in Japan? Are new lines needed and are you seeking new stallions for the Shadai Stallion Station?

Teruya Yoshida: It's a matter of course. We've been [seeking new bloodlines and stallions] since my babyhood. They are not so easy to find, but we have to meet the challenge anyway.

Q: Which of the sires at the Shadai Stallion Station could be the next national leader following the 13-year reign of Sunday Silence and years following his death in 2002 of other horses vying for the top position?

Teruya Yoshida: There are some good ones and they are competing now. Sunday Silence's son Zenno Rob Roy [Japan's 2004 Horse of the Year and 2009 leading freshman sire who was produced by American Grade I winner Roamin Rachel (Mining)] has a good chance. His offspring look good and my feeling is he will be something special.