BARRETT GROSS UP 44 PERCENT  The first session of Barretts Spring Sale of Two-Year-Olds in Training in Pomona, California Monday, recorded a marked increase in gross sales from last year’s corresponding session. Ninety-five horses sold Monday for a total of $3,492,000. That’s up 43.7 percent from last year’s total of $2,430,000 when 101 horses sold on the sale’s first day. The first-day average increased 5.3 percent, from $24,059 in 1996 to $36,758 this year. The session topper was hip number 113, a bay colt by Unbridled and co-bred by Donna M. Wormser, on May 9.

BELMONT OPENS TODAY  Racing returns to Belmont Park today, as the 92-year-old track begins its 50-day spring/summer meet. New York Racing Association management has made several improvements to the track, designed to make it more user-friendly for newcomers to the sport. Among the innovations is “The Training Track,” a special area to help first-time visitors and neophyte fans better understand the sport of Thoroughbred racing and the “Sports Center,” a designated section on the second-floor grandstand that will offer televisions and easy access to race replays. Racing highlights include the 129th running of the GI Belmont S. on June 7 and the May 26 GI Metropolitan H. Racing is offered five days a week until July 20.

PREAKNESS NOTES  Kentucky Derby runner-up Captain Bodgit (Saint Ballado) worked a half-mile at Bowie Tuesday in :48 3/5. Trainer Gary Capuano said the colt’s eighth-mile fractions were :12, :24 and :36 1/5. “It was perfect,” Capuano said. “It was a nice easy breeze.”

Free House (Smokester) blazed through a half-mile work in :46 3/5 yesterday morning at Pimlico. “It was very fast,” trainer Paco Gonzalez said. “I was looking for :48 or :49. The track did appear fast today and he seemed to do it easy enough.”

Wild Tempest (Summer Squall) worked five furlongs yesterday at Pimlico in 1:01 1/5 with jockey Joe Bravo up. The colt, seventh in the GI Wood Memorial, is coming off a Churchill allowance win against older horses May 2.

Stakes Closings for Belmont:

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>5-14</td>
<td>$500,000 Preakness-G1, Pim</td>
<td>3yo</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1 1/16</td>
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<td>M</td>
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<td>$400,000 Hollywood Turf H.-G3, Hol</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$100,000 Selene-GIC, Wo</td>
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<td>2yo</td>
<td>M</td>
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TELL IT TO THE TDN...

Want to send a “Letter to the Editor” of the Thoroughbred Daily News? Our address is 811 River Rd., Fair Haven, NJ 07704; or send a fax to: (908) 747-8955; or an e-mail to: MediaVista @AOL.com.
Barretts Spring Sale of Two-Year-Olds Results cont.

BARRETT'S SESSION I--TOP SIX TWO-YEAR-OLDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIP#</th>
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<td>113</td>
<td>f</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>($85,000 wnlg '95 KEENOV; $80,000 yrl '96 FTSAUG)</td>
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<td>115</td>
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<td>Miswaki</td>
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<td>074</td>
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<td>Copelan</td>
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<td>Jade Hunter</td>
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<td>174</td>
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<td>Salt Lake</td>
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NYRA OFFICIALS UNLIKELY TO FACE CHARGES

New York State's attorney general said Tuesday it appears no criminal charges will be filed against current New York Racing Association officials, the Associated Press reported yesterday. Dennis Vacco's office has been investigating several million dollars in contracts awarded by NYRA for which, in one case, the work may never have been done and, in another, for which NYRA appeared to have been overcharged. "While we haven't formally wrapped up the NYRA piece of this probe...I do not anticipate filing any criminal charges against any NYRA official," Vacco told the Associated Press.

FASIG-TIPTON NEW YORK SALES RESULTS

The four-year-old gelding Mixed Count (Polish Numbers) topped yesterday's Fasig-Tipton Horses of Racing Age Sale at Belmont Park. The chestnut, third in the GII Federico Tesio last year, was consigned by the Estate of Leonard Pearlstein, Ron Benshoff, agent, and brought a final bid of $37,600 from Hermes Vargas. In all, 53 horses were sold for a total of $494,100, down 40.6 percent from last year's total of $832,100 when 81 horses were sold. The average price was $9,323, down 9.2 percent from last year's average of $10,273.

Today, York, England:

GROSVENOR CASINOS DANTE S.-G2, $129,681a, 3yo, 10f 85ydst

PP HORSE          TRAINER    JOCKEY    WT
1 1.     Crime (Ire)          J Hills      R Hills      123
2 2.     Kingfisher Mill      Mrs J Cecil  Pat Eddery  123
3 3.     Monza                Chapple-Hyam  J Reid     123
4 4.     Benny The Dip        J H M Gossen  O Peslier  123
5 5.     Apprehension (GB)    D R Loder    K Darley    123
6 6.     Yorkshire (Ire)      P F I Cole   T Quinn    123
7 7.     Desert Story (Ire)   M R Stoute   M Kinane   123
8 8.     Medaaly (GB)         S Bin Suroor L Dettori  123
9 9.     Musalsal (Ire)       B W Hills   M Hills    123

Sires of Runners: Crimson Tide (Ire) (Sadler's Wells), Kingfisher Mill (Riverman), Monza (Woodman), Benny The Dip (Silver Hawk), Apprehension (GB) (In the Wings (GB)), Yorkshire (Ire) (Generous (Ire)), Desert Story (Ire) (Green Desert), Medaaly (GB) (Highest Honor (Fr)), Musalsal (Ire) (Sadler's Wells).

The Dante S. is a serious Epsom Derby trial, won by such Derby winners in the recent past as Erhaab, Reference Point and Shahhrastani. This year’s edition features a number of colts with classic aspirations--Godolphin’s Medaaly, winner of the G1 Racing Post Trophy last October; Desert Story, winner of the G3 Craven S. in mid-April and then sixth in the British 2000 Guineas May 3; Benny The Dip, who won the G2 Royal Lodge S. last September; and Yorkshire, a highly-rated winner of his only start, a maiden at Salisbury last October.
Yesterdays Results:
TATTERSALLS MUSIDORA S.-G3, $70,028, York, England, 5-13, 3yo, f, 10f 85ydsT, 2:11.31, gd.
1--REAMS OF VERSE, 123, f, 3, Nureyev--Modena, by Roberto. O-K. Abdullah; B-Juddmonte Farms (KY); T-Henry Cecil; J-K. Fallon, $42,224. *Hwt Filly at 2 in England. ** 1 /2 to Elmamuel (Hwt Colt at 3 in Ire from 9.5-11f, G1-Eng & Ire, $758,832, by Diesis (GB)), Modernise (Gill, $162,976, by Known Fact) and Modern Day (SW-SAf, by Dayjur).

2--Vagabond Chanteuse (GB), 120, f, 3, Sanglamore--Eclipsing (Ire), by BAILLAMONT. O-W R Green; $15,614.
3--Etoile (Fr), 120, f, 3, Kris (GB)--La Luna, by Lyphard.

Majors: 11, head, 4.
Also Ran: Entice (Fr), Society Rose (GB), Alcalali, French Mist (GB), Noisette (GB), Cailypso Grant (Ire), Dame Laura (Ire).

Only four winners of the Musidora S. have gone on to win the Epsom Oaks but, in this form, Reams of Verse, winner of the G1 Fillies Mile last September and sixth in the British 1000 Guineas May 4, has every chance of improving that record. After racing in fourth while Etoile and Vagabond Chanteuse were the early leaders, she found the perfect opening three furlongs out and extended her lead with every stride. Winning trainer Henry Cecil said, "I thought that was very impressive. She was relaxed and it looks as though she will get the mile and a half of the Oaks (at Epsom June 6). She had been sick prior to the Guineas and she needed that race and has come on well since then and showed today that she is a very good filly." Reams of Verse is now the even-money favorite for the 1997 Vodafone Oaks. The next filly in the betting is at 10-1 odds.

PRIX CLEOPATRE-G3, $62,591, Saint-Cloud, France, 5-13, 3yo, f, 10f 110ydsT, 2:20.40, gd/sf.
1--#ALLUREMENT (IRE), 121, f, 3, Sadir's Wells--Alydaress (Ch. 3yo Filly-Ire, G1-Ire, G2-Eng, G1SP-Ity, $354,390-Eng & Ire), by Alydar. O/B-Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum (IRE); T-Andre Fabre; J-T Jarnet; $37,830.
2--Silver Fun (Fr), 121, f, 3, Saumarez (GB)--Riviere d'Argent, by Nijinsky II. O-Warthemier et Frere; $13,756.
3--Deflagration (Fr), 121, f, 3, Pistolet Bleu (Ire)--Dansoline, by Tremplinillo. O-Haras d'Etreham; $6,878.

Local News, England:

Jockey Michael Hills, who rode Shaamit (Motto) to victory in last year's Vodafone Epsom Derby, notched his 1,000th career win Tuesday when he partnered his father's colt The Fly (Pharly), an entrant in this year's Vodafone Derby, to win the Shepherd Trophy. At York. The 34-year-old rider, whose twin brother Richard is Sheikh Hamdan al Maktoum's retained jockey, rode his first winner in 1979 at Nottingham on Sky Chief, also trained by his father. Hills said, "It was nice to ride my 1000th winner on one trained by my father, as he has always supported me."

Local News, South Africa:

At Greyville in Durban last Saturday, the three-year-old gelding Golden Hoard (SAf) (All Fired Up) won the G1 $44,893 Templeton South African Guineas over a mile. Trained by Mike De Kock, Golden Hoard is a son of the American-bred stallion All Fired Up (Timeless Moment). Ridden by jockey Karl Neisius, Golden Hoard, winner earlier this season of the G2 John Skeaping Trophy, beat Sovereign Seas (SAf) (Main Man {SAf}) by a head with his stable companion Patchouli Dancer (SAf) (Mistral Dancer) three-quarters of a length farther back in third. Even-money favorite Great World (SAf) (I'm Great {SAf}) was 10th in the 16-horse field.

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May 7 Hialeah allowance won by KINGSTATION BRASS, by DIXIE BRASS by a head over SPEED AND DISTANCE, by FARMAWAY, at a Vinery WEISENBERGER MILL PINE 40347 (606) 846-5214 • Fax 846-4671 Vinery, stallions are Breeders' Cup nominated.
Local News, South Africa:
In a major coup for the South African breeding industry, it was reported Tuesday that Coolmore Stud’s Shalford (IRE) (Thatching {IRE}) has been bought to stand stud in South Africa later this year. Breeders Allan Sutherland and Anton Proctor have reportedly bought the former leading European sprinter, but no figure has been disclosed and it has not yet been decided whether the nine-year-old stallion will stand at Proctor’s Burwell Stud or at Sutherland’s Somerset Stud. Shalford’s race-track successes included the G3 Cork & Orrery S. at Royal Ascot, which he won by five lengths in track record time, and the G3 Duke of York S., which he also won in record time. A freshman sire of 1996, Shalford’s best runners to date include Muchua (GB), last year’s Highweight Colt at Two in Germany; and stakes-placed Shantou (NZ).

BREEDERS EDITION

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:
1st-PRM, $25,875, 5-12, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:13 2/5, ft.
FAST SLEWZY (m, 6, Slewdonza--Fast Acting, by Vigors) Lifetime Record: SW, 34-9-4-7, $124,399.

5th-DEL, $24,200, 3yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:47 4/5, ft.
RYAN’S SNOWMAN (c, 3, Frosty the Snowman--Tommy’s Date, by Tom Rolfe) Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, $27,700. O/B-A Appleton (FL). T-R W Camac. *½ to Will to Reign (Cox’s Ridge), GSP, $403,845.

8th-HIA, $21,000, 3yo/up, 8.5f (off turf), 1:46 4/5, ft.

9th-PHA, $20,800, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11, ft.

7th-PRM, $19,500, 3yo, 1m, 1:39 4/5, ft.

7th-PRM, $18,000, 5-12, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11, ft.
HERE Comes CLASS (c, 4, Here We Come--Saas With Class {MSP}, by Esops Foibles) Lifetime Record: 16-4-1-2, $47,430. O/B-Bill Tackett (OK). T-G Jacquot.

8th-PRM, $18,000, 5-12, 3yo/up, f/m, a1m70yd, 1:44 4/5, ft.

MAIDEN WINNERS:
Pietragalia, f, 3, Beau Genius--Edie’s Design, by Architect. DET, 5-13, 6f, 1:13. B-Woodrum Tommy (KY). *$7,000 wing ‘94 KEENOV; $7,000 yrl ‘95 KEESEP; $3,100 yrl 1996 FTKNOV.

Born Mighty, c, 3, Demons Begone--Costly Doll, by Key to the Mint. HIA, 5-13, 1 1/8m (off turf), 1:52 1/5. B-Thompson Robert G (Ky). *$20,000 yrl ‘95 KEESEP.

Calcutta, f, 3, Housebuster--Cameo Performance (SW-Eng), by Be My Guest, PRM, 5-12, 6f, 1:12 4/5. B-Robert White & Virginia White (Ky).

Flee O, c, 3, Regal Classic--River Lightning, by Cyane. PHA, 5-13, 7f, 1:26 2/5. B-Thomas A Charles & Catherine Charles (Pa). *$10,000 yrl ‘95 KEESEP.

WEEKEND PEDIGREE PERSPECTIVES

by Alan Porter

GENTLEMEN (ARG) (h, 5, Robin des Bois--Elegant Glance, by Loose Cannon) The Kentucky Derby victory of Silver Charm provided us with a shining example of the power of inbreeding to upgrade a family. The following weekend’s most valuable race, the GI Pimlico Special, forcibly reiterates the lesson. By defeating last year’s Champion Three-Year-Old Skip Away, while conceding that rival weight, the Argentinean-bred Gentleman suggested that he may well be the best horse currently in training in North America.

Gentlemen is a son of the Nureyev stallion Robin des Bois. A group winner in France at two, Robin des Bois is a brother to young Kentucky sire Be My Guest and Storm Cat (in fact their third dams are close genetic relatives). Gentleman himself comes from the same family as another champion sire from the Northern Dancer male line--Danzig; Gentleman’s third dam Any Port is a half-sister to Pas de Nom, the dam of Danzig. In more recent generations, however, the family has been somewhat quieter. Perspectives cont. p.5
The key to Gentlemen’s talent seems to lie not in his female line, but in the inbreeding and linebreeding in his pedigree. Gentlemen’s sire is by Nureyev (by Northern Dancer) out of a mare by Key to the Mint (by Graustark), giving Gentlemen inbreeding to Northern Dancer 3x4 and Graustark 4x4. The combination of Northern Dancer with Graustark is always a potentially potent one given the close connection between Lady Angela (dam of Northern Dancer’s sire Nearctic) and Graustark’s broodmare sire Alibhai, both combining Hyperion and Tracery.

Further back, this pedigree also owns some very interesting linebreeding. For example, Robin des Bois has Nasrullah 5x5 and Gentlemen’s granddam Hidden Smoke has Nasrullah’s three-parts brother Royal Charger and Tessa Gillian (sister to Royal Charger) 3x3. Gentlemen also has War Admiral 6x6 and Eight Thirty 6x6x6x6. War Admiral is a five-eighths brother to Eight Thirty’s granddam Seaplane and while War Admiral and Seaplane are by Man o’ War, Eight Thirty is a grandson of Friar Rock, who reverses the Rock Sand/Fairy Gold cross which produced Man o’ War.

It is worth noting that the Nureyev sire line has one very strong representative in North America in the shape of Theatrical, and the unusual inbreeding and linebreeding in Gentlemen’s pedigree could give him an excellent shot of following Theatrical’s example when he too retires to stud.

**PEDIGREE SHORTS...**

The Aga Khan has the remarkable ability to get good winners by his own stallions even when those stallions are regarded as non-commercial. The latest example of the phenomenon is the G1 Dubai Poule d’Essai des Pouliches (French 2,000 Guineas) victor Daylami (c, 3, Doyoun--Daltawa, by Miswaki). A son of Mill Reef, Doyoun won the British 2,000 Guineas and finished third in the Derby, but he is now virtually a private stallion for the Aga Khan, for whom he had sired at least another 10 stakes winners. Daylami is bred on a pretty familiar pattern for a good Aga Khan runner. Doyoun carries Prince Taj who is by Prince Bio (like Princequillo, a son of Prince Rose) out of Rivaz, a sister to Nasrullah. Daylami’s broodmare sire is Miswaki--granddam Rose Bower by Princequillo out of a Nasrullah mare. Finally Daylami’s fourth dam is by Charlottsville, who is by Prince Chevalier (by Prince Rose and bred on very similar lines to Princequillo) out of a mare by Nearco (sire of Nasrullah).

Coincidentally, the Nasrullah/Princequillo cross also plays a major part in the pedigree of Always Loyal (f, 3, Zilzal--Balbonella, by Gay Mecene), who took the G1 Dubai Poule d’Essai des Pouliches (French 1,000 Guineas) Sunday. A half-sister to last year’s sprint star Anaaba and the talented Key of Luck, Always Loyal is out of Balbonella, herself a Group 1 winner in France at two. Balbonella owned a Royal Charger/Princequillo cross through Sir Gaylord (her sire Gay Mecene is out of a Sir Gaylord mare) and a cross of Royal Charger’s three-parts brother Nasrullah and Princequillo through her broodmare sire Riverman. When we come to Zilzal, we find that his second dam is Bold Lad, who is by a son of Nasrullah out of a Princequillo mare.

We frequently write about the success of the Blushing Groom/Nijinsky II combination, which brings together Spring Run (dam of Blushing Groom’s sire Red God) and Flaming Page (dam of Nijinsky II), both carriers of the seemingly potent Menow/Doll Dog combination. We haven’t seen the same combination occur with anywhere near such frequency through Blushing Groom and Nijinsky II’s three-parts brother The Minstrel, but there was such an example last weekend. This was the GIII Beaugay H. heroine Careless Heiress (f, 4, Runaway Groom--Duty Free, by l’Emigrant). The sire is a son of Blushing Groom, the maternal grandsire a son of The Minstrel.

Like his more celebrated half-brother Seattle Slew, Seattle Dancer loves to receive the strain of La Troienne in his mates. Such a pattern can be found in the pedigrees of last year’s Seattle Dancer Grade I winners Pike Place Dancer and Taiki Fortune and it comes up again in the pedigree of the G2 Henkel-Rennen German 1,000 Guineas winner Que Belle (f, 3, Seattle Dancer--Qui Bid, by Spectacular Bid). Que Belle, who remained unbeaten following her easy victory, has the sisters Striking and Busher (both in the dam of Seattle Dancer) and their three-parts sister Blue Eyed Momo 5x5x5.

Wild Rush (c, 3, Wild Again--Rose Park, by Plugged Nickle) assumed a more prominent position among the sophomore colts with a clear victory over Anet in the G1 Illinois Derby, his fourth win in five starts. Wild Again’s distaff pedigree has a decidedly European flavor, which is picked up in the pedigree of Wild Rush’s dam. Wild Again’s granddam Dama II is by Derby winner Dante out of Clovelly, who is by another Derby winner--Mahmoud--out of Irish Oaks victress Udaiapur. Plugged Nickle, the broodmare sire of Wild Rush, is a grandson of Missy Baba, a mare who combines Udaiapur’s brother Umidwar with a daughter of Pharos (grandsire of Dante) and Badruddin, a close genetic relative of Mahmoud. The Umidwar strain is also in Blushing Groom, a horse whose third dam is a half-sister to Wild Again’s maternal grandsire Khaled, so we should look out for this pair to combine successfully down the road.

One has to wonder how often a stallion in modern times has had a run of success such as the one which Sadler’s Wells has just enjoyed. Having been responsible for the May 3 British 2,000 Guineas winner Entrepreneur, he followed up with a four-day spell in which he was represented by four group winners and a listed scorer. For the record, the winners were Cloudings (G1 Prix Lupin), Ashley Park (G3 Derrinstown Derby Trial--in which the first three finishers were sons of Sadler’s Wells), Royal Court (G3 Ormonde S.), Camporese (G3 Prix Corrida) and Strawberry Roan (Derrinstown Stud 1,000 Guineas Trial). In addition, the G3 Tripleprint Derby Trial was won by Silver Patriarch, a member of the first crop of Sadler’s Wells’s son, Saddler’s Hall.