

**KEENELAND
TOPPERS...**

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TUESDAY, JAN. 7, 2003

“SONG” A BRIGHT NOTE AT KEENELAND DAY 1

Two mares in foal to Unbridled’s Song attracted a bit of attention during a relatively quiet opening session of the 2003 Keeneland January Horses of All Ages Sale yesterday in Lexington. Stakes winner **Belle Nuit** (Dr. Carter--Belle Noel, by Tom Rolfe), who was covered by the GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile winner, topped the session at \$475,000, with David Plummer as the underbidder. The 13-year-old mare was consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, Agent LXV, and purchased by Louis Brooks Ranch Ltd. “I thought she was the best mare in the sale and we are tickled to get her,” Louis Brooks said. “I actually thought that she would go much higher than that. I’ve been coming here for 30 years and usually the quality of horses at this sale isn’t quite what it is in November. Mares like these don’t usually fall through the cracks, so I am a bit surprised we got her for that price.” Brooks, who has a ranch in Sweetwater, Texas, is in the equine insurance business. He owns several mares in partnership and also owns shares in a number of stallions, including Unbridled’s Song. He said Belle Nuit, whose first three foals were by Belong to Me, would most likely be going back to the Lane’s End stallion in 2003. The chestnut mare’s first foal, Belle Cherie, won four graded stakes and \$426,861; her second, Be Mine Tonight, was a stakes winner of \$159,210. **Tizsweet** (Cee’s Tizzy--Cee’s Song, by Seattle Song), also in foal to Unbridled’s Song, also hit the top 10 at yesterday’s opener. A full sister to two-time GI Breeders’ Cup Classic winner and 2000 Horse of the Year Tiznow, she brought \$200,000. *Keeneland January cont. p2*

PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

BY ANDREW CAULFIELD

SANTA YSABEL S.-GIII, \$110,900, SAX, 1-5, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m, 1:43 1/5, ft.

1--**ATLANTIC OCEAN, 120, f, 3, by Stormy Atlantic**

1st Dam: **Super Chef, by Seattle Slew**

2nd Dam: **Super Cook, by Best Turn**

3rd Dam: **Home Thoughts, by Tom Rolfe**

(\$31,000 yrl '01 KEESSEP; \$1,900,000 2yo '02 BESMAR). O-The Thoroughbred Corporation; B-Arthur I Appleton (FL); T-Bob Baffert; J-D R Flores; \$66,540. Lifetime Record: 9-4-0-1, \$301,320.

When someone at the *Thoroughbred Times* was given the task of coming up with a short, punchy caption for the magazine's coverage of last year's main Barretts sale, "March Madness" no doubt seemed a pretty accurate summary.

After all, the sale had been dominated by a daughter of Stormy Atlantic, a minor stakes winner who had hardly set the breeding world on fire when his first yearlings sold a few months earlier. Only six of the 12 offered had found buyers, at an average price of \$24,333, the best price for a filly being the \$31,000 paid by James K. Chapman for an interestingly bred filly which appeared in Book 5 of Keeneland's September Sale.

Yet that same filly realised a staggering \$1,900,000 at Barretts, after Prince Ahmed Salman and Demi O'Byrne had locked horns from \$700,000. The flamboyant Prince later explained that his willingness to pay such a huge price was a result of his wish to put something back into a game that had been so good to him.

Pedigree Insights cont. p5



Atlantic Ocean Benoit Photo



KEENELAND JANUARY STATISTICS

MONDAY, JAN. 6, 2003

KEENELAND.

<u>SESSION TOTALS</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
No. Offered	316	292
No. Sold	208	242
RNAs	108	50
% RNA (% change)	34% (+100%)	17%
Gross	\$10,683,200	\$17,911,800
Average (% change)	\$51,362 (-31%)	\$74,016
Median (% change)	\$30,000 (+20%)	\$25,000

www.keeneland.com

TDN TODAY

Headline News 5 pages

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Granddaughter of **HALORY** wins debut since catalog!

LOVELY SAGE sells Thursday as **Hip #1524**.



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Keeneland January cont.

All in the Family...

The five-year-old Tizsweet, who is also a full sister to multi-millionaire Budroyale, was consigned by Cee's Stable, LLC, and purchased by John Fulton, agent for Michael Cooper. Cooper was part of the ownership of Tiznow, with Cecilia Straub-Rubens, and also owned part of this mare. "This family has been very good to him and he thought if the price was reasonable, that he would try to keep her," Fulton explained. "I thought the price was absolutely fair. She's a nice young mare in foal to a good sire. She was injured after her first start and never raced again, but she could run." A younger full sister to Tizsweet sold at the 2001 Keeneland November Sale for \$950,000, and her eight-year-old full sister, in foal to Hennessy, sold at Keeneland November last year for \$625,000.

A Charismatic Pedigree...

A yearling colt from second crop by Kentucky Derby and Preakness hero Charismatic (Summer Squall) out of top broodmare Clever But Costly (Clever Trick) topped the yearlings at Keeneland Monday, bringing \$400,000 from Tracy Farmer. Consigned by co-breeder James D. Conway, the dark bay is a half-brother to GISW Traitor (Cryptoclearance) and stakes winners Beavers Nose (Demons Begone) and Ocean Drive (Belong to Me). He is also a half to the dam of GISW Peeping Tom and of MGSW's Hurricane Bertie and Allamerican Bertie. Farmer was advised on the purchase by trainer Bernard Flint, who trained the two Berties. "I'll tell you what, this colt has everything he needs to be a fantastic racehorse," Flint said. "He is the best yearling that I have ever seen. He is just a super individual. All he needs to do is keep growing, stay sound and he can be any kind of horse." Farmer said, "He [Flint] told me to buy one and this was it," but added, "Don't congratulate me just yet. That was a lot of money for him." Conway was not surprised that his colt sold so well. "We really liked him," he said. "He's the best horse we've ever led over here. The one-dam [catalogue page] certainly helped, all his repository work was good and it all came together. We showed this horse I think 153 times since Saturday, so people were interested and many people came back a second time. He has a very good attitude." And, he continued, "It's a very live family right now. When there is something live in the pedigree, you generate interest." Allamerican Bertie had won the GII Falls City H. since the catalogue and Ocean Drive became a stakes winner at Keeneland in the fall.

☆ HIP HAPPENINGS ☆

Hip 67... Quid Pro Quo

Quidnaskra (Halo--Miss Jove, by Northern Jove), a graded-stakes winner of \$366,044, caught the eye of Doug Cauthen, president of WinStar Farm. Cauthen went to \$160,000 to get the eight-year-old broodmare prospect, who was consigned by Charlton, Agent I. "She's a real nice mare," Cauthen said. "We bought her to breed to Our Emblem--we think that she'll be a nice mare for him. She's got a very nice physical and we liked the fact that she was a graded-stakes winner. She had some raceability. I thought she was good value at that price. The fact that she is a cribber and eight years old maybe kept the price down a little." He added, "[Our Emblem] is going to get some nice mares this year." WinStar owns Our Emblem in partnership with Taylor Made. The 12-year-old stallion stands 2003 for \$35,000 at Taylor Made Farm in Nicholasville, Kentucky.

Hip 76... What A Difference Two Months Makes

Hip 76, yearling colt from the first crop by Eclipse champion Anees (Unbridled) out of Regatta Queen (Danzig Connection), did not reach his reserve of \$37,000 back at Keeneland November, but brought a final bid of \$160,000 at the Keeneland January opener. The bay, consigned by Millennium Farms Kentucky, Agent I, is a half-brother to stakes winner No Other Name (Honour and Glory). Jim Gladwell signed the ticket for Furgeson Valley Ranch. "He really improved since I saw him in November," Gladwell said. "There were a couple of little things conformationally that it looks like he's gotten over." He added, "I think what you're seeing today is that the market is strong for the better individuals. I was just talking to a couple of people who were in [on Hip 76] until \$90,000 and, obviously, there was a bid at \$150,000." Gladwell, who operates Kindergarten Farm, a pinhooking operation in Ocala, explained his sales philosophy, "We buy individuals and we really don't take the pedigree into account. We try to buy horses that we think can sell well later on. It seems that conformation is selling at the sales, so that's what we concentrate on. We bought 24 or 25 horses in November and we are looking for an additional four or five to resell later this year or next year."

All horses in the TDN are bred in North America, unless otherwise indicated




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Hip 96...Pro Union

Hip 96, a yearling colt from the first crop by two-time Grade I winner by Dixie Union (Dixieland Band) out of Sharp Tradition (Sharpen Up {GB}), was purchased by Grey Flight Bloodstock for \$155,000. The dark bay, a May 16 foal, was consigned Idle Hour Farm, agent. Buzz Chace, who signed the ticket, said, "I like Dixie Union a lot and I think he's got a chance to be a really nice sire. This colt had a lot of presence about him. He's got a little bit of pedigree. He's a little bit immature, but I think he'll grow up to be a nice colt. He looks like a runner." Dixie Union stands at Lane's End Farm in Versailles, Kentucky for a 2003 fee of \$30,000, live foal.

Hip 327...Strike While "The Iron" Is Hot

High Heeled Hope (Salt Lake--High Heeled Honey, by Gold Stage), in foal to 'the Iron Horse,' Giant's Causeway (Storm Cat), was knocked down for \$400,000 to Castleton Lyons. The nine-year-old mare was consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, Agent VI. "Before the sale, I thought she'd bring between \$300,000 and \$500,000, so she went right in the middle," Frank Taylor said. "It was a good sale for us. She's a real nice mare, she has excellent conformation and she has nice foals. We sold her yearling filly by A.P. Indy at Saratoga last summer for \$450,000 to Gene Melnyk. I think that the market has been good for the good horses. It hasn't been great, but it's good." As for her covering sire, Taylor said, "We have several horses by him on the farm and I like them all. He was a great racehorse. His weanlings sold well last year and he also contributes a lot of value as a covering sire."

Kip Elser, Kirkwood Stables:

"It seems like everyone is looking for yearlings, and the mares are pretty soft. But there really aren't any surprises, it is a normal January Sale. The catalogue seems to lack a star horse, there is not really a lot there to generate much excitement. I really haven't seen the sheets, so I wasn't aware that the RNAs were quite so high. It may be a case of expectations being a little too high on the part of the sellers."

John Phillips, Darby Dan Farm:

"The high number of RNAs are a concern since that is generally a barometer for the overall market. People may need to readjust their expectations. It seems like the 'smart plays' are the best plays. That is to say, sometimes it is better to take a loss at first. The first loss is sometimes the least painful. Another thing that needs to be looked at is the percentage of outs. That number is high as well. But we've had some success. We offered nine and sold seven of them."

Geoffrey Russell, Keeneland's director of sales:

Commenting on the fact that the percentage of RNAs doubled from last year to this, he said, "I wouldn't say that I am surprised by the number of RNAs, but I would say disappointed. But it seems to be a factor of the industry. Last year's sale had one of the lowest RNA ever and this session was one of the highest. The truth lies somewhere in the middle. I don't know what people expect from this sale. The covering sires are as solid as normal. This has always been a bread and butter breeding stock sale. If you take the top three broodmares out from a year ago, the results would look similar. It's not every year that you have a Desert Stormer. Tomorrow's another day."

What They're Saying At The Sales...

Robert Courtney Jr., Crestfield Farm:

"I think that this is a pretty typical January sale. It's always been a cleaning-up sort of sale where people are trying to get rid of leftover horses. It's like any other sale--the good horses that are out there sell well. But I don't think that the high number of RNAs is necessarily a negative thing. People establish their minimums and if they don't get there, they buy the horses back. I really think this industry is alive and well. Horses have been too expensive for too long. We need to have adjustments in the market and there needs to be an adjustment in stud fees."

TDN CRITERIA

The races covered in the TDN are as follows:

- Stakes** - purses of \$35,000/up
- Allowance Races** - purses of \$20,000/up
- Optional Claiming Races** - purses of \$20,000/up and a minimum claiming price of \$25,000
- Maiden Special Weight Races** - purses of \$18,000/up
- Maiden Claiming Races** - purses of \$18,000/up and a minimum claiming price of \$40,000



Keeneland's January Horses of All Ages Sale

For updates and results visit www.keeneland.com.

The sale continues through Friday, January 10.



Keeneland January cont.

TOP SIX YEARLINGS

Hip	Sex	Sire	Dam	Price
246	c	Charismatic	Clever But Costly	\$400,000
<i>B-James D. Conway & Barry Mangold (KY)</i>				
Consigned by James D. Conway, Agent I				
Purchased by Tracy Farmer				
280	c	High Yield	Dorky	\$250,000
<i>B-Nordic T'breeds & McArthur-Obrecht Racing Stable</i>				
Consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, Agent XXXVII				
Purchased by J.L. Bloodstock				
98	f	Distorted Humor	She's Heavenly	\$165,000
<i>B-Robert D. Nash (KY)</i>				
Consigned by Glendalough, agent				
Purchased by Palmetto Investments				
76	c	Anees	Regatta Queen	\$160,000
<i>B-Ro Parra (KY)</i>				
Consigned by Millennium Farms Kentucky (W Hardin), agent				
Purchased by Furgeson Valley Ranch				
250	f	Forestry	Connecting Link	\$160,000
<i>B-F.J.F.M., LLC (KY)</i>				
<i>(\$125,000 wnl '02 KEENOV)</i>				
Consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, Agent XXX				
Purchased by Highclere, agent				
96	c	Dixie Union	Sharp Tradition	\$155,000
<i>B-Larry Lehmann & Robert McCann (KY)</i>				
Consigned by Idle Hour Farm, agent				
Purchased by Grey Flight Bloodstock				

TOP NINE MARES

Hip	Name	Covering Sire	Price
207	Belle Nuit	Unbridled's Song	\$475,000
<i>(13, Dr. Carter--Belle Noel, by Tom Rolfe)</i>			
Consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, Agent LXV			
Purchased by Louis Brooks Ranch LTD			
327	High Heeled Hope	Giant's Causeway	\$400,000
<i>(9, Salt Lake--High Heeled Honey, by Gold Stage)</i>			
Consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, Agent VI			
Purchased by Castleton Lyons			
370	La Pascua (Swi)	Lemon Drop Kid	\$275,000
<i>(7, Caerleon--La Venta, by Drone)</i>			
Consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, Agent LXXVI			
Purchased by Arthur B. Hancock III			
371	La Promenade (Arg)	Old Trieste	\$250,000
<i>(6, Southern Halo--Aquarelle {Arg}, by Logical)</i>			
Consigned by Three Chimneys Sales, agent			
Purchased by Cobra Farm, agent			
288	Ermine Fever	Dixieland Band	\$230,000
<i>(5, Capote--Royal Run, by Wavering Monarch)</i>			
Consigned by Denali Stud (Craig Bandoroff), Agent V			
Purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Larry D. Williams			

155	Tizsweet	Unbridled's Song	\$200,000
<i>(5, Cee's Tizzy--Cee's Song, by Seattle Song)</i>			
Consigned by Cee's Stable, LLC			
Purchased by John Fulton, agent for Michael Cooper			
345	Istinad	Elusive Quality	\$165,000
<i>(7, Kris S.--Minifah, by Nureyev)</i>			
Consigned by Shadwell			
Purchased by Roger Allman			
67	Quidnaskra	B'mare Prospect	\$160,000
<i>(8, Halo--Miss Jove, by Northern Jove)</i>			
Consigned by Charlton (Mr. & Mrs. Rick Abbott), Agent I			
Purchased by KAT Bloodstock			
339	Indy Mood for Luv	B'mare Prospect	\$160,000
<i>(5, A.P. Indy--Lovington, by Afleet)</i>			
Consigned by Denali Stud (Craig Bandoroff), Agent XII			
Purchased by Nursery Place			

☆ RESULTS ☆

Sunday, Nakayama, Japan
NIKKAN SPORTS SHO NAKAYAMA KINPAI-G3-JRA,
 ¥81,800,000, Nakayama, 1-5, 4yo/up, 2000mT, 2:00, gd.
 1--**TOHO SHIDEN (JPN), 125, h, 6, by Brian's Time**
 1st Dam: Blushingintherain, by Blushing Groom (Fr)
 2nd Dam: Dancinintherain, by Nijinsky II
 3rd Dam: Show Lady, by Sir Ivor
 B-Orient Bokujo; T-K Tanaka; J-K Tanaka;
 ¥43,000,000. *G1SP-Jpn.
 2--**Toa Meiu (Jpn), 110, c, 4, Adjudicating--Fruit**
 Cocktail (Jpn), by No Attention (Fr). B-Toa Bokujo;
 ¥17,000,000.
 3--**Camphor Best (Jpn), 114, c, 4, Amber Shadai (Jpn)--**
 Katarina Rabbit (Jpn), by Shinzan (Jpn). B-Kataoka
 Bokujo; ¥11,000,000.
 Margins: n/a. Odds: n/a.

Sunday, Kyoto, Japan
SPORTS NIPPON SHO KYOTO KINPAI-G3-JRA,
 ¥81,800,000, Kyoto, 1-5, 4yo/up, 1600mT, 1:34, gd.
 1--**SIDEWINDER (JPN), 123, h, 5, by Tony Bin (Ire)**
 1st Dam: Golden Jack (Jpn), by Afleet
 2nd Dam: Comaz, by Danzig
 3rd Dam: Middlemarch, by Buckpasser
 B-Tabata Farm; T-S Kitahashi; J-H Shii; ¥43,000,000.
 2--**Grass World, 125, h, 7, Rahy--A Chance of Storm,**
 by Storm Cat. (\$80,000 yrl '97 KEESEP). B-D Garvin,
 D Gish & J Hendricks (KY); ¥17,000,000.
 3--**Rosebud (Jpn), 121, m, 5, Sunday Silence--Rose**
 Colour (Jpn), by Shirley Heights (GB). B-Northern
 Farm; ¥11,000,000.
 Margins: n/a. Odds: n/a.

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Pedigree Insights cont.

Sadly, the Prince is no longer around to witness his filly, Atlantic Ocean, develop into a potential threat to the likes of Storm Flag Flying and Awesome Humor. She now has Grade III wins to her name on turf and dirt and her performance in the Santa Ysabel suggests she is going to add to her reputation over a mile and an eighth or even 1 1/4 miles.

As neither of her parents was even placed in a graded stakes race, Atlantic Ocean could be said to be better than she has a right to be. In these circumstances it is very tempting to attribute her talent to the 3x2 inbreeding to the great Seattle Slew that appears in her pedigree.

Close inbreeding to Seattle Slew certainly has its attractions. How many horses can match his record of having won his first nine starts, including all three Triple Crown events by decisive margins? He suffered defeat only three times during a 17-race career, with one of those defeats being by a neck and another by a nose. Five of his wins came at distances short of a mile, while he also stayed 1 1/2 miles well enough to win the Belmont, so he was pretty much the horse with everything.

The main worry about inbreeding closely to Seattle Slew has to be the risk of getting something too big and strong to be sound. Although he apparently shrunk to 16 hands in his old age, Seattle Slew stood 16.2 hands in his prime and possessed all the power to match his height. Unfortunately, this bulk was supported by a pair of less-than-perfect forelegs and, inevitably, some of Seattle Slew's progeny had problems. By my reckoning, to Oct. 27 last year, he had had 683 runners from a total of 943 named foals in his first 20 crops (omitting his two-year-olds of 2002). In other words, more than one in every four Seattle Slews had failed to make it to the races.

Interestingly, Richard Mulhall of The Thoroughbred Corporation commented after the purchase of Atlantic Ocean that "she actually is kind of ugly, just looking at her, but not when she moves. She can run."

Of course the risk of getting an unsound 'Slew' was well worth taking. When Vindication took the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, he became his sire's 29th Grade I winner and many of Seattle Slew's sons and daughters have gone on to produce major winners.

It was one of Seattle Slew's Grade I winners, the Santa Anita Oaks winner Hail Atlantis, who produced Stormy Atlantic. The mare was carrying him when she was purchased by Arthur Appleton for \$650,000 in 1993. The son of Storm Cat duly developed into one of the five stakes winners that have emerged from the first 15 foals sired by Storm Cat from daughters of Seattle Slew.

While he wasn't in the same league as the other four stakes winners (the Graded winners Raging Fever, China Storm, Stormin Fever and Statue of Liberty), Stormy Atlantic developed into a talented sprinter at four, having managed only a single start in each of his first two seasons.

It is easy to forgive Stormy Atlantic his shortcomings on the track in view of his bloodlines. His fourth dam is the legendary Rough Shod and his third dam is Moccasin, a champion two-year-old who had the distinction of being a sister to Ridan, Lt. Stevens and Thong. He is surely going to be popular at his new base at Hill 'n' Dale in Kentucky, where his fee is \$12,500.

Atlantic Ocean's dam, Super Chef, cost \$180,000 as a yearling before becoming a minor winner on dirt and turf. She raced 12 times, dispelling any fears that she would be one of the problem Seattle Slews--fears raised by the fact that her Grade III-winning dam, Super Cook, was by Best Turn, a very leggy sprinter-miler who stood 17.2 hands.

Super Cook had a distinguished half-sister in the stayer Niodini, winner of the G3 Park Hill S., and this female line traces to the Acorn S. winner Secret Meeting. Another branch of this family produced the Epsom Oaks winner Long Look and the champion filly Sensational, so Atlantic Ocean's background is far from bargain-basement material. Perhaps her buyers weren't so mad after all.

TOP WEANLING SIRES OF 2002

RANK	SIRE	SOLD	AVERAGE
1	Storm Cat	1	\$500,000
2	GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	10	\$474,844
3	Seattle Slew	5	\$453,000
4	Danehill	3	\$418,507

SOURCE: TDN, 1/6/03

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 **NORTH AMERICA** 

MAGIC WEISNER ON THE MEND GII Ohio Derby winner **Magic Weisner** (Ameri Valay), who contracted West Nile Virus this past summer and has spent the last several months on the farm in Maryland recovering from the disease, is back in his stall at Laurel Park, the *Thoroughbred Times* reports. The four-year-old fell just 3/4 of a length short of catching War Emblem in the GI Preakness S., was fourth in the GI Belmont S. before posting a neck win in the July 20 Ohio Derby. He has not been out since running second to War Emblem in the Aug. 4 GI Haskell Invitational H. at Monmouth Park. Owner, breeder and trainer Nancy Alberts said the gelding had suffered muscle problems in his right hind leg as a result of his bout with West Nile Virus, but seemed to be gaining strength. "He has put on a lot of weight and his hind leg is coming back," Alberts told *Thoroughbred Times*. "It's not quite what it was, but it's an improvement. He was pathetic there for a while." She added, "I'm really glad to have him back. It made me appreciate what a nice horse he is to have around." Magic Weisner is still just walking, and his conditioner said, "We're just going to take it nice and easy with him until he's ready for more." With seven wins and four seconds from 11 career starts, the Maryland-bred has earned \$888,110.

STAKES CLOSINGS

TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8:
01-18 \$100,000 *Holy Bull-III, GP, 3yo, 8.5f*
(100)

www.stakesdigestweekly.com



REQUEST FOR PAROLE HEADS WEDNESDAY'S CARD AT GULFSTREAM Multiple stakes winner **Request For Parole** (Judge T C), who ran fifth in the GI Kentucky Derby last May, is slated to make his 2003 debut in the ninth race at Gulfstream Park Wednesday. The optional claiming event, which will be contested at approximately 1 1/16 miles on the turf, will feature non-winners of four other than maiden, claiming or starter events, or who are running for a \$100,000 tag. On the sidelines for almost seven months following the Derby, the colt finished fifth in his comeback, a \$57,000 allowance event over a mile at Aqueduct Nov. 29. A winner of four races from 12 starts, the Kentucky-bred has earned \$345,522 to date. Also entered in the \$40,000 event is international graded stakes winner **Generous Rosi (GB)** (Generous {Ire}). The Niall O'Callaghan pupil, who won the 1999 G3 Gordon Richard S. in Britain and the 2001 GIII Turfway Park Fall Championship S., came close to recording the hat trick in graded-stakes victories when only a neck behind Tenpins in the GII Washington Park H. Sept. 29. Both horses will be asked to carry 118 pounds.

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“He was a fine racehorse on his day and the turn of foot that enabled him to win a Guineas in such eye-catching style must be a big recommendation for him as a stallion.”

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★ EAST ★

Philly Park Cancels Again:

Philadelphia Park was forced to cancel its Monday racing card after a snow storm passed through the area Sunday night. It was the fourth time the track has had to cancel racing this winter. Racing is scheduled to resume today with a first post time of 12:25 p.m.

★ MIDWEST ★

Yesterday's Results:

8th-FGX, \$28,000, Msw, 3yo, f, a5 1/2fT, 1:05 4/5, fm.

ACHNASHEEN (f, 3, Mutakddim--Chile Dyna, by Dynaformer) was bothered at the start of her debut Aug. 10 at Ellis Park and finished second while racing over the main track. She prepared for her turf debut with a bullet four-furlong move over the Fair Grounds dirt Dec. 29. The 5-2 shot was well beaten early, but charged through an opening on the rail in the stretch en route to a 3/4-length victory. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$21,840.

O-Sterling Stud. B-Paul & Andrena Van Doren (KY). T-Mitch Shirota.

4th-FGX, \$28,000, Msw, 3yo, f, 5 1/2fT, 1:05 3/5, fm.

+ FOREST SHADOWS (f, 3, Woodman--Dance of Sunshine, by Sunshine Forever), a \$60,000 FTKJUL yearling, was allowed to settle into stride while racing off the pace. The 5-1 shot rallied along the rail turning for home, eased out in upper stretch and overtook Shari's Gold Sole (Gold Tribute) late to win by 3/4 lengths. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$16,800.

O/B-John Phillips & Pam Gartin (KY). T-Albert Stall Jr.

TDN TODAY

Around the World 4 pages

★ SO. CALIFORNIA ★

Keeping Up With the Tizzes:

While his older sister Tizsweet, in foal to Unbridled's Song, was selling for \$200,000 yesterday at Keeneland January, four-year-old **Tizbud** (Cee's Tizzy) was finalizing his preparations for Saturday's GII San Fernando Breeders' Cup S. at Santa Anita. The dark bay colt, a full brother to Horse of the Year and two-time GI Breeders' Cup Classic winner Tiznow, worked seven furlongs at Santa Anita Sunday in 1:25.40. Third in his debut over six furlongs last July at Hollywood Park, Tizbud was fifth in a one-mile maiden at Del Mar in July before graduating with a dominant six-length score in a 1 1/16-miles race at Hollywood Nov. 14. "The longer the better, definitely," trainer John Sadler said of Tizbud's strengths. "He's probably more of a mile-and-an-eighth horse and he ran a huge race the other day. We just wanted to give him the right spacing into the San Fernando." Sadler admitted the stakes are higher when training the full brother to a champion. "Oh, sure, there's pressure and high expectations," he said. "But that's kind of good pressure." Also expected to make his stakes debut in the San Fernando is **Olmodavor** (A.P. Indy). A winner of three of five starts, the four-year-old bay worked five furlongs at Santa Anita Sunday in 1:00.60. Among the probables for the San Fernando are **Castle Gandolfo** (Gone West), **Century City (Ire)** (Danzig), **Ocean Sound (Ire)** (Mujadil), **Pass Rush** (Crown Ambassador) and **Puerto Banus** (Supremo). Puerto Banus, drilled four furlongs yesterday at Santa Anita in :47.80.

SOPHOMORE SPOTLIGHT

First-time Starters & Stakes Progeny: January, 7

Sire (Sire's Sire), Farm, 1998 Fee, #foals of racing age/Winners/SW Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)

VAUDEVILLE (Theatrical {Ire}), Wilson, \$5K, 91/4/0 8-SUN, Msw, 6f, +Theatrical Dawn, \$2K BAR JAN 2yo, 10-1



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WRITERS UP

VINDICATION FOR TOCSET?

By **BILL FINLEY**

When the Eclipse Awards are announced Jan. 27, the champion 2-year-old of 2002 will officially become Vindication, and not Tocset. Tocset has his fans, but not nearly enough to knock off a horse who concluded an undefeated season with a win in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile. That's a shame. Not because Vindication will be an unworthy



Tocset Wins the Champagne
Adam Coglianesse photo

Eclipse winner, but because Tocset's very special season will go unrewarded.

It's not just that he won six races, four stakes and two Grade I events, it's that he did something that horses just don't do anymore. He raced hard, he traveled, he never missed an important assignment and his schedule accelerated rather than decelerated after the Breeders' Cup. It was a program worthy of the great horses of not so many years ago, champions like Spectacular Bid and Affirmed.

More importantly, perhaps he has been able to convince some people that a horse doesn't have to be treated like fine china to be successful.

"We have to walk him four times a day and he gains weight after his races instead of losing it," owner Dan Borislow said. "We decided that the safest course was to keep him active and running."

It's likely that more than a few people privately believe Borislow doesn't know what he is doing. He's not an old-school owner and he follows his own path. He doesn't seem interested in tradition or doing what everyone else is doing. He's going to make his own plan.

That was quite evident after he ran Tocset back just three weeks after a terrible post position left him with no chance in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile. Borislow threw out that ninth-place effort, deciding to go in a soft GIII Laurel Futurity. He was rewarded with a decisive victory.

Just two weeks later, Tocset wound up at Aqueduct and won the GII Remsen S. Just three weeks later, he was in California, where he captured the GI Hollywood Futurity. That's four races on four racetracks, in four different states, in just 45 days.

Conventional wisdom, at least the brand that seemed to pop up out of nowhere about 15 to 20 years ago, is that no horse could possibly stand up to such a schedule. Surely, Tocset will be ruined by such hard treatment and will be a tired, over-the-top horse by the time the Kentucky Derby rolls around this May. At least that's the way everyone seems to think.

Or could it be that Dan Borislow has it right and everyone else, at least the people who think that a horse need eight weeks between starts and probably shouldn't run more than four or five times a year, has it wrong?

"That's one of the great things about horse racing, nobody knows what the right thing to do with a horse is," Borislow said. "You're constantly learning in this business. Owning Tocset gave me an opportunity to go back and see how other people have done it over the years.

"Maybe some of these trainers have been doing it wrong. If you want a horse to be a champion, to perform well in the Triple Crown races, in the Breeders' Cup, to stick around for a while, I'm beginning to believe that the only course of action to take is the one we're taking with Tocset. How else are you going to get the base and the strength to keep going? I think we're going to have a huge advantage over some of the others around Triple Crown time next year."

Finley, cont. p4

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Finley, cont.

It used to be that horses ran. Forget about the bygone days of Citation, Kelso and their ilk. Affirmed ran nine times as a two-year-old in 1977; Spectacular Bid also made nine starts during his juvenile campaign a year later. That's not that long ago. Those horses lasted. Today's don't.

Some people got it into their heads that it was a good idea to take it incredibly easy on horse and everyone else followed blindly. It's getting so bad that the hot training theory before this year's Breeders' Cup was to given horses eight weeks or more off.

If horses were thriving under these circumstances and lasting until they were five or six, maybe the whole thing would make sense. Just the opposite is happening. These coddled things fall apart faster than ever.

The take-it-easy proponents of the theories will argue that horses don't last because they are more fragile than ever and the only way to get anything out of them is to go soft. A campaign like the one Vindication had is all too typical. He ran just four times this year and his owner apparently never gave a serious thought to running him again as a two-year-old after he won the Juvenile.

Could it be that be that, going so easily on horses, they never build up the stamina, toughness and foundation to handle racing? Can a horse possibly be in peak physical condition when they just don't race? Why do major horses in Australia run hard and often and prep for the Melbourne Cup a week out? Can they really be that different from our horses?

I'm the first to admit that I don't know a thing about the physicality of horses and what makes them tick, but I do understand logic. Common sense says that the current line of thinking just isn't working.

According to trainer John Scanlan, Toccet won't run again until the Feb. 15 GI Fountain of Youth S. at Gulfstream Park. That means he won't run for 56 days.

Scanlan said they only reason they're taking a step back is because there are no races that suit their horse before the Fountain of Youth.

No matter, this is a horse that could end up running 12 to 15 times this year, compete in all the Triple Crown races, wind up in the Haskell, Travers and all the big fall races while earning a pile of money for his owner.

The way horses run so infrequently has been a terrible thing for a sport that depends on big fields and competitive major stakes races and can't develop stars because four or five starts a year are not nearly enough for any horse to develop a following.

If Toccet is successful, who knows, maybe someone else will pay attention and the trend will turn in the other direction. That's why I'll be rooting for Toccet. He's good for the game.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY...

January 13, 1978...Seattle Slew, in training for his four-year-old seasonal debut at Hialeah, first displayed symptoms of a collapsed left jugular vein from a shot of Bute which missed the vein. The colt was sidelined until May 14, when he won an allowance race at Aqueduct Race-track as the 1-10 favorite.

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