NO BLACK CAVIAR IN DUBAI

Australian super mare Black Caviar (Aus) (Bel Esprit (Aus)) will skip Saturday’s G1 Futurity S. at Caulfield and will not make a trip to Dubai for the Mar. 31 G1 Golden Shaheen, trainer Peter Moody told the Herald Sun Tuesday.

“I have put “Nelly” in the paddock--at a destination that I’m not disclosing as the mare deserves some peace and quiet--for the next couple of weeks,” Moody told the publication. “There’s nothing wrong with her. To the contrary, she’s at the top of her game. But it’s all geared around having her at her peak when she flies across to England for the June 23 G1 Diamond Jubilee S.”

Further explaining the decision to not send the powerful mare to Dubai, Moody said, “While both myself and the owners were very grateful for all the assistance shown to us by the Dubai Racing Club, what concerned me about taking her to Dubai was the fact that she would be away from home for more than four months leading up to the Diamond Jubilee. Now, we could have all been over there with her at certain times--myself, the vet, the chiropractor, the farrier, Luke Nolen, but the only person that could have been there all the time was Donna, and as excellent a job as she does, it was just too big an assignment, too long away from home.”

Cont. p3

‘GRACE’ GEARING UP

During a national teleconference yesterday, trainer Larry Jones provided an update on reigning Horse of the Year Havre de Grace (Saint Liam), who shared the bullet with stablemate Mr. Bowling (Istan) by working :59 4/5 Monday. It was her third work since returning from a brief respite. Jones said the 5-year-old, owned by Rick Porter’s Fox Hill Farm, will likely target either the GIII Azeri S. at Oaklawn Mar. 17 or the New Orleans Ladies at Fair Grounds on the same date. “That’s the way it looks like now,” said Jones. “Mr. Porter and I will get together after the weekend and talk about it a little more. We have to worry about keeping [Fox Hill’s] Joyful Victory (Tapit) happy as well as Havre de Grace, but it looks like we have a good month ahead of us. [Havre de Grace] is doing very well; she’s really come back to us and has been galloping different in just the last couple of weeks. She’s more eager, and I think she know’s she’s coming back and is looking forward to it.”

Black Caviar following her Coolmore Lightning victory with co-owners Kerryn and Gary Wilkie
Bronwen Healy photo

Black Caviar’s 2012 Wins

Win #19 - G1 Lightning S. - 2-18-2012
Win #18 - G1 CF Orr S. - 2-11-2012
Win #17 - G2 Australia S. - 1-27-2012

Havre de Grace
Sarah K Andrew

Proven Value
Northern Afleet

Eclipse or G1 Winning Owners / Breeders
Juddmonte Farm
Live Oak Stables
Padua Stables
Haras Santa Maria de Araras
R. S. Evans
Stone Street Farm
George Bolton
Glen Hill Farm
 Jerome S. Moss
Winchell Thoroughbreds
Vegso Racing Stable
Martin Cherry

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State of the Union

GI Champagne S. winner Union Rags (Dixie Union) will kick off his sophomore campaign Sunday in the GII Fasig-Tipton Fountain of Youth S. It appears to be the deepest Triple Crown prep yet in 2012, with trainer Todd Pletcher the likes of Algorithms (Bernardini) and Discreet Dancer (Discreet Cat), among others. Coverage begins page 4

No Sophomore Blues

In this week’s column, Bill Oppenheim discusses the recent successes of young sires, including— in alphabetical order— Discreet Cat (Forestry), Hard Spun (Danzig), Scar Daddy (Johannesburg) and Street Sense (Street Cry {Ire}). Coverage begins page 8

Whip frenzy

Britain’s controversial whip rules will be revised dramatically. Coverage begins page 7

DID YOU KNOW!!

International Superstar MORE THAN READY has over $77 million in worldwide progeny earnings, and stakes horses in at least 16 different countries.

Season Inquiries: Grant Williamson (859) 797-3443
Black Caviar Taking a Break (cont. from p1)

Unbeaten in her career, Black Caviar had to work for victory number 19 in last Saturday’s G1 Coolmore Lightning S.

“While the Futurity, Newmarket, Dubai, William Reid and T.J. Smith S. are now all off the table, I’m looking to give Black Caviar her shot at stretching her winning streak to a perfect 20 in either Adelaide or Brisbane before we head off to England,” Moody continued. “I haven’t made up my mind yet, but she could either run in the Robert Sangster S. [1200m] at Morphettville Apr. 28 or the Goodwood over the same distance at the same track a fortnight later. The other race in my thinking is the BTC Cup-- the race she won last year--at Doomben, which is also May 12. She could even run in two races if I think she needs them. To my way of thinking, she has to step on that plane in rock-hard fitness, ready to race.”

Subsequent to polishing off her current Australian campaign, Moody indicated the champion would be granted some time to acclimate to her new surroundings in Europe. “Either way, she will have 2 1/2 weeks back at my Caulfield stables before flying to England, three weeks before the Diamond Jubilee,” said Moody. “And from there, we get her ready to take on the Poms at Royal Ascot. I can’t wait--I reckon Black Caviar will show them a thing or two.”

For video of the interview with Peter Moody, click here.

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Re-Union of Sorts For Leparoux; Matz Hopeful...

When trainer Michael Matz sends out Union Rags (Dixie Union) to his 3-year-old debut in Sunday's GII Fasig-Tipton Fountain of Youth S. at Gulfstream, he'll partner the colt with jockey Julien Leparoux. The Frenchman inherits the mount after Javier Castellano announced Feb. 13 that he’d made the tough decision to instead ride Algorithms (Bernardini) in the 1 1/16-mile event. During yesterday’s NTRA national teleconference, Matz revealed an interesting twist:

Leparoux was actually his first choice to ride Union Rags in the GII Saratoga Special S. last August.

"I had asked Julien to ride this horse, but he told me he had another mount," said Matz, who rose to national prominence as the trainer of the 2006 GI Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro (Dynaformer). "His mount got hurt and wasn’t able to go in the race, and he’d been trying to get on the horse ever since. Things work in funny ways."

Union Rags was making his second start in the Special, following a debut win under Julian Pimental at Delaware a month earlier, and wound up romping home a big winner under Castellano.

Adding a dash of controversy to the story, Matz also said that he learned of Castellano's decision to make the move to the Todd Pletcher-trained Algorithms--whom he piloted to an impressive score in the GIII Holy Bull S. Jan. 29--through the media. "Javier was telling me for the last month that he was riding Union Rags, and when I finally saw the article in the Racing Form, I called his agent [Matt Muzikar], and his agent said something different," said Matz. "I don’t know what the problem was."

But there are no hard feelings, according to Matz, who said he understood why Castellano made the decision he did. "Todd Pletcher has so many horses, and I don’t have near that that I can offer Javier," he said. "All I wanted was to know early enough, because there were a lot of people asking me, but they’re all good riders. I’m not disappointed." Cont. p5
Last season, Union Rags looked like a horse with a ton of potential. After his Special win, he came back to add the GI Champagne S. at Belmont by 5 1/4 lengths over Alpha (Bernardini). With championship honors on the line, he fell just short of Hansen (Tapit) in the GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile at Churchill Nov. 5, an anticlimactic end to a season that nonetheless left him the winter book favorite for the GI Kentucky Derby. While Eclipse voters debated over who should get the hardware, he was given a vacation. "By Sunday afternoon after the Breeders’ Cup, he was turned out at Skara Glen Farm in Florida, which isn’t farm from Palm Beach Downs," Matz said. "He just had an easy 45 days, then we started riding him on the farm for about two weeks."

In the end, Hansen won the Eclipse in a race that was a lot less close than people anticipated, and even though he's still considered by many to be the early favorite for the Derby, Union Rags still is something of an unknown heading into his 3-year-old campaign. Matz sees a colt who has only improved since we've seen him last. "He really grew up—he's about 17 hands," he said. "He filled out, and he looks like a magnificent horse right now. If you walked by him and were looking for a horse, you’d say, 'I'll take one of them.'"

Union Rags's return has come up particularly tough, especially for a race this early in the season. In addition to Algorithms, fellow Pletcher trainee Discreet Dancer (Discreet Cat), a "TDN Rising Star", will line up. "You’re going to have to face them sooner or later," reasoned Matz. "He hasn’t run since the Breeders’ Cup, and those horses have had a couple of races under their belts, so we’ll just have to see. We can’t change our program because those other horses are in it. Our main objective isn’t the first race, it’s two races later—the GI Kentucky Derby—and we’re getting our horse ready for it."

**Jones & Jones Line Up 3 On Saturday...**

Trainer Larry Jones and owner Brereton Jones of Airdrie Stud go triple-barreled into Saturday’s stakes action at Fair Grounds. The homebred 3-year-old filly Believe You Can (Proud Citizen), winner of the GIII Tempted S. at Belmont last October, tries to remain undefeated at the Fair Grounds in the GIII Rachel Alexandra S. at 1 1/16 miles. She's coming off a victory in the Silverbulletday S. Jan. 21. Later on the card, two homebred colts line up in the GII Risen Star S. The winner of the local GIII Lemcomte S. Jan. 21, Mr. Bowling (Istan), is joined by stablemate Mark Valeski (Proud Citizen), who has won his last two sprinting. Cont. p6
The inclusion of Mark Valeski comes after connections decided to pass on a trip to Oaklawn for Monday’s GII Southwest S. “We knew there were a lot of horses going, and we didn’t know they were going to split it [into two divisions],” Larry Jones said during the NTRA national teleconference yesterday. “With ‘Mark’ only having minor earnings, it looked very likely that he’d be left out. So we made a decision a while back to stay here. He’s had a win over the track. We weren’t really looking to run these horses against each other, but it looked like this was the place to be. There will be plenty of time to ship and run later."

Fourth to Union Rags (Dixie Union) in his debut going six furlongs at Delaware last July, Mark Valeski came back to break his maiden over the same course and distance Sept. 27, then made a winning 2012 unveiling when he cleared the first-level condition with a sharp one-length tally Jan. 13. That race was also at six panels, and Jones admits the stretch-out to the 1 1/16 miles of the Risen Star is something of an unknown Saturday.

“He’s a fast horse—he’s got a good turn of foot to him—and now the question is whether he can carry his speed over a route of ground,” said the conditioner.

“But we’ve had a lot of success with the Proud Citizens continuing to run on, so we’re expecting him to run well.”

Mr. Bowling is more of a proven commodity, which isn’t to say he’s booked his ticket to Churchill Downs already. A 7 1/4-length winner of the two-turn Dover S. at Delaware last fall, he ran third in the one-turn, one-mile GII Iroquois S. at Churchill Oct. 30, then returned to two turns to win the Lecomte.

“Mr. Bowling is undefeated around two turns, and that looks like it was a major key for him—getting to two turns,” said Jones. “We have about four Istan's in the barn. All of them are out of speedy-type mares, but all act like they want to go longer. So we have a lot of faith he’s going to get this distance from the sire line. And you can just see a lot of improvement in this colt. He’s really coming to hand well.”

Mr. Bowling looked like he was going to have to settle for second in the Lecomte as Zayat Stables’s Z Dager (Mizzen Mast) came rallying, but he held on for the head victory. “He doesn’t do any more than he needs to to get the job accomplished,” said Jones. "Coming out of the turn, I thought Z Dager had dead aim on him, but as soon as he pulled even with us, Mr. Bowling had more and battled back. You might out-run him, but you’re not going to out-gut him.”

Asked if he thought Mr. Bowling learned something from the experience, Jones responded, “I hope so. I know he’s been a little more eager in his works since. The work [Monday] was the only work where we worked him in company—the rest he just worked by himself. And he’s worked very well by himself, compared with the way he use to work. So we think the light’s coming on.”

Mr. Bowling breezed a bullet five furlongs in :59 4/5 at Fair Grounds Monday.

That Jones will saddle three Airdrie homebreds in graded stakes this weekend is a story in itself, and of course the pair have enjoyed success in the past, most notably with champion 3-year-old filly Pround Spell (Proud Citizen), yet another Brereton Jones homebred.

“We go back a little bit,” said Larry Jones. “When I first knew of him racing horses, it seemed like he always had a ‘Jones’ trainer—he had Herb Jones, he had Gary Jones. But then he started going to horsemen with other last names. Anyway, I claimed a horse off him one time at Ellis Park, and we did well with it. I also purchased a horse or two from him at the sales for my racing stable. At the sales one day, he said, ‘Look, I’m going to send you a horse next year if you’ll take one and have room for it.’ I told him I’d make room for it. So he told me to go and pick out one of the RNAs [from the Airdrie consignment], and I picked one. Thirty minutes later, he came back and said, ‘I’m not going to send you that horse—a guy heard you say it was the one you wanted, and he went and bought it!’ But he sent me two foals from the first crop of Proud Citizen. There was a horse by the name of Proud Kentuckian, and the other little filly, her name was Proud Spell.”

Cont. p7
WHIP RULES OVERHAULED
British racing’s controversial whip rules are set for a drastic change after the British Horseracing Authority set out their revisions yesterday. Chief Executive Paul Bittar announced after the ruling body’s board meeting that the “fundamentally flawed” aspects of the new initiative would be scrapped and the revised version put in place early next month. Chief among the changes is the abolition of the automatic penalty for any rider carrying out more than the maximum allowed number of strikes in a race. Racecourse stewards will now be able to use their discretion if the whip is used over the limit.

“Over four months have passed since the introduction of the first set of rules following the whip review,” Bittar commented. “Despite a number of changes to both the rule and the accompanying penalty structure, it is clear that while many objectives of the review are being met, and in particular those pertaining to horse welfare, a rule which polices the use of the whip based solely on a fixed number of strikes is fundamentally flawed. While well intentioned, and in accordance with initial requests from the jockeys for clarity and consistency via a fixed number, in practice the new rules have repeatedly thrown up examples of no consideration being given to the manner in which the whip is used as well as riders being awarded disproportionate penalties for the offence committed. The challenge is to have in place a rule and penalty structure which meets the objectives for fairness and proportionality outlined in the Whip Review while retaining the positives which have been a product of the changes to date. These include the virtual removal of all serious breaches and an overall reduction in the number of offences.

“We are confident there is not a welfare problem associated with the use of the cushioned whip in British racing. The objective of this proposal is to keep jockeys riding to a similar standard as they are now with regard to their significantly reduced use of the whip, but with added discretion and common sense applied by stewards when considering whether a rider is in breach of the rules.”

Beginning tomorrow, the penalty structure will be altered with penalties lessened and the removal of multiplying bans for repeat offences.

“Prior to the implementation of the new whip rules, stewards policed cases of misuse of the whip based on similar principles to that outlined in the proposal,” Bittar added. “The difference with this proposal is the markedly lower and clarified threshold levels for when a ride will be reviewed. It is recognised that the most demanding challenge in relation to framing the rules on this subject is finding the balance between a proportionate penalty and one that also acts as an effective deterrent. In particular, the board recognises that this question may come under scrutiny in major races and reserve the right to make further revisions in the future.”

Casino gambling bill gets flak all around “Gov. Steve Beshear’s unveiling of his long-awaited gambling bill showed the difficult road that lies ahead of him in passing a constitutional amendment during the 2012 session of the General Assembly.” Joseph Gerth, Courier-Journal

Horse races on the roads set to bring a Big Fat Gypsy controversy
“A big fat gypsy controversy is set to erupt tonight as Channel 4 shows dangerous horse races on a busy road - with police telling travellers they could "kill someone." Mark Jefferies, mirror.co.uk

Spectacular bid: Snags horse at car auction
“A Long Island businessman picked up some real horsepower when he went to a car auction looking for a set of wheels—and bizarrely walked out with a Thoroughbred.” K Crowley/P Oliveira Jr., NY Post

UPCOMING MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN STAKES

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SECOND-CROP SIRES

The period of 2006-2007 will likely be remembered as an historical turning point in the Thoroughbred business, and not just because it represented the absolute peak of the market. It was in 2006 that Sheikh Mohammed announced the new Maktoum policy of self-reliance, and in 2007 Sheikh Mohammed & Co. spent an estimated $200 million acquiring most of the top 3-year-olds of 2007, in Europe as well as North America. The European contingent of Teofilo (Galileo), Authorized (Montjeu), and the top 2007 older horse, Manduro (Monsun) will be back in the news once spring arrives, but, of course, in North America, the Classic season is already underway.

Four horses retired to Darley at Jonabell for the 2008 breeding season, had their first foals in 2009, and now have their first 3-year-olds. One of them, Discreet Cat (Forestry), was bought by Sheikh Mohammed’s team after breaking his maiden at Saratoga with a 106 Beyer (huge for a 2-year-old) in 2005. He was sent to Dubai, where he won a prep race and the G2 UAE Derby, in which Invasor suffered his only career defeat when finishing fourth. Discreet Cat missed the Triple Crown, but did come to America, where he ran three times as a 3-year-old, winning all three, running Beyers of 112-115-116, including a 10-length win in the GI Jerome H. (at 1-20), followed by an easy 3 1/4-length win (at 1-4) over Badge of Silver in the GI Cigar Mile to close out the year.

If they had retired him then, who knows what he might have stood for: he was then undefeated in six career starts. But he went back to Dubai to try and win the G1 Dubai World Cup, and finished a long last of seven behind Invasor. He came back in the fall to run twice more in America, but was a distant third in both the GI Vosburgh and the then-ungraded Breeders’ Cup Mile. So he retired as a 5-year-old in 2008, a year older than Darley’s three top 3-year-old purchases in 2007.

Bill Oppenheim may be contacted at bopp@erb.com (please cc TDN management at suefinley@thoroughbreddailynews.com). Follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/billoppenheim.
The highest profile of the three was Street Sense, from the first crop of Street Cry, and the first colt to break the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile-Derby jinx. Trained by the incomparable Carl Nafzger, he won the GI BC Juvenile by 10 lengths over Circular Quay running a Beyer 108—which was then the highest winning fig in the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile (since equaled by Uncle Mo in 2010). He came back to Churchill Downs the following May to win the GI Kentucky Derby, running a Beyer 110, with Hard Spun (Danzig) second and Curlin (Smart Strike) third. Curlin improved to beat Street Sense by a head in the Preakness, with Hard Spun third. After losing the Preakness, Nafzger skipped the Belmont, in which the filly Rags to Riches (A.P. Indy) beat Curlin, with Hard Spun a non-staying fourth. Street Sense came back to win the GII Jim Dandy and GI Travers at Saratoga, then was second to Hard Spun in the GI Breeders’ Cup Classic on a sloppy track at Monmouth—the only time in his career he was out of the first three. Street Sense’s highest Beyer was the 111 he ran when going down by a head to Curlin in the GI Preakness.

Darley also bought Hard Spun, a habitual front-runner in two-turn races who got the trip well enough to run second in the GI Kentucky Derby, third in the GI Preakness and fourth in the GI Belmont. After running second to Any Given Saturday in the GI Haskell, trainer Larry Jones dropped Hard Spun down to seven furlongs for the GI King’s Bishop S., in which he scored his only Grade I win. Having scored his first Grade II win at Turfway in his final Derby prep, the GI Lane’s End S., he added another in the GI Kentucky Cup Classic before running another bang-up second, this time to Curlin, in the GI Breeders’ Cup Classic. In five starts in Grade I around two turns, he ran second three times (Kentucky Derby, Haskell, Breeders’ Cup Classic), third once (Preakness) and fourth once (Belmont). His highest Beyer was 112, when second in the Classic in his final start.

Street Sense went to stud for $75,000 in 2008 (before the crash); Hard Spun was priced at $50,000, with Discreet Cat at what might have been a relative bargain, at $30,000. In between was Any Given Saturday (Distorted Humor), at $40,000. A $1.1-million yearling, he went two-for-three as a 2-year-old, running third to Tiz Wonderful (Tiznow, F2010 Spendthrift stallion) in the GI Kentucky Jockey Club S. He nearly beat Street Sense in the GII Tampa Bay Derby, then, after running third to Nobiz Like Showbiz (Albert the Great) in the GI Wood Memorial, was only eighth behind Street Sense and Hard Spun in the Kentucky Derby. The Todd Pletcher trainee came back in July to win the GI Dwyer by four lengths (Beyer 110), turning the tables on his GI Wood conqueror, Nobiz Like Showbiz, then ran a career-best Beyer 113 to win the GI Haskell by 4 1/2 lengths over Hard Spun and Curlin.

“Goffs’ February mixed sale proved that better catalogues make better sales, which of course pleased Goffs supremo Henry Beeby in his efforts to keep more Irish consignors selling in Ireland: this year’s gross was more than double that of 2011, and the average was up nearly 50% as 35% more horses sold. In all major categories the figures were the highest since 2008, and in some cases (notably percentage sold from catalogued) they were even higher. The first-half mixed sales gross is now up 44% over corresponding 2011 sales, the average up by 48% over last year.” – Bill Oppenheim

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Data compiled by Brianne Stanley
Any Given Saturday then defeated older horses in a weak renewal of the GI Brooklyn H. in his Breeders’ Cup prep, but was down the field, in the slop, in the Classic itself, won by Curlin.

It was a huge statement, and a big investment--more than Sheikh Mohammed had probably ever spent on yearlings in a single year--and immediately put Darley Kentucky squarely among the ‘majors’ among Kentucky stallion operations. Hard Spun ran a close second to Ashford’s Scat Daddy (Johannesburg) among 2011 freshman sires (click here to see the TDN final 2011 first-crop sire list), but seven weeks ago, the jury was out on the North American leg of the Sheikh’s $200-million investment: besides Hard Spun, Street Sense finished ninth on the North American freshman sire list, with one Grade III-winning colt, Motor City, and a Grade I-placed filly, Miss Netta; Discreet Cat ranked 13th, with 17 winners, but no black-type winners; and Any Given Saturday ranked 24th, with one black-type placed filly, Sunday’s Child.

All of a sudden--less than two months into the season--things are looking a lot more promising on that Darley investment front. Castaway’s win in a division of Monday’s GIII Southwest S. at Oaklawn Park carried Street Sense about $18,000 ahead of barnmate Hard Spun, into first place by progeny earnings among 2012 second-crop sires (click here to see the TDN 2012 second-crop Year-To-Date Sire List). Street Sense has 11 winners so far this year, at least nine of them at a mile or over, and a whole slew of colts who are about to run in stakes. Hard Spun has 12 winners this year, four black-type horses in January including San Pedro S. winner Midnight Transfer at Santa Anita. Discreet Cat also has 11 winners and has leapt into fourth spot among second-crop sires, including GIII Sham S. winner Out of Bounds in California and Discreet Dancer, a hot allowance winner at Gulfstream who is due to run in the GII Fasig-Tipton Fountain of Youth S. this Sunday.

None of this has been an impediment to his sire success, though: a lot of judges really liked his foals and yearlings, and he was on a few shrewd lists as one to watch even before he had runners. It sure looks like they’ve been proved right.

Two of last year’s top five freshman sires rank fifth and sixth so far this season: Corinthian (Pulpit) and Lawyer Ron (Langfuhr), each with seven winners, including one black-type winner, so far this year. Corinthian won the GI Met Mile and the then-ungraded Breeders’ Cup Dirt Mile, running an off-the-graph Beyer 119 in the Monmouth slop at four in 2007. Lawyer Ron won the GI Whitney S. (Beyer 117) and the GI Woodward S. (Beyer 119) by daylight, also as a 4-year-old in 2007, and was beaten a head by Curlin in the GI Jockey Club Gold Cup, so both of them had the credentials. Lawyer Ron, unfortunately, died in 2009 after siring just two crops.

PUSSYCAT DOLL, 10, Real Quiet--Hookedonthefeelin, by Citidancer
Foal born Feb. 5, a filly by Dynaformer.
Will be bred back to Giant’s Causeway.
Boarded at Mill Ridge, KY.
Owned by Mr & Mrs Roy Jackson.
Accomplishments: MGISW, $797,183.

LINDSAY FROLIC, 20, Mt. Livermore--Cherokee Frolic, by Cherokee Fellow
Foal born Feb. 7, a colt by Awesome Again.
Will be bred back to Mineshaft
Owned by Norman Thaw.
Boarded at Hidden Brook Farm.
Accomplishments: GSW, $422,664. Dam of Stormy Frolic (Summer Squall), MSW & GSP, $360,273; Super Frolic (Pine Bluff), GSW & MGISP, $1,457,209; and Gallant Frolic (Broad Brush), MSP, $184,655.

DYNAFORCE, 9, Dynaformer--Aletta Maria, by Diesis (GB)
Foal born Feb. 13, a filly by Tapit.
Will be bred back to Giant’s Causeway.
Boarded at Mill Ridge, KY.
Owned by Dr John A Chandler.
Accomplishments: MGISW, $1,086,649.
HORSEMAN WILL RUN MONMOUTH

According to a source close to the negotiations, a deal was finalized yesterday to lease Monmouth Park to the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association beginning May 1, apparently safeguarding the 2012 season at the landmark Oceanport oval. A management team contracted by the horsemen will reportedly operate the facility, the future of which was in question after negotiations to lease the state-owned track to Morris Bailey collapsed two months ago. Last year, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie ordered the track be privatized. The NJTHA was one of three groups to submit a bid, along with Bailey and Florida track owner John Brunetti, and its bid was reconsidered by the state when Bailey pulled out.

YESTERDAY’S RESULTS:

MARDI GRAS H., $72,000, FGX, 2-21, 4yo/up, f/m, a1 1/16mT, 1:47, yl.

1--DAISY DEVINE, 119, f, 4, Kafwain--Devil’s Dispute, by Devil’s Bag. ($5,500 yrl ’09 KEESEP). O-James M Miller; B-J Reiley McDonald (KY); T-Andrew McKeever; J-James Graham; $45,000. Lifetime Record: MGSW, 11-6-1-1, $578,349. *1/2 to Patent Pending (Conquistador Cielo), SW, $142,880.

Margins: 2HF, 1 3/4, 5 1/4. Odds: 1.40, 0.80, 9.80.

TAXI MANN, $5,500.

First/Second-crop starters to watch: Wed., Feb. 22

Jockey Club Unveils Naming App: Edited press release

The Jockey Club has launched a new mobile application, The Jockey Club Naming App, and announced an update to The Jockey Club Identification App. Both apps are available free of charge in the iTunes store. The app enables Thoroughbred owners to submit name claims, name changes and reserve names with The Jockey Club registry from a mobile device. A name generating feature is among the components of the app. “The Jockey Club receives more than 45,000 name requests each year, and we know that owners spend a lot of time coming up with just the right name,” said Rick Bailey, registrar of The Jockey Club. “The name generator provides potential horse names from a database of hundreds of thousands of previously used, but now likely available names.” Bailey continued, “In addition, we’ve included filters on the naming app that will make it much easier to find names that meet an owner’s respective criteria. For example, they can request the naming app to return only single-word names or use filters such as ‘contains’ or ‘starts with.’” The Jockey Club Identification App, which was unveiled in February 2011 as The Jockey Club Registry App, enables owners and breeders to use the camera within their iOS devices to take and submit identification photos for foal registration. Registry customers can now record and transmit markings descriptions for registration by entering text from their keypads or selecting from a list of commonly used phrases pertaining to markings.

English Channel (Smart Strike), Lane’s End, $25K, 161/170
9-TAM, Msw, 1 1/16mT, Jonathan C, $7K OBS APR 2yo, 20-1
MR. SEKIGUCHI (Storm Cat), Hill N Dale, $5K, 61/3/1
3-DED, Msw, 5f, Cherokee Geisha, 3-1
SCAT DADDY (Johannesburg), Ashford, $30K, 180/34/6
9-TAM, Msw, 1 1/16mT, Kirabinator, $13K OBS OCT wnl, 8-1
SILENT NAME (JPN) (Sunday Silence), Adena KY, $8K, 116/9/0
3-DED, Msw, 5f, Zopedo, 4-1
STORM SURGE (Storm Cat), Richland Hills, $8K, 26/6/0
3-DED, Msw, 5f, Stormy Nina, $4K BSC YRL vrl, 20-1

For pps and a complete race analysis, click here.
LANWADES EXTEND CURRAGH SPONSORSHIP

Kirsten Rausing’s Lanwades and Staffordstown Studs have added another two races at The Curragh to their sponsorship roster in 2012. The operation, which stands Archipenko and Sir Percy (GB) among others, will support the Aug. 26 G3 Lanwades Stud S. for fillies and mares over nine furlongs and a Listed contest for juvenile fillies Oct. 14. “I am delighted to be able to support Irish racing and breeding in this way,” Rausing said. “Having lived and worked in Ireland myself, I particularly appreciate the opportunity to have raised our yearlings on the excellent land at Staffordstown in Co. Meath for the last 20 years.”

READY TO RUN AT SUMMERHILL

South Africa’s Summerhill Stud will host the Emperors Palace Summer Ready to Run today. The auction of 50 2-year-olds will get underway at 11 a.m. Catalogue pages and breeze videos are available on the stud’s website summerhill.co.za. Among the offerings is lot 36, a daughter of leading sire Kahal (GB) out of Longfields (SAf) (Northfields). She is a half-sister to GSW Bridal Paths (SAf) (Brashee {GB}).

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

5th-FGX, $41,370, NW1X, 4yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2f (off turf), 1:04 2/5, ft.
MINNIE CHANCE (f, 4, Military--Distant Vision, by Distant View) Lifetime Record: 11-3-4-1, $65,743. O-Joey Merritt. B-University of Kentucky (KY). T-Tim Glyshaw. *$1,000 yrl ’09 FTKOCT.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:
Spoiled Rotten, c, 3, Congrats--Brouhaha, by Mecke. FGX, 2-21, (C), 6f, 1:10 3/5. B-Martin Cherry (FL).

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

FRANCE, Toulouse, 18.40, 2-21, €27,000, 3yo, 1mT, 1:44.01, gd/sf.
ICE STONE (GB) (c, 3, Oratorio {Ire}--Tequila Brown {Fr}, by Kendor {Fr}) Lifetime Record: 6 starts, 2 wins, 4 places, €38,350. O/B-Marquise de Moratalla; T-Didier Guillemin.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:
Golden Club (Fr), g, 3, One Cool Cat--Life On the Road (Ire), by Persian Heights (GB). Toulouse, France, 2-21, Mdn, 3yo, 1mT. B-F Bayrou. *€50,000 yrl ’10 ARQAUG. *1/2 to Fils de Viane (Fr) (Kadounor {Fr}), SW & GSP-Fr and Alix Road (Fr) (Linamix {Fr}), G1SP-Fr, $264,079.

• ON THE WORKTAB •

FAIR GROUNDS
Apart (Flatter), 3f, :37.60, 5/8
Wilkinson (Lemon Drop Kid), 5f, 1:02.60, 17/20

GULFSTREAM PARK
Ever So Lucky (Indian Charlie), 5f, 1:00.65, 7/11

HOLLYWOOD PARK
Nereid (Rock Hard Ten), 4f, :48.80, 9/22
Rousing Sermon (Lucky Pulpit), 5f, 1:01.80, 5/8
Sway Away (Afleet Alex), 3f, :38.40, 8/10
The Factor (War Front), 4f, :47.40, 4/22

OAKLAWN PARK
Optimizer (English Channel), 3f, :36.20, 2/5
Schlossed (Pleasantly Perfect), 5f, 1:01.40, 2/4

PALM MEADOWS
Winter Memories (El Prado {Ire}), 3fT, :38.78, 1/2

SANTA ANITA
Eden’s Moon (Malibu Moon), 6f, 1:12.40, 1/8