AMERICAN PHAROAH FIRES BULLET

Zayat Stables’ American Pharoah (Pioneerof the Nile) tuned up for Saturday’s GI Kentucky Derby with a bullet five-furlong breeze in :58.40 at Churchill Sunday. The move was the fastest of 32 at the distance. In his first work since a dominant victory in the Apr. 11 GI Arkansas Derby, last year’s juvenile champion turned in split times of :11.40; :23, :34.60 and :46.40. He galloped out six furlongs in 1:11.40.

“He was just clipping along,” trainer Bob Baffert said. “He was doing it in hand, but that’s the way he works. Mr. [Ahmed] Zayat was wondering if he was going too fast, but he hasn’t seen him. That’s how he works in California. He does things really effortlessly. He galloped out strong, came back and wasn’t blowing. He handled it well.” Cont. p3

AMERICAN PHAROAH: THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF A CHAMPION

By Michele MacDonald

It takes serene confidence or brash chutzpah for a breeder to turn down hundreds of thousands of dollars for a yearling, particularly a colt by a sire whose breeding shed prowess is unknown out of an unplaced mare whose only other foal has not started.

That is how likely Kentucky Derby favorite American Pharoah (Pioneerof the Nile) could have been described when he was led into the ring as Hip 85 at the Humphrey S. Finney Pavilion during the 2013 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga selected yearling sale.

But for breeder Ahmed Zayat, there was no hesitation or doubt.

He sent the colt to the sale with a steely resolve not to take anything less than $1 million, even though sire Pioneerof the Nile (Empire Maker) was unproven at the time and had entered stud with a modest $20,000 fee. Zayat just had the feeling that this colt was something out of the ordinary, and he didn’t want to part with him.

"We didn’t get the action that we needed, therefore I said, 'Why am I putting this horse here? If I’m not getting the kind of reception that we thought we would, I’m taking him home. I don’t care, I’ll buy him back,'” recalled Zayat, who instructed agent David Ingordo to secure the colt on his behalf for any price less than $1 million.

When the hammer fell at $300,000, American Pharoah still belonged to Zayat Stables. Cont. p5

ACTION HEATS UP AT CHURCHILL

With temperatures struggling to exit the mid-40s on an unseasonably chilly and overcast morning, the action immediately began to percolate on the Churchill Downs backside outside of Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert’s barn as champion American Pharoah (Pioneerof the Nile) readied for his final GI Kentucky Derby breeze.

Accompanied by his wife Jill, Baffert, bloodstock agent Donato Lanni and owner Bernie Schiappa drove off to the grandstand in a white Buick while the growing crowd stayed back as the Zayat homebred continued to walk the shedrow at 8:20 a.m.

Far Right (Notional), a distant second behind American Pharoah in the GI Arkansas Derby Apr. 11, made his way through the congested area--nothing new if you've watched some of his recent races--and patiently stood like a gentleman, taking in the scenery with his ears pinned forward as another crowd began to form by the gap. Cont. p3
NY-BRED INTERNATIONAL STAR 171
BY NY’s #1 SIRE IN 2015
DORTMUND 170
CARPE DIEM 164
AMERICAN PHAROAH 160
FROSTED 113
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Oaks Hopefuls Tune Up

Led by the Larry Jones-trained power duo of I’m a Chatterbox (Munnings) and Lovely Maria (Majesticperfection), four contenders for Friday’s G1 Kentucky Oaks worked at Churchill Downs Sunday. Also on the work tab was Shook Up (Tapit) and Puca (Big Brown).

Blingismything on top in Wilshire

Class Racing Stable’s Blingismything (Arch) earned the first stakes victory of her career in Sunday’s GIII Wilshire S. at Santa Anita. The 5-year-old mare just got her nose in front in a four-horse blanket finish. “I was a little nervous we were caught behind with nowhere to go, but Tyler’s got a good head on him and takes the rail, the shortest way around there,” said Ian Kruljac, whose father Eric Kruljac trains the mare.

Found Decision Pending

Trainer Aidan O’Brien says he expects a decision on Found (Ire) (Galileo {Ire})’s participation in Sunday’s G1 1000 Guineas will be made “early in the week.” The winner of last year's G1 Prix Marcel Boussac, is around 7-2 with bookmakers. Godolphin's Lucida (Ire) (Shamardal) is now the 6-1 second choice.
American Pharoah Fires Bullet (cont. from p1)

Baffert added, “He's where we want him to be. He hasn't regressed. He looks great. It was pretty exciting to come in here on a nice, cool day, so everything worked out. From here on out we have to keep him happy.”

Zayat, who has been second in the Derby three times, was enjoying the moment Sunday.

“This is one different horse,” he said. “I don’t know how, other than the fact that we bred him. His daddy, Pioneerof the Nile ran in the Derby and almost got it done for us. His mommny, Littleprincessemma, named after my daughter, we raced her, we loved her. He is totally Zayat blood from A to Z. If you want to be in the Derby and you want to come with a horse that you feel would have a decent chance, that would be the one. For that, it means a lot for us. It’s a privilege just to be here. It’s a humbling experience.”

The Baffert-trained Dortmund (Big Brown), winner of the G1 Santa Anita Derby, arrived at Churchill Downs Sunday afternoon. Arriving on the same plane from California were Derby contenders Firing Line (Line of David) and Bolo (Temple City).

Action Heats Up at Churchill (cont. from p1)

American Pharoah, meanwhile, was on the move back at Barn 33 at 8:35 a.m. just as an announcement was made over the public address system that the main track was re-opened for only the Derby and Oaks runners.

Plenty of the Oaks fillies immediately caught the eye. Trainer Rudy Rodriguez was aboard the speedy Condo Commando (Tiz Wonderfull), a last-out winner of the GII Gazelle S. at the Big A, for her daily routine as the Larry and Cindy Jones-trained powerhouse duo of I'm A Chatterbox (Munnings) and Lovely Maria (Majesticperfection) got ready to breeze. The affable husband-and-wife team ponied the pair--Larry stayed with I'm A Chatterbox, while Cindy accompanied Lovely Maria--prior to their respective five-furlong moves.

Donegal Racing's Jerry Crawford was on hand to watch Oaks contender and Gazelle runner-up Puca (Big Brown)'s four-furlong breeze, while Hall of Famer Bill Mott kept close tabs on the bay from aboard his stable pony. Donegal will also be represented by Keen Ice (Curlin) in the “Run for the Roses.” He walked the shedrow Sunday after breezing the previous day.

Live Derby longshot Danzig Moon (Malibu Moon), one of the better looking physicals on display Sunday, galloped with good energy with his neck arched after recording a four-furlong workout here Friday. Bold Conquest (Curlin), currently on the outside looking in (will need a pair of defections to make the field), was under a nice hold by Abel Flores throughout his 1 1/2-mile gallop.

The stage was all American Pharoah’s on Sunday, though. Cont. p4
The sound of camera shutters took over as regular rider Martin Garcia turned American Pharoah loose down the backstretch en route to a sparkling five-furlong bullet in :58.40 (1/32).

The Heiligbrodts, represented by Saturday night’s William Walker S. winner Cinco Charlie (Indian Charlie) on the opening night card at Churchill, were among American Pharoah’s many admirers back at the barn.

Newly appointed Monmouth Park track announcer Frank Mirahmadi, who, of course, called American Pharoah’s two runaway wins at Oaklawn this term, later joined the Baffert entourage as well.

Ahmed and Justin Zayat checked in on the big horse shortly after 9 a.m., while the three-time Kentucky Derby winning conditioner headed back to the track to watch another set train.

With training hours winding down, Baffert and the Zayats held a brief outdoor press conference on the backstretch. How did the misspelling of American Pharoah’s (phar-aoh) name come about anyway?

The younger Zayat revealed that the name, submitted by a fan on social media, was simply copied/pasted and sent to The Jockey Club with the blunder going unnoticed.

Grammar aside, American Pharoah’s page is looking quite pristine these days as he heads to the Derby as the potential favorite.

PEDIGREE INSIGHTS...
Get pedigree expert Andrew Caulfield’s take on racing’s newsmakers!
You can find all of Caulfield’s columns in the TDN Archive.
American Pharoah: the Early Development of a Champion (cont. from p1)

In some ways, it was an eerie case of deja vu: Zayat had felt exactly the same way about Pioneerof the Nile, and the owner had bought back that homebred for $290,000 at the 2007 Keeneland September yearling sale.

"Sometimes, we have been extremely fortunate and lucky," Zayat reflected. "It wasn’t a matter of price (with Pioneerof the Nile); I saw him in the ring and said, 'What am I doing here?'"

"I don’t know what to tell you--somebody upstairs is watching," he exclaimed. "With these horses I took to the sale, I either chickened out or had sellers’ remorse. We’re not being geniuses here; it’s pure luck, or maybe we are blessed. Who knows?"

Both Pioneerof the Nile and American Pharoah have turned into the best kind of blessings any breeder or owner could wish for in their prayers.

Twice a Grade I winner who finished second in the Kentucky Derby, but was retired in July of his sophomore season with a soft tissue injury, Pioneerof the Nile was Zayat’s first homebred Grade I winner and now is one of the hottest young stallions in North America.

While at the time American Pharoah was offered at Saratoga, it was not clear how Pioneerof the Nile’s offspring were going to develop, he finished up that year as North America’s second-ranked freshman sire by progeny earnings and was leading second-crop sire of 2014. The WinStar stallion now stands as leading third-crop sire, and his fee has tripled to $60,000, with current demand such that no-guarantee seasons are being offered at even higher prices.

A passionate owner who speaks of his horses with great enthusiasm, his voice rising in a rapid-fire cadence and his words often sprinkled with adjectives, Zayat said of Pioneerof the Nile:

"I always believed in him. We got very spoiled because he was almost the first home horse. Imagine your first homebred horse a Grade I winner that later became a serious classic contender. For me, I’ve always had a lot of emotion and attachment toward the horse."

Zayat retained a significant ownership interest in Pioneerof the Nile when he went to stud, and the owner supported the horse with mares. He had more than a dozen offspring of the stallion in 2013 when American Pharoah was a yearling, and he decided after encouragement from the team at Taylor Made Sales that the exceptional bay colt produced by Littleprincessemma (Yankee Gentleman) might be able to make a statement at Saratoga and boost his sire’s stock.

From very early in his life, American Pharoah had impressed almost everyone who had a hand on him. Foaled at Tom VanMeter’s Stockplace Farm outside Lexington, the colt was sent with his dam to Vinery that summer.

Frances Relihan, who was managing Vinery at the time and still oversees the property as the manager for Don Alberto Corp.--which bought the farm in October 2013--was the first person who pointed out the colt to Zayat as "special."

"She was the first one ever to see an air of specialness in him," said Zayat, adding that he has invited Relihan to join his team in the walk over to the paddock at Churchill Downs on Derby day.

In December, as a weanling, American Pharoah went to Taylor Made Farm, where from that time until he left for Saratoga, he received excellent marks from the entire staff.

“He was a horse that when he came in, we immediately liked him a lot, and there were a lot of nice horses that came in the same group, and some of them had more pedigree than he did at that point,” recalled Mark Taylor, Taylor Made vice president of marketing and public sales. “But he was the one that physically just always stood out. He had that ‘it’ factor that you can’t really describe, but when you see it, you know it.”

Cont. p6

Growing Up At Taylor Made:

American Pharoah's progression to the 2013 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Sale. Taylor Made photos
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“[Taylor Made yearling manager] John Hall described it—and he worked real closely with [American Pharoah] the whole time—he said he was almost like an old soul; everything you introduced him to he just didn’t really turn a hair. It was like he had been doing it his whole life,” Taylor continued.

“And he had just this unbelievable walk on him—you know when horses kind of unhinge their shoulder and just really flow when they walk. I know when I was over there at the barn where he was, the Dayjur Barn, and I was going through all the horses in that barn, I said if you are going to take one [of Zayat’s yearlings] up to Saratoga, this is the horse, because he’s just got this walk that the more you look at him, the more you are going to love him.”

The strong assessments from Taylor Made convinced Zayat that it would be worth sending the colt to Saratoga since he could boost Pioneerof the Nile’s status with breeders, owners and buyers.

“Taylor Made is one of the largest boarding farms in Kentucky, and when they come and tell you that we think he is the best foal on the entire farm, it’s saying something,” Zayat said.

As fate would have it, American Pharoah bumped an ankle about a month before the sale, causing a small blemish and some swelling.

“We don’t know whether he got cast or whether he stepped on himself or what he did, but he came up with some filling on his right front ankle,” Taylor said. “It wasn’t a big deal. He never took an unsound step, never was lame, but if you looked at it, it was the first thing that caught your eye.”

Taylor Made consulted with veterinarians and with Zayat, and basically let “Mother Nature take its course.”

“By the time we got to Saratoga, I would say it was 75% resolved, but there was a little cosmetic blemish on the front of the ankle,” Taylor said. “It was probably about the size of maybe two marbles, just a little kind of bubble. We had all the vets check it out and everyone said this is absolutely nothing, he’s not sore on it, he’s not lame, it’s not involving any structures—it is just like a pimple on a kid’s face on prom night, it’s unfortunate it happened, but it’ll be gone by next week. Prom pictures might get screwed up, but that’s kind of the way it is at a horse sale. You’re trying to be as pretty as you can be on the right day, but sometimes it just doesn’t work out.”

Everyone had a chance to buy the colt when he went into the ring, but no one came close to the money Zayat wanted.

“As it turned out, he ended up not hitting his reserve, not because people didn’t love him, but because Mr. Zayat fell in love with him more than everybody else did,” Taylor said.

“I know we had a lot of live money over $200,000, that was the pulse I got,” he added. “[American Pharoah] really was special. ... It’s easy to look back in retrospect and say why didn’t [people pay more], but you’ve got to remember that Pioneerof the Nile didn’t stand for a ton of money and he hadn’t had a lot of runners yet [at that time], and people weren’t going to go crazy about something that was unproven.” Cont. p7
Zayat’s confidence in the colt and all the good things he had heard about him since the time he was a foal seemed immediately validated when American Pharoah began his early training at the McKathan Brothers Training Center in Florida.

"Once he got to the McKathans, once he started training, I started saying, 'Oh my God—if he's not a stakes horse, then I know nothing," Zayat related. "I recall J. B. [McKathan] told me, 'Mr. Z, this is the fastest son-of-a-you-know-what that I've ever put a saddle on.'"

"When he started breezing, honestly we were scared. This horse was like two seconds faster than anything else," he added. "He was doing everything so easy. We could not believe how fast he was going—and he was not even trying. It was insane. Then when [trainer Bob] Baffert got him, he said, ‘Ahmed, this is the fastest 2-year-old I ever got.’"

The rest of the story is well known; American Pharoah lost his juvenile debut but has been uncatchable since then, annexing three Grade I stakes among his four victories and standing over his generation as champion juvenile male of 2014.

Despite the fact that the colt did not light up the board at Saratoga, Taylor said his saga leading to the Triple Crown trail has played out just the right way.

"At the end of the day, some things happen for a reason and this was one of them," Taylor said, who believes American Pharoah will win the Kentucky Derby. "I think this horse was meant to run for [Zayat]," Right now, I'm thrilled [Zayat] didn't get him sold because if he had sold him for $300,000 and the horse had done what he has done, I'd probably be getting a call from Mr. Z every day about it. I'm glad it worked out the way it did. It was a short-term deflation for a long-term great story."

"Am I thrilled that I have him? Absolutely," Zayat declared. "I never intended to sell him except to help my stallion, who was unknown at that point."

Zayat is both hopefully buoyant, based on what he is hearing about his horse, and realistic about the Kentucky Derby.

"When you have a clocker like Gary Young saying, ‘This is the best horse I’ve seen since Secretariat’—it’s ludicrous for somebody to say that, but this is the kind of hype that I’m hearing right now," Zayat said. "This is all a crapshoot to me, the Derby. Once you open the gate, it’s not typical that the best horse always wins. But this horse, regardless of what he does in the Derby or not, it seems that he breathes a different air."

Zayat has never owned a horse that has started in the Kentucky Derby. While American Pharoah is certainly the star of the moment, Zayat has the remarkable distinction of owning three likely starters in the Kentucky Derby, with Mr. Z (Malibu Moon) and El Kabeir (Scat Daddy) also set to carry his blue and gold colors.

"You know you are doing something right if you have a horse in the Derby. You know you are doing something more than right when you have two. You know it’s something crazy when you have three," he said. "We are beyond glad, honored, humbled."

ALL IN THE FAMILY
By Michele MacDonald

With Kentucky Derby fever rising by the hour, one of the hottest topics in Central Kentucky has been whether a deal already has been made for the breeding rights to likely Derby favorite American Pharoah (Pioneerof the Nile).

"I can’t comment on that," Zayat said. "Put it this way: there has not been a farm in America that has not approached me," he added. "The minute you have a Grade I winner, people will come to you. People have been coming all the time." Cont. p8
Zayat would not give any other details, but said that “I own 100% of the colt” for racing.

Last November, Zayat sold American Pharoah’s dam, Littleprincessemma (Yankee Gentleman), at the Fasig-Tipton November mixed sale, with the now nine-year-old mare bringing $2.1 million from Frank and Jane Lyon’s Summer Wind Farm.

Littleprincessemma foaled a full brother to American Pharoah on February 13 and while he is as powerfully built as his virtually solid bay older sibling, he is splashed with white on all four legs and his face.

“He's a nice colt with good size, good bone, very strong, correct. He's got lots of chrome to him and he's very flashy,” said Mark Moloney, Summer Wind manager. "I went over and saw American Pharoah under tack the other day. American Pharoah is good size with a big strong hip. This colt is very powerful, very strong and he has a great hip on him. This fellow has just got more chrome, but I suppose you could say they look somewhat alike.”

Summer Wind already has named the foal Irish Pharaoh.

When asked why he sold Littleprincessemma, who Moloney confirmed is back in foal to leading sire Tapit, Zayat gave a one-word answer.

“Money,” he said.

“I have a [yearling] full-sister to American Pharoah, so how greedy can I get?” he added. “I have all the genes. If I had had a colt, I would have never sold the dam. But everybody wanted to buy her, and before we knew how [American Pharoah] was coming back from his [left front foot] injury, it was a prudent business decision. We try to run a program, and as you know it becomes very expensive. I’ve put tens of millions of dollars in this business and sometimes you need to know when to sell or not to sell. It’s part of the business.”

The injury detected late in October kept American Pharoah out of the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile. When Texas Red, who the Zayat colorbearer had defeated earlier in the GI FrontRunner Stakes at Santa Anita Park, won the Juvenile, American Pharoah was a handy winner of the divisional Eclipse Award.

Zayat’s yearling full sister to American Pharoah currently resides at Lane’s End, and the owner planned to visit the filly on April 27 after flying to Kentucky to watch American Pharoah in his final Derby workout, set for the previous morning.

"We’re wrapping her in Styrofoam with kid gloves," he said, laughing. "She’s my golden goose." Cont. p9
American Pharoah also will provide lots of gold for Zayat when a breeding deal is announced. Already a champion and with the stock of his own sire soaring, his stud value is robust even without classic success.

“He’s going to be a hell of a stallion prospect,” said Mark Taylor, who helped raise American Pharoah at his family’s Taylor Made Farm and then took him to the Saratoga selected yearling sale, where Zayat bought him back for $300,000.

The Taylor Made team gave American Pharoah, who is the 24th Grade 1 winner raised at the farm, almost uniformly high marks each of the about eight months he was there.

“Every month it was ‘good size, beautiful top line, great bone, very athletic, good walker, correct,' ” Taylor said of the farm’s notes on the colt. “He has enough leg and size and quality to him that whenever he goes to stud--whether it’s next year or the year after--I would be putting him at the top of the list for my customers’ mares every day of the week because he just has so much that a lot of mares need.

“They need leg, they need bone, they need quality, and he is just a beautiful mover,” he continued. “He’s the kind of horse I love to breed to.

“Wherever he ends up going--and there have been some rumors there has been a deal done--sign me up. He’s the kind of horse I love breeding to because he’ll fit a ton of mares and he’ll move a ton of mares up.”

Ahmed Zayat’s yearling full-sister to American Pharoah, at Lane’s End

Michele MacDonald photo

Ahmed & Justin Zayat on disappointment, misspelled names, and the first hints of American Pharoah’s promise

Hall of Fame conditioner Bob Baffert following American Pharoah’s five-furlong drill in :58 2/5

Probable GI Kentucky Derby favorite American Pharoah gets a bath on Sunday

Some pre-breeze and gallop-out footage of possible Kentucky Derby favorite American Pharoah on Sunday

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OAKS RUNNERS TUNE UP

Trainer Larry Jones sent his two GI Kentucky Oaks hopefuls out to work Sunday at Churchill Downs, with Grayson Farm’s I’m a Chatterbox (Munnings) going five furlongs in 1:01 and Bereton Jones’s Lovely Maria (Majesticperfection) covering the same distance in :59.60.

“They both did well,” Jones said. “Both jockeys came back grinning.”

I’m a Chatterbox, ridden by regular jockey Florent Geroux, recorded splits of :11.80, :23.80 and :36, with a six-furlong gallop out in 1:14.40. The work was the fifth fastest of 32 at the distance.

“It was kind of the way she worked when she first came in [to the Jones barn at Fair Grounds in December],” Jones said. “She got real brilliant in her works down in New Orleans. This was a little slower than she’d been working. I just don’t know if she takes to Churchill as well, but we’ll see.”

I’m a Chatterbox, unbeaten in three starts this term, is coming off a win in the Mar. 28 GI Fair Grounds Oaks.

The GI Ashland S. winner Lovely Maria, who broke off from the half-mile pole with regular rider Kerwin Clark aboard as her stablemate was finishing through the lane, posted fractions of :12, :23.80 and :35.80. Clockers caught her gallop-out time in 1:13.40. The work was the second fastest of 32 at the distance.

“Lovely Maria just worked sparkling,” Jones said. “Every eighth was just getting faster and we’re real happy with her. She’s just getting on her game right now.”

Jones admitted Friday’s Oaks looks like a wide-open affair.

“You could make a case for every horse in this race,” Jones said. “They all have something on their resume that shows they’re capable of winning.”

Regis Racing’s Shook Up (Tapit) worked four furlongs in :49.60 Sunday at Churchill Downs in preparation for Friday’s Oaks. With exercise rider Mike Callaham up, the gray went the quarter in :24.60 and galloped out five furlongs in 1:03.40.

“She’s doing well,” trainer Steve Asmussen said. “Handled it good, didn’t lay in. So all’s well.”

Shook Up, tabbed a “TDN Rising Star” after a 13 1/2-length maiden win at Fair Grounds in January, is coming off a runner-up effort behind I’m a Chatterbox in the Fair Grounds Oaks.

Asmussen, who won last year’s Oaks with champion Untapable (Tapit), is looking for a big effort from the filly Friday.

“I expect her to run the race of her life,” he said. “And it’s going to take that--at least that.”

Also tuning up for the Oaks, Donegal Racing’s Puca (Big Brown) worked a half-mile in :48.20. Working in company with 3-year-old maiden Japan (Medaglia d’Oro), the filly produced fractions of :12.60, :24.80, :36.40 and galloped out five furlongs in 1:01.20. The work was the fifth fastest of 54 at the distance.

“It was very similar to the work a week ago,” trainer Bill Mott commented. “She went much the same. I was hoping that she’d work as well or better and she looked like she finished up her work nicely, but she was all up on the bridle and willing to do it, moving well, galloped out well, came back good.”

Puca, a 16-length maiden winner at Belmont last October, was sixth behind Take Charge Brandi (Giant’s Causeway) in the GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies. She opened her sophomore campaign with a fourth-place effort in the GII Davona Dale S. and is coming off a runner-up effort in the Apr. 4 GI Gazelle S.

“If you look at speed figures she maybe hasn’t been as good as some of the others but visually, between the Breeders’ Cup and her last race being pretty good...if she gets an honest pace that could help,” Mott said.

Stablemate Japan is entered for his third lifetime start in Thursday’s eighth race at Churchill Downs.
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ELIGIBLE FOR KY BREEDERS’ INCENTIVE FUND AWARDS UP TO $5,000

2--Smoove It, 119, f, 4, Square Eddie--Smoove, by Distorted Humor. O-Reddam Racing LLC; B-J Paul Reddam (CA); T-Doug F O’Neill. $20,000. 3--Birdlover (GB), 119, m, 5, Byron (GB)--Bird Over (GB), by Bold Edge (GB). O-Robert Cseplo, Steven Keh, Daniel Kramer & W C Racing; B-Mrs Robert Langton (GB); T-Doug F O’Neill. $12,000. Margins: NO, HD, NO. Odds: 2.70, 6.10, 1.90. Also Ran: Indecise, Sky Treasure, Uzziel. Scratched: Moulin de Mougin, Thegirlinthatsong. Click for the brisnet.com chart, or the brisnet.com PPs. VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

Blingismything, on the board in three straight stakes races, was second in the Jan. 17 Megahertz S. and was coming off third-place efforts in the Feb. 16 GI Buena Vista S. and Apr. 11 GIII Las Cienagas S. The bay mare was taken in hand going into the first turn and raced near the back of a compact field as favored Birdlover took the field through fractions of :23.64 and :48.79. Briefly trapped behind horses in upper stretch, she angled to the rail and surged to the lead in the final strides and just held off Smoove It, who was closing powerfully on the outside, in a four-horse blanket finish.

“She’s just a nice filly,” said winning rider Tyler Baze. “I broke her maiden first time out a couple of years ago at Hollywood. This is my first opportunity to ride her back and so I made the most of it. She’s a nice filly with a big heart.” Ian Krujlic, son of trainer Eric Krujlic, admitted to an anxious moment in the stretch. “I was a little nervous we were caught behind with nowhere to go, but Tyler’s got a good head on him and takes the rail, the shortest way around there,” he said.

Blingismything is owned by the partnership group Class Racing Stable, operated by Joe Masino and Tom Arndt. The group campaigned 1998 GI Breeder’s Cup Sprint winner Reraise (Danzatore) and currently campaigns GSP Holy Lute (Midnight Lute).

The winner was bred by New York financier Jack Swain, who bred and races recent GI Beaumont S. winner Miss Ella (Exchange Rate), and who bred GI Kentucky Derby contender War Story (Northern Afleet). Her dam, Dancing General (General Meeting) produced a colt by Kitten’s Joy in 2014.

FIND DECISION TO COME ‘EARLY IN WEEK’

Trainer Aidan O’Brien will make the call “early in the week” as to whether G1 1000 Guineas favorite Found (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) lines up for the May 3 Newmarket Classic, according to Racing Post. O’Brien revealed over the weekend that a temperature earlier in the season had forced Found to progress slower than planned, but the Ballydoyle conditioner noted Found has been back in full work the last few weeks, and worked well Saturday.

“She went nicely,” O’Brien told Racing Post. “Joseph [O’Brien] rode her and he was very happy with her; however, we’ll wait and see how she is early in the week before deciding if she’ll go to Newmarket.”

Found, the winner of last year’s G1 Prix Marcel Boussac, is around 7-2 with bookmakers. Godolphin’s Lucida (Ire) (Shamardal) is now the 6-1 second choice, and Found’s stablemate, G1 Fillies’ Mile winner Together Forever (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), is 7-1.

“We’ll decide about Together Forever when we’re deciding about Found, while the plan is for [Group 3 winner] Qualify (Ire) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}) to run if the ground is no slower than good,” O’Brien added.

The Mick Halford-trained Raydara (Ire) (Rock of Gibraltar {Ire}) has been ruled out of the 1000 Guineas, and will instead target the Irish equivalent May 24. O’Brien noted G1 2000 Guineas favorite Gleneagles (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) is on track for that contest Saturday, and he could be joined by Highland Reel (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) and Ol’ Man River (Ire) (Montjeu {Ire}).

“All is good with Gleneagles,” O’Brien said. “We haven’t decided yet whether Highland Reel will join him. We’re happy with him but we have the option of sending him for the French Guineas instead. Ol’ Man River remains a possible for Newmarket.”

Aidan O’Brien, trainer of Found

Racing Post
Sunday, Capannelle, Italy

PREMIO PARIOLI-G3, €143,000, CAP, 4-26, 3yo, c, 8fT, 1:38.28, gd.

1--SOUND OF FREEDOM (IRE), 124, f, 3, by Duke Of Marmalade (Ire)

1st Dam: Paint In Green (IRE) (MSP-Ity, $128,710), by Invincible Spirit (IRE)

1st Dam: Theory Of Law (GB), by Generous (IRE)

1st Dam: Lettre De Cachet, by Secreto

The unbeaten Sound Of Freedom was more brilliant than her stablemate, Hero Look, in the Premio Regina Elena. The chestnut filly, who snatched her first stakes win three weeks ago in the Listed Premio Seregno, pressed the pacemaker, Kocna, and ran on well. She stroked home four lengths clear of Anchiase, who ran very well, closing fast despite a terrible draw in 14. Kocna also stayed on bravely. Sound Of Freedom has an ambitious target: "I know that owner Felice Villa dreams of winning the [G2] Italian Derby with a filly, and Sound Of Freedom could be the right one," said trainer Stefano Botti. "She is very relaxed, has a strong attitude and can stay the 2200 meters. We will sit around a table and think seriously about it."

Monday, Chantilly, France, post time: 3:55 p.m.

PREMIO ALZE FRANCE-G3, €80,000, 4yo/up, flm, 10fT

SC PP HORSE   SIRE JOCKEY TRAINER WT
1 7 Siljan's Saga (Fr) Sagamix (Fr) Boudot Gauvin 129
2 9 Lacy (Ger) Authorized (Ire) Soumillon Hickst 127
3 1 Amour a Papa (Fr) Montmartre (Fr) Hardouin Artu 122
4 2 Felcine (Ire) Duke of Mmilde (Ire) C Demuro A&G Botti 122
5 5 Mayhem (Ire) Whisper Pasquier Sorobg 122
6 6 Mambomiss (Fr) Mastercraftsman (Ire) Peslier D Watergiant 122
7 4 Sparkling Beam (Ire) Nayef Jarnet Pease 122
8 3 All At Sea (GB) Sea the Stars (Ire) Barzalona Fabre 120
9 8 Lady Tiana (GB) Sir Percy (GB) Mendizabal Wadam 120

The unbeaten Sound Of Freedom was more brilliant than her stablemate, Hero Look, in the Premio Regina Elena. The chestnut filly, who snatched her first stakes win three weeks ago in the Listed Premio Seregno, pressed the pacemaker, Kocna, and ran on well. She stroked home four lengths clear of Anchiase, who ran very well, closing fast despite a terrible draw in 14. Kocna also stayed on bravely. Sound Of Freedom has an ambitious target: "I know that owner Felice Villa dreams of winning the [G2] Italian Derby with a filly, and Sound Of Freedom could be the right one," said trainer Stefano Botti. "She is very relaxed, has a strong attitude and can stay the 2200 meters. We will sit around a table and think seriously about it."
Sunday, Krefeld, Germany
RENNEN UM DEN PREIS DER SWK - DR BUSCH-
MEMORIAL-G3, €55,000, KRE, 4-26, 3yo, 8 1/2fT, 1:47.48, gd/sf.
1--@KARPINO (GER), 128, c, 3, by Cape Cross (Ire)
1st Dam: Kahara (GB) (SP-Eng), by Sadler’s Wells
2nd Dam: Kithanga (Ire), by Darshaan (GB)
3rd Dam: Kalata (Ire), by Assert (Ire)
O-Pearl Bloodstock Ltd; B-Stiftung Gestut Fahrhof;
T-Andreas Wohler; J-Andrea Atzeni. €32,000.
Lifetime Record: 2 starts, 2 wins, €35,500. Werk Nick Rating: A. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.

2--Ajalo (Fr), 128, c, 3, King’s Best’s choice was Deutsches Derby at Hamburg. The crowd
shaped with a deal of promise when successful by four lengths going seven panels at Berlin’s Hoppegarten
in his only prior go Sept. 19, Karpino was hammered into long odds-on for this sophomore bow and obliged
into long odds-on for this sophomore bow and obliged
inpressive style to punch his ticket to the July 5 G1
result
Margins: 2HF, 7, HF. Odds: 0.40, 11.10, 13.40.
Also Ran: Ebeltoft (Ire), Peewave (Fr), Los Cerritos (Swi). Scratched: Areo (GB). Click for the Racing Post result.

Sunday, Tokyo, Japan
YOMIURI MILERS CUP-G2, ¥110,260,000, Kyoto,
4-26, 4yo/up, 1600mT, 1:31.80, fm.
1--@RED ARION (JPN), 123, h, 5, Agnes Tachyon (Jpn)
1st Dam: Erimo Pixy (Jpn) (SW-Jpn, $1,540,775),
by Dancing Brave
2nd Dam: Erimo Shooting (Jpn), by Tesco Boy (GB)
3rd Dam: Depgleef, by Vaguely Noble (Ire)
O-Tokyo Horse Racing; B-Excel Management; T-Kojiro Hashiguchi; J-Haruhiko Kawasu. ¥58,372,000.
Lifetime Record: 24-6-4-3. *Full to Ridill (Jpn), GSW-
Jpn, $2,031,649; 1/2 to Clarente (Jpn) (Dance in the Dark (Jpn)), MGSw & G1SP-Jpn, $3,687,236; and

2--Sunrise Major (Jpn), 123, h, 6, Daiwa Major (Jpn)--
Tiffany Touch, by Deputy Minister. O-Takao Matsuoka;
B-Shimokobe Farm. ¥23,392,000.
Lifetime Record: 26-6-3-2. *Full to Ridill (Jpn), GSW-
Jpn, $2,031,649; 1/2 to Clarente (Jpn) (Dance in the Dark (Jpn)), MGSw & G1SP-Jpn, $3,687,236; and

3--Fiero (Jpn), 123, h, 6, Heart’s Cry (Jpn)--
13,176,000.
2nd Dam: See Like Bird (Jpn) (SP-Jpn, $1,206,188),
by Symboli Kris S
3rd Dam: See Like Talk (Jpn), by Northern Taste (Jpn)
O-Shadai Race Horse; B-Shadai Farm; T-Yasu
Tomomichi; J-Hiroyuki Uchida. ¥14,196,000.
Margins: NK, NK, HF. Odds: 21.40, 13.60, 1.70.
Click for the JRA chart and video. Click for the free brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree.

Sunday, Tokyo, Japan
SANKEI SPORTS SHO FLORA S.-G2, ¥97,260,000,
Tokyo, 4-26, 3yo, f, 2000mT, 2:01.80, fm.
1--@SING WITH JOY (JPN), 119, f, 3, by Manhattan Cafe (Jpn)
1st Dam: Seelig (Jpn) (SP-Jpn, $1,206,188),
by Symboli Kris S
2nd Dam: Sing Like Talk (Jpn), by Northern Taste (Jpn)
O-Shadai Race Horse; B-Shadai Farm; T-Yasu
Tomomichi; J-Hiroichi Uchida. ¥51,232,000.
Lifetime Record: 8-3-0-2. *Full to Ridill (Jpn), GSW-
Jpn, $2,031,649; 1/2 to Clarente (Jpn) (Dance in the Dark (Jpn)), MGSw & G1SP-Jpn, $3,687,236; and

2--Dear My Darling (Jpn), 119, f, 3, Heart’s Cry (Jpn)--
Honestly Darling, by Kingmambo. O-Yasushi Kubota;
B-Oiwake Farm. ¥50,000,000 wnl '09 JRHAJUL
Matsuoka; B-Shimokobe Farm. ¥50,000,000 wnl '09 JRHAJUL
O-Makoto Kaneko Holdings; B-Shadai Farm.
¥19,116,000.
Margins: NK, NK, HF. Odds: 21.40, 13.60, 1.70.
Click for the JRA chart and video. Click for the free brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree.

3--Maximum de Paris (Jpn), 119, f, 3, King Kamehameha (Jpn)--
Mlle de Paris (Jpn), by Heart's Cry (Jpn), by Sunday Silence. O-Green
3rd Dam: Agnes Tachyon (Jpn) (SP-Jpn, $1,206,188),
by Symboli Kris S
2nd Dam: See Like Talk (Jpn), by Northern Taste (Jpn)
O-Shadai Race Horse; B-Shadai Farm; T-Yasu
Tomomichi; J-Hiroyuki Uchida. ¥14,196,000.
Margins: NK, NK, HF. Odds: 21.40, 13.60, 1.70.
Click for the JRA chart and video. Click for the free brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree.

ECHO HARBOR, 14, Boston Harbor--Echo Echo Echo,
by Eastern Echo
Foal born Mar. 20, a filly by Paynter.
Will be bred back to Lookin At Lucky.
Owned by Woodford Thoroughbreds.
Boarded at Woodford Thoroughbreds Kentucky.
Accomplishments: Dam of Western Smoke (Smoke Glacken), GSW, $269,725.
Sunday, Sha Tin, Hong Kong

AUDEMARS PIGUET QUEEN ELIZABETH II CUP-G1, HK$20,000 000 (US$2,580,630), Sha Tin, 4-26, 3yo/up, 2000mT, 2:02.89, gd/fm.

1– ▲ BLAZING SPEED (GB), 126, g, 6, by Dylan Thomas (Ire)
   1st Dam: Leukippids (Ire), by Sadler's Wells
   2nd Dam: Teslemi, by Ogygian
   3rd Dam: Martha Queen, by Nijinsky II
   (45,000gns RNA wnlg ‘09 TATDEC; 45,000gns RNA ryl ‘10 TATOC; 41,000gns ryl ‘10 TATDEC).
   O-Fentons Racing Syndicate; B-J Sankey; T-Tony Cruz; J-Neil Callan; HK$11,400,000. Lifetime Record: 31-9-4-2, HK$31,680,760. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree. Werk Nick Rating: A +.

2– Staphanos (Jpn), 126, c, 4, Deep Impact (Jpn)--
   Kokoshnik (Jpn), by Kurofune. O-Carrot Farm Co Ltd; B-Northern Racing; T-H Fujiwara; HK$4,400,000. Click for the HKJC.com chart, HKJC.com PPs and VIDEO. Click for the free brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree.
   He’s never possessed the flash or broader appeal of some of the stars of the Hong Kong turf down the years, but make no mistake—Blazing Speed is in the very top echelon of horses in the local population and with a breakthrough Group 1 success in Sunday’s Queen Elizabeth II Cup, will command some of the international attention he deserves.

Winner of a couple of minor events at age three when trained in England by James Fanshawe, he ascended through the ranks and earned his first big-race success with a short-head defeat of Dan Excel (Ire) (Shamardal) in the 2014 Stewards' Cup over the 1600 meters. Further demonstrating his versatility, the bay ended last season with a 24-1 upset in the Champions and Chater Cup going 12 furlongs, accounting for last year’s Queen Elizabeth II Cup hero and subsequent Horse of the Year Designs On Rome (Ire) (Holy Roman Emperor {Ire}).

He belied odds of 7-1 to best Military Attack (Ire) (Oratorio {Ire}) in the 2000-meter G2 Jockey Club Cup Nov. 23, but was a disappointing 12th to Designs On Rome in the G1 Longines Hong Kong Cup the following month. A solid third to that rival in the G1 Hong Kong Gold Cup Mar. 1, Blazing Speed was exiting a sixth--under top weight of 133 pounds--in the Premier Plate H. over nine panels Mar. 29.

Blazing Speed

Blazing Speed settled in a joint fifth position just to the outside of the Japanese raider Staphanos, as Same World (GB) (Hawk Wing) burned across from the outside stall to lead from Criterion, who made good use of his inside draw and was stationed off that longshot’s flank as they raced through the opening 600 meters. Military Attack, mildly lame Saturday, but cleared to run by vets, provided some cover for Blazing Speed, while Designs On Rome, returning off his fourth in the G1 Dubai Sheema Classic, was in his customary spot at the rear.

There was no real change in the order as they hit the half-mile marker, at which point Joao Moreira began to ask Designs On Rome to loop his rivals to get closer. Meanwhile on the engine, Criterion went after Same World at the 400-meter mark and the race was on in earnest. Military Attack looked dangerous outside the Aussie, but Callan pulled Blazing Speed off heels and looked to be going best of all as they entered the final furlong. Indeed, the gelding quickened very impressively 150 meters out and streaked home as much the best. Staphanos poked through three off the inside in the stretch and was able to take a four-way photo for second from Criterion, with Designs On Rome a fast-finishing fourth.

"He’s been a champion for me," said Callan, who was fortunate to suffer no worse than a minor foot injury in a fall at Sha Tin earlier this month and returned to the saddle last Sunday after missing one race meeting. "I'm just lucky to get on him and grateful that I’m able to come back from the fall and be fit enough to take the ride. It’s been a sticky month for me with falls and a few glitches but it’s a nice way to come back," he added.

Blazing Speed will now be pointed for a defense of his title in the Champions and Chater Cup May 31.

Say What?
"He’s done a good job to fight on as he did in this class field. He didn’t get things his own way. He was a bit fresh and keen early and the challengers came early at the top of the straight. It was his second run in two weeks and he had the travel so all in all he was very good." -- Craig Williams, jockey, Criterion

"He was solid today, finishing off well. I was very happy with his performance, just missing the place with the pace not strong enough for him." -- Joao Moreira, jockey, Designs On Rome
Sunday, Sha Tin, Hong Kong

**SPRINT CUP**, HK$3,875,000 (US$499,998), Sha Tin, 4-26, 3yo/up, 1200mT, 1:08.37, gd/fm.

1--**DUNDONNELL**, 123, g, 5, *First Defence*--Family, by *Danzig*. O-Elizabeth Lee Ho Hung; B-Juddmonte Farms Inc; T-Richard Gibson; J-Stephane Pasquier; HK$2,208,750. Lifetime Record: GSW-Eng, 25-6-5-6, HK$9,911,860.

2--**Gold-Fun (Ire)**, 128, g, 6, *Le Vie Dei Colori* (GB)--*Goodwood March* (GB), by *Foxhound*. (10,000gns yrl ‘10 TATOCT), O-Pan Sutong. HK$852,500.

3--**Smart Volatility (Aus)**, 123, g, 6, *Danewin* (Aus)--*Something Funny* (Aus), by *Baryshnikov* (Aus). O-Clarissa Or. HK$445,625.


Also Ran: Peniaphobia (Ire), Tour de Force (Aus), Frederick Engels (GB), Charles the Great (Ire), Teofilo Calva (Ire), Lucky Nine (Ire), Golden Harvest (Aus).

Dundonnell has mostly battled since his purchase by Hong Kong interests a few years back, but perseverance paid off for the former Juddmonte runner when he upset a good field of local short-trackers in the Sprint Cup.

Trained for Khalid Abdullah’s operation in England by Roger Charlton, Dundonnell won the G3 Acomb S. in 2012 and was third to Toronado (Ire) (High Chaparral {Ire}) in the 2013 G3 Craven S. before adding a victory in the Listed King Charles II S. He was sixth of nine to Dawn Approach (Ire) (New Approach {Ire}) in the 2013 G1 St James’s Palace S. in what became his European finale.

A Class 2 winner in nine starts last season, Dundonnell was impressive in taking a tough Class 1 over 1400 meters on International Races day Dec. 14 and was not disgraced in his most recent run, a fourth to Able Friend (Aus) (Shamardal) in the G1 Queen’s Silver Jubilee Cup Mar. 15.

One of the quickest to jump, Dundonnell, backed from about 35-1 into 13-1 by post time, was the inner-most of a line of four fighting out the early pace, but ultimately came back to Stephane Pasquier to get the box seat as favored Gold-Fun and Peniaphobia, returning home off his second-place effort in the G1 Al Quoz Sprint, went on with it. Gold-Fun turned them in, having done the work to make the lead and Peniaphobia (Dandy Man {Ire}) was still in with a chance, but Dundonnell traveled and just needed the way out. Peniaphobia weakened just a touch at the 300-meter mark and Dundonnell took advantage of that daylight, racing past Gold-Fun with a sixteenth of a mile to race to score nicely.

“It’s a big moment for us this season to run one, two here,” commented trainer Richard Gibson. “It was another great performance from Gold-Fun. I was surprised to see him out in front but that was no fault of the jockey. He just jumped so well. In the end the five pounds, he gave to the winner, counted. Dundonnell was very good and given a great ride by Pasquier. The horse has had a brilliant season and the last thing I told the owner today was that I thought he could win,” Gibson added.

Gold-Fun remains in the equation for a trip to Royal Ascot, though he indicated, “both horses would be good enough to go.”

Dundonnell is out of a full-sister to Danehill. Click for the [HKJC.com chart](http://www.hkjc.com), [HKJC.com PPs](http://www.hkjc.com) and [VIDEO](http://www.hkjc.com).

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**NEWGATE FARM--AUSTRALIA**

**2015 STUD FEES**

*Dissident (Aus) (Sebring {Aus})* A$35,000

*Wandjina (Aus) (Snitzel {Aus})* A$30,000

*Deep Field (Aus) (Northern Meteor {Aus})* A$20,000

*Foxwedge (Aus) (Fastnet Rock {Aus})* A$25,000

*The Factor (War Front)* A$15,000

*Sizzling (Aus) (Snitzel {Aus})* A$15,000

*Eurozone (Aus) (Northern Meteor {Aus})* A$12,500

*New for 2015*

All fees are +GST
Sunday’s Results:

**BELLE HARBOR S.**, $98,000, AQU, 4-26, 3yo, f, 6 1/2f, 1:16 4/5, ft.
1--**IRISH JASPER**, 120, f, 3, by First Defence
   1st Dam: Irish Connection, by Mr. Greeley
   2nd Dam: Gambader, by Holy Bull
   3rd Dam: Now Dance, by Sovereign Dancer
   ($12,000 yrl ’13 FTKOCT). O/T-Derek S Ryan; B-Mr & Mrs Robert E Courtney Sr (KY); J-Kendrick Carmouche. $60,000. Lifetime Record: 7-4-0-1, $135,800.


Irish Jasper began her career in claiming company at Parx, but after taking her debut by 8 1/2 lengths, was third in a starter allowance Nov. 20, and at Parx where she annexed another affair Nov. 30. She took Tampa Bay’s Gasparilla S. Dec. 27, never factored in the Suncoast S. Jan. 31 and was fourth in the Stormy Blue S. trying the Pimlico turf Apr. 18. Irish Jasper was away from the outside post and trailed the field early. The longshot circled the field on the bend, chased down Perchance from about three wide in the stretch and shook free late.

“She ran her race today,” said winning trainer Derek Ryan. “I was very confident coming in. I sort of stopped by Pimlico last week [for her last start] on the way back from Tampa and got a good five-eighths work on the turf in her. She came out of the race really good. I’ve been riding [jockey] Kendrick [Carmouche] since he had his bug, and we’ve had a lot of success together. I’m happy to see him here doing good.”

**NEW YORK STALLION S.**, $100,000, AQU, 4-26, (R), 3yo, f, 6 1/2f, 1:18, ft.
1--**TAKE ISSUE**, 118, f, 3, by Sir Whimsey
   1st Dam: Control Issue, by Officer
   2nd Dam: Lady Tender, by Officer
   3rd Dam: Take Issue, by Mr. Greeley
   ($10,000 yrl ’13 FTNAUG; $50,000 yrl ’13 FTMOCT). O/T-Derek S Ryan; B-Turtle Bird Stable & Toby Sheets (NY); T-Charlton Baker; J-Junior Alvarado. $60,000. Lifetime Record: 4-3-0-0, $114,850. *First stakes winner for sophomore sire.

Margins: 1 1/4, HD, NK. Odds: 14.80, 1.10, 5.70.

Take Issue finished fourth against $40,000 Empire-bred taggers at Belmont in September and graduated next out in a state-bred $25,000 maiden claiming race Jan. 30. Last time out, she annexed an optional claimer Feb. 26. Take Issue was off the pace and three wide early as favored The Lewis Dinner raced very wide behind the pace. Take Issue improved her position on the turn, angled out to the three path at the top of the stretch, rallied alongside The Lewis Dinner and hit the wire in front of that foe.

**NEW YORK STALLION S.**, $98,000, AQU, 4-26, (R), 3yo, f, 6 1/2f, 1:17 1/5, ft.
1--**POSSESSED**, 116, c, 3, by Posse
   1st Dam: I Bet You Wish You Knew, by Mr. Greeley
   2nd Dam: I Bet You Wish You Knew, by Mr. Greeley
   3rd Dam: I Bet You Wish You Knew, by Mr. Greeley
   ($128,980). O-Daniel P Hayden & Charlton Baker; B-Grapestock LLC (NY); T-Charlton Baker; J-Jose L Ortiz. $60,000. Lifetime Record: 7-2-3-1, $134,950. *1/2 to I Bet Toni Knows (Sunriver), SW, $128,980.

Margins: 1, 2, 5HF. Odds: 1.35, 3.25, 1.60.

Possessed got off the mark in his fourth career start against state-bred company over the inner track Feb. 14. Third after a wide trip in the Jimmy Winkfield S. Mar. 8, he finished a well-beaten second in an allowance Apr. 10. Possessed was away well and stalked the pace in second from two deep. He challenged the leader on the turn, took control at the top of the stretch and held off a late charge by Organic Gemini.

**NEW YORK STALLION S.**, $100,000, AQU, 4-26, (R), 3yo, f, 6 1/2f, 1:18, ft.
1--**POSSE--Nick’s Honor, by Jump Start. ($50,000 yrl ’13 FTNAUG; $50,000 2yo ‘14 OBSAPR). O-Michael Dubb, Bethlehem Stables LLC & Gary Aisquith. $20,000.

Margins: 1 1/4, HD, NK. Odds: 14.80, 1.10, 5.70.

Take Issue finished fourth against $40,000 Empire-bred taggers at Belmont in September and graduated next out in a state-bred $25,000 maiden claiming race Jan. 30. Last time out, she annexed an optional claimer Feb. 26. Take Issue was off the pace and three wide early as favored The Lewis Dinner raced very wide behind the pace. Take Issue improved her position on the turn, angled out to the three path at the top of the stretch, rallied alongside The Lewis Dinner and hit the wire in front of that foe. *Click for the brisnet.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.*
7th-AQU, $70,560, Alw, NW1$X, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10 3/5, ft.
WARRIOR’S CROWN (h, 5, Majestic Warrior--Ruby Crown, by Awesome Again) graduated at second asking going one mile at Belmont Park in October of 2013, and did not make it back to the races for over a half-year following that effort. Second behind Pazolini (Bernardini) in a six-furlong allowance event in Elmott last May, the chestnut was subsequently sent to the sidelines for yet another prolonged layoff. Tabbed as the 9-5 second choice in this field decimated by scratches, he raced in tight quarters along the inside as Energeticco (Mutakddim) brought the field through a quarter-mile in :23.08. Shifted out three wide turning for home, Warrior’s Crown launched a prolonged rally down the center of the track, hit the front in the final yards and scored by a neck over the pacesetter. The winner’s dam is a half to 2005 GI Alabama S. winner Sweet Symphony (A.P. Indy), and her second dam is a half to Hall of Famer and dual-champion Holy Bull. Lifetime Record: 4-2-0-0, $129,600. Click for the brisnet.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

6th-AQU, $60,000, Msw, (S), 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16mT, 1:48, fm.
DREAMING AS ALWAYS (f, 4, Broken Vow--Leonor Fini (Ire) {MSP-Ire}, by Peintre Celebre) raced twice against state-breds as a 3-year-old on the grass at Belmont Park, finishing third on debut over 1 1/16 miles Sept. 18 and second going one mile over a boggy course Oct. 12. Subsequently sidelined for over six months, she was hammered down to 3-5 favoritism for this return to racing action. Bumped around a bit after the start, the chestnut secured position tracking the pace through a half-mile in :50 flat. Locked on to the flank of pacesetter Barrel of Dreams (Not For Love) around the far turn, she edged clear under confident handling from Hall of Famer John Velazquez and crossed the wire 2 1/4 lengths clear of the others. Kacy Lauren (Utopia {Jpn}) rallied to secure place honors. The winner's second dam is a half to MG1SW Riverman (Never Bend). Sales history: $50,000 RNA yrl '12 (Bernardini) in a six-furlong allowance event in Elmont last Fall when he took in the GIII Bold Venture S. over Calgary Cat wrapped up his 4-year-old season nicely last Fall when he took in the Gill Bold Venture S. over this course Sept. 13, finished third in the Gill Nearctic S. on the turf Oct. 19 and annexed the GII Kennedy Road S. Nov. 23. The favorite was unhurried early as he rated along the rail in midpack as Parisie took a clear advantage up front. Still in charge, Parisie looked home free in the stretch, but Calgary Cat moved up the inside at the top of the stretch and registered a late rally to just catch that foe before the wire.
"I was really worried," said winning pilot Eurico Rosa da Silva. "He’s such a big horse, he’s not a horse to make a run in the turn, but I had no choice. That horse was getting away and I did move a little earlier today than I usually do. But, he’s a good horse and he made it up in the end." Click for the brisnet.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

Margins: HF, 4, HD. Odds: 1.35, 6.20, 7.15.
"I was really worried," said winning pilot Eurico Rosa da Silva. "He’s such a big horse, he’s not a horse to make a run in the turn, but I had no choice. That horse was getting away and I did move a little earlier today than I usually do. But, he’s a good horse and he made it up in the end." Click for the brisnet.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

4th-AQU, $60,000, Msw, (S), 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16mT, 1:48 4/5, fm.
VIVA MALALA (f, 3, Malibu Moon--Adorahy, by Rahy) finished sixth in the slop in an off-the-turfer here Jan. 26. Off the off and getting Lasix for this one, Viva Malala stalked the pace down the backstretch. The 10-1 part of a coupled entry swung out to the three path in upper stretch to begin her rally, caught the frontrunner in the final furlong and held off a late charge by Courageisamajority (Medaglia d’Oro) to win by the minimum margin.
Eastern U.S.

Sunday's Results:
6th-PRX, $45,500, Msw, 3yo, 1m, 1:43 1/5, ft.
QUALITY INTEREST (c, 3, Quality Road--A. P. Interest, by A.P. Indy) debuted a well-beaten third going seven panels at Gulfstream Park West Oct. 26. The homebred tracked pacesetter Maxwell's Hammer (Rock Hard Ten) from along the rail early. The 7-2 chance split foes at the top of the lane, took over and cleared to a 3 1/4-length graduation. A.P. Interest, a Shel Evans homebred, is the daughter of Shared Interest (Pleasant Colony) another Evans homebred, who won the 1993 GI Ruffian F. Shared Interest is the dam of GISWs Forestry (Storm Cat) and Cash Run (Seeking the Gold). The winner RNA'd for $62,000 as a FTKOCT yearling and ultimately sold for $100,000 as an OBSAPR graduate. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $21,600. Click for the brisnet.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

Gulfstream Silent Auction to Benefit PDJF:
Gulfstream Park will host a silent auction May 2 to benefit the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund. The auction will feature framed, autographed photographs of Secretariat (signed by Penny Chenery); Zenyatta (signed by Mike Smith); California Chrome (signed by Victor Espinoza); and Wise Dan (signed by John Velazquez). The Hallandale track will also offer Kentucky Derby day festivities, including Mint Julep collectible glasses and special drawings.

Sunday's Results:
2nd-GPX, $39,200, Alw, Opt. Clm. ($25,000), KW1X, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/8mT, 1:50, gd.
SEEKING HER GLORY (f, 4, Giant's Causeway--Seeking Atlantis, by Seeking the Gold) graduated at Gulfstream last February before finishing third in the Gill Herecomesthembrie S. and ninth in the Gl Ashland S. for trainer Todd Pletcher. Making her first start in over a year for conditioner Chad Brown, the 1-2 pick shot to the front, led throughout and finished a length clear of Indian Starlight (Indian Ocean).

Florida

Sunday's Results:
2nd-GPX, $39,200, Alw, Opt. Clm. ($25,000), KW1X, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/8mT, 1:50, gd.
SEEKING HER GLORY (f, 4, Giant's Causeway--Seeking Atlantis, by Seeking the Gold) graduated at Gulfstream last February before finishing third in the Gill Herecomesthembrie S. and ninth in the Gl Ashland S. for trainer Todd Pletcher. Making her first start in over a year for conditioner Chad Brown, the 1-2 pick shot to the front, led throughout and finished a length clear of Indian Starlight (Indian Ocean).
Majestic Harbor, upset winner of last year’s GI Gold Cup at Santa Anita, closed out his 2014 campaign with a dull 13th-place finish in the GI Breeders’ Cup Classic Nov. 1. Eighth in the wake of GISW Hoppertunity (Any Given Saturday) in Santa Anita’s GI San Pasqual S. going 1 1/16 miles over the dirt Jan. 10, he could do no better than eighth once more in the GI San Marcos S. over a grassy 1 1/4 furlongs at that same venue Feb. 7. The bay was transferred from the care of trainer Sean McCarthy to Paul McGee following that effort, and traveled east to finish seventh in the GII Mineshaft H. over 1 1/16 miles at the Fair Grounds Feb. 21. The 7-year-old most recently annexed a nine-furlong allowance race rained off the turf at Keeneland, and was given an even-money chance to do the same in this event similarly impacted by the weather. Majestic Harbor trailed the field around the opening bend and continued to bide his time down the backstretch as Shining Copper (Aragorn {Ire}) completed a half-mile in :47.79. Sent up three wide on the far turn, he made a quick move to the front and held off a late bid from Knights Nation to earn the victory. Click for the brisnet.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

11th-CDX, $49,792, Msw, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m, 1:47 3/5, gd.
DON’T FORGET ABOUT ME (f, 3, Malibu Moon--Caroni, by Rubiano), a $725,000 KEESEP yearling buy, pressed the pace and held on to finish fourth in her one-mile unveiling at Gulfstream Park Feb. 8. Second behind Garden Princess (Distorted Humor) over that same trip and track Mar. 17, she was hammered down to 1-5 favoritism for this first try around two turns. Away from the gate a step slow, the bay was quickly sent to the front and dictated an uncontested pace through fractions of :24.56 and :49.70. Maintaining a three-length margin turning for home, the blinkered filly coasted home to graduate in decisive fashion. Asked for more in the lane, he drew off to post a two-length victory over entrymate Ghost Trail (Silver City). The winner, who raced without Lasix, is a half-brother to Beautician (Dehere), SW & MGISP, $636,175; and Bella Castani (Big Brown), SW, $420,521; and a full-brother to Sword Trick, MSW, to Fiftyshadesofgold (My Golden Song), GSW, $124,500.

2nd-LSX, $20,000, Msw, (S), 2yo, 4 1/2f, :52 4/5, ft.
FLYING CAT (g, 2, Early Flyer--Hadif Cat, by Hadif) displayed a string of swift workouts dating back to Mar. 7, including a four-furlong move from the gate in :46.89 and bid for the lead turning for home. Despite a favorable 2-5 entry. Away to an alert beginning, the bay tracked the pace from the two path through a half-mile in :47.79. Sent up three wide on the far turn, he made a quick move to the front and held off a late bid from Royal Song Dancer. The chestnut launched a wide bid to win going away at odds of 14-1 in her Mar. 12 debut, and followed that effort with a runaway four-length score in a Mar. 28 allowance event. Tabbed as the heavy favorite in this spot, the filly raced along the rail behind the leaders through a quarter-mile in :22.18 and angled out to advance between horses on the far turn. Shifted out to the four path turning for home, she powered clear in mid-stretch and strode home to a comfortable score. Click for the brisnet.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

Saturday Night’s Results:
GOLDFINCH S., $75,000, PRM, 4-25, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:10 4/5, my.
1--#1’M WORKIN ON IT, 122, f, 3, by Quien
1st Dam: With a Passion, by Honour and Glory
2nd Dam: Southern Tradition, by Family Doctor
3rd Dam: Dance Song, by Run Dusty Run
($2,500 yrl ’13 FTKOCT). O-William E Oswald; B-B A Man Inc & Richard Maynard (IN); T-Lynn Chleborad; J-Alex Birzer. $45,000. Lifetime Record: 3-3-0-0, $124,500.

2--Royal Song Dancer, 122, f, 3, Langfuhr--Carleton Grinnell, by Royal Academy. O-Michelle Y Brown. $15,000.

Margins: 3, NK, 1HF. Odds: 0.80, 14.60, 12.00.
I’m Workin On It earned her first stakes victory to remain undefeated in this contest, having previously annexed a pair of races at this same distance at Oaklawn Park. The chestnut launched a wide bid to win going away at odds of 14-1 in her Mar. 12 debut, and followed that effort with a runaway four-length score in a Mar. 28 allowance event. Tabbed as the heavy favorite in this spot, the filly raced along the rail behind the leaders through a quarter-mile in :22.18 and angled out to advance between horses on the far turn. Shifted out to the four path turning for home, she powered clear in mid-stretch and strode home to a comfortable score. Click for the brisnet.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

2nd-LSX, $20,000, Msw, (S), 2yo, 4 1/2f, :52 4/5, ft.
FLYING CAT (g, 2, Early Flyer--Hadif Cat, by Hadif) displayed a string of swift workouts dating back to Mar. 7, including a four-furlong move from the gate in :48 flat here Apr. 18, and was sent postward as part of a favored 2-5 entry. Away to an alert beginning, the bay tracked the pace from the two path through a half-mile in :46.89 and bid for the lead turning for home. Asked for more in the lane, he drew off to post a two-length victory over entrant Ghost Trail (Silver City). The winner, who raced without Lasix, is a half-brother to Fiftynymphsogold (My Golden Song), GSW, $420,521; and a full-brother to Sword Trick, MSW, $210,130; and Tastefullyxcessive, SW, $146,608. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $11,820. Click for the brisnet.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

Ready’s Image Filly Fastest at Equine Sales Breeze Show:
A filly by Ready’s Image turned in the fastest furlong breeze of :10 flat during Sunday’s under-tack preview of Monday’s Equine Sales Company’s 2-Year-Olds in Training and Racing Age Horses Sale in Opelousas, Louisiana. Hip 55, out of multiple stakes winner The Beter Man Can (Lord Avie), is consigned by Pike Racing. With 88 lots catalogued, the sale gets underway Monday at noon.
**PEACH OF IT H.**, $59,325, HAW, 4-25, (S), 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m, 1:44 3/5, my.
1--#ROSIE MY ROSIE, 116, m, 5, Purge--Rosie's Ransom, by Marquetry, O-William Stiritz; B-John & Ivetta Kerber (IL); T-Scott Becker; J-Santo Sanjur. $35,595. Lifetime Record: 24-8-4-4, $194,848.
2--Our Domain, 121, m, 6, Cherokee Rap--Domain, by Kris S. O-William Stiritz. $11,865.

**MILWAUKEE AVENUE H.**, $56,975, HAW, 4-25, (S), 3yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:43 2/5, my.
1--LUV BANDIT, 120, g, 6, Yonaguska--Plus Beau, by Beau Genius. ($16,000 RNA yrl '10 FTKOCT). O-William Stiritz; B-Judy Dorris (IL); T-Scott Becker; J-Christopher A Emigh. $34,185. Lifetime Record: 32-9-8-4, $408,201. *1/2 to Dundalk Dust (Military), GSW, $310,439.
2--I Got It All, 122, g, 4, Tiz Wonderful--Polish Silk, by Polish Pro. ($35,000 RNA yrl '12 KEESEP). O-Tom Swearingen Racing Stable, Lo Denk, D Carlile & R Bockel. $11,395.
3--Lahshad, 116, g, 5, Nobiz Like Shobiz--Running Clear, by Cryptoclearance. O-Law Dog Stables Inc. $6,526. Margins: 2, 4 1/4, 5. Odds: 2.20, 0.80, 16.90.

**ALLOWANCE RESULTS:**
5th-AQU, $65,000, Opt. Clm. ($40,000), NW1$X, 3yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2fT, 1:13 2/5, fm.
CHATI’S ON TOP (f, 4, Old Topper--Chati Valley, by Globalize) Lifetime Record: SP, 13-3-5-2, $184,228. O-Little Red Feather Racing & Marsha Naify. B-Bill Delia, H C Martin & Ray Pagano (CA); T-Mike Puype.

6th-SAX, $58,750, Opt. Clm. ($20,000), NW1$X, (S), 3yo/up, 1 1/16m, $194,777.
LEROY JR. (g, 6, Leroidesanimaux {Brz}--Booly {GSW, by Alphabette}) Lifetime Record: 9-3-2-0, $151,393. O-Justice Family Racing. B-Decelently Stock Farm Inc (NY). T-Chad C Brown. *$22,000 yrl ’10 FTNAUG; $150,000 2yo ’11 OBSJUN.

9th-WOX, $56,706, Opt. Clm. ($62,500-$60,000), NW2$X, 3yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f (AWT), 1:17, ft.
BLACK BIRD ROCK (m, 6, Flower Alley--Black Rock Road {SW, $296,091}, by Bertrando) Lifetime Record: MSP, 30-6-5-5, $422,335. O-Gary Barber, B-Eugene Melnyk (ON). T-Mark E Casse.
2nd-WOX, $49,790, NW1X, 3yo/up, 1 1/16m (AWT), 1:44 4/5, ft.

BIG BAZINGA (g, 4, Bluegrass Cat--Darling Daughter {GSP}, by Maria’s Mon) Lifetime Record: GSP, 9-2-2-0, $161,697. O-Bull & Bear Stable. B-Sheltowee Farm, Alfonso Mazzetti, Dr Robert J Hunt & Rodney Winkle (KY). T-Katerina Vassilieva. *$32,000 RNA yrl ’12 KEEJAN; $25,000 yrl ’12 KEESEP. **1/2 to Holiday Mischief (Into Mischief), MSW, $199,020.

3rd-PRM, $37,824, 4-25, NW1X, (S), 3yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f (AWT), 1:17, ft.

RIVER MAID (f, 3, Where’s the Ring--Rivermaid Dancing, by Riverman) Lifetime Record: 4-2-0-0, $50,090. O/B-William L Hobbs (IA). T-Jon G Arnett.

5th-GGX, $37,420, 4-25, NW1X, (S), 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16mT, 1:42 4/5, gd.

INFOSEC (c, 4, Heatseeker {Ire}--Sistine, by Vindication) Lifetime Record: SP, 10-3-0-3, $73,942. O-Rennmah Racing Inc. B-Kaleem Shah Inc (CA). T-Frank Lucarelli.

5th-PIM, $45,000, Opt. Clm. ($25,000-$20,000), NW2X, 3yo, f/m, 1 1/16mT, 1:42 4/5, fm.

SASSY LITTLE CAT (f, 4, Albert the Great--Spring Kitten {SW, $158,966}, by Storm of Angels) Lifetime Record: 13-3-2-0, $88,198. O-Sassy Little Cat LLC. B-Shannon & George Towner (PA). T-Fenneka T Bentley.

5th-PIM, $37,824, 4-25, NW1X, (S), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11, my.

M B PRIZE (f, 3, Pure Prize--Steal the Sugar, by Coronado’s Quest) Lifetime Record: 3-2-1-0, $41,100. O-Cindy Patrick & Steve Zeehandelar. B-Lake Shore Farm LLC (IN). T-R Gary Patrick.

4th-WOX, $40,313, NW2L, (S), 3yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f (AWT), 1:17, ft.

ARTICULATED (g, 3, Artax--Missy) Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-0, $31,959. O/B-Derby Owner LLC (KY). T-R Gary Patrick.

5th-CTX, $26,000, 4-25, NW2LX, 3yo/up, f/m, 7f, 1:28 3/5, ft.

SUCCESS AT SUNUP (f, 3, Successful Appeal--Sunup {SP, $152,090}, by Smart Strike) Lifetime Record: 4-2-0-0, $45,000 yrl ’13 FTMSEP; $47,000 RNA HRA >15 OBSJAN. **1/2 to You Need Me (Indian Charlie), MSW, $294,505.

5th-PIM, $37,824, 4-25, NW1X, (S), 3yo, f, 6f, 1:11 2/5, ft.

THISTICATCANJAM (f, 3, Big Top Cat--Mammy Jammy, by Littlelittlelively) Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, $47,000 RNA 2yo >14 OBSJUN. **1/2 to She’s a Mugs (Doneraile Court), SW, $111,253.

7th-HAW, $24,200, 4-25, Opt. Clm. ($75,000), NW1$X, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:11, my.

GREAT MAJESTIC (f, 3, Majestic Warrior--Great Humor, by Distorted Humor) Lifetime Record: 3-2-1-0, $46,100. O-Farm D’Allie Racing Stables. B-Kinsman Farm (FL). T-Oscar Modica. *$30,000 yrl ’13 KEESEP. **1/2 to You Need Me (Indian Charlie), MSW, $294,505.

7th-EVD, $24,950, 4-25, NW1X, (S), 3yo, f/m, 1m (off turf), 1:39, ft.

3rd-IND, $36,000, 4-25, Opt. Clm. ($12,500), NW2X, (S), 3yo/ up, 5 1/2f, 1:04 1/5, sy.

KINKER (g, 5, Magna Graduate--Miss Daisy, by Dynaformer) Lifetime Record: 23-6-7-1, $97,890. O-Spiess Stable LLC and Randy Klopp. B-Denise Purvis (IN). T-Randy L Klopp. *$1,200 wlng ’10 KEENOV.

8th-PRM, $31,959, NW1X, 3yo, f/m, 1m70y, 1:44 1/5, ft.

MAGNOLIA STEEL (f, 3, Include--Magnolia Springs, by Relaunch) Lifetime Record: 13-3-2-0, $88,198. O-Sassy Little Cat LLC. B-Shannon & George Towner (PA). T-Fenneka T Bentley.

8th-EVD, $29,500, 4-25, NW1X, (S), 3yo, f, 6f, 1:11 2/5, ft.

THISTICATCANJAM (f, 3, Big Top Cat--Mammy Jammy, by Littlelittlelively) Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, $41,100. O-Cindy Patrick & Steve Zeehandelar. B-Lake Shore Farm LLC (IN). T-R Gary Patrick.
2nd-LSX, $22,000, NW3L, 3&4yo, f/m, 1m, 1:40 1/5, ft.
TIAWE (f, 4, Tiago--In Love Again, by Awesome Again) Lifetime Record: 7-3-1-1, $68,693. O-Michael & Linda Mazoch. B-Respite Farm (KY). T-Tracy A Norris. *$1,600 yrl ’12 FTKOCT.

6th-LSX, $22,000, 4-25, NW3LX, 3&4yo, 1m, 1:39, ft.

3rd-LSX, $21,000, NW2L, (S), 3&4yo, f/m, 1m, 1:41 4/5, ft.
YOUAREMYCONNECTION (f, 3, Uncle Abbie--Atti Girl Fergie (SP), by Atticus) Lifetime Record: 10-2-1-3, $42,000 yrl ’13 OBSMAR. O-REV Racing. B-Rose Hill Farm, Sean & Barbara Speck (KY). T-George R Bryant.

3rd-LSX, $21,000, 4-25, NW2L, 3&4yo, 1m, 1:40 1/5, ft.

2nd-LSX, $20,700, 4-25, Opt. Clm. ($25,000), NW3X, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11 4/5, ft.
SHE’SABREES (m, 6, Ghostzapper--Big City Danse (MSP, $254,147), by Joyeux Danseur) Lifetime Record: 34-12-4-7, $195,203. O-Gene Burkholder. B-Adena Springs (KY). T-Kim A Puhl. *$5,000 yrl ’10 KEESEP.
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Hip 781 OBS April - Worked 1/8 in 10.0!
Lion City Cup result cont.

In the second of two stirring finishes on the card, Singapore Horse of the Year War Affair came from an impossible position to win first-up in what, for most, was a prep for the S$1-million G1 KrisFlyer International Sprint May 17.

Winner of 11 of his 16 local appearances to date, the 4-year-old won races at distances from 1200 meters up to 1800 meters in 2014, including the Singapore Guineas and Kranji Mile going that trip and the nine-furlong Raffles Cup before ending the season with a defeat at the hands of Quechua (Arg) (Pure Prize) when trying 2200 meters in the Longines Singapore Gold Cup.

Making his first start since and taking on some of the best local sprinters, War Affair was beaten for speed and settled one from the tail, as many as 10 lengths out of it and remained outside the range of the cameras as they reached the final 500 meters. The cracking 3-year-old filly Kiwi Karma (NZ) (Fast N’ Famous {Aus}) came calling for the lead entering the final furlong and was soon joined by defending Lion City winner Zac Spirit, but Alan Munro began winding up War Affair once heads were turned for home and the champion stomed down the grandstand side to be up in the final jump.

“I was very worried at the 600-meter [mark],” admitted winning trainer Alwin Tan. “He hasn’t closed up with the rest yet. I could only pray hard he could still run on in the last 400 meters. The jockey rode him very well and followed my instructions. He was running against the best sprinters, but he again showed what a turn of foot he has even when he all looked gone.”

War Affair will proceed to the 4-year-old Challenge, with the May 31 Stewards Cup the next target. Zac Spirit will likely press on to the KrisFlyer, in which he was third 12 months ago. Click for the Singapore Turf club chart. VIDEO.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II CUP, S$350,000 (US$262,735), Kranji, 4-26, 3yo/up, 2000mT, 2:03.15, gd.

1—STEPITUP (AUS), 128, g, 5, Hussonet—’Ain’t Seen Nothin’ (Aus) (MSW & G1SP-Aus), by Nothin’ Leica Dane (Aus). (A$90,000 yrl ’11 INGMEL). O-Tivic Stable; B-Arrowfield Pastoral Pty Ltd & Planette Thoroughbred Trading; T-Laurie Laxon; J-Manoel Nunes; S$208,250. Lifetime Record: Ch. 3yo/Singapore Airlines International Cup May 17. Winless in 12 starts since annexing the Fortune Bowl 14 months ago, Stepitup was away without incident from gate two and settled slightly worse than midfield as Slew of Lode, wide into the first turn, was able to establish a clear lead turning up the backstretch. Former U.S.-based runner Parranda, having her first start since taking the CECF Singapore Cup Feb. 22, raced outside Stepitup down the backstretch and was pulled out four wide while traveling well for Michael Rodd nearing the straight. She went up to engage Quechua with a little less than a quarter mile to run, but that duo soon had company in the form of defending race winner Wild Geese (GB) (Exceed and Excel {Aus}), no better than a 20-1 chance in the title defense. Those three set the stage for a head-bobbing finish, but Manoel Nunes was able to coax just a little extra out of Stepitup and they lunged between Parranda and Wild Geese to deliver the knockout punch.

“He’s a small horse with such a big heart. He was just too good today,” said Nunes. “It was a small field, and I had to ride him for luck. But I was in a good spot on the fence and just following Quechua. He was also off the bridle and I had to keep pushing him and luckily, he got going again at the right moment. He may need blinkers at his next run.” Click for the Singapore Turf club chart. VIDEO.

Margins: NK, HD, NK. Odds: 2.60, 1.40, 3.20. Also Ran: Wild Geese (GB), Emperor’s Banquet (Aus), Danger Zone (Jpn), Martin (NZ), Slew of Lode (Arg), Thumping. Stepitup finally returned to the form which saw him sweep the local 3-year-old series in 2013 with a thrilling victory in a blanket finish in this prep for the S$3-million Singapore Airlines International Cup May 17.

The races covered in the TDN are as follows:

- **Stakes:** purses of $50,000/up
- **Allowance Races:** purses of $20,000/up
- **Optional Claiming Races:** purses of $20,000/up
- **Maiden Special Weight Races:** purses of $18,000/up
- **Maiden Claiming Races:** purses of $18,000/up & a minimum claiming price of $40,000

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**TDN CRITERIA**

- **Stakes:** purses of $50,000/up
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- **Optional Claiming Races:** purses of $20,000/up
- **Maiden Special Weight Races:** purses of $18,000/up
- **Maiden Claiming Races:** purses of $18,000/up & a minimum claiming price of $40,000