

DOWN THE SHEDROW WITH DALE ROMANS

By Christie DeBernardis



Dale Romans (second from left) & Jerry Crawford with Keen Ice
Adam Mooshian

The Dale Romans stable really picked up steam in the second half of the 2015 racing season, starting with **Keen Ice** (Curlin)'s defeat of Triple Crown hero American Pharoah (Pioneerof the Nile) in the prestigious GI Travers S. Aug. 29. Romans provided the *TDN* with updates on his stable stars, who are just getting settled in Florida and will soon begin their preparations for next season.

"We are just now getting to Florida, so we will give them all a few days to get their feet under them and get back to training," Romans remarked. "We will probably breeze everybody right before Christmas and then start pointing towards races."

• KEEN ICE (CURLIN)

Donegal colorbearer Keen Ice followed his career high in the Travers with solid fourth-place efforts in both the GI Breeders' Cup Classic Oct. 31 and the GI Clark H. Nov. 27.

"He is doing well, getting cranked up for next year. He has never really left training. We just haven't been breezing him. [Early targets for next year] will be up to Jerry Crawford."

"I have mixed emotions [on his performance in the Clark]. I would have loved to see him win, but I think he ran a nice race, and in a couple more jumps, he would have gotten there."

Cont. p3

ESPINOZA TAKES ON THE WORLD AT THE VALLEY

by Alan Carasso

Fresh off his sweep of the Triple Crown and the GI Breeders' Cup Classic with certain US Horse of the Year American Pharoah (Pioneerof the Nile), jockey Victor Espinoza faces a different sort of challenge Wednesday night at Hong Kong's Happy Valley Racecourse, as he squares off with 11 of the finest reinsmen in the world in the Longines International Jockeys' Championship. It will be Espinoza's second look at the unique city course. During his lone previous appearance at the event, Espinoza booted home a winner and, but for rival Damien Oliver scraping home fifth in the final of the three legs, Espinoza would have emerged victorious. *Cont. p6*

in **TDN Europe** today...

SHOULD BREATHING OPERATIONS BE DECLARED IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE BREED?

Kevin Blake takes a look at the debate over whether trainers should have to formally declare that their horse has had a breathing operation since their last run.

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in this issue...



GI Breeders' Cup Sprint hero Runhappy (Super Saver) got acquainted with Santa Anita Tuesday, working six furlongs in a bullet 1:11.80 ahead of a prospective start in the GI Malibu S. Dec. 26.

Coady Photography.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS ABOUND AT SYMPOSIUM

RR1

The Global Symposium on Racing & Gaming began Tuesday in Tucson. It's the 42nd year that the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program has conducted the late-year gathering, and there were plenty of innovative ideas exchanged. Dean A. Hoffman reports.

N.Y. ONLINE RACING STREAMS AT RISK

RR2

Internet streaming of live Thoroughbred and Standardbred races from New York could be in jeopardy for 2016 if the management of Buffalo Raceway doesn't sign an annual agreement that requires mutual consent for streaming. T.D. Thornton has the story.

from **thetdn.com**

Who are the top turf sires in North America and Europe combined?

It's not shocking to see big names like Galileo (Ire), Dubawi (Ire), and Shamardal leading the way. But who is the lone American-based stallion in the top ten? Hint: His son Chiropractor recently won the GI Hollywood Derby!

[Click here to see the leading turf sires in North America and Europe.](#)



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Down the Shedrow with Dale Romans cont.

On Keen Ice: "He came home fast. Next year, he is going to belong with the best handicap horses of the year. I think we just scratched the surface with him. No stud deals have been made. We have had a lot of talks, but we strongly believe he will be worth more money at the end of 2016 than he was at the end of 2015."

• BRODY'S CAUSE (GIANT'S CAUSEWAY)

The Albaugh Family Stable's Brody's Cause became the conditioner's next Grade I winner just five weeks after Keen Ice's Travers triumph when mowing down a talented field of juveniles in the GI Claiborne Breeders' Futurity Oct. 3. The bay finished a better than it looked third last time out in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Oct. 31.



Brody's Cause | Coady Photography

"He, of course, will get on the Triple Crown trail. He will start breezing right before Christmas. I'll be talking to Jason Loutsch, who manages the Albaugh Family Stable, and we will

figure out what path we decide to take. With him, we will mark down weekends, not races. There are so many things going on for 3 year olds all on the same days, that we will just pick out weekends and then decide which race we want to go to. Training in South Florida, you can head about anywhere and feel good about your position."

"I think he ran well [in the BC Juvenile]. We weren't going to change his running style. He is one of the few horses that made up as much ground as he did. He did everything you want to see in a horse you want to go a mile and quarter with in May."

• UNBRIDLED OUTLAW (UNBRIDLED'S SONG)

The Albaugh Family's Unbridled Outlaw proved to be one to watch with a troubled late-running third in the GIII Iroquois S. Sept. 12, but finished a disappointing 12th in the Juvenile.

"We did give Unbridled Outlaw a little time off after the Breeders' Cup. He had a small injury, nothing major. It just looks like he maybe kicked himself or something in the race. He is ready to go back to galloping. He is a real different type. He is a very athletic, fit type horse. It doesn't take a lot for him. I think he will bounce right back. It will be the same thing with him [as Brody's Cause], you have to mark a weekend, not a race."

Cont. p4

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Dale Romans cont.

On Unbridled Outlaw: "I thought things would have gone a lot better for [Unbridled Outlaw] in the Breeders' Cup. We did not have an explanation right after the race, but then we saw the little bit of an injury that he had. It doesn't amount to much, but it was enough probably to compromise his race that day. I think you are going to see some really good stuff out of him."

• CHERRY WINE (PADDY O'PRADO)

William Pacella and Frank Jones Jr. colorbearer Cherry Wine, by freshman sire and former Romans trainee Paddy O'Prado, stamped his ticket to the Derby trail with an impressive 9 1/4-length graduation at Churchill Nov. 28.

"He is by Paddy O'Prado, who was one of our better stars we've had, and who I think is going to be an outstanding sire on turf or dirt. I was extremely impressed with his performance at Churchill in that off-the-turf race. I think we will put him on kind of the same trail. We will try the Derby trail until they push us off. I think I will probably start him in an allowance race [next]."

• BIRDATTHEWIRE (SUMMER BIRD)

Forum Racing IV's Birdatthewire displayed an affinity for the Gulfstream Park surface last winter with victories in the GII Forward Gal S. and GII Gulfstream Park Oaks and a second in

the GII Davona Dale S. Sidelined after a fifth in the GI Kentucky Oaks May 1, the bay returned with a fifth in the GII Chilukki S. Nov. 7 and was fourth last time in the GII Falls City H. Nov. 26.

"She is doing very well. I had to give her some time off this summer and I kind of got behind the eight ball with her. I think those two races did her a lot of good and I think she is primed for a big year."

• LAVENDER CRISSIE (SCAT DADDY)

West Point Thoroughbreds colorbearer Lavender Chrissie earned her first black-type victory Nov. 25 with a determined success over GIII Delaware Oaks winner Calamity Kate (Yes It's True) in the Zia Park Oaks.

"I just got off the phone with Jeff Lifson of West Point [Thoroughbreds]. There is a series of races in Texas we were looking at and a couple of other spots. We are going to get together in Florida. Terry [Finley] and I are going to talk about what is the next best spot for her."

Cont. p5



Birdatthewire | A. Coglianese

for a big year."

EXCEPTIONAL G1SW AT 2

1st Hopeful Stakes-Gr.1, 7f., Saratoga by
5¾ lengths (pictured) from Gr.2 winner I Spent It
1st Maiden, 6f., Saratoga by 10½ lengths

Competitive Edge followed up on a jawdropping debut victory with a scintillating 5 3/4-length triumph in the G1 Hopeful S. at Saratoga Monday. "This one has a great talent," said winning rider John Velazquez

TDN, SEPT. 02, 2014



COMPETITIVE EDGE

Gr.1 winning 2YO by Kentucky Derby winner and leading young sire Super Saver

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Dale Romans cont.

On Lavender Chrissie: "I thought that was a big performance [in the Zia Park Oaks]. We expected to win or we wouldn't have gone that far. This is the type of filly that I don't think we've seen the best of. She is a little bit light. She has had some trouble keeping weight on and different things. I think she has finally fully matured. She has showed a lot of talent in training and in a couple of races she has shown a lot of talent, but I think she put it all together this fall. We got a stakes win out of her and made some money, but I think the best is in front of her."

• SUSIE'S YANKEE GIRL (BLAME)

Michael Bruder's Susie's Yankee Girl opened her account with a pair of impressive victories sprinting at Churchill Downs Sept. 25 and Nov. 1, respectively. The juvenile, who hails from the family of two-time Horse of the Year Wise Dan (Wiseman's Ferry), suffered her first defeat last time out when stretched to 1 1/16 miles in that venue's GII Golden Rod S. Nov. 28.

"She was [impressive in her first two starts]. She might not want to go that far [as she had to in the 1 1/16-mile Golden Rod]. We might try to shorten her up a little bit. I think right now she is a one-run closer, a one-run sprinter. We will get her into some of those types of races and see how she does."

• MA CAN DO IT (MAJESTICPERFECTION)

Kyle Nagel's Ma Can Do It is still a maiden, but is already Grade I-placed with a third in the GI Darley Alcibiades S. Oct. 3 and was fifth last time out in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Oct. 31.

"We might try a maiden race with her at Gulfstream and then see where we will go with her. She is Grade I placed before she even breaks her maiden and that is a good thing with a young filly. We got the hard part out of the way. We tried to do the tough stuff first with her. Now we will try and win a maiden race, which is not always the easiest thing to do at Gulfstream, and see where she takes us." - @CDeBernardisTDN

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RECORD-BREAKING GSW AT 3

1st Pat Day Mile Stakes-Gr.3, 8f., Churchill Downs
in record time by 4½ lengths (pictured)
1st Tamarac Stakes, 7f., Gulfstream Park by 8¼ lengths

66 Record Breaker: Competitive Edge Soars in the Pat Day Mile

...He covered the mile on a fast Churchill Downs track in 1:34.18, a new stakes record. The previous record, 1:34.40, was set by Ack Ack in 1969.

Source: Horseracingnation.com, May 03, 2015



COMPETITIVE EDGE

Won his first 4 starts by nearly 29 lengths and cost \$750,000 as a 2YO at Fasig-Tipton

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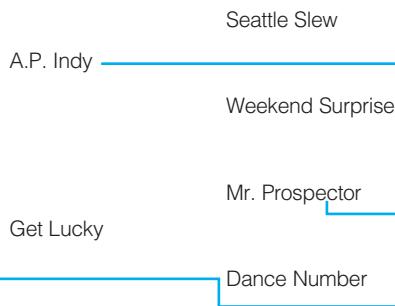
Girolamo: 19 winners to date from his first crop of two-year-olds.

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Mr. Prospector mares to produce
five G1 sires, including Malibu Moon,
Pulpit, Mineshaft, Congrats and Flatter.

This year's
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heroine is
the latest of
a remarkable
11 G1 winners
and 27 Graded
winners under
Girolamo's
first three
dams.

Graded stakes sire.

Sire of five
G1 winners in
Australia and
New Zealand.

1st dam: **GET LUCKY** by Mr. Prospector. 5 wins (7f-8½f) at 3 and 4, Affectionately H (G3). Dam of 14 foals, 9 to race.

9 winners:

GIROLAMO (c A.P. Indy) 5 wins (6f-8f), 2 to 4, Vosburgh S (G1), Jerome H (G2), 3rd Cigar Mile H (G1).
Sire, first crop are two-year-olds of 2015.

DAYDREAMING (f A.P. Indy) 7 wins (6½f-9f), 2 to 4, Top Flight H (G2), 2nd Gazelle H (G1), etc.

(G1). Dam of:

IMAGINING (c Giant's Causeway) Man O'War S (G1).

BROWSE (f Medaglia d'Oro) Named TDN Rising Star with debut win on December 6th.

ACCELERATOR (c A.P. Indy) 4 wins (8f-12f) at 2 and 4, Pilgrim S (G3), 2nd Wood Memorial S (G2),
3rd Metropolitan H (G1), Remsen S (G2). Sire.

HARBORAGE (c Monarchos) 2 wins (8½f-9f) at 3, Victoria Park S. Sire.

Fighting Brave (c Storm Cat) Winner (7f) at 2, 3rd Amethyst S (G3).

SUPERCHARGER (f A.P. Indy) 3 wins (6f-8f) at 3. Dam of:

SUPER SAVER (c Maria's Mon) Kentucky Derby (G1). Sire.

BRETHREN (c Distorted Humor) Sam F. Davis S (G3).

Quickest (f Forest Wildcat) Unraced. Dam of: **CALLBACK** (f Street Sense) Las Virgenes H (G1).

MALKA (f Deputy Minister) Winner (7f) at 2. Dam of:

GOT LUCKY (f A.P. Indy) Spinster S (G1), 2nd Personal Ensign S (G1).

She's A Winner (f A.P. Indy) Unraced. Dam of:

BLUEGRASS CAT (c Storm Cat) Haskell Invitational S (G1). Sire.

LORD OF THE GAME (g Saint Ballado) Cornhusker H (G2).

SONOMA CAT (c Storm Cat) Oak Hall S. Sire.

Six G1 winners under
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A.P. Indy's only G1-winning
sprinter. Averaged over 90
mares in his first four books.

Second-leading sophomore sire
of 2015 and sire of three
G1 winners, including Runhappy.

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2nd dam:

DANCE NUMBER by Northern Dancer. 8 wins (6f-10f) at 3 and 4, Beldame S (G1), 2nd Spinster S (G1),
3rd Top Flight S (G1). Dam of 6 winners:

RHYTHM (c Mr. Prospector) Champion two-year-old colt in America, Travers S (G1),
Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1). Sire.

OSCILLATE (f Seattle Slew) Winner at 3. Dam of:

MUTAKDDIM (c Seeking The Gold) John Of Gaunt S. Sire.

Not For Love (c Mr. Prospector) Full brother to Rhythm. Sire.

Outstanding sire
in South America
with 21 G1 winners.

Graded stakes sire.

3rd dam:

NUMBERED ACCOUNT by Buckpasser. Champion two-year-old filly in America, 14 wins, 2 to 4, Frizette S.
Dam of 5 winners:

PRIVATE ACCOUNT (c Damascus) Gulfstream Park H (G1). Sire.

Polish Numbers (c Danzig) J.O. Tobin S. Sire.

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Espinoza Takes on the World cont. from p1

A veteran of a single Classic victory (War Emblem) at that stage of his career, the Mexico City native—the 11th of 12 children—enters the IJC having partnered the winner of five of the six most recent winners of Triple Crown races. It is an accomplishment not lost on him.



Complete with selfie stick to take in the experience, Victor Espinoza poses with HKJC CEO Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges Tuesday at Happy Valley | HKJC

"Amazing," was Espinoza's humble one-word retort when asked to reflect on the last couple of seasons. "There aren't many jockeys in the world that have had the chances I have. To be able to win five Triple Crown races out of the last six is truly phenomenal. To win those races two years in a row, it's taken a lot of hard work and a lot of dedication, but there has also been a lot of pressure, because when I am in that position, I just don't want to make any wrong moves. One little mistake can cost you the race and it's tough to be the target. For that reason, you have to be 100% ready physically and mentally. It's not easy to ride the best horse in the race. Everyone wants to try to find your weakness. When it comes to big races, I always try to be ready and be prepared and try to get the job done."

To be a factor in this year's IJC, he'll need to bring his very best against the world's best. Ryan Moore (England) is ever dangerous in this competition, having won it all on two occasions, and despite a serious injury that robbed him of a good chunk of the 2015 season, still managed to finish joint-second in Longines' World's Best Jockey competition, a title he earned in 2014. Australia is represented by a pair of its leading lights in the form of Hugh Bowman, who landed this year's G1 Cox Plate atop Winx (Aus) (Street Cry {Ire}), and young Kiwi sensation James McDonald, the number one rider for trainer John O'Shea and Godolphin in the country. Keita Tosaki (Japan) looks to have a couple of live chances in the International Races Sunday afternoon and makes his first IJC appearance, as does Silvestre de Sousa, England's leading rider of 2015, who flies in from the US. Maxime Guyon (France) is no stranger to the Hong Kong faithful, having won the Derby atop fan favorite Ambitious Dragon (NZ) (Pins {Aus}) a few years back, while Gavin Lerena (South Africa) represents his nation for the first time.

Hong Kong fields a fearsome foursome, led by the irrepressible Joao Moreira, who is well ahead of his record-setting pace from the 2014/2015 season. He is joined by Douglas Whyte, who topped the Hong Kong jockeys' premiership 13 straight years



HKJC photo

from 2000-2013 and is a three-time IJC winner; Brett Prebble, one of three riders to record six winners on a single program around the tricky Happy Valley circuit; and the up-and-coming Derek Leung, the leading 'homegrown' jockey. **Cont. p7**

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Espinoza cont.

"It's my home, but I'm facing some of the best riders in the world," said Moreira, Hong Kong's record setting and current leading jockey. "We [Hong Kong-based jockeys] know we can win but we can get beaten as well. We are so used to the horses here, we know how they like to race and run. We have the advantage of being able to place the horse where they like to be, but these riders can pull tricks out of their hat that you've never seen before. It's so much fun. It's inspiring. We know we have to step up our game."

Given that depth of talent, Espinoza is relishing this opportunity.

"I am really looking forward to the jockeys' championship. It's going to be a great challenge. I want to make the most of the chance, because who knows if I'll ever get the chance again. So, I'm here to do my best. I am looking forward to participating against these great riders. It will be a great challenge and I think these jockeys are even tougher than it was the last time."

The IJC will take place over four races (4, 5, 7 and 8), a trio of Class 4 handicaps and one at Class 3 level. Espinoza's best shot would appear to be in the final leg aboard Foodie (GB) (Compton Place {GB}), a last-out winner over the course and 1650-meter trip for Moreira Oct. 22. The rider who accumulates the most points over the four events takes home a check for

HK\$500,000.

First post for the Wednesday card is 5:30 a.m. ET, with the first of the IJC races slated for 7:10 a.m. ET. All races are shown live on TVG.

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What did American Pharoah mean to racing? We want your thoughts. Email suefinley@thetdn.com with comments for publication.

UPCOMING MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN STAKES

Date	Race	Track
12/12	GI Starlet S. GIII Rampart S.	LRC GP
12/19	GI Los Alamitos Futurity GIII Mr. Prospector S.	LRC GP



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— Mark Casse

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INNOVATIVE IDEAS ABOUND AT ARIZONA

SYMPOSIUM by Dean A. Hoffman

Racing should have "family only" areas at tracks that cater to "the often overlooked family friendly experience," says Amy Zimmerman.

Zimmerman, the vice-president and director of broadcasting for the Stronach Group, was one of five panelists presenting innovative ideas at the opening session of the Global Symposium on Racing & Gaming, which began Tuesday in Tucson. It's the 42nd year that the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program has conducted the late-year gathering.

Steve Koch, director of the NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance, thinks that horse racing should be an Olympic event and said he believes that's realistic by the 2024 Olympics in Los Angeles.

"Thoroughbred racing is a global sport conducted on every continent symbolically represented by the five Olympic rings: North and South America, Africa, Asia, and Europe," he said. He added that he could easily envision Olympic horse racing at Santa Anita.

Another idea was aimed at increasing pool size.

"Why not take \$100 from the purse pool for each horse entered in every race?" said Darryl Kaplan, editor of *Trot* magazine for Standardbred Canada. "Place a mandatory \$100 bet in the win pool on behalf of the owner of each horse. That increases the incentive to win and seeds every pari-mutuel pool, in turn driving up handle."



Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert accepts the Big Sport of Turfdom Award | @UA-RTIP

faster to embrace a "swipe and bet" concept at tracks.

During a luncheon Tuesday, the Turf Publicists of America presented the "Big Sport of Turfdom" to Team American Pharoah. Bob Baffert, an Arizona native and trainer of the Triple Crown winner, accepted the award.

While posing for a photo with a group of students from the Race Track Industry Program, Baffert quipped, "If I can graduate from the University of Arizona, you guys can, too."

In a later conversation with Zimmerman, Baffert reviewed the

Peter Rotondo, vice-president of media and entertainment for the Breeders' Cup, said that "Cash is not king at track."

He pointed to Uber and Starbucks as examples of businesses that don't deal in cash and questioned why racing has not been

memorable season he enjoyed with American Pharoah.

Looking back on 2015, Baffert admitted, "I wonder what I did to deserve this horse."

He said that the Kentucky Derby was the hardest of the Triple Crown events to win, but that he had far more confidence in American Pharoah before the Preakness.

Going into the Belmont, Baffert said he learned how hard past Triple Crown winners such as Secretariat and Seattle Slew were worked prior to the marathon event.

"I just can't do that to this horse," he mused before the Belmont. He recalled the word of trainer Charlie Whittingham, who told Baffert that "I did too much with Sunday Silence" before the Belmont.

Baffert liked what he saw in American Pharoah's breeze efforts before the Belmont. Before the race, he told jockey Victor Espinoza, "If I don't have him ready, you can't win the race."

American Pharoah was an easy winner in the Belmont and Baffert recalled how the grandstand "shook with noise" when his horse hit the wire.

Despite American Pharoah's upset loss later in the Travers S. at Saratoga, Baffert said that he relishes the atmosphere in the upstate spa community and loves the way that the townspeople embrace racing.

"People wanted to talk to me as I was walking down the street," he said. "I felt like one of the Kardashians." **Cont. p2**



Retired from RACING, but not from JUMPING

Life Behind Barz, aka Icey



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The Travers loss made the Breeders' Cup Classic all that much more important for American Pharoah, and Baffert added that American Pharoah could have been retired before the Keeneland race.

Baffert admitted that he had a case of jitters before the Classic and was too nervous to attend many of the parties that were held on the eve of the race.

He admits now that his fears were unfounded.

"When American Pharoah turned for home at Keeneland," Baffert said, "I wondered why I didn't go to all those parties."

An interesting symposium session on how to attract new owners to racing was popular, and panelists noted that owners are often the most enthusiastic ambassadors for racing. So each time a new owner comes into horse racing, he often brings friends and family members along with him.

Andrew Offerman of Canterbury Park in Minnesota and Sophia McKee of Emerald Downs discussed the success of their tracks in creating racing clubs to permit fans to own a small percentage of a horse with a limited investment.

"We want to convert casual fans to regular fans, and regular fans to owners," said Offerman, who is director of racing operations at Canterbury. "The only cost the track incurred in creating the Canterbury Racing Club was in legal fees to make sure that we complied with various laws. The reward is that every time the Canterbury Racing Club horse runs, we get 500 extra fans at the track."

The Emerald Downs Racing Club, which is similar to its Minnesota counterpart, has 1,000 members at \$50 per share. So many people want to join that there is a waiting list.

"We've had people buy shares in the Emerald Downs Racing Club and give them to people as gifts," said McKee.

Ellen Harvey of Harness Racing Communications detailed the many owners seminars conducted by the U.S. Trotting Association. She said that almost 20% of the seminar attendees later purchased horses.

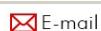
In addition to the presentations on the agenda, many vendors have set up booths at the Symposium to demonstrate their wares to prospective customers in the racing world. The meeting facilities at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort are buzzing with activity as companies pitch their products and old friends reconnect.



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N.Y. ONLINE RACING STREAMS AT RISK

by T.D. Thornton

Internet streaming of live Thoroughbred and Standardbred races from New York could be in jeopardy for 2016 if the management of Buffalo Raceway, a harness track in the northwest corner of the state, doesn't sign an annual agreement that requires mutual consent for streaming among all of the state's licensed tracks and off-track-betting venues.

BRIS Speed Ratings

Top Weekly Stakes Races

Horse	Sire	Race	BRIS Speed
Cathryn Sophia	Street Boss	Gin Talking S.	102
Bird of Trey	Birdstone	Pennsylvania Nursery S.	99
Lady Sabelia	Majestic Warrior	Willa On the Move S.	98
Room for Me	Harlington	Garland of Roses S.	98
Vorticity	Distorted Humor	Marylander S.	91
Spanish Pipedream	Scat Daddy	Holiday Inaugural S.	87
Mana Strike	Papa Clem	Gold Rush S.	83
Coolidge	El Mirage	Arizona Breeders' Futurity	82
My Pardner Cal	Big Atlantic	Joshua Radosevich Memorial S.	81
Deniro's Saint	Saints n' Sinners	Bobbie Bricker Memorial H.	79
Roo's Valentine	Vronsky	Soviet Problem S.	79
Silver Lode	Cashel Castle	Pat Whitworth Illinois Debutante S.	76
Heidi's in Charge	Ez Dreamer	Arizona Breeders' Futurity	71

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Jim Mango, Buffalo Raceway's chief operating officer, told TDN Tuesday that his track--which lacks the ability to take bets online or stream video of races--has been adversely affected by both regional OTBs and national advance-deposit wagering companies over the past several seasons.

Mango explained that despite the encroachment of online competition, he has signed off on the mutual streaming agreement in each of the past two years, but that he is now contemplating holding off on doing so for 2016 while he figures out what, if any, recourse Buffalo Raceway has to reverse the downward trend.

A major issue in the potential streaming standoff is whether the lack of a mutual agreement would mean that New York tracks and OTBs could not stream races only within the state, or if they would be prohibited from sending live Internet streams of races to ADWs nationwide.

"That's one of the major issues of confusion," Mango said.

But Lee Park, the director of communications for the New York State Gaming Commission, underscored that it is the commission's interpretation that there is no confusion about streaming beyond New York's borders. "This agreement has no bearing whatsoever on out-of-state ADWs," he wrote in an email.

Yet according to Mango's version of events, the NYSGC has changed the way the mutual consent agreement for streaming is interpreted by inserting an amendment that he just learned

about on Tuesday afternoon.

"The amendment to the agreement has just reached my desk, of which I am not happy about, and I am preparing my respectful response to the New York State Gaming Commission," Mango said. "It's an extremely complicated issue, as you might imagine, involving the interpretation of a law."

Mango would not disclose details about the amendment or provide TDN with a copy of the document he said he received from the NYSGC.

When Park was asked to provide a copy of the document that Mango received, Park responded with an email that said, "We sent him [and all the other entities in NY] the agreement for 2016. Attached is the 2015 agreement, which is substantially similar."



Aqueduct | A. Coglianese

compensate for lost OTB revenue and to give state residents easy access to live racing on the Internet, an agreement was forged pursuant to Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law sections 1003 and 1012.

Mango explained that at the time, the mutual agreement clause was inserted as a safeguard to keep New York tracks and OTBs from fighting over customers in overlapping regions.

But Mango said Buffalo Raceway's revenues began to decline precipitously in 2013 when Batavia Downs Gaming, which is 55 miles away and owned and operated by Western Regional OTB, built a bet-taking and race-streaming web portal.

The two tracks currently split the annual calendar in that region for live harness racing [Buffalo runs Jan. through mid-July; Batavia runs late July-Dec.]. But when Batavia is open "I don't receive one nickel of revenue, and my business ontrack has been reduced dramatically," Mango said.

Michael D. Kane, the president of Western Region OTB, did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment. But according to the Buffalo News, Batavia Downs' website revenues are up by \$1.3 million this year compared to 2014, an increase of 23 percent.

It also doesn't help business, Mango said, when "[New York Racing Association] opens accounts in my backyard and streams into it...I can't compete with Western Regional OTB, let alone [the] national {ADWs}," Mango said.

According to a Dec. 4 Buffalo News story that quoted Mango, Buffalo Raceway does not have a website to stream video or take bets because it can't afford one. In that same story, Mango

said he told the NYSGC back in March that he wouldn't be signing the streaming agreement again, although he emphasized last spring that he would be open to suggestions that could provide some relief for his track.

"I wasn't being mean or nasty. I just said I want to go back to the drawing board. And that's where it is," Mango said to TDN. "Apparently, the gaming commission has come out with a ruling that whatever their interpretation of the law was before is now being changed a little bit, and that's what I'm dealing with right now."

Mango continued: "I'm not angry. I'm not fighting. I'm just trying to understand what I have in the law that protects Buffalo Raceway, [because] that is no longer happening. I'm hopeful that everything is going to be worked out, but I am going to respond to the latest decision."

Park expressed similar optimism that the streaming situation would be resolved without disrupting signal streaming.

"The gaming commission continues to work with its licensees on this matter, as it has every year since 2010, and expects to bring it to a resolution in the very near future," Park said via phone.

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New York

Al Khali Retired to Keene Stud in New York:

MGSW and MGSP millionaire **Al Khali** (Medaglia d'Oro--Maya, by Capote) has been retired from racing and will stand at Keene Stud in New York for the 2016 season. The dark bay, who captured the GIII Saranac S. in 2009 and the GII Bowling Green H. in 2010, will stand for a fee of \$2,500.

Bred by Emory Hamilton in Kentucky, Al Khali amassed \$1,019,510 in earnings with a record of 41-8-5-5, primarily under the care of Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott. After beginning his career in Peru, he was brought to America for a brief stint with Todd Pletcher for WinStar Farm before being privately purchased by Brous Stable and Wachtel Stable.

Al Khali's full-brother, Japan, will also stand his first season in New York for a fee of \$7,500 at Waldorf Farm next year.

TODAY'S FEATURED VIDEO REPLAYS

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Fasig-Tipton

Lucy N Ethel (During) remains unbeaten at Parx.

► Eastern U.S.

Tuesday's Results:

3rd-PRX, \$63,740, Alw, 12-8, (NW1X), 2yo, f, 6f, 1:12.12, ft.
LUCY N ETHEL (f, 2, During--Kid Silver, by Silver Ghost) captured her state-breed debut here Nov. 16 and was hammered down to even-money favoritism for this first attempt against both winners and open company. Quickest away from the stalls, the dark bay ticked off opening splits of :22.54 and :46.33 while well clear of the field. Cruising further clear in the lane, she rolled home to a decisive 13 1/4-length victory over Little Cyclone (City Zip). The winner is a full to Jake N Elwood, SW, \$437,100; and a half to Hey Kiddo (Stonesider), SW, \$361,768. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$65,040. [Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)
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TODAY'S INSIGHTS

5th-GP, \$50K, Msw, 2yo, f, 6f, 2:35 p.m. ET

Ocala Stud homebred **BROADWAY GAL (Congrats)** makes her career bow in this spot for Gulfstream's 12-time leading trainer Todd Pletcher. Tabbed as the 5-2 morning-line favorite while exiting the 10-hole here, the dark bay is a half-sister to MGSW Golden Lad (Medaglia d'Oro); MGSW & GISP Broadyway's Alibi (Vindication); and MSW & GISP R Gypsy Gold (Bernardini). Her SW dam is a half-sister to GISW Dialed In (Mineshaft). Luis Duco is both the trainer and owner of fellow first timer **Tale of Preseli (Tale of Ekati)**. The bay is out of Irish and European Highweight and G1 Moyglare Stud S. winner Preseli (Ire) (Caerleon). [TJCIS PPs.](#)

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► Kentucky

Old Friends at Kentucky Downs Welcomes New Retirees:

Old Friends welcomed the new retirees **Lusty Latin** (El Prado {Ire}) and **Hussonfirst** (Hussonet) to its Kentucky Downs annex in Franklin, Kentucky, last week, the equine retirement organization announced Tuesday. Both retirees have spent time at Old Friends' primary facility in Georgetown.

Lusty Latin was a multiple stakes winner and banked over \$400,000 in 50 starts, while Hussonfirst showed talent in an

injury-shortened career before retiring to Old Friends as one of the youngest residents in 2008.

"Both have quickly taken to their new surroundings and love the lush paddocks and their beautiful view of the track," said farm manager Lisa Salmon. "They each have such kind demeanors too. They fit really well with the others and will thrive on the attention they will receive from fans taking the tours."

Old Friends at Kentucky Downs will be open to visitors from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day except Monday throughout the winter.

Kentucky Horse Council Holds Elections for 2016:

The Kentucky Horse Council elected its 2016 officers and directors at a Nov. 15 board meeting at the Rood & Riddle Conference Center, the organization announced Tuesday.

Erin Woodall will return to her position of president for the second year, while Kathy Hopkins was elected to serve a second one-year term as vice president. Dixie Hayes, the Program Coordinator and Instructor at the North American Racing Academy, was elected to her second term as secretary. Completing the quartet of officers, Demetria Kimball Mehlhorn was elected as treasurer following a previous stint as the chair of the Kentucky Horse Council Trails Committee.

The council also elected a number of new directors, which can be found at [www.kentuckyhorse.org](#).

"We are excited to add such a diverse group of new people to our Board of Directors and to have such strong leadership as the result of our elections," said Kentucky Horse Council Executive Director Katy Ross. "The expertise of the new directors, combined with the experience and leadership of the returning board members, will result in many important gains for the Kentucky Horse Council in 2016."

INDUSTRY INFO

ROAP Presents Pete Pedersen Awards:

The Racing Officials Accreditation Program (ROAP) has awarded five individuals with the 2015 Pete Pedersen Award, presented yearly to stewards who have made important contributions to the Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing industries, the organization announced Tuesday.

The award is named in honor of the longtime outstanding steward and noted journalist Pete Pedersen, who passed away in August 2012. Walter Blum, Barbara Borden, Dave Hicks, Leo O'Donnell and George Slender were recognized as recipients at the awards luncheon at the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program's Global Symposium on Racing and Gaming in Tucson, Arizona. [Cont. p5](#)

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**Karl Watson, Mike Pegram and
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Dubai Golden Shaheen (G1)**



"This is our second year of recognizing horse racing stewards for their dedication and contributions to our great sport," commented ROAP Chairman Hugh Gallagher. "This lady and these four gentlemen have excelled as career racing officials by bringing integrity, consistency and a commitment to a level playing field for all horsemen and women. Their passion and professional performance are great examples for stewards throughout the country."

ROOKIES

First-crop starters to watch: Wednesday, December 9

Sire (Sire's Sire), current farm, 2012 Fee, #foals of racing age/Winners/
BlackTypeWnrs * Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)

ATTEMPTED HUMOR (Distorted Humor), 9/2/0

7-DED, Alw, 7f, Devilish Humor, 6-1

D' FUNNYBONE (D'wildcat), Rockridge Stud, \$4K, 36/4/0

3-CT, Msw, 6 1/2f, Jalisco, \$8K OBS WIN 2yo, 15-1

FLAGSHIP (El Prado {Ire}), 9/1/0

3-MVR, Msw, 6f, Dontransomtheship, \$1,000 FTK OCT yrl, 30-1

GIANT OAK (Giant's Causeway), Millennium Farms, \$8K, 40/1/1

3-MVR, Msw, 6f, Tune Up, 15-1

GIROLAMO (A.P. Indy), Darley, \$15K, 87/17/1

2-AQU, Mcl, 1m, Legend of Lorelei, \$27K SAR AUG yrl, 9-5

HUNT CROSSING (Corinthian), 15/1/0

5-CT, Msw, 7f, Miss Be Good, 20-1

8-CT, Msw, 4 1/2f, Templar's Cross, 4-1

8-CT, Msw, 4 1/2f, Holey Molar, 6-1

INTERACTIF (Broken Vow), Red River Farms, 33/2/0

7-DED, Alw, 7f, So Sorry Ruston, \$7K TEX APR 2yo, 9-2

MIDNIGHT'S CHILD (Real Quiet), 1/0/0

5-CT, Msw, 7f, Prettiestjessyet, 20-1

VINEYARD HAVEN (Lido Palace {Chi}), Woodford Thoroughbreds, \$3K, 9/2/0

5-CT, Msw, 7f, Vino Rose Grand, 10-1

WILBURN (Bernardini), Spendthrift Farm, \$7K, 106/15/0

3-CT, Msw, 6 1/2f, Will to Go, \$25K OBS APR 2yo, 5-2

First/second-crop starters to watch: Wednesday, December 9

Sire (Sire's Sire), current farm, 2011 Fee, #foals of racing age/Winners/
BlackTypeWnrs * Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)

TALE OF EKATI (Tale of the Cat), Darby Dan Farm, \$15K, 129/44/2

5-GP, Msw, 6f, +Tale of Preseli, \$8K OBS OPN 2yo, 15-1



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BREEDERS' EDITION AMERICA

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-PRX, \$42,400, (S), 12-8, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:14.03, ft.

CONSUELA (m, 5, Stonesider--Zarzuela, by Seattle Slew)

Lifetime Record: 11-6-2-1, \$129,638. O-Barbara Hopkins; B-Cavanaugh Breen Farm LLC (PA); T-Ramon Preciado.

5th-PRX, \$42,200, (S), 12-8, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:44.26, ft.

ROCK ME AGAIN (f, 3, Rock Hard Ten--Tina's Goal, by El Corredor)

Lifetime Record: 9-2-4-1, \$119,767. O-Three Diamonds Farm & D A S L Stable; B-Russell B. Jones (PA); T-Todd A. Pletcher. *\$42,000 Ylg '13 FTKOCT; \$40,000 RNA 2yo '14 EASMAY. **1/2 to Gracer (Exchange Rate), MSW & GSP, \$243,000.

4th-MVR, \$27,700, (S), (NW3X)/Opt. Clm (\$20,000), 12-8, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:15.77, ft.

LA NINA BRONCA (f, 4, Cactus Ridge--Facts of Love {GISP, \$116,708}, by Known Fact)

Lifetime Record: 5-3-0-1, \$43,020. O-Kyle & Ralph Cooper; B-Meadow Springs Farm LLC (OH); T-Danny Werre.

6th-HAW, \$23,520, 12-8, (NW1\$X), 3yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f, 1:18.23, ft.

DUSTEM CAROLINA (f, 4, Devil His Due--Amanda's Deelite, by Proper Reality)

Lifetime Record: 27-6-8-3, \$77,653. O/B-Jack Guggisberg (NC); T-Percy E. Scherbenske.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Si El, g, 2, **Phone Home**--Way No, by Mt. Hot. ZIA, 12-8, (S), 4 1/2f, :52.50. B-Clifford C. Lambert (NM).

Telequest, g, 3, **Greeley's Conquest**--Telecaster, by Cactus Ridge. ZIA, 12-7, 6f, 1:10.18. B-Dream Walkin' Farms Inc. (KY).



February Sale

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op/ed by Kevin Blake



SHOULD BREATHING OPERATIONS BE DECLARED IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE BREED?

The debate over whether trainers should have to formally declare that their horse has had a breathing operation since their last run is not a new one, but the momentum behind such a move seems to be growing. Indeed, the British Horseracing Authority announced during the summer that they had started to formally consider the merits of the proposal.

This news was greeted with great enthusiasm from many followers of racing that take the view that there is no such thing as too much high-quality information. However, there was also plenty of negative comment from the training and breeding ranks amongst others.

First of all, it must be acknowledged that this is not a straightforward issue. There are many different types of breathing operations with greatly varying severities, thus it would be inappropriate to label them all under a single one-size-fits-all banner. This raises difficulties with defining what constitutes a breathing operation as well as presenting practical challenges in how they are reported. However, while there would be some challenges to overcome in collecting the data, there is a strong argument to be made that it will be more than worth the effort.

The collection of high-quality data allows informed conclusions to be drawn which leads to real progress being made and knowledge being expanded. There are so many variables in horse racing that people simply don't know how significant they are because of a resistance and/or unwillingness from the racing authorities to collect and publish accurate information. This simply has to change if the industry is to move forward and, such is the importance of it, perhaps the breathing operation issue is the one to kick start a wholesale change in attitude in this regard.

The reasons why this issue is so important are numerous. It has become a constant source of frustration for the racing/betting public to only find out that a horse has had a breathing operation just after they have won, information that would have been considered very significant had it been known pre-race. [cont. p2](#)

DEJA VU ALL OVER AGAIN

by Alan Carasso

My first trip to the International meeting came a decade and a half ago. I was two years into my tenure at the *TDN* and our then foreign editor, Howard Bass, got me interested. So, I booked a trip. On United, leaving on a Monday, connecting in Chicago, then on to Hong Kong. I have a tendency to make long stories longer, so I am going to spare you ALL the details, but a snowstorm that shut down O'Hare, in-flight turbulence on a rebooked flight from San Francisco that led to an overnight stay in Anchorage and a touchdown in Hong Kong about 72 hours late and scarcely 48 hours before the races, left a sour aftertaste. Sunline did make it worth the trip, though. [cont. p3](#)

in **TDN America** today...

DOWN THE SHEDROW WITH DALE ROMANS

Christie DeBernardis catches up with leading trainer Dale Romans, who provides updates on Grade I winners Brody's Cause & Keen Ice as well as a look ahead to the 2016 season.
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Kevin Blake OP/Ed cont.

Indeed, one can only guess at how many breathing operations go unreported win or lose. That being said, the significance of this issue extends well beyond the interests of the betting public. It is about perception, transparency, horse welfare and arguably most importantly, the best interests of the breed.

Given that we often only tend to hear about breathing operations after a horse has won, a perception has grown amongst many in the racing industry that such procedures are a highly-effective tool that all but guarantee an improvement in form. This has led to what seems a vast increase in the popularity of these procedures in the last decade, with it having become the norm for horses to have multiple breathing operations spread over a period of time.

This is precisely why it is so important that breathing operations are made declarable. It won't be until this information is made available that we will be in a position to crunch the numbers and draw objective conclusions as to the effectiveness of the procedures, which has the potential to benefit every stakeholder in the industry.

Perhaps such data will reveal that some breathing procedures are far more effective than others, information which will be beneficial to racing and veterinary professionals as well as racehorse owners. Who knows, maybe the data will reveal that some or maybe even all breathing operations are much less effective than had been thought and that they are a waste of owners' money, trainers' time and put horses through unnecessary and ineffective surgical procedures?

The biggest benefactors of breathing operations being made public are likely to be breeders, as it will empower them with significant new information that they can use to make more discerning breeding decisions.

One can only imagine that a colt that is retiring to stud that has had a breathing operation will be less valuable with that information in the public domain than he would in the current climate where such information is likely to be a closely guarded secret.

In the longer term, statistical trends are sure to emerge and perhaps certain stallions will be revealed as breeding a disproportionately high number of horses that go on to have breathing procedures, which will inevitably and quite rightly reduce the appeal of their progeny.

Likewise, fillies that have had breathing procedures are likely to be devalued as broodmare prospects and broodmares that throw horses that require breathing operations are likely to have their progeny viewed negatively as a result.

On the flip side, breeders that stand stallions and have broodmares that were clean-winded on the track and that breed clean-winded horses should welcome the collection of this sort of data with open arms, as it will offer them a new and attractive means to promote their horses and their progeny.

The possibilities are multi-stranded and important on many levels. We as an industry aren't just in the game of racing horses, we are cultivating a breed of animal that has been in constant development for over 300 years. Any information that helps us optimize the breed and weed out negative influences such as breathing problems is surely a no-brainer for any forward-thinking breeder/owner/trainer/vet?

Unfortunately, short-term commercial concerns will inevitably fuel resistance to this proposal from some racing professionals. Be it veterinarians preferring that the lofty anecdotal reputation of breathing operations remain untested by verifiable statistical analysis or racing professionals who do not wish to see racehorses, broodmares or stallions devalued by such information being in the public domain, there is sure to be negativity, including from some powerful sources.

However, such negativity is unwarranted. Indeed, I would suggest that such views are just the latest examples of the infuriating they-don't-need-to-know attitude from many stakeholders in racing that consistently holds back the sport from entering the 21st century.

I would dare to suggest that other than those that instinctively oppose any sort of change, and make no mistake there are plenty of those in positions of power in horse racing, the only people that are afraid of this information being made public are those that financially gain from the actual effectiveness of breathing operations remaining completely unverifiable in statistical terms and/or those that have something to hide with their horses.

As mentioned earlier, if the BHA or any other international racing authority are going to proceed with this, they need to do it correctly. For me, this would involve collecting as detailed information as possible so that detailed conclusions can be drawn from the data. Printing such specific information as the individual type of breathing operation in short form on a race card is unlikely to be practical, but what I would suggest is the use of an icon or letter to signify that a wind operation has been performed since the horse's last start, with the specific nature of the procedure being published online and made available to those that wish to know and/or analyze the data.

One can only hope that the BHA go ahead with this proposal and do it the right way. It will be a great day for the sport of horse racing in this part of the world when the authorities embrace progress and take it upon themselves to do everything they can to allow themselves and others to objectively examine every aspect of the sport in an effort to make it better. Getting this issue right would be a real step in the right direction.
Feedback: Kevin Blake at @kevinblake2011 (or garyking@thetdn.com).

ARQANA WRAPS UP WITH NH SESSION

The Arqana Breeding Stock Sale concluded Tuesday in Deauville with a strong National Hunt-focused session, leading to cumulative figures close to last year's record trade. A total of 686 horses changed hands over the four days for gross receipts of €26,606,100, good for an average of €37,825 (down 3% from 2014). The median rose 11.8% to €19,000. The clearance rate was 76.65% compared to 77.15% 12 months ago.

"We are very pleased with the results, which are so close to the record highs of 2014 despite a smaller catalogue on Saturday's select session," offered Arqana President Eric Hoyeau. "This sale is now firmly established on the international circuit and many major buyers from America, Japan, Australia and Europe have made it an absolute must-go on their agenda. We are lucky to be entrusted with high-quality stock, including from some vendors who exclusively sell at Arqana. Therefore, buyers have become aware that they are some bloodlines that can only be found in Deauville. This final sale of 2015 closes another record season for Arqana, with an overall turnover of €122,897,200, up for the fourth year running. Such achievements reflect the hard work of our vendors as well as the joint efforts of our team and the FRBC, who consistently ensure that buyers who attend our sales for the first time are guaranteed to return."

The priciest lot during Tuesday's session was leading National Hunt stallion **Network (Ger)** (Monsun {Ger}) ([lot 830D](#)). Offered by IFCE, the public entity that has taken over the former Haras Nationaux and will be dissolved at the end of the year, the 18-year-old garnered interest from a number of buyers, and ultimately brought €290,000 from David Powell. Powell noted that Network would remain in France, but said more details would be revealed at a later date.

Tuesday's gross was €2,344,5000, with an average of €21,314 and median of €11,500. The clearance rate was 70.51%.

For complete results, visit [Arqana.com](#).



Network | Arqana Photo



Deja Vu All Over Again cont.

Fast forward 15 years. Same (but different) carrier. Monday morning. Change planes at ORD. A 5 a.m. check of the Weather Channel App carried the fog icon for Chi-town. Well, I wasn't flying until 10 a.m., scheduled to land 11:30-ish, surely it'll burn off by then, right? Um, no. Curses. Foiled again. O'Hare is fogged in to the ground. After about 90 minutes, we push back, Captain J.D. (I think) gets on the horn and says, "Good news is we're on the plane. Bad news is..." The computers were glitchy and this was going to set us back some more. Shortly before that, I got a text that the flight from ORD-HKG had been delayed until 3. I could breathe easier. Until I couldn't. I was facing a 29-minute window to make the flight, ASSUMING (you know what happens when one assumes), all went well from there. Long story longer, it was still pea soup and I think we saw terra firma at about 800 feet crossing over Interstate 294, but we made it, and, in the lone stroke of luck, that flight docked at C18 and my flight was next door at C20. So, here we are, having traversed about 1300 of the 8000 miles, on a crash course with Santa, until we curve gently to the west.

All kidding aside, ever since that first trip, Hong Kong has been 'my thing.' I can't devote the energy to follow every Class 5 and every griffin, but I can hold my own at the top. It's no easy task to leave home during the holiday season, but pretty much since Designs on Rome touched off Military Attack last year, I wanted to make it over for 2015. And I am truly thrilled and excited to be here.

While I am a giant fan of the locals, I also pay a fair bit of attention to the international scene during the course of the year. Anything from the Dubai Carnival to The Championships, from Royal Ascot to the Melbourne Spring Carnival, Breeders' Cup, you get the drift. Each one of those is fantastic on its own. I'd happily soak up any one of them. I saw a tweet Monday that went something like 'unless Silent Witness shows up, I couldn't care less about HKIR.' Keeping in mind that I am seriously biased, the Longines Hong Kong International Races, the turf world championships, trumps all. Here's why. [cont. p4](#)



Australia's Criterion is one of nearly 30 equine visitors to Hong Kong this week
HKJC

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Deja Vu All Over Again cont.

While the Dubai World Cup program and Royal Ascot do attract a reasonable amount of foreign representation (Hong Kong has done its part in that vein, as has Australia—Scenic Blast, Starspangledbanner, Black Caviar, Brazen Beau, Criterion, etc.), a total of 56 horses were extended HKIR invites. Fully 33 of those were from overseas (a number now diminished by the withdrawals of Erupt, Trip to Paris, Ito and Lovelyn). Thirty-three. To me, that is just phenomenal and makes the HKIR THE melting pot of the world's international meetings.

What is even more surprising or encouraging or interesting or all of the above, is that the connections of these horses are



Toormore | HKJC

willing to try these races that have, by and large, been dominated by Hong Kong-based horses as far back as the eye can see. I'd obviously have to qualify that statement where it comes to the Vase, as the 'marathon' of the four races has been the domain of European invaders, bar the success of the locally trained Dominant two years ago. Even still, it is utterly fantastic that a world-class trainer like Chris Waller would send up Preferment to take a crack in a race that has never

really attracted Australasian 'stayers.' I understand that horses like Dunaden and Red Cadeaux contested the Melbourne Cup, as have others. And, while not Australian or Australian-trained even, it is great to see Aidan O'Brien represented in the Vase by GI Secretariat S. winner and G1 Cox Plate third Highland Reel. And what can you say about Cirrus des Aigles, making his seventh trip over for a sixth start in the same event where it all started at the tender age of three in 2009? In years past, a Ouija Board or a Flintshire would be difficult to oppose, but this year's Vase, for my money, is the most intriguing renewal for several years.

The locals have also maintained a stranglehold on the other three events, in broad terms. I am probably as psyched to see Able Friend in the flesh as any horse that will be entered to run this weekend and I really hope he's able to bounce back from a pretty luckless run in the G2 Jockey Club Mile. He's still more than likely to be odds-on come post time Sunday, but he will face a field much stronger than last year's. Japan's Maurice will have his fair share of backers, while the likes of Mondialiste, Esoterique and Toormore see fit to show up. I'll not be disappointed if the big chestnut prevails, but I'm taking a shot against him.

With reigning Sprint hero Aerovelocity sidelined, Gold-Fun looks the most dangerous in the Sprint and while horses like Penaphobia will have a chance to keep that trophy in Hong Kong, Japan's Straight Girl, Ireland's Sole Power and even the rare American entrants Mongolian Saturday and Green Mask add some color to the race.

Designs on Rome has every right to improve on his first-up effort behind Military Attack and Blazing Speed in the G2 Jockey Club Cup, but neither will this title defense be easy. The aforementioned Criterion, Australia's 'Iron Horse' will try to improve on his longshot third from last December, while compatriot Lucia Valentina is also in town, neither without a chance. Royal Ascot form is represented by the talented Free Eagle, while the Japanese have a good record in the Cup, and Staphanos, second to Blazing Speed in the QE II Cup and pointed for this since that effort last April, looks a sneaky contender, with Tenno Sho form that has proved strong.

So, sure, the trip was off to a rocky start. Hell, I had to deal with no Internet access on this long-haul segment of the journey (kinda wish someone had said something BEFORE we left so the people I promised I'd be in contact with--sorry, kids--could have been forewarned). But beginning with tonight's IJC at iconic Happy Valley and concluding with the races at the weekend, I really and truly could not be more juiced.

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GREEN MASK HEALTH CONCERN

The Wesley Ward-trained **Green Mask** (Mizzen Mast), who faces a rematch with GI Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint winner **Mongolian Saturday** (Any Given Saturday) in this weekend's G1 Longines Hong Kong Sprint, did not leave the quarantine

stable Tuesday morning and is being monitored for what amounts to a bruised foot, *South China Morning Post* reports in its Wednesday editions.

"I am not dealing with the horse but, having spoken to my colleague down in the quarantine stables who is, I

understand it is not a foot abscess but some bruising," Dr. Chris Riggs, the head of veterinary clinical services for the Hong Kong Jockey Club told *SCMP*. "The farrier has been in to reset the horse's shoe and the foot is being iced and will be looked after like that for a day or two and hopefully that will be enough to get him to the race," added Riggs, who said that he is 'reasonably confident' that Green Mask will take his place in the gates Sunday afternoon.

Green Mask earned his trip to Hong Kong with a solid third in the Turf Sprint, after striking a bit of traffic trouble on the turn. Joel Rosario will be in Hong Kong for the ride.

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Green Mask | HKJC photo

OZ CONTINGENT WORK IN ADVANCE OF HKIR

Australasia's Hong Kong contingent was active at Sha Tin Tuesday morning, with G1 Longines Hong Kong Cup hopefuls **Criterion (NZ)** (Sebring {Aus}) and **Lucia Valentina (NZ)** (Savabeel {Aus}) recording works, while G1 Longines Hong Kong Vase entrant **Preferment (NZ)** (Zabeel {NZ}) went out for a lengthy jog. A globetrotting MG1SW who was third in last year's edition, Criterion set fractions of :29.3, :29.5 and :23.5 before getting the 1200 meters in 1:22.3 over the turf track with regular jockey Craig Williams aboard. The strapping chestnut also schooled in the paddock.

"Very happy with him, especially as he was so relaxed compared to the last time he was here in April," commented Williams. "He quickened up nicely over the last 200 meters and he recovered in 30 seconds. Couldn't be happier with him."

The two-time

Group 1 winner Lucia Valentina completed a similar piece of work, getting her 1200 meters over the same surface in 1:21 even, before also checking out Sha Tin's paddock. She landed the G2 Matriarch S. at



Lucia Valentina | HKJC photo

Flemington last time Nov. 7.

"I was very pleased with her work this morning. She has eaten up well since she arrived and she's in good order," trainer Kris Lees said. "We understand she has a tough assignment on Sunday, but this race has been in the back of my mind for some time and she was back in form last start. This is obviously a rise in class on that [Flemington] win but she was wide that day, carried a big weight and returned the best closing sectionals of any horse in races at a mile or further on the day. A shower or two of rain would be a bonus for her."

Meanwhile G1 Victoria Derby and G1 Turnbull S. hero Preferment stretched his legs with a jog twice around the all-weather track.

"All good, a nice easy morning for him after yesterday's gallop," said trainer Chris Waller's assistant Joanne Taylor. "[We're] very happy."

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MAURICE, 'GIRL' SETTLING IN FOR HK TRIES

Maurice (Jpn) (Screen Hero {Jpn}), a winner of all five of his 2015 appearances, including the G1 Yasuda Kinen June 7 and the G1 Mile Championship Nov. 22, continued to settle in prior to a run in the G1 Longines Hong Kong Mile. The bay cantered over Sha Tin's all-weather track Tuesday.

"We had a smooth journey to Hong Kong," said work rider

Masanori Watanabe. "We just walked him around the stable area on Sunday and yesterday he was jogging in the exercise ring near our stable. He is not relaxed enough yet but he is settling in and his appetite is increasing. He will gallop on turf on Friday."

Dual Japanese Group 1 heroine **Straight Girl (Jpn)** (Fuji Kiseki {Jpn}) breezed 800 meters over the turf course in an easy :56.4, as she readies for the G1 Longines Hong Kong Sprint. She completed the trifecta in last year's edition.

"The last time she worked on the turf at Sha Tin was a year ago, so she was likely to be a little nervous, but it was no problem and we have no concern about her condition," said Kazuo Fujiwara, assistant to trainer Hideaki Fujiwara. "Jockey Keita Tosaki will give her a gallop on Thursday."

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TIMEFORM

Highest Timeform Annual Ratings for
Progeny of Galileo (Ire)

Horse	Foal Year	Rating
Frankel (GB)	2008	147
Rip Van Winkle (Ire)	2006	134
Australia (GB)	2011	132
New Approach (Ire)	2005	132
Soldier of Fortune (Ire)	2004	131
Cape Blanco (Ire)	2007	130
Intello (Ger)	2010	129
Nathaniel (Ire)	2008	129
Adelaide (Ire)	2011	128
Magician (Ire)	2010	128
Noble Mission (GB)	2009	128
Ruler of the World (Ire)	2010	128

Highest Timeform annual rated progeny of Galileo (Ire) through 2014. For more on Timeform, click [here](#).

STRATHMORE AIMS FOR SPRINT

Trainer Tony Millard sent out local champion Ambitious Dragon (NZ) (Pins {Aus}) to win the 2012 G1 Longines Hong Kong Mile and three years on, he looks to add another with the up-and-comer **Strathmore (Aus)** (Fastnet Rock {Aus}). A winner of five of his 12 starts in Hong Kong, but never of a higher grade than a Class 2, Strathmore encountered trouble in the running in the 1200-meter G2 BOCHK Wealth Management Jockey Club Sprint and could only manage sixth behind the reopposing **Gold-Fun (Ire)** (Le Vie Dei Colori {GB}) Nov. 21. Millard was undaunted by that performance and believes Strathmore has more to offer.

"It was a brilliant run last time when you consider he was severely interfered with at the start and raced second-last," said Millard. "Chad [Schofield] couldn't move, he couldn't do anything, he had to just wait behind horses, and he waited until the 150-meter mark before he could even start to ride him. He then rode him and he flew, so it was a brilliant run. With a bit of luck he would have definitely run in to the placings and might have won it."

Strathmore worked on the all-weather track Monday, getting his final 400 meters in :25.6.

"He's as well, if not better, continued Millard. "He's a young horse, he's a 4-year-old and he's improving, so there's always that scope. Every time he's running he's taking the step up. He did some faster work on Monday and we'll give him one more work on Friday and then he's set. I couldn't be happier with him. He has potential, he has the credentials and he's a horse on the up. He's in the race on merit and anything could happen. There are horses in the race that have been and done it before but are getting on and there are those that have never done it that might run a good race but that you can't see winning it. He's one of those improving horses that might win this race."

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GLORIOUS DAYS RETIRED

Glorious Days (Aus) (Hussonet--San Century {NZ}, by Centaine {Aus}), winner of the G1 Longines Hong Kong Mile in 2013 for Tom Brown's Syndicate, has been retired. The 8-year-old was beaten in six races following his Group 1 success two years ago and was sent from John Size's stable in Hong Kong to Ed Walker in Newmarket in an attempt to rekindle the gelding's enthusiasm for racing.

However, Glorious Days misbehaved at Kempton on his first run for Walker and new owner Mrs. A. Yap last month. Reluctant to race, he unseated his rider shortly after the start. In addition to his Mile victory, the dark bay also won the 2012 G2 Jockey Club Mile and was runner-up in that term's G1 Longines Hong Kong Mile and G1 BMW Champions Mile. Glorious Days retires with a record of 24-8-5-1 and amassed \$4,246,334 in prize money.

"We're going to call it a day with him and retire him," said Walker. "The trainer in Hong Kong, John Size, said the horse had lost his way and his love of the game and that was pretty evident with his behavior at Kempton.

He's been looking great and working well, he just hasn't the heart to race anymore. He deserves his retirement. The plan was to bring him over here to freshen him up and maybe he could regain his form and go to Dubai, but if it didn't work out he'd be in a nice place to have a good retirement. We haven't finalized where he will go yet."



Glorious Days | HKJC photo

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Tuesday, San Isidro, Argentina

GRAN PREMIO COPA DE PLATA-ARQUITECTO ROBERTO VASQUEZ MANSILLA-G1, AR\$1,360,000 (US\$140,103), 12-8, San Isidro, 3yo/up, f&m, 2000Tm, 1:59.45, fm.

1-SOBRADORA INC (ARG), 120, f, 3, by [Include](#)

1st Dam: Stormy Soberly (Arg), by Bernstein

2nd Dam: Forty Sobria (Arg), by Roar

3rd Dam: Shy Suertuda (Arg), by Shy Tom

O-Stud Triunvirato; B-Haras La Biznaga (Arg); T-Roberto Bullrich; J-Fabricio Barroso. Lifetime Record: 4-4-0-0.

AR\$800,000. Werk Nick Rating: A+++. *Triple Plus*. Click for the [eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree](#).

2-Orcada Sale (Arg), 132, f, 4, Not For Sale (Arg)--Orcada (Arg), by Orpen. O-Stud E.A.B.; B-Haras Arroyo de Luna (Arg); T-Juan J. Martinez. AR\$280,000.

3-La Terucca (Arg), 132, f, 4, Perfectperformance--Soy Maja (Arg), by Lucky Roberto. O-Stud Chelsea; B-Eduardo Luther (Arg); T-Carlos D. Etchehoury. AR\$160,000.

Margins: 3/4, NK, NK. 3.40, 2.85, 14.10.

Also ran: Kalitheia (Arg), Feet First (Arg), Mantera Rye (Arg), Eva Vision (Arg), Perpetual Light (Arg), Mozilla (Arg), Vivencial (Arg).

Click for the [San Isidro result](#), or the [free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree](#). [San Isidro Video](#).

BRITAIN

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Tuesday's Result:

2nd-SOU, £6,000, Mdn, 12-8, 2yo, 7f (AWT), 1:28.19, st.
+YATTWEE (g, 2, Hard Spun--Alzerra {UAE} {GSW-Eng, \$115,160}, by Pivotal {GB}), sent off the 11-4 second favorite, chased the pace in third early. Gaining a head of steam on the turn into the stretch, the homebred overhauled Always Welcome (Elusive Quality) with 1 1/2 furlongs furlong remaining and drew away to score with authority by 4 1/2 lengths. The winner is a half-brother to Majeyda (Street Cry {Ire}), MSW & MGSP-Eng, \$113,027 and the dam has a foal full-brother to that talented filly. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$5,843. [Video](#), [sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-Godolphin; B-Darley (KY); T-Saeed bin Suroor.

OBSERVATIONS

on today's European racing scene

4.40 Kempton, Mdn, £6,600, 2yo, 8f (AWT)

HERMITAGE BAY (War Front) debuts for Derrick Smith, Susan Magnier and Michael Tabor and John Gosden on the Polytrack so often used by the stable to introduce its nicer juveniles. Costing \$750,000 as a foal at Keeneland, the bay is a half-brother to the GII Demoiselle S. winner Dixie City (Dixie Union) from the family of the champion Dehere (Deputy Minister).

5.10 Kempton, Mdn, £6,600, 2yo, 8f (AWT)

KHOR AL UDAID (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) is another Gosden newcomer who made a serious impact at auction, being a 680,000gns TATOCT purchase by Al Shaqab Racing. The half-brother to the 2011 G3 Prix la Force winner and G1 Prix du Jockey Club third Baraan (Fr) (Dalakhani {Ire}) out of a half to last year's GI Diana S. heroine Somali Lemonade (Lemon Drop Kid), is one of a dozen lining up for the second division of this maiden.

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FRANCE

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ALLOWANCE RESULT:

4th-MRV, €18,000, 12-8, 2yo, 7f (AWT), 1:29.98, st.
ZENAT (FR) (f, 2, Rock of Gibraltar {Ire}--Zanet {Fr} {SP-Fr}, by Enrique {GB}) Lifetime Record: 5 starts, 2 wins, 3 places, €23,900. O/B-Jean-Claude Seroul; T-Frederic Rossi.

Italy

Tuesday's Results:

CRITERIUM DELL'IMMACOLATA-Listed, €41,800, SRA, 12-8, 2yo, 7fT, gd.
1--#ETERNITY STAR (Ire), 121, f, 2, Baltic King (GB)--Bacchanalia (Ire), by Blues Traveller. (€3,500 2yo '15 GORMAY). O-Leonardo Ingoglia & Antonella Pavoncelli; B-Tally Ho Stud (Ire); T-Pippo Cannarella; J-Giuseppe Cannarella. €16,150. Lifetime Record: 4-4-0-0 €29,750.
2--Saint Steven (Ire), 124, 2, c, Art Connoisseur (Ire)--Maridiyma (Ire), by Sinndar (Ire). (€5,500 yrl '14 TISSEP). O-Rob & Mar Adventures. €7,180
3--Desilva (Ire), 124, 2, c, Zebedee (GB)--Red Trance (Ire), by Soviet Star. (€8,500 yrl '14 TISSEP). O-Sebastiano Guerrieri. €3,876.

Margins: 3/4, 3, 1HF. Odds: 1.64, 7.44, 2.12.
 Also Ran: Irishman Mark (Ire), Dinasty D'Or (Ity), Critical Mass (Ire), Monster Legend (Ire), Supergulp (ity), Blue Prince (Ity), Madame Baaria (Ire), Nerval (Hun), Pair Ou Impair (Ire), Edo's Force (Ity), Stella Di Beatrice (Ity), Drill Bit (Ire).

Australasia

Inglis December Thoroughbred Sale Entries Finalized:

A total of 213 lots will be offered at the Inglis December Thoroughbred Sale Dec. 11 after an additional 72 supplementary entries were received, it was announced Tuesday. Broodmares will begin the single session sale, followed by supplementary broodmares, yearlings unbroken stock and finally racing stock. Darley offers 19 lots, while Contract Racing, Ken King Thoroughbreds, Lindsay Park Racing and Woodside Park will also offer promising stock. Stakes winners **Pressing (Aus)** (Sebring {Aus}) ([lot 183](#)) and **Storm Approach (Aus)** (Purrealist {Aus}) ([lot 176](#)) were among the supplemental entries. The sale will start at 11:00 a.m. local time at the Inglis' Oaklands sales complex in Melbourne. For more information and the complete catalogue, go to www.inglis.com.au.

Catalogue Available

The catalogue for the 329-strong Magic Millions Perth Yearling Sale, scheduled for Feb. 15-16, is now available at www.magicmillions.com.au