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BANNER WEEKEND FOR AWESOME OF COURSE



Awesome Banner | Leslie Martin

by Andrew Caulfield

When Awesome of Course retired to stud at the end of 2003, hardly anyone took any notice. His services were priced at only \$2,500 at Jubilee Farm near Citra in Florida, the state in which he had gained four of his five successes, but even so he succeeded in attracting only 10 mares, for eight named foals.

His connections' belief that he could make the grade as a stallion no doubt owed a lot to his being a product of the acclaimed La Troienne family. His third dam was the champion mare Straight Deal, whose own third dam was La Troienne. Straight Deal's record is a reminder that they don't make 'em like that anymore. In a 99-race career, this daughter of Hail to Reason won 21 times, including eight of her 22 starts during her championship season. Straight Deal still had time to produce three stakes winners, plus Awesome of Course's second dam Affirmatively, who also ranks as the second dam of the GI Breeders' Cup Turf winner Dangerous Midge.

Awesome of Course may have had the bloodlines, but I am guessing that he lacked the size many American breeders look for. Although he was listed as 15.3 hands in the 2011 *Thoroughbred Times* Stallion Directory, I notice that he was later described as 15.1 hands in the *Blood-Horse Register*. There's no mention of his height on the website of his new base, Ocala Stud.

Cont. p6

AIROFORCE TO MISS SAM DAVIS

by Jessica Martini

John Oxley's **Airoforce** (Colonel John) will bypass an expected start in the Feb. 13 GIII Sam F. Davis S. at Tampa Bay Downs with a minor illness, trainer Mark Casse confirmed Monday. The gray colt, off since winning the Nov. 28 GII Kentucky Jockey Club S., worked five furlongs at Palm Meadows Sunday in 1:00.25 (2/32).

"He worked good and he galloped out decent, but after the work when he was cooling out, he just had his head down and he had white mucous running out of both nostrils," Casse said. "When we scoped him, he had a fair amount of mucous, so we put him on some antibiotics and it is just going to take him a few days. We started him on them yesterday and today he was already jumping around and acting well."

Cont. p3

in **TDN Europe** today...

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Dear Breeders,

WINSTAR

February 2, 2016

Here is a question for you: Why is it that the most obvious young stallions don't always make the best sires? When Tapit went to stud, I am sure he was overlooked by his more fashionable classmates of 2005. When Distorted Humor went to stud for \$12,500 in 1999, I remember Coronado's Quest was everyone's pick, and Distorted Humor was left to claw his way to stardom.

Nobody expected More Than Ready to be an international superstar and champion sire of sires when he retired in 2001. But 20 G1 winners and over 150 blacktype winners later, he is one of the most respected stallions in the world. As they say, hindsight is 20/20. What a great success it was for those who **dared** to support him from the start.

It is easy to look backwards, but not as easy to be bold and look to the future. I have a feeling about a young stallion we are standing this year named **Daredevil**. I believe in him because he was an exceptional two-year-old. In fact, he is the fastest two-year-old since Uncle Mo. Brilliant is a term that is thrown around for these types, but **Daredevil's** victory in the Champagne S. (G1) places him firmly in that category:

- **107 Beyer** (fastest Beyer ever recorded at a mile by a juvenile)
- **-2 Thoro-Graph** (fastest by a juvenile since Jerry Brown started making speed figures 20 years ago)
- **4 ¼ Ragozin** (faster than Uncle Mo, Scat Daddy, etc. in the Champagne)

When we look back at the class of 2015 a few years from now, I believe we are going to see an exceptional group of sires. The question is: Who will leave their mark?

I'm betting on **Daredevil**, which is why we're supporting him heavily. He already has 110 + mares in his first book, and aside from WinStar, other key shareholders such as SF Bloodstock, Fred Hertrich, Hargus and Sandra Sexton, and China Horse Club are supporting him, with the mission of doing everything possible to give **Daredevil** the best opportunity.

Dare to join us?



Elliott Walden
President/CEO & Racing Manager
WinStar Farm



DareDevil

More Than Ready - Chasethewildwind, by Forty Niner | Fee: \$12,500 S&N

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in this issue...



Zoe Cadman has the latest on undefeated champion 2-year-old Nyquist, as well as Mor Spirit, Exaggerator, Collected and GI BC Juvenile runner-up Swipe. [youtube.com/watch?v=hdAt-pxEBGo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdAt-pxEBGo).

Nyquist | Horsephotos

DORTMUND TO SKIP SAN ANTONIO

3

MGISW Dortmund (Big Brown) will miss his expected start in Saturday's GII San Antonio S.

CATALANO SOPHOMORES ON THE RISE

4

Trainer Wayne Catalano sent out a pair of impressive maiden winners for Gary and Mary West over the weekend, with 'TDN Rising Star' Malibu Sunset (Bernardini) leading the way.

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The province of Ontario has posted five job openings for positions on its newly created Horse Racing Appeal Panel.

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Airoforce to Miss Sam Davis (cont. from p1)

Airoforce could be re-routed to the Feb. 15 GIII Southwest S. at Oaklawn Park or the Mar. 5 GIII Gotham S., according to Casse, who wasn't overly concerned with the detour.

"We had always said that things had to go perfect for us to run in the Sam Davis and we just didn't think this was perfect enough," Casse explained. "He has a lot of racing in him already, so it's not that big a deal."

Airoforce has won three of four starts, with his only loss a runner-up effort in the Oct. 30 GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. The colt captured the GIII Bourbon S. at Keeneland in his second start. His win over a sloppy Churchill track in the Kentucky Jockey Club was his first start over the dirt.

The same illness that knocked Airoforce out of consideration for the Sam Davis could also have affected stablemate **Conquest Big E** (Tapit), who ran fourth behind Mohaymen (Tapit) in Saturday's GII Holy Bull S.



Airoforce | Coady Photography

"He struggled," Casse said of Conquest Big E. "I don't know if it's because he was under the weather a little bit. But after the race, he had some serious, almost heatstroke. And the day after, he was very, very dull. We just started treating with antibiotics today, too because he was acting like he was getting sick."

As for future targets for Conquest Big E, Casse said, "One thing we'll look for is maybe cooler weather somewhere. Possibly New Orleans or the Gotham and they may end up running against each other."

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DORTMUND TO SKIP SAN ANTONIO

Kaleem Shah's **Dortmund** (Big Brown), off since winning the Nov. 28 GIII Native Diver S., will miss an expected start in Saturday's GII San Antonio S.

"Dortmund is going to skip the race," trainer Bob Baffert confirmed Monday. "He is just not ready yet."

Dortmund, winner of last year's GI Santa Anita Derby and third in the GI Kentucky Derby, had been expected to make his 2016 debut in the Jan. 9 GII San Pasqual S., but missed that engagement after missing training time due to a quarter crack. In his most recent work, the 4-year-old went five furlongs at Santa Anita Jan. 27 in :59.40.

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MALIBU SUNSET LEADS 'RISING' CATALANO SOPHOMORES *by Ben Massam*

Any doubts about the depth of trainer Wayne Catalano's 3-year-old ranks were laid to rest this past weekend after a series of promising debut performances, none more impressive than **Malibu Sunset** (Bernardini)'s 'TDN Rising Star' effort at the Fair Grounds Sunday.

Bet down to 9-5 favoritism, the Gary and Mary West colorbearer asserted himself immediately, opening up a clear advantage from the outset and storming home to annex the six-furlong event by 10 1/2 lengths [VIDEO]. Malibu Sunset earned a gaudy 92 Beyer Speed Figure for his performance.

"We were pretty high on him going into the race," Catalano acknowledged. "But, obviously, running that big of a race and coming back with that kind of number is exciting."

Catalano recalled that, although Malibu Sunset and stablemates **Major League** (Malibu Moon) and **American Pioneer** (Awesome Again) were not race-ready by the Dec. 21 deadline for Early Bird nominations to the GII Louisiana Derby in late March, he had confidence that the talented trio had distinguished themselves from his other 3-year-olds.



Malibu Sunset | Lou Hodges Jr.

"We nominated three horses to the Early Bird nominations to the Louisiana Derby, and [Malibu Sunset] was one of them," said the trainer. "We knew he could run a little bit. I think his pedigree says he can [stretch out]."

Malibu Sunset's half-brother, Thunder Moccasin (A.P. Warrior), won both of his two starts with Beyers of 97 and 93--including a score in the GII Hutcheson S. in 2012. With the Mar. 26 Louisiana Derby looming less than two months ahead on the horizon, Catalano recognized that it is important to develop a plan for his colt in the near future.

"What we'll do is let him recuperate from his race, and I'll talk it over with Benny Glass, racing manager for Gary and Mary West, and we'll talk to the Wests and set up a plan for him," Catalano continued. "We'll definitely stretch him out sooner rather than later."

One day before Malibu Sunset trounced his competition in New Orleans, the trainer sent out the Wests' Major League to a rallying 3 1/2-length debut score some 300 miles to the northwest at Oaklawn Park [VIDEO].

Cont. p5

"Just chills up and down the back."

- Rick Nichols

Shadwell Stable's MOHAYMEN lived up to his name as a \$2.2 million co-sale topper from 2014 Keeneland September when consigned by his breeder, Clearsky Farms.

Dominant, he remains unbeaten in four starts after a victory in the Holy Bull S. (G2) and has established himself as a leading contender on the Kentucky Derby Trail.

KEENELAND 



Malibu Sunset’s sweeping bid to the front was decidedly eye-catching, and Catalano said he is pleased to see his initial impressions of his 3-year-olds proven correct.

“Major League was [also] one of the three we nominated-- those two, and the other horse who got beaten a nose over at Oaklawn, American Pioneer,” explained Catalano. “They were the only three colts that I nominated to the Early Bird.”

American Pioneer came up a length shy of Dazzling Gem (Misremembered) after steadying to avoid an injured foe when runner-up in his Jan. 16 unveiling at Oaklawn. Catalano said he will be back in the entry box soon with an eye to more important races down the line.

“We’re excited about those [maiden winners] and American Pioneer, who we thought had the same kind of talent,” concluded Catalano. “One of those three, hopefully, will get us on the road.”

The conditioner added that he also has high hopes for a fourth member of the West family stable, **Talk Show** (Smart Strike), who finished second on debut in Hot Springs Sunday. The 3-year-old filly--a half-sister to Saturday’s GIII John B. Connally Turf Cup hero Da Big Hoss (Lemon Drop Kid)--rallied from well back and crossed the wire a neck behind a more experienced rival.

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IN OTHER NEWS...

A Daily Roundup of Racing Articles in Non-Industry Media

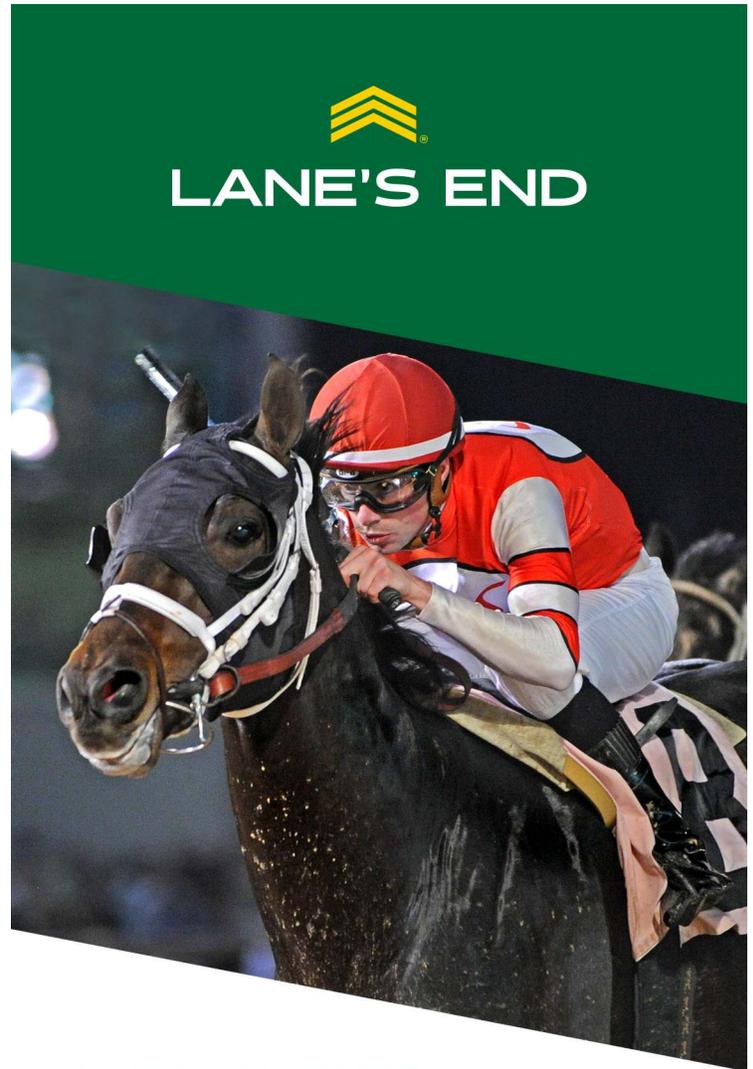
[As Family Helped Build Betting System, It Witnessed Horse Racing History](#) Late Sunday afternoon, when the tote board went dark after the final race of the day at Aqueduct Racetrack, Pat Mahoney called it a career, one he has cherished and one that has been part of his family history for more than a century.
Joe Drape, New York Times

[Desoute Climate Change In Macau, Louis XIII VIP Palace Plans Persist](#) Louis XIII Holdings sent out a news release about L’Ambroisie, the Michelin three-star restaurant that will have its first branch at forthcoming Louis XIII casino hotel in Macau.
Muhammad Cohen, Forbes

[Video of Jim Rome’s keynote address at Thoroughbred Owner Conference](#) www.americasbestracing.net

TDN TODAY

Headline News..... 8 pages



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PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

by Andrew Caulfield



Banner Weekend for Awesome of Course *(cont. from p1)*

Although he has mainly been based in Florida, Awesome of Course has stood at a variety of studs, including Rising Hill Farm, Legend Farm in Oklahoma and Journeyman Stud.

For a long time he continued to struggle for support. He covered just nine mares in 2009, in his sixth year in Florida, and he was credited with having been bred to a total of only 70 mares in that time, for 47 live foals. His 2010 season in Oklahoma yielded just two live foals, though the Jockey Club states that he covered 23 mares.

Thankfully that proved to be just a temporary blip, as it was the 2010 racing season which finally put Awesome of Course on the map, thanks to his outstanding champion 2-year-old daughter Awesome Feather.



Awesome Feather | A Coglianese

Graduating from the Florida Stallion stakes series, Awesome Feather landed the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies to take her record to a perfect six for six. Her connections immediately capitalized on the filly's burgeoning reputation, selling her to Frank Stronach for \$2.3 million at Fasig-Tipton.

Because of a tendon injury, Awesome Feather managed only five starts for her new owner, but she won four of them, including the GI Gazelle S. over a mile and an eighth at three and the Florida Sunshine Millions Distaff S. at four.

Stronach sold her on in 2013, when she was bought by Katsumi Yoshida for \$1.9 million, carrying a filly by Medaglia d'Oro. She also now has a yearling colt by the outstanding Deep Impact.

Needless to say, Awesome Feather's exploits opened a new chapter in her sire's story. Moved to Journeyman Farm for 2011, with his fee increased from \$1,750 to \$5,000, he covered 46 mares for 31 live foals. Then the stallion began to enjoy a remarkable run of success with his 2009 crop, even though it contained only 10 foals. Fort Loudon took the Dr Fager, Affirmed and In Reality legs of the Florida Stallion series, with Redbud Road taking the Desert Vixen and Awesome Belle the My Dear Girl.

Cont. p7

CLASS: Defeated a very strong field to win the BC Turf-Gr.1

SPEED: Won the Irish 2,000 Guineas-Gr.1 by 3½ lengths

VALUE fee:
\$10,000

MAGICIAN

CLASS: One of the best sons of the world's best sire GALILEO

SPEED: Out of a 6f. Stakes winning daughter of a champion sprinter

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A M E R I C A

Clearly Awesome of Course wasn't just a one-hit wonder, and his wider success on the track translated into stronger support. At the age of 12 in 2012, he finally covered his first three-figure book, siring 63 live foals from 106 mares. Fellowship (third in Mohaymen's Gil Holy Bull S.) became the crop's first stakes winner when he took last year's In Reality S. Now Awesome Banner has become his sire's fourth graded winner, thanks to his successes in the GIII Hutcheson S. and Gil Swale S.

AWESOME BANNER, c, 2013

Awesome of Course	Awesome Again	Deputy Minister	Vice Regent Mint Copy
		Primal Force	Blushing Groom (Fr) Prime Prospect Northern Dancer
	Mais Oui	Lyphard	Goofed
		Affirmatively	Affirmed Straight Deal
Miranda Stands 3-0-1-0, \$10,200 7Fls, 1GSW, 1SP	Zamindar	Gone West	Mr. Prospector Secrettame
		Zaizafon	The Minstrel Mofida (GB)
	Record Stands 43-7-5-7, \$50,551 11Fls, 1SW 1SP	American Standard	In Reality Too Bald
	On Record 6Fls, 3Wnrs		Florida State Three Tees

It is going to be interesting to see how much stamina Awesome Banner possesses. He has already set a track record over 4 1/2 furlongs before easing to graded victories over six and seven furlongs. His trainer Stanley Gold is talking about two turns, which may well be within the colt's capabilities, but how far he'll make it along the road to the GI Kentucky Derby is open to question.

Although his sire Awesome of Course was one of the first winners to represent the GI Breeders' Cup Classic hero Awesome Again, he showed none of his sire's stamina. All three of his stakes successes were gained at around six furlongs.

There may also be a clue or two in the records of previous winners of the Swale S., which has oscillated between Grade II and Grade III status over the years. Last year's winner Ready For Rye proved to be a sprinter and the same could be said of a lot of other Swale winners, such as Trinniberg (GI Breeders' Cup Sprint), Lost in the Fog (GI King's Bishop S.), Midas Eyes (GI Forego H.), D'Wildcat (GI Frank J. De Francis Memorial), Trippi (GI Vosburgh S.) and Yes It's True (another winner of the GI Frank J. De Francis Memorial).

Awesome Banner is a true Florida-bred, even though his female line traces to Teresina, one of the Aga Khan foundation mares. *Cont. p8*

CROSS TRAFFIC

Brilliant winner of Saratoga's Whitney H. (G1) in first start around two turns.



Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner
MUCHO MACHO MAN

Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner
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Awesome Banner's third dam On Record (a half-sister to the Widener H. winner Vertee) even has a sire named Florida State and his second dam Record Stands, a granddaughter of In Reality, was inbred 4x3 to the Florida stalwart Rough'n Tumble.

Awesome Banner's broodmare sire Zamindar was imported to Florida from England after a health issue had forced him to miss most of the 2000 season, in his third season at stud. He spent 2001 and 2002 in Florida, without siring anything of note, but was returned to England after his Classic-winning brother Zafonic died in an accident in the summer of 2002.

Another compelling reason for Zamindar's return to England was the success of his first-crop daughter Zenda in the 2002 G1 Poule d'Essai des Pouliches. Zenda proved to be the first of five Group 1-winning daughters of Zamindar, others being the Aga Khan's top miler Darjina and his brilliant Arc winner Zarkava.

These are potentially exciting times for Zamindar's broodmare daughters. Zenda's son Kingman was Cartier Horse of the Year in 2014 and then last year's G1 Prix du Jockey-Club was won by New Bay, another out of a Zamindar mare. Zarkava's broodmare career may also be about to take off, as her Dubawi colt Zarak looked something special when he made a winning debut at Deauville last October.

And now the lightly raced Miranda Stands has produced a Grade II winner in Awesome Banner. Although second was the best that Miranda Stands could achieve, she is a half-sister to Scrubs, a durable sprint stakes winner in Florida. She now has four winners from four runners and also has a 2014 colt by Awesome of Course. The important aspect of her pedigree is that she is a granddaughter of Gone West, who also figures as the broodmare sire of Awesome Feather, so more Gone West-line mares should be heading in Awesome of Course's direction.

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MARY ALEX, 14, Honour and Glory--Hedge Ratio, by Unbridled Foal born Jan. 25, a colt by Tapizar. Will be bred back to Uncle Mo. Owned by Alex & JoAnn Lieblong. Boarded at Diamond A. Accomplishments: GSP.

STAGED AFFAIR, 10, Not For Love--Colonial Stage, by Pleasant Colony Foal born Jan. 25, a colt by Jump Start. Will be bred back to Elusive Quality. Owned by D. Hatman Thoroughbreds. Boarded at Thornmar, Chestertown, MD. Accomplishments: MSW, \$193,287.

IT'S A BOY! OR A GIRL!

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Sarah K. Andrew photo

A # will distinguish first-time stakes-winners, a @ will indicate first-time graded stakes-winners, a & will denote a first-time Grade/Group 1 winner, a + will indicate first-time starters, an (S) will be used for state-bred races, a (C) will be used for maiden-claiming races and an (R) will be used for other restricted races. NB will denote non-black-type stakes.

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ONTARIO SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR NEW APPEALS PANEL *by T.D. Thornton*

The province of Ontario posted five job openings Jan. 29 in an effort to fill a newly created Horse Racing Appeal Panel (HRAP) that will be mandated to hear appeals on all Thoroughbred and Standardbred in-race and drug violation rulings made by stewards and judges starting Apr. 1.

When the province’s lawmakers passed the omnibus Budget Measures Act of 2015 Dec. 10, one of the bill’s components integrated the operations of the Ontario Racing Commission with the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO).

According to a notice posted on the AGCO website, “The recently passed Horse Racing Licence Act, 2015 will cause a significant change in the way appeals of horse racing decisions are adjudicated in Ontario....The newly formed Horse Racing Appeal Panel will be a central component of a new adjudication model for Ontario’s horse racing industry promoting effective and independent regulation to uphold public confidence in the honesty and integrity of horse racing in the province.”

Licensing appeals will be kept separate from the appeals of infractions that will be heard by the new HRAP. The granting, renewal, suspension, or revocation of Ontario racing licenses will now be transferred to an entity called the Licence Appeal Tribunal.

The HRAP will consist of five part-time members, including a chairperson.

The job postings on the AGCO website include a description that reads, in part: “Applicants should exhibit superior judgment and understanding of the impact of the matters before them and their appeal decisions on the integrity of the sport and its participants generally. Cases often have a technical scientific focus involving banned or performance-enhancing substances making an understanding of these topics a definite asset. Applicants with pharmacological, medical, veterinarian, or general scientific knowledge would be a definite asset. A background in general governance, law or sports officiating is desirable as well.”

The jobs are based in Toronto. The chair position is advertised at a day rate of \$627 CAD (\$450 USD). The member positions pay \$398 CAD (\$285 USD). Applications will be accepted through Feb. 11.



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Congratulations to last week’s JockeyTalk360.com Jockey of the Week Joel Rosario, who won three graded stakes at two tracks over the weekend. At Gulfstream Park Saturday, Rosario was aboard Cathryn Sophia (Street Boss) for her win in the GII Forward Gal S. and Pricedtoperfection (Temple City), who won the Sweetest Chant S. Saturday night, Rosario rode Forever Unbridled (Unbridled’s Song) to victory in the GIII Houston Ladies Classic at Sam Houston.

Eastern U.S.

Monday’s Results:

6th-LRL, \$42,520, Msw, 2-1, 3yo, 1m, 1:43.20, gd.

GWYNN OAK PARK (c, 3, [Candy Ride {Arg}](#)--Maxine's Hymn, by Seeking the Gold) rallied into a slow pace and finished second, beaten a half-length, on debut in a 5 1/2-furlong dash here Jan. 3. Backed down to 3-5 favoritism for this first try at an extended distance, the bay was squeezed back soon after the start and remained well behind as Colmont Fire (Friesan Fire) led through a half-mile in :47.74. Gwynn Oak Park commenced a prolonged rally on the turn, hit the front in midstretch and reported home two lengths ahead of the pacesetter. The winner, a \$90,000 KEESEP yearling, has a juvenile-half brother named Data Room (Union Rags). Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$31,200. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).**

O-Harry C. & Tom O. Meyerhoff; B-W. S. Farish & E.J. Hudson, Jr. Irrevocable Trust (KY); T-Michael J. Trombetta.



Central U.S.

Monday’s Results:

6th-HOU, \$19,000, Msw, 2-1, 3yo, 6f, 1:11.80, ft.

+WOODY'S FAULT (c, 3, [Broken Vow](#)--Cohiba Miss {SW, \$141,325}, by Cat Thief) spent the latter half of the autumn working at the Fair Grounds and relocated to Texas ahead of the 2016 season to finalize his preparations for this career unveiling. Tabbed as the 3-2 favorite, Woody’s Fault dueled with Affirming (Affirmatif) through a quarter-mile in :23.69, continued to lock horns with that rival into deep stretch and got his neck down on the wire for the victory. The winner is a full to Lady Cohiba, MSW, \$331,725. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$11,340. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#).**

O/B-Mike G. Rutherford (KY); T-Steven M. Asmussen.

El Prado – Fun House, by Prized

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First-crop 3yo colt

CHERRY WINE



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"PADDY O'PRADO is going to be a good sire. I have several of them, and Cherry Wine will be on the Derby Trail in his next start, he's that kind. He reminds me a lot of his sire, just a very, very talented athlete and getting better and better every time I run him. We've always been high on him."

—Dale Romans, trainer of
Paddy O'Prado & Cherry Wine



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ROOKIES

First/second-crop starters to watch: Tuesday, February 2

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

UNCLE MO (Indian Charlie), Ashford Stud, \$35K, 261/31/7
10-HOU, Msw, 6f, +Tiffany Case, \$34K E '15 KEE NOV, 5-1

Friends Stable, Wonderland Racing Stables & Robert Cspelo;
B-Gary & Marlene Howard (CA); T-Doug F. O'Neill.

4th-HOU, \$21,000, 2-1, (NW1LX), 3yo, 7f, 1:24.32, ft.

MOYAHUA (MEX) (c, 3, Famous Again--Marthas Gift {Mex}, by Discover) Lifetime Record: 6-2-2-1, \$40,880. O/B-Rancho Pozo de Luna (MEX); T-Kari Craddock. *1/2 to Diamante Negro (Mex) (Election Day {Ire}), Ch. 2yo colt-Mex. & SW-Pan., \$427,329.

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IN JAPAN:

Jonker, c, 3, Exchange Rate--Back in the Shade (SP-US, \$117,580), by Put It Back. Tokyo, 1-30, Alw, 6 1/2f. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$64,463. O-Kazumi Yoshida; B-Machmer Hall & Golden Pedigree LLC; T-Shoichiro Wada. *\$85,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP; \$270,000 2yo '15 OBSMAR.

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A Shin Nitro, c, 3, Proud Citizen--El Fasto, by El Prado. Kyoto, 1-31, Alw, 9f. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-1, \$56,198 O-Eishindo Inc.; B-Brereton C.Jones; T-Shigeki Matsumoto. *\$200,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP. **Full to Believe You Can (Proud Citizen) GISW-US \$1,280,324.

BREEDERS' EDITION AMERICA

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

7th-SA, \$61,000, (NW2\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$62,500), 1-31, 4yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:16.29, wf.

KAFISTER (g, 6, Kafwain--Register, by Mari's Book) Lifetime Record: 25-10-3-4, \$286,650. O-Alan Aidekman & Gaylord Ailshie; B-Hurstland Farm Inc. (KY); T-David Bernstein. *\$9,000 Ylg '11 KEESEP. **1/2 to Please Sign In (Doc's Leader), SW & MGSP, \$324,446.

Hurstland Farm bred, raised and sold

8th-SA, \$58,750, (S), (NW1\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$20,000), 1-31, 4yo/up, 1 1/8m (off turf), 1:49.21, wf.

STORM COMIN THRU (g, 5, Stormy Jack--Watershed Park {SP}, by Strodes Creek) Lifetime Record: 20-3-5-3, \$150,044. O-Great

TODAY'S FEATURED VIDEO REPLAYS sponsored by **Fasig-Tipton**
CLICK HERE to watch all of our featured video replays.
Gwynn Oak Park (Candy Ride {Arg}) graduates at Laurel Park.

UPCOMING MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN STAKES

Date	Race	Track	
2/6	GI Donn H.	GP	
	GI Gulfstream Park Turf H.	GP	
	GII Las Virgenes S.	SA	
	GII San Marcos S.	SA	
	GII San Antonio S.	SA	
	GIII Robert B. Lewis S.	SA	
	GIII Suwannee River S.	GP	
	GIII Fred W. Hooper H.	GP	
	2/7	GII Palos Verdes S.	SA
		2/13	GII Royal Delta S.
GII Santa Maria S.	SA		
GII Arcadia S.	SA		
GII Barbara Fritchie S.	LRL		
GIII El Camino Real Derby	GG		
GIII Endeavour S.	TAM		
GIII Sam F. Davis S.	TAM		
GIII Tampa Bay S.	TAM		
2/14	GIII Bayakoa S.		OP
	2/15		GII San Vicente S.
GIII Southwest S.		OP	
2/20	GIII General George S.	LRL	
	GII Risen Star S.	FG	
	GII Rachel Alexandra S.	FG	
	GII Buena Vista S.	SA	
	GIII Fair Grounds H.	FG	
	GIII Mineshaft H.	FG	

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TIGGY WIGGY sold
 2015 Tattersalls December Sale
 for 2,100,000 gns.

FAMILY LABOUR OF LOVE AT MESNIL



Turgeon & Henri Devin

Copy and photos by Emma Berry

Over the previous six January trips to France for La Route des Etalons, the one stud I'd always longed to see, but never made it far enough south to visit, is the historic Haras du Mesnil.

This year, with two *TDN* colleagues also in Normandy, the perfect opportunity arose to plough a lone furrow towards Le Mans to spend a morning with Henri and Antonia Devin at the 2,500-acre property which, says Henri, has been in his family "only since 1850."

In truth, it wasn't a completely solo venture as I was accompanied by Darley's Newmarket-based Head of Nominations, Dawn Laidlaw, as well as Keeneland's European Representative Ed Prosser, each playing a key role as navigator/co-driver (Dawn) and back-seat comedian (Ed).

La Route des Etalons not only provides a vital function for breeders in providing access to around 80 stallions in one weekend, but it also acts as a living history lesson of France's many beautiful stud farms. In this regard, Haras du Mesnil is hard to rival. [Cont. p2](#)

KAMEHAMEHA TO COVER LIMITED BOOK

King Kamehameha (Jpn) (Kingmambo), one of the world's leading stallions by progeny earnings and twice leading sire in Japan in 2010 and 2011, will cover only a limited book of mares at Shadai Stallion Station in 2016, reported *Racing Post*. The sire of three Japanese champions in 2015, namely Leontes (Jpn), Duramente (Jpn) and Lovely Day (Jpn), suffers from genital abscesses and this condition will see his book reduced going forward. Priority will be given to mares owned by shareholders, namely Northern Farm, Teruya Yoshida's Shadai Stallion Station, or Makoto Kaneko.

"In recent years, we have controlled the number of mares, with one or a maximum of two per day," Shadai's Naohiro Hosoda told *Racing Post*. "We'll see how he's going as the season progresses, but he can't do his duty on a commercial basis." [Cont. p5](#)

In **TDN America** today...

PEDIGREE INSIGHTS: AWESOME BANNER

Andrew Caulfield investigates the success of *Awesome of Course*, as his son *Awesome Banner* earned his second graded victory in the *GII Swale S.* Jan. 30.

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Family Labor of Love At Mesnil Cont.

The farm, one single stud throughout the tenure of Henri Devin's grandparents Jean and Elisabeth Couturie, was split between their two daughters into what are now the Devins' private stud and the neighbouring Haras de Maulepaire, which is owned by Henri's aunt, the Comtesse de Tarragon, and managed by Pierric Rouxel.

The stallion yard at Mesnil has been in operation since 1908 and has housed some notable names, not least Madame Couturie's outstanding homebred Right Royal (Fr) (Owen Tudor {GB}), the winner of the 1961 Poule d'Essai des Poulains and Prix

RIGHT ROYAL	
PAR OWEN TUDOR ET BASTIA	
PERFORMANCES	
2 ANS	1 PRIX FRISCH HUTTON LE TREMBLAY 1000m
1 PRIX DE LA SALAMANDRE	LONGCHAMP 1600m
1 GRAND CRITERIUM	LONGCHAMP 1600m
3 ANS	1 POULE D'ESSAI LONGCHAMP 1600m
1 PRIX LUPIN	LONGCHAMP 2100m
1 PRIX DU JOCKEY CLUB	CHANTILLY 2400m
1 KING GEORGE SIXTH QUEEN ELISABETH STAKES	NETCOT 2400m
1 PRIX HEURY FOY	LONGCHAMP 2200m
2 PRIX DE LA VILLE DE TROUVRE	LONGCHAMP 2200m

Right Royal's race record | Emma Berry

du Jockey-Club among his six Group 1 victories. Right Royal's grandam Barberybush was gifted to the family by leading American owner-breeder Joseph Widener, who kept mares at Mesnil during the first half of the 20th Century.

These days, Englishman Peter Spiller is the only outside mare owner among the closed herd at Mesnil, but plenty of day-visitors will start to appear later this month as the covering season gets underway. The Devins lost long-time resident Kaldounevees (Fr) (Kaldoun {Fr}) last year at the age of 24 and for a time he was represented on the roster by his son Ange Gabriel (Fr), who is now retired but remains at the farm. His daughters also in residence include Just As Good (Fr), a full-sister to the late Terre A Terre (Fr).

During a memorable two-year period, Ange Gabriel and Terre A Terre, both of whom were born at the farm (the latter bred and raced in partnership with Veronica Ashbrooke), notched a remarkable five Group 1 victories between them and took their owner-breeders to Dubai, Japan and Hong Kong.

"They took us all around the world," commented Antonia Devin. "Once you have a good horse it keeps you going. We took our four children with us everywhere. Now we have to do it again."

The next big thing may be not be too far away. Last year, Physiocrate (Fr) claimed the runner-up spot in the G1 Longines Prix de Diane just six weeks after making a winning debut on soft ground at Chantilly. She too is a terrific advertisement for the land around Haras du Mesnil, with its lime-rich springs, as she is very much homegrown, being a second-crop daughter of resident stallion Doctor Dino (Fr) (Muhtathir {GB}) out of the Kaldounevees mare Affaire de Moeurs (Fr).

Her trainer is also a product of sixth-generation Mesnil breeding as he is the Devins' Chantilly-based son, Henri-Francois.

And if the trainer doesn't already have the filly's game plan finalized for this season, his father certainly does.

He states simply, "The plan is to win the Arc!"

And with Physiocrate's starts to date at Chantilly resulting in two wins and a Group 1 second, the fact that France's biggest race has been moved there from Longchamp this year is grist to Henri's mill.

"Everything is in her favor, she loves Chantilly," he adds.

Physiocrate is not the only filly keeping the Devin family dreams alive, however, as she has been joined in Chantilly by Terre A Terre's 2-year-old sister, Terre Et Ciel (Fr).

"She's the last produce of Kaldounevees and Henri-Francois thinks very highly of her," says Antonia, a native of Co Kildare who grew up at her family's Ardoon Stud, and whose father Frank Feeney raced the 1968 G1 Irish 2000 Guineas winner Mistigo (Ire) (Miraglio {GB}).

She says of her son's training career, which is now in its third year, "We were pleased but quite nervous for him. He started with five horses of ours and now he has 38 in training but he has kept us to five! He's also passionate about breeding, and our two daughters, Sophie and Victoria, have already invested to put horses with him. He has the whole family behind him."

The back-to-back G1 Hong Kong Vase winner Doctor Dino typifies the breeding program honed by the Devins over the years, which has enabled them to breed top-class winners on the flat and over jumps. Not only is Physiocrate a high-profile representative on the level, but he has the promising young hurdlers Sceau Royal (Fr) and Ardina (Fr) ensuring that his name is becoming known in National Hunt breeding circles. Furthermore, the Comtesse de Tarragon sent her Turgeon mare Alliance Royale (Fr) the short distance to visit Doctor Dino with the result being the unbeaten bumper winner La Bague Au Roi (Fr), whose last of three wins was in listed mares' race at Huntingdon. "We breed to race, not really to sell," states Henri Devin. "We're not very commercial."

Adds his wife, "Doctor Dino covered 108 mares last year. In France, the premiums are so fantastic that if you breed to race you can go to sires who aren't so commercial but you can still make a profit between the owners' premiums and breeders' premiums."

She continues, "When we first got married we always wanted to have our own stallions and we've carried on like that, but it's worked out for us and has been good fun." **Cont. p3**



Doctor Dino filly ex Terre A Terre's sister Just As Good | Emma Berry

Family Labor of Love At Mesnil Cont.

One stallion who can almost certainly be considered a member of the family having been at Mesnil throughout his lengthy career is the redoubtable G1 Irish St Leger winner Turgeon, who is now 30 and is about to embark on his 23rd stud season.

“He came straight to us from Jonathan Pease on retirement from racing,” says Antonia of the George Strawbridge-bred son of Caro (GB). “He has bred great stock for us. His son Shannon Rock (Fr) has been second four times in the ‘Grand Steeple’ so we’re hoping that 2016 will be his year.”

Henri adds, “He must be the oldest stallion still covering. Every season I say it will be his last but he still looks really well and he comes out to cover his mares like a 5-year-old.”

The Devins profess an equal love for flat and jump racing.

“We just enjoy competition anywhere-- as long as we are in front,” says Henri. “It’s a passion. We only ever spoke about horses at lunchtime and at dinner with my grandmother.”

Madame Couturie may have been well regarded in the racing and breeding world for producing high-class racehorses, but her legacy also extends to a nurturing role among some of the industry’s leading participants, and not just in her own family. Among her ‘pupils’ at Haras du Mesnil were Henry Cecil, Arthur Boyd-Rochfort, Lord Suffolk, Jeremy Hindley and Francois



The memory of Sir Henry Cecil lives on at Haras de Maulepaire | Emma Berry

Boutin. Henry Cecil’s time there is immortalized by his etching of a horse and jockey in cement at the Chausee stableyard within the Maulepaire grounds.

Henri explains, “My grandmother was so passionate about the whole business and

she loved to have young people around her. It really stimulated her and she was so stimulating herself as she discussed everything with them, from clients to matings and feed, breaking in. She’d ask them lots of questions in the evening when they came in from work. She learned from her pupils as much as they learned from her.”

One of France’s foremost trainers, Alain de Royer Dupre, also cut his teeth at the farm.

“He worked as the stud groom for a while and then my mother built stables and a track on the property for him to start training,” recalls Henri.

Dominic Sepulchre now trains from part of the property, while a three-mile natural sand track through the farm’s dense woods is used to pre-train the homebreds before they go off to their trainers, which include Jean-Paul Gallorini and young rising star of the French jumping ranks, Louisa Carberry.

Completing the stallion line-up at Mesnil is Saonois (Fr) (Chichicastenango {Fr}), who is mischievously introduced by Henri Devin to Darley’s Head of Nominations with the words, “Here is Dubawi.”

The compact bay, who stands at just 15.1 hands, is not dissimilar in looks to Darley’s star and, as the hero of the 2012 G1 Prix du Jockey-Club, is also a Classic winner. He has it all to prove now he’s at stud, with his first yearlings set to appear in French sales rings later this year. As with all the Mesnil stallions, he will benefit from being mated with members of the Devins’ broodmare band and it would be surprising indeed if those homebreds don’t help him on his way to wider patronage.



Saonois | Haras Du Mesnil

Madame Couturie stated in her touching tribute to Right Royal, who is buried under a willow tree at the stud where he was born and died, “I can’t help but think that with horses it is the same as with mankind, it is the qualities of the heart that count the most.”

Luck and sound judgement play their part in any breeding operation but it’s plain that the labor of love is also behind many successful generations of Thoroughbreds at Haras du Mesnil.

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BRITISH/IRISH FOAL CROPS ON THE RISE

Full statistics for 2015 regarding the British and Irish foal crops and return of mares affirmed the earlier Return of Mares published in November, with increases in both the British and Irish foal crops. The complete statistics are now available in the recently published Weatherbys Return Of Mares Supplement.



Both British and Irish foal crops are on the rise | Racing Post

The main Return Of Mares is published in November and the supplement is automatically sent to those who bought the initial report. The British foal crop rose by 5% from 4328 in 2014 to 4569 in 2015, but still below the 2008 high watermark of 5920. The Irish foal crop increased 9% to 8780 from 7,999 in 2014, well below its high of 12,419 in 2008.

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'PARIS' SEASON IN DOUBT

Ed Dunlop's 2016 team suffered a blow Monday, as it was revealed that **Trip To Paris (Ire)** (Champs Elysees {GB}) may miss the season due to injury, reported *Racing Post*. The 5-year-old, who won the G1 Ascot Gold Cup at Royal Ascot last year, is



Ed Dunlop & Trip To Paris pictured in Japan | Ed Dunlop Racing

currently still in Australia undergoing treatment for what is believed to be a tendon injury, sustained in the G1 Japan Cup in November.

"There is a problem with him," Dunlop told the *Racing Post*. "He was injured in the Japan Cup and is in Australia undergoing treatment."

Trip To Paris was one of the most improved horses in Britain last year. He began the season winning a handicap at Lingfield in April off a rating of 88 after which he rattled off another pair of handicap victories including the prestigious Chester Cup in May. This success elevated him to the upper echelons of the staying division, where he continued to excel. He showed his class at Royal Ascot and then his versatility to run second in the G1 Caulfield Cup over a mile and a half before a gallant fourth-place effort in the 3200-meter G1 Melbourne Cup Nov. 3.

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BRITAIN results sponsored by  **Destination Europe**
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Norris Bloodstock Relocates:

The well-known consigning team of Liam and Jenny Norris will be operating under their own Norris Bloodstock banner at this season's yearling sales, having recently started a new venture at Granham Farm in Marlborough. For the last three years, Jenny Norris has managed Clairemont Stud, which sold Martin and Lee Taylor's dual Oaks winner Dancing Rain (Ire) (Danehill Dancer {Ire}) in foal to Frankel (GB) (Galileo {Ire}) at the 2013 Tattersalls December Sale for 4 million gns, followed by the dual Group 1 winner Shalaa (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) at the Tattersalls October Yearling Sale of 2014. Liam Norris, a bloodstock agent and advisor, works in partnership with William Huntingdon, their purchases under the name Norris/Huntingdon including Dancing Rain as a yearling, Shalaa as a foal pinhook, and group performers Holy Dazzle (Fr) (Sunday Break {Jpn}), Leapartie (Ire) (Stormy River (Fr)) and Hors De Combat (GB) (Mount Nelson {GB}).

"The sale of Clairemont Stud was completed last month and Liam and I are delighted to have been able to secure the lease on Granham Farm from David and Dawn Hearson, who bred the Group 1 winner Aqlaam (GB) (Oasis Dream {GB}) here," commented Jenny Norris. "We've been really boosted by the support we've received from a number of breeders, including of course the Hearsons, and Liam's sales clients, so we're up and running with a decent number of boarding mares and yearlings to consign later this year. We had our first foal born yesterday



Liam & Jenny Norris pictured with Dancing Rain

and we couldn't be happier than to be working from such a beautiful farm with a great track record."

Aqlaam's dam, the 16-year-old Bourbonella (GB) (Rainbow Quest {GB}), who has also produced the listed winner Nine Realms (GB) (Green Desert), remains at

Granham Farm under the Norrises' care and is due to produce a foal from the first crop of Kingman (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) later this month.

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ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Best New Show (Ire), f, 3, **Clodovil (Ire)**--Serious Delight (GB), by Lomond. WOL, 2-1, 7f 32y (AWT), 1:30.24. B-Mrs C. Hartery (IRE). *€5,000 Ylg '14 GOFSP; €45,000 2yo '15 GBMBR.

Southern Storm (Ire), f, 4, **Cape Cross (Ire)**--Stormy Blessing, by Storm Cat. KEM, 2-1, 8f (AWT), 1:40.74. B-Chris & James McHale (IRE).



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FRANCE results sponsored by  Destination Europe
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Monday's Result:

1st-CGN, €24,000, Mdn, 2-1, 3yo, c/g, 2150mT, 2:20.63, sf.
HAYABUSA ONE (FR) (c, 3, Siyouni {Fr}--Northern Ocean {Fr}, by Green Tune), who was eighth last time over 10 furlongs on the Polytrack here Jan. 16, started as the 13-5 second choice and raced wide in mid-division initially before receiving a hefty bump and almost losing his rider when a rival on his inner veered sharply right. In front before halfway, the €45,000 AROCT yearling and €40,000 ARMAY 2-year-old, whose dam is a half to the smart GSP Miss Carmie (Fr) (Excellent Art {GB}), was driven out in the straight to beat Striveforgreatness (Fr) (Vision d'Etat {Fr}) by three lengths. Lifetime Record: 3 starts, 1 win, 1 place, €17,000. [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)
 O-Louis-Armand Jolly, Ecurie Mathieu Offenstadt & Simone Brogi; B-D Lepagey (FR); T-Simone Brogi.

2nd-CGN, €24,000, Mdn, 2-1, 3yo, c/g, 2150mT, 2:23.82, sf.
LUCA (FR) (c, 3, Pour Moi {Ire}--Imitation {Ger}, by Highest Honor {Fr}), sent off at 34-1 based on his debut performance when only 13th over a furlong shorter at Pau Dec. 31, broke well to lead early. Always traveling comfortably at the head of affairs, the €40,000 AROCT yearling, whose granddam is the MGSP Intuition (Ger) (Gold and Ivory), kicked in the middle of the stretch after the home turn and stayed on gamely to beat Going Viral (Ire) (Kodiac {GB}) by 3/4 of a length. Lifetime Record: 2 starts, 1 win, 0 places, €12,000. [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)
 O-Muhammad Nadeem Khan; B-G di Falduto (FR); T-S Simon.

4th-CGN, €24,000, Mdn, 2-1, 3yo, f, 2150mT, 2:20.64, sf.
AL WATHNA (GB) (f, 3, Nayef--Lemon Twist {Ire}, by Marju {Ire}), who was seventh when last seen over seven furlongs on Chantilly's Polytrack in November, was sent off the 8-5 favorite and got a squeeze leaving the stalls, ending up towards the rear as a result. Steadily making up ground on the outer, the €72,000 AROCT yearling received a couple taps with the persuader and responded to surge to the front with a furlong remaining and assert for a convincing 1 3/4-length verdict over Mortree (Fr) (Le Havre {Ire}). The dam, who is a half to another smart product by Nayef in the SW Lake Palace (GB), has a 2-year-old full-sister to the winner and a yearling colt by Motivator (GB). Lifetime Record: 3 starts, 1 win, 1 place, €17,000. [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)
 O-Al Shaqab Racing; B-Petra Bloodstock Agency Ltd (GB); T-Jean-Claude Rouget.

OBSERVATIONS
on today's European racing scene

3.30 Southwell, Mdn, £5,000, 3yo, 8f (AWT)
HERMITAGE BAY (War Front) bids to build on an encouraging pre-Christmas debut third on Kempton's Polytrack in this switch to Fibresand. Derrick Smith, Susan Magnier and Michael Tabor's \$750,000 KEENOV half-brother to the GII Demoiselle S. winner Dixie City (Dixie Union) from the family of champion Dehere represents the John Gosden stable and is greeted by nine opponents including Lady Bamford's intriguing Sir Mark Prescott-trained newcomer **Flymetothestars (GB) (Sea the Stars {Ire})**, whose dam is a group-winning half to the top Japanese performer Fierro (Jpn) (Deep Impact {Jpn}).

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'Kamehameha' to Cover Limited Book Cont.

Bred by Northern Racing, Kaneko raced King Kamehameha to Japanese champion 3-year-old male honors in 2004, having purchased him as a foal for ¥78 million (US\$591,840). The most successful sun of the recently departed Kingmambo (Mr. Prospector), King Kamehameha has proven himself an ideal outcross in Japan.



King Kamehameha | Shadai Stallion Station

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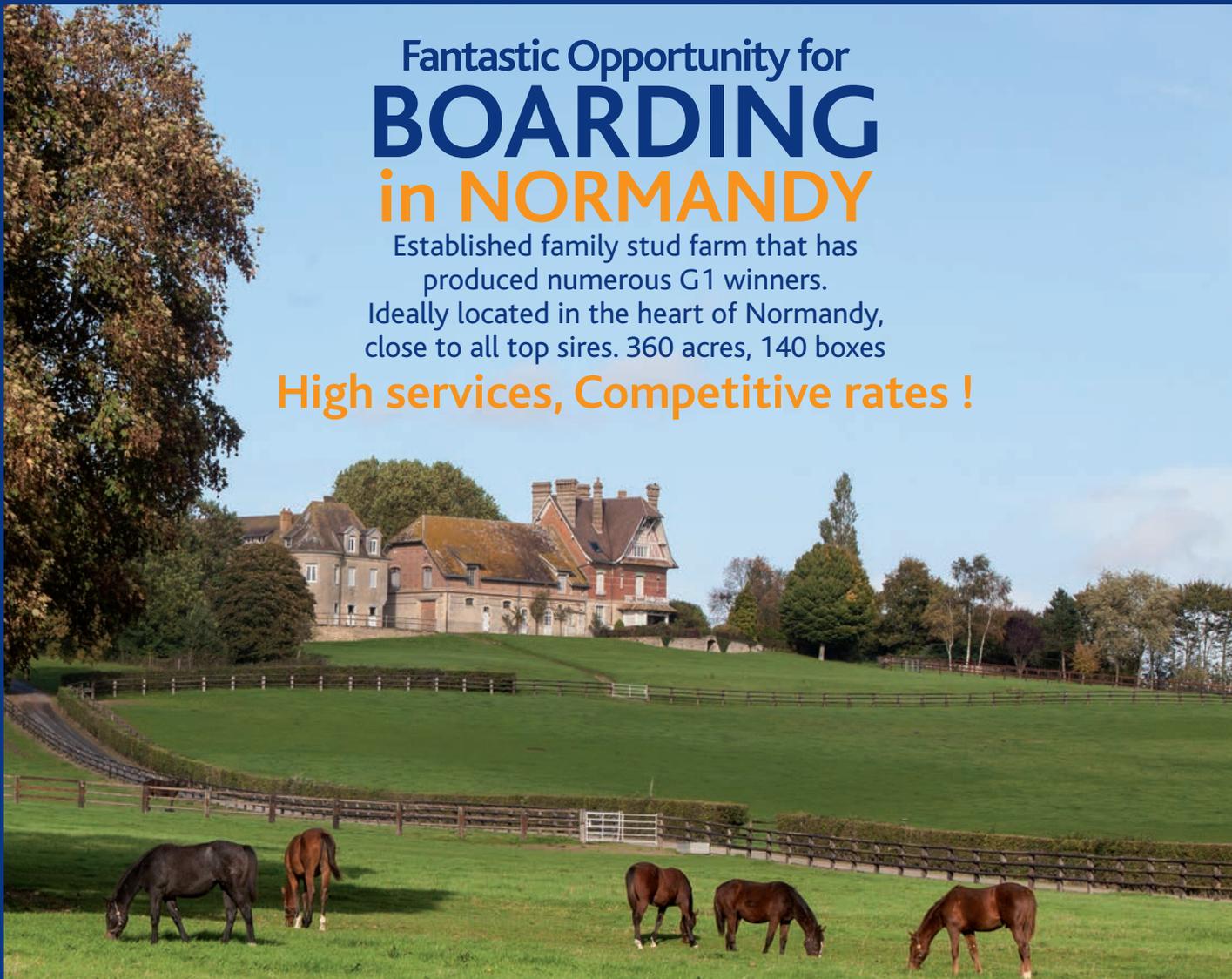
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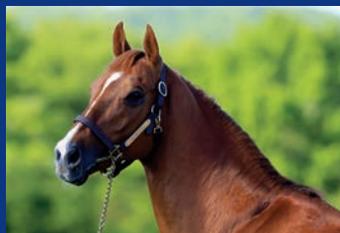
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'SMART' TARGETS BREEDERS' CUP

Mauritzfontein homebred **Smart Call (SAf)** (Ideal World), a winner of three races at the highest level in her native South Africa including Saturday's G1 J&B Met over males, enters quarantine later this month for an overseas campaign, with her long-term goal the Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita Nov. 4-5, reported the *Sporting Post*. The Alec Laird-trained Smart Call has already earned an automatic berth in the GI Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf on the back of a score in the G1 Paddock S. at Kenilworth Jan. 9, one start prior to her romp in the J&B Met over same day G1 Queen's Plate victor **Legal Eagle (SAf)** (Greys Inn). The latter had gained a berth in the GI Breeders' Cup Mile with that victory.

"We plan to get her to England in June when she will stay at Mary Slack's Abington Place stables in Newmarket with me as the trainer," Laird told *Sporting Post*. "We haven't yet decided whether she should have her prep races in England. France would also be a possibility although America might offer a softer option. On the other hand it might make more sense to travel to America with the other UK horses going for the Breeders' Cup. But we now know that we have the best horse in South Africa to send there."

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Smart Call | Liesl King



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