

FRESHMAN CLASS STRONG AT FASIG



Union Rags | Horsephotos

by Jessica Martini

Twelve stallions will be represented by their first juveniles to go through the sales ring when the 2-year-old auction season kicks off next Wednesday with the Fasig-Tipton Florida Sale at Gulfstream Park. Leading the way by numbers is Lane's End stallion **Union Rags** (Dixie Union), who has eight juveniles catalogued in the boutique sale, followed by WinStar's **Bodemeister** (Empire Maker), who has six.

"They look to be an above-average group of new sires," said Ciaran Dunne, whose Wavertree Stables consigns juveniles by a bevy of first-season stallions to the upcoming Fasig-Tipton sale. "We're very high on several of them."

Wavertree will offer a son of 2012 GI Belmont S. winner Union Rags as [hip 103](#). Out of Touched (Touch Gold), the bay colt is a half to graded stakes winner Indian Firewater (Indian Charlie).

"The Union Rags is an absolutely beautiful horse," Dunne said. "He's an outstanding physical, a big rangy two-turn horse."

Of the stallion, he added, "We have several of them at the farm. They are beautiful-moving horses, great training horses."

Union Rags had 77 yearlings sell a year ago for an average of \$132,237 and median of \$110,000--third on the first-season sires list. The stallion's Classic pedigree should appeal to the typical Fasig Florida bidders, according to Dunne. **Cont. p3**

DOWN THE SHEDROW WITH BRIAN LYNCH

by Christie DeBernardis

Born in Brisbane, Australia, conditioner Brian Lynch started off his North American career training Quarter Horses in Canada in 1986 and took out his license to train Thoroughbreds in 1992. Starting his career as an assistant in California, he relocated to Woodbine in 2005 while working for Hall of Famer Bobby Frankel and remained at the Ontario-based track after going out on his own in 2006.

One of Lynch's best known pupils is 2008 Sovereign Award winner Ginger Brew (Milwaukee Brew), who captured that year's Woodbine Oaks before finishing second in the prestigious Queen's Plate. The 56-year-old trainer won his first Queen's Plate just last year courtesy of Stronach Stables' **Shaman Ghost** (Ghostzapper), who was recently transferred to Jimmy Jerkens.

Despite losing that Canadian Classic winner, Lynch still has plenty of talented runners in the barn, including Eclipse finalist **Private Zone** (Macho Uno), GISW **Grand Arch** (Arch) and MGSW turf star **Heart to Heart** (English Channel). **Cont. p6**

in **TDN Europe** today...

CALIFORNIA CHROME CRUISES IN DUBAI

2014 U.S. Horse of the Year **California Chrome** (Lucky Pulpit) was a facile winner of his Dubai World Cup prep race at Meydan Thursday. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

1st-crop 2yo's have arrived!

ALGORITHMS

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- Susan Montanye, SBM Training & Sales

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	BTW	GSW
SPEIGHTSTOWN	9.59%	4.05%
Tapit	7.83%	4.78%
Medaglia d'Oro	7.44%	3.72%
Candy Ride (Arg)	5.39%	2.48%

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- BILL OPPENHEIM, TDN 2/24

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in **this** issue...



Out of Dynamazed (Dynaformer), this Paynter colt was born Feb. 7 at WinStar Farm. WinStar bred and owns him.

FoalPhotos.com

BAFFERT OFFERS MOR SPIRIT UPDATE

8

Conditioner Bob Baffert said Thursday that Mor Spirit (Eskendereya) is still under consideration for the GII San Felipe S. Mar. 12 after being pulled up during a workout at Santa Anita Tuesday morning.

REBEL ROUND-UP

9

GIII Southwest S. runner-up Whitmore (Pleasantly Perfect) will get a new rider for the GII Rebel S. and GI Arkansas Derby. Southwest ninth Cutacorn (Even The Score) will return in the Rebel and hope for a better trip.

CALIFORNIA RETOOLS RIDING RULES

RR-1

The California Horse Racing Board unanimously passed a final rewrite of Rule 1699 on Thursday, which involves in-race riding regulations and better defines the criteria for disqualifications.

from **thetdn.com**

Did you miss reading Bill Oppenheim's final thoughts on the year-end 2015 APEX data? Find that and additional APEX analysis in the Bill Oppenheim Archive under the 'Features' tab on the home page.
[More from Bill Oppenheim.](#)

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#ICEBOX

Freshman Sires cont.

"I don't think they come down here with the 4 1/2-furlong Keeneland maiden specials type," Dunne said of the usual Fasig offerings. "I would think the Union Rags were expensive enough yearlings that they are horses people would have big hopes for going long and going two turns. So this [sale] is probably the best outlet for those kind of horses. They are nice horses. They have a bit of quality."

On behalf of Vern Dickman's Legacy Ranch, consignor John Brocklebank will offer a colt by Union Rags ([hip 135](#)) at Gulfstream next week. Brocklebank admitted he was impressed by the offspring of the Belmont winner he saw at the yearling sales last fall.

"I thought the Union Ragses--when they walked in the room, pretty much every one of them caught my attention," Brocklebank said. "The one that we bought, he about grabbed me by the throat and shook me."

Eddie Woods's Fasig-Tipton Florida consignment, which also features several offerings by first-season sires, includes [hip 82](#), a colt by Union Rags out of Shimmer (Pulpit).

"He is a big, strong, bullish colt," Woods said. "He's not a typical Union Rags, he doesn't have any chrome on him. He's a big, beautiful-moving horse who worked well without working lights out. But he galloped out really big. He just keeps going."

The Wavertree consignment includes a first-crop offering from Lane's End's **The Factor** (War Front), who captured the 2012 GI Malibu S.

"The Factor horse is very special," Dunne said of [hip 81](#). "He is fairly typical of The Factors we saw, but he is out of a Distorted Humor mare and I can see a lot of that in him also."



The Factor | Horsephotos

If you sat down before the mating and wrote up what you would get if you bred the mare to this stallion, this probably would be your best-case scenario of what you'd get."

Woods is also impressed with progeny of The Factor, whose first-crop yearlings averaged \$143,499 a year ago.

"The Factors are very nice," Woods said. "They are all beautiful movers and pretty quick and neat, kind of quiet horses."

Woods offers [hip 143](#), a bay filly by the 'TDN Rising Star', at Fasig-Tipton next week.

"She might take a bit of time, but she's a nice filly," Woods said of the juvenile.

Woods also consigns one of the sale's six offerings by Bodemeister in [hip 99](#). The gray colt is out of multiple stakes-placed Tap Softly (Tapit). **Cont. p4**

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 - Forty Niner
 - Danzig's Beauty
 - Seattle Slew
 - Strike a Balance
- Mc. Prospector
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 - Danzig
 - Sweetest Chant
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 - My Charmer
 - Green Dancer
 - Strike a Pose

By DISTORTED HUMOR (1993). Black-type winner of \$769,964. Leading sire, sire of 128 black-type winners, 4 champions, including Furry Cide [G1] (\$3,529,412), and of Regal Ransom [G1] (hwt., \$1,894,835), Drosselmeyer [G1] (\$3,728,170), Commentator [G1] (\$2,049,845), Flower Alley [G1] (\$2,533,910), Hystericalady [G1] (\$2,390,566), Boisterous [G1] (\$1,458,792).

1st dam
ALTERNATE, by Seattle Slew, 6 wins, 3 to 5, \$550,695, Robert G. Dick Memorial Breeders' Cup H. [L] (DEL, \$90,000) twice, Go for Wand S. [L] (DEL, \$45,000), 2nd Monmouth Breeders' Cup Oaks [G2] (MTH, \$50,000), Delaware Oaks [G3] (DEL, \$50,000), Bewitch S. [G3] (KEE, \$22,680), Susan's Girl Breeders' Cup S. [L] (DEL, \$35,000), New Castle H. [L] (DEL, \$20,000), 3rd Glens Falls H. [G3] (SAR, \$12,441), Hillsborough S. [G3] (TAM, \$10,000). Dam of 8 foals, 6 to race, all winners, including—

ALTERNATION (c. by Distorted Humor), 9 wins, 2 to 4, \$1,064,727, Oaklawn H. [G2] (OP, \$240,000), Peter Pan S. [G2] (BEL, \$120,000), Pimlico Special S. [G3] (PIM, \$180,000), Razorback H. [G3] (OP, \$75,000), Governor's Cup S. [L] (RP, \$125,000), Essex H. [L] (OP, \$60,000), 2nd Oklahoma Derby [L] (RP, \$80,000).

INTERRUPTED (f. by Broken News), 5 wins, 9 starts, 2 to 4, 2015, \$250,205, Lady Baltimore S. [L] (SAR, \$50,000), Penn Oaks S. [L] (PEN, \$57,400), 3rd Florida Oaks [L] (SAR, \$50,000), 1921, in Canada; winner at 4, \$72,940, in N.A./U.S.

2nd dam
STRIKE A BALANCE, by Green Desert, 3 wins, 3 starts, \$30,720. Half-sister to **WEDDING PIE**, 1 win, 1 start, \$1,589,270, in Canada; Molson Export Million S. [G1] (MTH, \$1,000,000), 2nd Derby Trial S. [G3] (SAR, \$100,000), Saratoga Cup H. [G3] (SAR, \$15,885 (CAN)), 2015.

ALTERNATE (f. by Broken News), 2 wins, 2 starts, including— in France; in England; in Ireland.

Freshman Sires cont.

“The Bodemeister is a lovely horse,” Woods said. “He’s not blazingly fast, but he’s got a great attitude and a wonderful disposition.”

Bodemeister, runner-up in the 2012 GI Kentucky Derby after capturing that year’s GI Arkansas Derby, led first-crop sires by yearling average at last year’s auctions. From 75 sold, his yearling average was \$176,580, with a median of \$125,000.



Bodemeister | Horsephotos

“They are nice horses--very laid back, just kind and classy-acting horses,” Woods said of

the WinStar stallion’s offspring.

Wavertree’s offering by Bodemeister is [hip 36](#). Out of Love and Marry (Known Fact), and a half-sister of multiple Grade I placed Riveting Reason (Fusaichi Pegasus), Dunne described the filly as, “beautiful, smooth and elegant.”

Hill ‘n’ Dale’s **Maclean’s Music** (Distorted Humor), a dominatingly fast winner in his only trip to the post who also earned the ‘**Rising Star**’ distinction, will be represented at Fasig-Tipton by [hip 80](#) from the Wavertree consignment.

FASIG-TIPTON FLORIDA 2-YEAR-OLDS IN TRAINING

Freshman Sires

Algorithms (Bernardini)	55 120
Astrology (A.P. Indy)	39
Bodemeister (Empire Maker)	36 70 99 133 148 154
Gemologist (Tiznow)	8 50
Hansen (Tapit)	115
Maclean’s Music (Distorted Humor)	80
Mission Impazible (Unbridled’s Song)	77
Shackleford (Forestry)	86 140
Stay Thirsty (Bernardini)	106
Tapizar (Tapit)	92 117
The Factor (War Front)	81 96 143
Union Rags (Dixie Union)	25 47 69 82 103 132 135

“The filly is lightning fast--she’s really, really fast,” Dunne said before adding, “He is a stallion who was supposed to get quick horses and it looks like he is going to.”

Wavertree’s first-season offerings are rounded out by [hip 86](#), a son of 2011 GI Preakness S. winner **Shackleford** (Forestry), who stands at Darby Dan.

“This horse was never on the radar to come down here and he breezed his way onto the van,” Dunne revealed. “We’ve been very impressed with the Shacklefords. They were kind of a

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Nearctic

Natalma

Admirals Voyage

Petitioner

Fappiano

Ruby Slippers

Forli

True Reality

Raise a Native

Gold Digger

Tom Rolfe

Continue

In Reality

Breakfast Bell

HOIST THE FLAG

BAYOU BLUE

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Champion Juvenile sire (1981)

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TDN INSTA-TISTICS -- Top 10 2015 Freshman Sires of Yearlings by Average

Rank	Name	Ring	Sold	Avg.	Median	Top Colt	Top Filly
1	Bodemeister	103	75	\$176,580	\$125,000	\$500,000	\$850,000
2	The Factor	86	70	\$143,499	\$97,500	\$750,000	\$260,000
3	Union Rags	77	59	\$132,237	\$110,000	\$370,000	\$460,000
4	Tapizar	73	55	\$95,727	\$90,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
5	Jersey Town	20	17	\$90,382	\$31,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
6	To Honor And Serve	65	47	\$75,585	\$50,000	\$250,000	\$450,000
7	Shackleford	95	63	\$68,614	\$36,000	\$340,000	\$250,000
8	Creative Cause	58	37	\$67,405	\$42,000	\$175,000	\$400,000
9	Gemologist	91	70	\$59,122	\$48,500	\$280,000	\$210,000
10	Stay Thirsty	65	49	\$53,776	\$35,000	\$250,000	\$200,000

mixed bag. We have several of them at the farm and you could never put them in a line-up and think they were all by the same stallion. They are very unimposing sort of horses, but once we started to train them and especially when we started to do a bit of fast work with them, we've been pleasantly surprised."

Woods's first-crop offerings are rounded out by [hip 55](#), a colt by Claiborne Farm's **Algorithms** (Bernardini), who won the 2012 GIII Holy Bull S.

"He's really nice," Woods said of the bay 2-year-old. "Overall

the Algorithmses are very, very nice. Probably he is a stallion that has impressed me as much as anybody and more so than most. They all have quite a bit of size to them. They are good movers. And they are very, very athletic."

The under-tack show for the Fasig-Tipton Florida sale begins at 10 a.m. at Gulfstream Park next Monday. The sale commences at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the track's paddock.

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DOWN THE SHEDROW

with Brian Lynch

by Christie DeBernardis

● **PRIVATE ZONE (g, 7, Macho Uno)**

Good Friends Stable's Private Zone has changed hands several times throughout his career, but has been consistent with his trademark speed no matter whose care he is under. Starting his



Private Zone | A. Coglianese

U.S. career under the care of California-based Doug O'Neill, the four-time Grade I winner was then transferred to East Coast-based Alfredo Velazquez and spent most of 2015 under the care of Jorge Navarro. Runner-up to champion Honor Code (A.P. Indy) when extended to a mile in the GII

Gulfstream Park H. last term, the hard-knocking gelding scored a decisive victory in the GII Churchill Downs S. two months later

and finished third behind a monster performance from Honor Code next out after setting the pace in the GI Metropolitan H. on Belmont day. Reeling off back-to-back wins in the GIII Belmont Sprint Championship S. and GI Forego S., the bay found only Eclipse winner Runhappy (Super Saver) too good when a gritty second in the GI Breeders' Cup Sprint Oct. 31. Transferred to Lynch following that effort, Private Zone was last seen fading to fifth behind Tonalist (Tapit) after being headstrong early when attempting a title defense in Aqueduct's GI Cigar Mile Nov. 28.

"I think he was showing the signs of a solid season [in the Cigar Mile] and needed some time off. He's had the time off now, so hopefully we get a fresh start with him and have the same success other trainers have had with him."

"He's just coming back into training. He's here at Palm Meadows. He will be pointed towards the [GII Churchill Downs S.] on Derby day."

● **GRAND ARCH (g, 7, Arch)**

Grand Arch, who scored his first black-type win in Woodbine's 2014 GII King Edward S., took advantage of the absence of two-time Horse of the Year Wise Dan (Wiseman's Ferry) last term, starting with a victory in Saratoga's GII Fourstardave H. in August. The Jim and Susan Hill runner scored a career high next

1:21

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out with a head success over GI Arlington Million hero The Pizza Man (English Channel) in the GI Shadwell Turf Mile at Keeneland Oct. 3. The bay was last seen finishing third behind another Eclipse winner in the talented mare Tepin (Bernstein) in the GI Breeders' Cup Mile Oct. 31.



Grand Arch | Coady Photography

Keeneland opens for training. He has been training at the farm. He's getting legged up and then he will come back in. He's pointing towards the [GI] Maker's [46] Mile [Apr. 15]."

● **HEART TO HEART (h, 5, English Channel)**

Terry Hamilton's Heart to Heart earned the 2014 Sovereign Award for champion 3-year-old colt on the back of consecutive wins at Churchill Downs in that year's GIII Jefferson Cup S. and GIII Commonwealth Turf S. The bay won Monmouth Park's GIII Oceanport S. last August, but failed to fire when 10th to stablemate Grand Arch in the GI Shadwell Turf Mile S. two months later. He closed out last term with a victory in Churchill's GIII River City H. Nov. 26 and picked up right where he left off this year with a victory in the GII Fort Lauderdale S. Jan. 9. Heart to Heart will make his next start in Saturday's GIII Canadian Turf S. at Gulfstream.

"He's doing great. It's very similar to where he drew the last time. Hopefully he duplicates that same sort of race."

● **COFFEE CLIQUE (m, 6, Medaglia d'Oro)**

Amerman Racing homebred Coffee Clique provided Lynch with his first win at the highest level in 2014 when she followed a victory in the GII Churchill Downs Distaff Turf Mile with a win in Belmont's GI Just a Game S. Second to the aforementioned champion Tepin when attempting a title defense at Churchill last spring, the bay was sixth to that rival in the Just a Game, but rebounded to win the GIII Dr. James Penny Memorial H. last July. Last seen finishing off the board in Belmont's GIII Athenia S. Oct. 17, she boasts a record of 18-7-2-2 and earnings of \$1,063,988.

"She has been retired and she was bred to Ghostzapper."

● **POWER ALERT (AUS) (g, 6, Alert {Arg})**

Power Alert, who is owned by Lynch and AJ Suited Racing Stable LLC, raced in his native Australia from the start of his career in October of 2012 up until March of 2014. The gray kicked off his American campaign for Lynch in December of that year with a pair of wins at Gulfstream, including the Silks Run S. last March. Fourth in the GIII Shakertown S. at Keeneland, he

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returned to winning ways in Churchill's GIII Twin Spires Turf Sprint S. on Oaks day and was fourth in both the GIII Jaipur S. on Belmont day and the GIII Parx Dash last July before being put away for the rest of the year. Resurfacing with a runner-up effort in Tampa's Turf Dash S., Power Alert captured the Gulfstream Park Turf Sprint S. last time Feb .6.

"He seems like he is back to where we want him and he will run back in the Silk Run [S. at Gulfstream Mar. 12]. I will point him towards the Shakertown and then he will run on Oaks day in the [Turf Sprint] he won last year at Churchill."



Power Alert | Horsephotos

● **LEX VEGAS (c, 3, Street Boss)**

Susan Hill and James Sciortino's Lex Vegas was an impressive debut winner at Gulfstream Jan. 18 and was scheduled to face for winners for the first time in a Hallandale optional claimer Friday.

"We had a minor hiccup with him and he won't resurface until Keeneland. Nothing serious, but he will be scratched [Friday]."

Cont. p8

● **AWESOME SLATE (g, 3, Summer Bird)**

Riversedge Racing Stables' Awesome Slate closed out his 2-year-old season with a victory in the Canadian Juvenile S. at Northlands Park last October. He kicked off his sophomore season with a third-place finish in Tampa's Pasco S. Jan. 23 and was fourth last time in that venue's GIII Sam F. Davis S. Feb. 13.

"He could possibly show back up in the [GII] Tampa Bay Derby [Mar. 12]. I'm sort of getting to know that horse a little bit. He was totally unlucky not to be third [in the Sam Davis] and I feel like there is still some more to him that we haven't gotten to yet. It seemed like he stalled in the second turn and re-rallied down the lane. He took himself out of contention there and then he sort of put himself back into the race. I just have to work out why that's going on."



Brian Lynch | A. Coglianese

● **BUREAU DE CHANGE (m, 5, Exchange Rate)**

Amerman Racing's Bureau de Change scored back-to-back optional claimer victories at Tampa Dec. 16 and Jan. 13, respectively. The bay had the misfortune of running into Tepin last time when fifth in that venue's GIII Endeavour S. Feb. 13.

"They really sprinted home pretty fast and she struggled to make up ground that she lost early. We will be pointing back towards the [GIII] Hillsborough [S. Mar. 12] for her back over at Tampa."

● **SOLEMN TRIBUTE (g, 4, Medaglia d'Oro)**

Lael Stables' Solemn Tribute seemed to come into his own last summer with consecutive wins at Woodbine. Second in Gulfstream Park West's Showing Up S. Oct. 31, the gelding scored a narrow success next out in Hallandale's Tropical Park Derby Dec. 19 and failed to fire last time when ninth in the GIII Tampa Bay S. Feb. 13.



Solemn Tribute | Lauren King

"We are going to give him a little time off and point him back towards Keeneland. We just need to freshen him up a little bit."

BAFFERT OFFERS MOR SPIRIT UPDATE

Conditioner Bob Baffert said Thursday that **Mor Spirit** (Eskendereya) is still under consideration for the GII San Felipe S. Mar. 12 after being pulled up during a workout at Santa Anita Tuesday morning. "I think I'm going to breeze him now on Sunday, and I'll know more," Baffert said of Michael Lund Petersen's GI Los Alamitos Futurity and GIII Robert B. Lewis S. winner. "We over-thought it a little bit," Baffert said of the aborted drill. "Sometimes I work him with earplugs and sometimes I don't. I don't want him to do that much. He has them on when he leaves the paddock, then we take them out before he goes to the gate. It keeps him calm... He just lost interest [Tuesday]; he'll do that, but he's alright."



Mor Spirit | Benoit Photo

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REBEL ROUND-UP

Irado Ortiz, Jr. will ride GIII Southwest S. runner-up **Whitmore** (Pleasantly Perfect) in the Mar. 19 GII Rebel S. at Oaklawn, according to the gelding's trainer and co-owner, Ron Moquett. The New York-based Ortiz entered Thursday as America's leading rider in earnings with \$2,137,987. Mike Smith rode the chestnut in the Southwest.

"I like Irado and Smith," explained Moquett, "but what I wanted was a two-race commitment. If we run well in the Rebel, we'll have [Ortiz] for the [GI] Arkansas Derby."

In other Rebel news, Hall of Fame trainer Jack Van Berg said Thursday that he's likely to run **Cutacorn** (Even The Score) in the second leg of Arkansas' three-pronged Kentucky Derby prep schedule. The grey colt had a tough trip when finishing ninth, beaten 18 lengths, in the Southwest.

"Got cut up pretty bad in that race," Van Berg said. "Cut his front legs, inside and out."

Also slated to run in the Rebel are Southwest winner **Suddenbreakingnews** (Mineshaft) and seventh-place finisher **Discreetness** (Discreet Cat), unbeaten Brad Cox trainee **Dazzling Gem** (Misremembered) and GIII Withers S. runner-up **Vorticity** (Distorted Humor). Southwest fifth-place finisher **Siding Spring** (Warrior's Reward) is probable to run, according to the colt's trainer Mark Casse.

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Gunnar Nordqvist, Breeder:

In response to the article "[First Lady of Racing Mrs Evelyn Benoit](#)," I felt that she has to be rewarded with a few lines far away from Louisiana.

First Lady of Racing, Mrs. Evelyn Benoit, albeit not on a national level yet, she epitomises the racing-ambassador we all would like to have. In fact we need dozens of Mrs. Benois in every racing state, country. Her enthusiasm is convincing, infectious and stands firm on a grassroots level (that is where we have to start).

With not a little envy, I read the article signed by Michael Adolphson, who paints a picture of a genuine lady holding the flag high for racing. Her low key ambitions ring true, I wish the lady all possible success with her horses in 2016.

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CALIFORNIA RETOOLS RIDING RULES

by T.D. Thornton

The California Horse Racing Board unanimously passed a final rewrite of Rule 1699 on Thursday, which involves in-race riding regulations and better defines the criteria for disqualifications.

“This has been an 18-month effort...to make the riding rule more specific, with the goal of making judgments by the stewards more consistent throughout the state,” Rick Baedeker, the CHRB’s executive director, testified during the board’s meeting at Santa Anita Park. “It’s one of our most significant rules in the book.”

Thursday’s vote to approve the re-written rule was preceded by the unanimous passage of two relatively minor amendments, which might trigger yet another 45-day public comment period before the new regulation can be adopted. But CHRB staffers indicated they would check with the state’s Office of Administrative Law to see if that comment period can be reduced to 15 days because the changes are “non-substantive” in nature.

Culminating a review process that began in 2014, the entire first subsection of the old rule has been stricken and rewritten, setting the tone for five newly tweaked subsections that follow.

The old rule began: “A leading horse is entitled to any part of the course but when another horse is attempting to pass in a clear opening the leading horse shall not cross over as to compel the passing horse to shorten its stride.”

The new rule begins: “A horse shall not interfere with any other horse. Interference is defined as bumping, impeding, forcing or floating in or out or otherwise causing any other horse to lose stride, ground, momentum or position.”

Another change eliminates the word “willfully” from the subsection that deals with striking another horse.

“That happens all the time,” said commissioner Alex Solis, who is also an active rider in California. “[A jockey] should be disqualified, even if you didn’t mean to.”

Under subsection (f), stewards are now compelled to issue a greater penalty for more than one infraction of Rule 1699 within any contiguous 60-day period or any infraction “which, in the opinion of the stewards, jeopardized the safety of another horse or jockey.”

One of the amendments voted in on Thursday reduced the time frame in the above-stated subsection from 90 to 60 days. The other dealt with striking the phrase “according to the distribution of the purse or the order of finish in a trial heat” when stewards are determining whether an infraction caused a horse to lose an opportunity for a better placing.



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TEXAS COMMISSION NOW FULLY FUNDED; RACING TO GO ON UNINTERRUPTED

by T.D. Thornton

The Texas Racing Commission announced Thursday that the state's Legislative Budget Board has authorized long-awaited funding for the agency, thus lifting the commission's standing warning that horse and greyhound racing in the state would have to cease at the end of February.

The allocation of funding comes in the wake of last week's vote by the commission to repeal historic-race gaming rules, which had been on the books since 2014 but had never resulted in the actual installation or operation of the machines at any of the state's tracks.

The rules had, however, created a rift between the commission and legislators who opposed the gaming. Seemingly in retaliation, lawmakers since late last year had withheld funding for the commission to operate.

"This means that we are now fully funded for the remainder of the biennium, which extends through Aug. 31, 2017," Robert Elrod, the commission's public information officer, wrote in an email.

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NELLIE MAE COX PASSES AWAY

Prominent Virginia breeder Nellie Mae Cox passed away Monday. She was 75. Cox bred multiple Grade I winner Showing Up (Strategic Mission), as well as 2003 GII Alcibiades S. winner Be Gentle (Tale of the Cat) and multiple stakes winner Gimmeawink (Elusive Quality). The Virginia native began breeding Thoroughbreds in the late 1980s with a broodmare band of some dozen head and admitted to *Virginia Living* in 2008, "You can't help but fall in love with them all."

Cox and her husband Sidney Bobby Cox, Jr. founded the Richmond-based demolition contractor company S.B. Cox, Inc.

Cox was preceded in death by her son, Michael Wray Cox; and sister, Carolyn Stonnell Baber. She is survived by her husband, son Sidney Barbee Cox III and daughter Robin Cox Petrine, as well as seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. at the West Chapel of Bennett Funeral Home in Glen Allen. A funeral service will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church in Richmond. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions be made in Cox's honor to Goochland County Fire-Rescue Department or Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services, both in Goochland.

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New York

Thursday's Results:

4th-AQU, \$60,000, Msw, 2-25, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11.53, my.

AMORAL (c, 4, [Scat Daddy--Noshameinmygame](#), by Silver Deputy) ran well in his debut Dec. 10 at this track and trip to be second behind a runaway winner, then improved in his next start Jan. 3, but still ran into one horse too good for him while finishing 11 lengths clear of the third-place finisher. Sent to post as the overwhelming 1-5 favorite, Amoral would find no such challenge Thursday, sprinting to a dominant wire-to-wire score against five overmatched rivals in this maiden affair. Dueling outside of the rail runner Porch Pounder (Quality Road) for the first quarter-mile in :22.86, the dark bay colt sped clear from there and opened up at will in the stretch to romp by 13 lengths at the wire. Porch Pounder just held second over the winner's stablemate Dhamaan (Indian Charlie), who put in a decent run from last down the backstretch while running a bit greenly. Sales history: \$100,000 Ylg '13 FTKOCT; \$120,000 RNA 2yo '14 OBSMAR; \$270,000 2yo '14 OBSOPN. Lifetime Record: 3-1-2-0, \$60,000. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#). [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).**

O-Stonestreet Stables LLC; B-Equus Farm (KY); T-Kieran McLaughlin.

Florida

Thursday's Results:

9th-TAM, \$20,000, Alw, 2-25, (NW1X), 4yo/up, 1mT, 1:36.53, gd.

HAMMERSTEIN (c, 4, [Bernstein--Prized Stamp](#), by [Prized](#)), third in Woodbine's Queenston S. last May, was checked early in the running, then made a strong three-wide bid for the lead before flattening out to finish third behind two promising turf runners over this course and distance Jan. 20. Sent off at 5-1, the dark bay colt avoided similar trouble Thursday by breaking sharply, making a comfortable lead from his inside draw and registering a front-running victory without ever being seriously challenged. Lifetime Record: SP, 7-2-1-2, \$77,563. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#). [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#)**

O-William A. Sorokolit, Sr.; B-William Sorokolit Racing Stable Inc. (ON); T-Darwin D. Banach.

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8th-GP, \$40,000, Msw, 2-25, 3yo, 7 1/2fT, 1:31.63, fm.
TASTE FOR TALENT (c, 3, Talent Search--Union Kitten, by Kitten's Joy) impressed in his debut at this course and distance Jan. 30, closing strongly into a slow pace to be a narrow second behind a wire-to-wire winner. Breaking as the even-money favorite Thursday, the chestnut sophomore was the one leading the merry chase, making an easy lead from his inside post and dictating terms through identically soft fractions of :24.99 and :49.98. Given that breather on the front end, Taste for Talent opened a clear lead in the stretch before holding off a bold late challenge from Party Barn (Bernardini). Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$31,600. [Click for the Equibase.com chart.](#) [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O/B-Kenneth L. Ramsey & Sarah K. Ramsey (KY); T-Joe Sharp.

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Thursday's Results:

8th-OP, \$73,000, Alw (NW19M)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 2-25, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:45.97, ft.

FAR RIGHT (r, 4, Notional--Zindi, by Vindication) kicked off his sophomore season last term with back-to-back wins in the Smarty Jones S. and GIII Southwest S.. Runner-up to subsequent Triple Crown winner American Pharoah (Pioneerof the Nile) in the GI Arkansas Derby here last spring, he failed to factor when sixth behind the Horse of the Year in the GI Kentuck Derby and was sixth next out in the Ohio Derby. Filling that spot again in a sloppy renewal of the GII Indiana Derby last July, the ridgling was shelved for the rest of the season and returned in a one-mile test here Jan. 28, where he finished a half-length second. Hammered down to 1-2 favoritism, the chestnut ran in second to last early through soft early fractions of :24.64 and :49.70 and began to steadily pick off rivals on the backstretch. Four wide turning for home, Far Right was under a drive in the lane and got up just in time for a neck success over pacesetter Abraham (Distorted Humor). Sales history: \$2,500 Ylg '13 KEEJAN. Lifetime Record: GSW & GISP, 14-4-4-2, \$699,046. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O-Robert LaPenta & Harry Rosenblum; B-Nossab LLC & Patrick Crowley (KY); T-Ron Moquett.

IN THE DARBY DAN TRADITION



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8th-FG, \$41,000, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 2-25, 3yo, 1m 70y, 1:42.98, ft.

JENSEN (c, 3, Haynesfield--Spun Lake, by Hard Spun) was runner-up in his six-furlong unveiling here Dec. 17 and earned his diploma as the 4-5 favorite next out going that same distance here Jan. 10, just one day after fellow Lary & Cindy Jones homebred Sapphire Seas (Proud Citizen) graduated on debut in New Orleans. He was second to Dolphus (Lookin at Lucky), a half-brother to Horse of the Year Rachel Alexandra (Medaglia d'Oro), by just a three-quarters of a length last time in a track-and-trip optional claimer Jan. 31. Dispatched as the 2-1 second-choice behind GSP Harlan Punch (Harlan's Holiday), the hulking chestnut instantly glided to the lead and maintained a comfortable advantage while setting early fractions of :24.44 and :48.72. With Florent Geroux still motionless in the irons turning for home, Jensen sailed clear in the lane to a seemingly effortless 6 3/4-length victory over Spikes Shirl (Speightstown). Favored Harlan Punch was fourth. Lifetime Record: 4-2-2-0, \$64,800. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O/B-Larry Jones & Cindy Jones (KY); T-J. Larry Jones.

7th-FG, \$38,000, Alw, 2-25, (NW1X), 4yo/up, 1 1/16mT, 1:44.32, fm.

CHILTERN STREET (c, 4, Giant's Causeway--Marylebone {GISW, \$171,800}, by Unbridled's Song) checked in fourth in his career bow sprinting over the Saratoga lawn Sept. 4 and filled that spot again as the chalk next out going a mile at Kentucky Downs Sept. 16, a race in which the reopposing Belomor (Stormy Atlantic) was third. Favored yet again in a nine-furlong turf test at Churchill Nov. 5, he set the early pace, but was overtaken late and forced to settle for second. Earning his diploma last time going this distance over the Tampa sod Dec. 2, the 2-1 shot broke on top and clocked an opening quarter in :23.62 before ceding the lead to 9-5 favorite Belomor. Sitting pretty as he allowed the favorite a comfortable lead, the chestnut easily swept past that rival in the lane skipped home to a three-quarter length success. King Ptolemy (Pioneerof the Nile) nosed out Belomor for second. The winner is a full to stakes-winner Bow Bells and GSP Sloane Square. Her dam Marylebone, winner of the 2003 GI Matron S., has an unraced 3-year-old filly named Fitzrovia (Uncle Mo) and 2-year-old and yearling full brothers to the winner. She is currently in foal to "TDN Rising Star" and MGISW Verrazano (More Than Ready). Lifetime Record: 5-2-1-0, \$56,230. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O-Michael B. Tabor; B-Chelston (KY); T-Wesley A. Ward.

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5th-FG, \$37,000, Msw, 2-25, 3yo, f, 1mT, 1:39.41, fm.
SIEMPRE MIA (f, 3, [Scat Daddy](#)--[Shaconage](#) {MGSW, \$534,051}, by [El Prado](#) {Ire}) checked in fourth as the favorite on debut sprinting over the main track at Delta Downs Nov. 14 and filled that spot again next out in a muddy off-the-turfer here Dec. 26. Third when trying turf for the first time in a 5 1/2-panel test over this course Jan. 16, she was bet down to 5-2 from her 6-1 morning-line in this first try over eight furlongs. Seizing the early advantage, the gray clocked opening splits of :24.37 and :50.08 from the fence and kept on finding in the lane to pull clear to a 1 1/4-length score. Cherub ([Giant's Causeway](#)), dismissed at 24-1, completed the exacta. The winner's second dam [Carita Toastada](#) (Chi) ([Gallantsky](#)) was a dual Group 1 winner in Chile and she also hails from the family of GSW & GISP sire [Horse Greeley](#) (Mr. Greeley). [Siempre Mia's](#) dam [Shaconage](#), winner of a pair of Grade III events, has a yearling filly named [Drena's Best](#) ([Midnight Lute](#)). Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-1, \$30,200. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).**
 O-Paul Van Doren; B-Andrena Van Doren (KY); T-Thomas Amoss.

Indiana Grand Stakes Schedule Announced:

A total of 36 Thoroughbred stakes races, valued at more than \$4.4 million, will be featured during the 2016 racing season at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino. The meet, which kicks off Apr. 19, will be highlighted by the \$500,000 GII Indiana Derby slated for Jul. 16.

"The move of the Indiana Derby to July last year proved to be a great spot on the summer stakes calendar for three-year-olds," said Kevin Greely, director of racing at Indiana Grand. "We had a strong field for the race and broke attendance records due to warmer weather. In addition, 20 state stakes for Indiana bred or sired horses were raised from \$85,000 to \$100,000 in 2016, adding another boost to our stakes program."

The Indiana Derby night card will have six additional stakes races, including the \$200,000 GII Indiana Oaks.

The Wednesday, Sept. 7 card will have the final four of the meet's 10 scheduled turf stakes, highlighted by the \$200,000 [Centaur S.](#) and the \$200,000 [Indiana Grand S.](#)

"By showcasing a lot of our stakes races on Wednesday afternoons, we have become known as one of the premier Thoroughbred tracks mid-week," said Greely. "This gives us the opportunity to showcase our races in front of a national audience."

Racing for Indiana Grand's 14th live season will be conducted Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 2:05 p.m. EST, while Saturday evening cards will kick off at 6:05 p.m. EST. Thursday racing, with a 2:05 p.m. EST post time, will be added to the schedule Jul. 7.

Excaper to stand at River Oaks Farms:

Excaper (Exchange Rate--[Ada Ruckus](#), by [Bold Ruckus](#)), winner of the 2014 GII Connaught Cup and runner-up in the 2011 GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf, has been retired and will stand at [Francisco Bravo's River Oaks Farms](#) in Oklahoma. His stud fee will be \$2,000.

The gray/roan grass specialist won five races out of 30 and placed in 11 others from ages two to six en route to career earnings of \$775,360.

"Excaper is a horse that offers world class 2-year-old form," said [Chad Schumer](#), who brokered the stud deal. "He is also by a leading 2-year-old known for siring fast and early types, so a perfect horse for the Oklahoma market."

California

Thursday's Results:

6th-SA, \$57,380, (S), Msw, 2-25, 3yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f, 1:17.97, ft.
+BAKO SWEETS (f, 3, [Twirling Candy](#)--[Flaming Dixie](#), by [Dixieland Band](#)) floated up to 12-1 from her 5-1 morning-line despite displaying a steady series of works leading up to this career bow. Breaking sharply, the dark bay dueled for early control through a quick first quarter in :22.05 and gained a narrow advantage, clocking a half in :45.39. The sophomore rolled clear in the stretch under a hand ride from [Drayden Van Dyke](#) to win by 3 1/4 lengths over [California Curl](#) ([Curlin](#)). The winner's dam is a half to GSW & MGISP [Grasshopper](#) ([Dixie Union](#)) and GSW [Straw Hat](#) ([Dixie Union](#)). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$33,600. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).**

O/B-Donald Valpredo (CA); T-Neil D. Drysdale.

2015 MARYLAND-BRED CHAMPIONS

Horse of the Year, Older Male & Sprinter:

The Big Beast (Yes It's True)

2-year-old Male: **Tizzarunner** (Tizway)

2-year-old Filly: **Cathryn Sophia** (Street Boss)

3-year-old Male: **Noteworthy Peach** (Read the Footnotes)

3-year-old Filly: **Mayla** (Sharp Humor)

Older Female: **Kiss to Remember** (Big Brown)

Turf Runner: **Phlash Phelps** (Great Notion)

Steeplechaser: **Grinding Speed** (Grindstone)

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INDUSTRY INFO

AAEP Releases List of EIPH Research Topics:

As part of its strategic initiative to protect the health and welfare of the racehorse, the American Association of Equine Practitioners has released a list of research topics identified by an expert panel as central to the goal of understanding exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage. The identified topics will help determine future research priorities in the investigation of alternative management strategies for EIPH.

The panel, assembled for an AAEP-hosted meeting in November 2015, included experts in the fields of equine EIPH, pulmonary and cardiac physiology, lung pathology and human sports medicine. Their focus was a review of current scientific knowledge and the identification of future research priorities.

Click [here](#) for more.

ROOKIES

First/second-crop starters to watch: Friday, February 26

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

AMERICAN LION (Tiznow), Darby Dan Farm, \$5K, 131/8/1

8-OP, Aoc 6f, Grantastica, 15-1

ARCHARCHARCH (Arch), Spendthrift Farm, \$10K, 248/26/2

8-OP, Aoc 6f, Arch Arch Baby, 6-1

CROWN OF THORNS (Repent), Woodford Thoroughbreds, \$4K, 32/5/1

9-SUN, \$100K Mine That Bird Overnight S., 1m, Crown of Ambition, \$15K OBS OPN 2yo, 20-1

FRIESAN FIRE (A.P. Indy), Country Life Farm, \$4K, 102/15/1

2-PEN, Alw 6f, H K's Merida, 10-1

GIANT SURPRISE (Giant's Causeway), Rockridge Stud, \$4K, 39/5/2

3-AQU, Aoc 6f, Surprise Cameo, \$80K OBS APR 2yo, 7-2

GIROLAMO (A.P. Indy), Darley, \$15K, 150/21/1

2-PEN, Alw 6f, Special Dividend, \$5K SAR AUG yrl, 6-1

HAYNESFIELD (Speightstown), Airdrie Stud, \$10K, 138/18/1

10-GP, Aoc 7f, Realm, \$75K EAS SEP yrl, 6-1

MISREMEMBERED (Candy Ride {Arg}), Hill 'N' Dale Farms, \$8K, 57/8/1

8-OP, Aoc 6f, She's a Bootsy Too, \$17K EAS MAY 2yo, 6-1

PADDY O'PRADO (El Prado {Ire}), Spendthrift Farm, \$15K, 229/19/1

6-AQU, Msw 1m, Tapa Liath, 10-1

SIENTE EL TRUENO (City Zip), Stehr's Farm, 7/2/0

7-CT, Alw 6 1/2f, Siente El Viento, 8-1

TWIRLING CANDY (Candy Ride {Arg}), Lane's End Farm, \$15K, 145/30/1

2-HOU, Aoc 5 1/2f, Twirlabout, 3-1

UNCLE MO (Indian Charlie), Ashford Stud, \$35K, 261/36/8

10-GP, Aoc 7f, Prospectus, \$72K OBS OPN 2yo, 7-2

2-HOU, Aoc 5 1/2f, Tiffany Case, \$34K E '15 KEE NOV, 2-1

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IN DUBAI:

Marking, c, 4, [Bernardini](#).

California Chrome, h, 5, [Lucky Pulpit](#).

Brabbham, h, 6, [Bernardini](#).

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BREEDERS' EDITION AMERICA

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-AQU, \$75,000, (C)/Opt. Clm (\$100,000), 2-25, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:11.36, my.

ALEX THE TERROR (c, 4, [Mineshaft](#)--Fresh Tracks {MSP, \$171,418}, by Silver Deputy) Lifetime Record: SP, 18-5-2-4, \$226,120. O-Bran Jam Stable & David Clark; B-Fares Farm LLC (KY); T-John T. Toscano Jr. *\$57,000 Ylg '13 KEEJAN; \$38,000 Ylg '13 KEESEP; \$50,000 2yo '14 OBSAPR. **1/2 to Esttefania's Town (Speightstown), SW-PER.

B Another Mating by Shannon White B
LANE'S END Sales Graduate

9th-OP, \$73,000, (S), 2-25, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:13.19, ft.

AVISIONOFCHOCOLATE (f, 3, J Be K--Many Many Sweets, by Atticus) Lifetime Record: SP, 7-2-1-0, \$95,266. O-Jean Zehnder; B-Richard P Hessee (AR); T-William H. Fires. *\$195,000 RNA 2yo '15 FTKHRA. **1/2 to Big Sweets (American Champ), SW, \$135,917.

6th-FG, \$43,640, 2-25, (NW1X), 4yo/up, 6f, 1:10.68, ft.

GRANDE BASIN (g, 4, Good and Tough--Silver Rail {SW & GSP, \$321,449}, by Dispersal) Lifetime Record: MSP, 18-4-5-5, \$174,805. O-William Deckwa Jr. & John Carbo; B-Coteau Grove Farms (LA); T-Edward J. Johnston.

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Breeders' Edition America cont.

6th-DED, \$43,000, (S), Alw, 2-24, (NW2L), 3yo, f, 7f, 1:28.49, ft. LIL ALLIE DANCER (f, 3, Good and Tough--Native Gate Dancer {SW, \$111,323}, by Gate Dancer) Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$49,200. O-Chance Yelverton; B-Tom Curtis & Wayne Simpson (LA); T-Samuel Breau. * \$6,000 Ylg '14 ESLYRL; \$13,000 RNA 2yo '15 EVAMAR. ** Full to Loranger Native, MSW, \$257,450.

8th-DED, \$43,000, (S), Alw, 2-24, (NW1X), 4yo/up, f/m, 7 1/2f, 1:35.06, ft.

MS DIXIE GIRL (m, 5, [Even the Score](#)--Sweetheartofdixie, by Mr. Greeley) Lifetime Record: 12-2-2-3, \$74,164. O/B-David R. Rogers & Daniel T. Rogers (LA); T-Henry B. Johnson, Jr.

6th-PEN, \$33,300, (S), Alw, 2-24, (NW1X), 4yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:39.51, sy.

SWEET LITTLE LIES (f, 4, [Discreet Cat](#)--Sweet Sizzle, by Distorted Humor) Lifetime Record: 14-3-1-2, \$79,945. O/B-Copper Penny Stables (PA); T-Mark Shuman.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Ecom, g, 3, E Dubai--Market At Midday, by Yonaguska. PEN, 2-24, (S), 6f, 1:12.36. B-Barlar, LLC (PA).

+Noble Beauty, f, 3, [Kitten's Joy](#)--Money Huntress, by Mineshaft. GP, 2-25, (C), 1 1/16mT, 1:43.86. B-Kenneth & Sarah Ramsey (KY). * \$95,000 RNA 2yo '15 OBSAPR.

Dr Luber's Kiss, g, 3, Marsh Side--Beso Del Sur, by Dixieland Band. AQU, 2-25, (S), (C), 6f, 1:14.29. B-Owen Kiernan (NY). *\$4,700 RNA Ylg '14 EASSEP.

Couche Couche, g, 3, Pulling Punches--Sassy Belle, by Doc's Leader. FG, 2-25, (S), 5 1/2fT, 1:04.90. B-Charles Titsworth (LA). *\$20,000 2yo '15 EQL2YO.

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Two the Punch, g, 3, Top Hit--Double Punch, by Two Punch. SA, 2-25, (C), 1m, 1:39.52. B-Kevin R. Owens (AZ).

Fine Instincts, f, 4, [Tale of the Cat](#)--Acadia, by Silver Deputy. PEN, 2-25, 1m 70y, 1:45.41. B-Randal Family Trust, R David & Marylyn A Randal Trustees (KY). *\$275,000 Ylg '13 FTSAUG. **1/2 to Strike Oil (Forest Wildcat), SW, \$220,366.

Jemmabelle, m, 5, [Street Sense](#)--Charming Lauren, by Meadowlake. AQU, 2-25, 6f, 1:14.17. B-Whisper Hill Farm (KY). * \$140,000 Ylg '12 OBSAUG.



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Orfevre (Jpn) (c. Stay Gold (Jpn)) dazzles in G1 Kikuka Sho (Japanese St Leger), securing Japan's Triple Crown.

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CALIFORNIA CHROME CRUISES IN DUBAI



California Chrome alone at the wire | DRC/Andrew Watkins

“Perfect race,” was the description used by trainer Art Sherman after **California Chrome** (Lucky Pulpit) romped in a Meydan handicap Thursday, and the 5-year-old’s owners and legions of fans worldwide were likely echoing that sentiment after what looked like a seamless preparation for the world’s richest race, the \$10 million G1 Dubai World Cup Mar. 26. Off a half-step slow from the inside gate, California Chrome looked briefly inclined to engage the speed under Victor Espinoza as they raced past the stands, but dropped back to stalk the pace in third as the field swung into the first turn. Three wide and about a length off the lead--much like he was at the same stage in last year’s Dubai World Cup--down the backstretch, the chestnut inherited the lead at the top of the lane as the overmatched Success Story (Kor) (Peace Rules) and Hunting Ground (Street Cry {Ire}) began to tire. The 2014 American Horse of the Year was never under any danger, drawing clear under a motionless Espinoza to win by two geared-down lengths from Storm Belt (More Than Ready). The win--which was in the same race used by dual U. S. Horse of the Year Curlin (Smart Strike) as a springboard to a Dubai World Cup victory in 2008, albeit at a different track--sets the four-time Grade I winner up for his second crack at the world’s richest race. He was second last year.

California Chrome wasn’t the only U.S.-based winner on the card. Also victorious was Godolphin’s Grade I-placed **Marking** (Bernardini) in a 1200-metre handicap.

Cont. Worldwide News p3

PURSE HIKES FOR IRISH CHAMPS WEEKEND

Two of the features on the second day of Irish Champions Weekend Sept. 11 at The Curragh have been confirmed for purse boosts in 2016, with five total races on the day seeing prize money increases this year. The G1 Palmerstown House Estate Irish St. Leger will now be worth €400,000--double what it was worth in 2013. The G1 Moyglare Stud S. will be worth €350,000, up €125,000 since 2013.

Jason Morris, Director of Racing at Horse Racing Ireland, said, “It is very pleasing that five of The Curragh’s races will see enhanced prize money of €50,000 each this year, with the total value of the eight Curragh races on Longines Irish Champions Weekend rising by €250,000 from €1.9 million to €2.15 million in 2016. HRI is very grateful to the respective sponsors for their increased contributions in these races and is delighted to be providing matched funding to achieve the new higher levels of prize money. This underlines our commitment to a meeting which has quickly established itself as a feature on the international racing calendar.” **Cont. p2**

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Purse Hikes For Irish Champs Weekend Cont. from p1

Luke Comer, owner of Palmerstown House Estate, said, "We have enjoyed an excellent partnership with The Curragh as title sponsors of the Irish St. Leger since 2014, and we are delighted to enhance our commitment to the race by helping to increase the prize money, which will ensure it continues to attract the best staying horses in Europe and to be one of the most lucrative Group 1 races in the racing calendar."

Eva-Maria Bucher Haefner of Moyglare Stud said, "I am very happy to support the prize money increase to €350,000 for the 44th consecutive Moyglare Stud S. to be run at The Curragh on Longines Irish Champions Weekend in September. As the status of the Moyglare Stud S. grows, this can only be enhanced by the exciting plans for the future of the "new" Curragh Racecourse."

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A LOOK AHEAD

WITH MICHAEL O'CALLAGHAN OF CROTANSTOWN STABLES

1) Horse you are most looking forward to seeing this season?

MO: **Blue De Vega (Ger)**

(Lope De Vega {Ire}).

Obviously, he was a very impressive winner of [the] Killavullan S. last year, and was our best 2-year-old. He has thrived over the winter, and has done everything right up to now. He is just such a talented horse, that I am very lucky to have. He has a lot of natural speed, a lot of class, and has a stout pedigree to go with it. He will be aimed at the [G1] 2000 Guineas, with a view to progressing through the season from there.



Michael O'Callaghan | Racing Post

2) A stallion who could feature prominently (doesn't have to be first season)?

MO: **Dandy Man (Ire)** (Mozart {Ire}) is a very underrated sire that is slowly starting to get the recognition he deserves. **Lope De Vega (Ire)** (Shamardal) injects so much pace into pedigrees that I feel he is a stallion who is here to stay. With regards to first-season sires, I really like what I see with regards to **Harbour Watch (Ire)** (Acclamation {GB}) and **Dragon Pulse (Ire)** (Kyllachy {GB}), as I have a couple of each here that tick a lot of the right boxes.



Dandy Man | Ballyhane Stud

3) Positive change you would like to see for the industry in 2016?

MO: I would like to see the powers that be, here in Ireland, recognise that it is not continuous prize money increases that the sport needs to reincarnate itself. They need to think outside the box. However, it is not my job to think outside the box for them.

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ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNER:

Bocking End (Ire), f, 3, **Paco Boy (Ire)**--Miss Wells (Ire), by Sadler's Wells. CHD, 2-25, 8f (AWT), 1:39.91. B-Howard Barton Stud (IRE). *30,000gns Wlg '13 TATFOA.

Esteemable (GB), f, 4, **Nayef**--Ring of Esteem (GB), by Mark of Esteem (Ire). LIN, 2-25, 8f (AWT), 1:37.20. B-Mrs M. L. Parry & P. M. Steele-Mortimer (GB). *44,000gns Wlg '12 TATFOA. **1/2 to Montpellier (Ire) (Montjeu {Ire}), SP-UAE, \$185,042; & to Tinshu (Ire) (Fantastic Light), SW-Eng, \$219,435.

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Thursday's Result:

4th-CHY, €25,000, Mdn, 2-25, 3yo, f, 9 1/2f (AWT), 2:01.00, st. +PAKORA (FR) (f, 3, Gentlewave {Ire}--Panthesilea {Fr}, by Kendor {Fr}), sent off at 37-10, broke professionally to take up an early stalking position. Gaining a head of steam in the straight, the homebred surged to the front with 150 meters remaining and drew away for a 3 1/2-length dismissal of Valenka (Ger) (Sholokhov {Ire}). The winner is a full-sister to Pagera (Fr), GSW-Ger, GISP-Can, MSP-Fr, \$355,782; and a half-sister to Validor (Fr) (American Post {GB}), MSW-Fr, \$377,011. Lifetime Record: 1 start, 1 win, €12,500. [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O-Guy Pariente; B-Guy Pariente Holding (FR); T-Philippe Sogorb.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Bonnet Breton (Fr), c, 3, Naaqoos (GB)--Cancaise (Ire), by Entrepreneur (GB). CHY, 2-19, 9 1/2f (AWT), 1:58.09. B-Jean-Claude Bouret (FR).

Prime Spot (Ire), g, 4, High Chaparral (Ire)--High Maintenance (Fr) (GSP-Fr, \$115,823), by Highest Honor (Fr). CHY, 2-25, 8f (AWT), 1:39.94. B-Wertheimer et Frere (IRE). *€72,000 HRA '15 ARNOV. **1/2 to Solow (GB) (Singspiel {Ire}), Hwt. European Older Horse at 7-9 1/2f, Hwt. Older Horse-Fr & UAE at 7-9 1/2f, MG1SW-Eng, G1SW-Fr & UAE, \$6,260,824.



California Chrome Cruises in Dubai Cont. from p1

6th-MEY, \$150,000, Hcp, 2-25, NH4yo/up & SH3yo/up, 10f, 2:04.24, ft.

CALIFORNIA CHROME (h, 5, Lucky Pulpit--Love the Chase, by Not For Love) rose to international fame in 2014 as the GI Kentucky Derby and GI Preakness S. winner with the underdog connections. While his Triple Crown dreams faded when he was fourth in the GI Belmont S., a new goal arose soon after: the G1 Dubai World Cup, the world's richest race. Third, beaten a quarter-length, in the GI Breeders' Cup Classic at Santa Anita in 2014, California Chrome rounded out that campaign with a win in the GI Hollywood Derby on the grass and was crowned America's champion 3-year-old male and Horse of the Year.

California Chrome warmed up for last year's World Cup with a second-place finish to the ill-fated champion Shared Belief (Candy Ride {Arg}) in the GII San Antonio S. going nine furlongs in January, and wound up second in the World Cup after being run down late by longshot Prince Bishop (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}). The flashy chestnut was set for an international campaign that would include a tilt at Royal Ascot's G1 Prince of Wales's S. in June thereafter, but was withdrawn from consideration for that race after suffering a bone bruise just days before. Rerouted to Chicago to prepare for the GI Arlington Million in August, California Chrome was found to have more bone bruising shortly



California Chrome's connections accept the trophy | DRC/Andrew Watkins

after returning stateside. Plans were altered again, with the colt instead spending the summer recuperating at Taylor Made Farm in Kentucky, which did a deal to buy out part-owner and breeder Steve Coburn and stand California Chrome upon his retirement from racing. California Chrome returned to trainer Art Sherman in California late last year to rave reviews, and lived up to expectations to win his much-anticipated return in Santa Anita's GII San Pasqual S. Jan. 10. Shipped to Dubai later that month, California Chrome has been training under the tutelage of Sherman's son and assistant Alan Sherman. Art Sherman said his charge got what he needed out of Thursday's race. "We were very satisfied with the race--now I feel really good for the \$10 million race coming up," Sherman said. "With that mile and a quarter under his belt, he's going to be double tough, I think. We're looking for the best and it's going to be a great race here on the 26th of March, I can tell you that. There's going to be a lot of good horses running."

Sherman revealed he is keeping an eye on Curlin's North American earnings record of \$10,501,800. California Chrome has thus far banked \$6,442,650, and a win in the World Cup is worth \$6 million. "If we could ever get lucky he'd wind up being the richest Thoroughbred ever, passing Curlin, who is a great Thoroughbred, and it would be an honour for that to happen," Sherman said.

Espinoza described the win as "easy."

"The way he looked is the way he won," he said. "I didn't want to overdo it with him today because I know it's a short frame of time for the next race so I didn't want to empty the tank today. He went nice and comfortable, we got a good position on the first turn and from there he was pretty much all by himself." [Cont. p4](#)

California Chrome Cruises in Dubai Cont.

When asked if California Chrome is better than he was last year, Espinoza said, "Believe it or not, it's true. When he's feeling good he comes out of the gate like a rocket, and it's a good sign that he's back to his normal energy like before." California Chrome has a placed 3-year-old full-sister named Hope's Love, a 2-year-old full-sister named California Chromet and a yearling full-brother. **Click for the [Racing Post result](#).**
VIDEO. Lifetime Record: Horse of the Year, Ch. 3yo Colt, MGISW-US, G1SP-UAE, 20-11-3-1, \$6,532,650. O-California Chrome, LLC; B-Perry Martin & Steve Coburn (CA); T-Art Sherman.

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Thursday, Meydan, Dubai

ZABEEL MILE SPONSORED BY AL NABOODAH CONSTRUCTION

GROUP-G2, \$250,000, MEY, 2-25, NH4yo/up & SH3yo/up, 1600mT, 1:36.45, gd.

1--**SAFETY CHECK (IRE), 130, h, 5, by [Dubawi \(Ire\)](#)**

1st Dam: Doors To Manual, by Royal Academy

2nd Dam: Mercantile (Fr), by Kenmare (Fr)

3rd Dam: Mercuriale (Fr), by Pan II (Fr)

(125,000gns Wlg '11 TATDEC). O-Godolphin; B-Malih Al Basti (IRE); T-Charlie Appleby; J-William Buick. \$150,000. Lifetime Record: GSP-Eng, 24-10-5-1, \$833,536. **Werk Nick Rating: C.** **Click for the [eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree](#).**

2--**Ghaamer, 127, g, 6, [Hard Spun](#)--Teeba, by Seeking the Gold.** O-Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum; B-Shadwell Farm LLC; T-Ali Rashid Al Raihe. \$50,000.

3--**Zahee (NZ), 127, g, 6, [Dylan Thomas \(Ire\)](#)--Zaheeya (Aus), by Encosta de Lago (Aus).** O/B-Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum (NZ); T-Mike de Kock. \$25,000.

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 Margins: SHD, 1, 1 1/4.

Also Ran: Harry's Son (Aus), Forjatt (Ire), Big Baz (Ire), Fanciful Angel (Ire), Johann Strauss (GB), Bossy Guest (Ire), Championship (Ire).

Click for the [Racing Post result](#) or the [free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree](#). **VIDEO.**

Safety Check had to dig deep to defend his title in Meydan's Zabeel Mile, but he accomplished that while recording his fifth straight win when running at Meydan. Tried initially at the 2014 carnival on the all-weather, Safety Check made little impact but won a pair of handicaps on the grass in England that summer. Sticking to that surface at last year's carnival, Safety Check went three-for-three, including wins in the G2 Al Fahidi Fort and this race. Tried twice over seven furlongs in Britain in the summer, he finished a game second to Toormore (Ire) (Arakan {Ire}) in the G2 Lennox S. but was a well-beaten 10th in Doncaster's G2 Park S. in September.

The chestnut shook off that loss to defend his title in the G2 Al Fahidi Fort at Meydan first-up Jan. 21, and added another repeat win to his record Thursday. Settling midpack in a compact group as Ghaamer led the field down the backstretch with Zahee on his heels and Harry's Son (Aus) (Haradasun {Aus}) not far behind, Safety Check and William Buick swung three-wide off the turn. He took the length of the stretch to wind up, but Safety Check got up to nip a game Ghaamer in the shadow of the wire



Safety Check (outside) | DRC/Andrew Watkins

and win by the narrowest of margins. "It was a bit of a messy race where I was," admitted Buick, who was recording a double having won on Marking a race earlier. "I had to fight for

my place there and rode the race from halfway, but he quickened well in the straight. He's such a super horse; he's a stable favorite, and they've done such a good job with him and the rest of the horses this year. They deserve this."

Buick noted that the trip was suitable for Safety Check, but said seven furlongs is ideal. "He sees out the mile but he's got such a turn of foot," he explained. "Seven is perfect. He was on fumes but he got the job done. He's a very tough horse and he deserves a crack at the top level." The rider said that chance could come in Hong Kong's G1 Champions Mile in April. "It's a similar flat track and a very stiff mile, so we'll see," he said. "Let's enjoy today."

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1st-MEY, \$120,000, Hcp, 2-25, NH4yo/up & SH3yo/up, 7f, 1:23.55, ft.

ONE MAN BAND (IRE) (h, 5, Pivotal {GB})--Musicanna {GB} {SW & MG1SP-Eng, \$191,737}, by Cape Cross {Ire}) lived up to his name in this contest, finishing alone at the wire to win for the fourth time in his last five starts. A clear-cut winner going a mile over this course Nov. 19 and Dec. 3, One Man Band stepped up to 9 1/2 furlongs to win a handicap on the carnival's opening card Jan. 7, but checked in two lengths behind Confrontation (War Pass) when second in the G3 Firebreak S. three weeks ago. One Man Band was pressed by Over The Ocean (Rockport Harbor) on the lead here, but had no other challengers when that rival tired midway around the turn.

Cont. p5

1st-MEY Cont.

He drew clear in the lane to win by six lengths from Heavy Metal (GB) (Exceed and Excel {Aus}). “That was perfect as his prep for the Godolphin Mile in 30 days,” said trainer Doug Watson. “He was a bit slow into his stride but he has plenty of natural speed and [jockey Sam Hitchcott] did not panic, so they were able to get to the front. He is a



One Man Band | DRC/Andrew Watkins

nice horse and one we have always liked.” Sales history: €95,000 Wlg ‘11 GOFNOV. [Click for the Racing Post result.](#) [VIDEO.](#) Lifetime Record: GSP-UAE, 13-7-0-1, \$308,619. O-Sheikh Saeed bin Mohammed Al Maktoum; B-Richard A Pegum (IRE); T-Doug Watson.

5th-MEY, \$120,000, Hcp, 2-25, NH4yo/up & SH3yo/up, 10fT, 2:01.90, gd.

BASATEEN (IRE) (g, 4, [Teofilo {Ire}](#)--Tasha’s Dream, by Woodman) earned ‘TDN Rising Star’ status when airing by eight lengths at second asking at Doncaster in July of 2014, and he finished third in the G3 Acomb S. next out. He failed to fire in three handicap tests in Britain last summer, but looked well at home in his Meydan debut Thursday. Last as the field raced down the backstretch and around the turn, Basateen responded when jockey Dane O’Neill began to hustle him at the top of the lane. He quickly began to pick off rivals and, once switching leads, put away a stubborn Think Ahead (GB) (Shamardal) in midstretch to win by 4 1/4 lengths. Basateen’s dam has a yearling filly by Shamardal. The winner is a half to Al Madina (Ire) (Noverre), GSP-Eng. Sales history: €50,000 Wlg ‘12 GOFNOV; 250,000gns ‘13 TAOCT. [Click for the Racing Post result.](#) [VIDEO.](#) Lifetime Record: GSP-Eng, 7-2-0-2, \$101,706. O-Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum; B-Forenaghts Stud (IRE); T-Doug Watson.

3rd-MEY, \$110,000, Hcp, 2-25, NH4yo/up & SH3yo/up, 6f, 1:10.86, ft.

MARKING (c, 4, [Bernardini](#)--Seventh Street {MGISW-US, \$716,000}, by Street Cry {Ire}) cemented his reputation as a horse with a future when second to champion sprinter Runhappy (Super Saver) in the GI Malibu S. in just his third start in December; however, the bay has also proven to be far from straightforward. Scratched from his intended debut after acting up in the gate at Saratoga Aug. 21, Marking was slow away from the stalls a month later at Belmont Park but fast enough at the finish to earn ‘TDN Rising Star’ status.

The son of GI Apple Blossom S. and GI Go For Wand S. winner Seventh Street justified that moniker when winning an Aqueduct allowance by 5 1/2 lengths Nov. 4, and found only GI Breeders’ Cup Sprint and Eclipse Award winner Runhappy (Super Saver) too good in Santa Anita’s GI Malibu S. Dec. 26. Set to make his Dubai debut in the G3 Al Shindagha Sprint over this track and trip two weeks ago, Marking once again found trouble at the start, falling to his knees as the gates opened and throwing jockey James Doyle. Making the starters work to get him loaded Thursday, Marking was again away awkwardly and immediately came under a ride from jockey William Buick as he raced midpack. Still being scrubbed on by Buick as Kifaah (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}) set a swift pace up front coming off the turn, Marking found his feet when switching leads and getting into the clear at the 300-metre mark. He inhaled Kifaah in the final furlong and ultimately bested that rival by two lengths. Buick noted after the race his mount was talented by green, saying, “He’s still a big baby; that was his fifth run in his whole life. He got into it from halfway, I managed to tag along to the leaders and once I pulled him out and he changed legs and got out of the kickback he picked up really well. At halfway you were wondering what was going to happen, but on the line he was well ahead.”

Neal McLaughlin, assistant trainer to his brother Kieran McLaughlin, was on hand for the win and said, “At first I was just happy he came out of the gate with the rider still attached to him. He was a little further back than we thought but with all the schooling I had to do with him in the last few weeks I can understand that he was kind of switched off. We still have some work to do at the stalls and I’ll get with [starter] Shane Ryan and we’ll make a plan.” McLaughlin added, “The last two furlongs is the Marking that we know and were hoping to see. When he got out and switched leads he just took off. He’s a very talented horse.”

The style of Marking’s win certainly indicated he may not be an out-and-out sprinter, and McLaughlin said the horse’s options are open for Dubai World Cup night and beyond.



Marking | DRC/Andrew Watkins

“There’s a few thoughts,” he said. “William is a wonderful rider and we’re going to get his opinion. He’s going to have to sharpen up out of the stalls to compete against those fast six-furlong horses [in the track and trip G1 Dubai Golden Shaheen], so the [G2 Godolphin Mile] is always an option. If we need someone to lead Frosted around there in a stiff pace in the World Cup, you never know. We’ve got all the options open.” [Cont. p6](#)

3rd-MEY Cont.

Marking's dam, Seventh Street, is a half-sister to Reynaldtothewizard (Speightstown), a 'TDN Rising Star' who has made a big impression in the UAE as the winner of the 2013 G1 Golden Shaheen and numerous other group races. Seventh Street has a yearling colt by Tapit and is due to foal again to that champion sire this year. **Click for the [Racing Post result](#). [VIDEO](#).** Lifetime Record: GISP-US, 5-3-1-0, \$211,200. O-Godolphin; B-Darley; T-Kiaran McLaughlin.

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7th-MEY, \$175,000, Hcp, 2-25, NH4yo/up & SH3yo/up, 6fT, 1:10.43, gd.

BACCARAT (IRE) (g, 7, Dutch Art {GB}--Zut Alors {Ire} {GSP-Ger & SP-Fr}, by Pivotal {GB}), Lifetime Record: 17-6-2-1, \$402,891. O-Godolphin; B-Twelve Oaks Stud (IRE); T-Charlie Appleby. *€180,000 Ylg '10 ARAUG; 85,000gns HRA '14 TATAUT. **1/2 to Peut Etre (Ire) (Whipper), GSP-Fr. **Click for the [Racing Post result](#). [VIDEO](#).**

2nd-MEY, \$60,000, Hcp, 2-25, NH4yo/up & SH3yo/up, 10f, 2:04.27, ft.

BRABBHAM (h, 6, Bernardini--Easter Bunnette, by Carson City) Lifetime Record: 12-3-1-3, \$86,226. O-Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Maktoum; B-Nancy S Dillman; T-Ahmad bin Harmash. *1/2 to Havre de Grace (Saint Liam), Horse of the Year, Ch. Older Mare & MG1SW-US, \$2,586,175. **\$1,200,000 yrl '11 FTNAUG. **Click for the [Racing Post result](#). [VIDEO](#).**

AL SHAHANIA: DOHA'S OASIS DREAM

Story and photos by Emma Berry

An hour away from the shimmering steel-and-glass high-rise cityscape of downtown Doha, through suburbs peppered with construction sites and roadworks, emerges an equine oasis in the desert. Al Shahania



Mares and foals at Al Shahania

Stud sits on seven wells, providing a natural irrigation system for the 50 acres of land which are home to some 200 horses. In the racing world it is an unusual facility in that its air conditioned breeding barns and paddocks, which are occupied by 80 broodmares and seven stallions, sit alongside the training yard and 2,000-metre natural sand track used by Al Shahania's private trainer, Julian Smart.

This is the immaculate headquarters of the equine empire of Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Thani, the uncle of the Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, whose brother Sheikh Joaan and cousin Sheikh Fahad run pretty impressive racing and breeding operations of their own under the Al Shaqab and Qatar Racing banners. In 2011, Sheikh Mohammed extended his operation into Europe and Thoroughbred breeding with the purchase of the Normandy-based Haras des Cruchettes, which is overseen by his French representative Bertrand Le Metayer.

The sheikh's blue-and-white-starred silks have become more familiar in the Thoroughbred world in recent years, most notably through such colourbearers as G1 St James's Palace S. runner-up Hermival (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}) and G1 Cheveley Park S. winner Vorda (Fr) (Orpen), but they are famed within Arab racing circles, his 45-strong stable with Smart helping to put him in second position in the Qatari owners' table with 20 wins this season, just one shy of his brother Sheikh Abdullah's Umm Qarn operation.

It may be the final of the Qatar Open women's tennis championships this Saturday but for the local racing world, the major sporting event is the HH The Emir's Sword, a 2,400-metre Group 1 race for purebred Arabians run as the finale to three days of racing at Al Rayyan on the outskirts of Doha. The importance of the race is clear from just a brief glance at the Al Shahania Stud brochure. On the inside cover, Sheikh Mohammed is pictured holding aloft the Emir's Sword trophy, just one of 10 he has won over the years, starting with Djendel in 1991 and most recently with Assy in 2014.



Trainer Julian Smart

The latter, a homebred 7-year-old son of the legendary Amer, whose prevalence in Arabian racing bloodlines would be similar to that of Northern Dancer, is bidding to reclaim his title after a two-year lay-off from racing. He is one of three runners for his breeder and the British-born Smart, who is now in his seventh season training in Qatar.

Further evidence of the influence of the Emir's Sword is gained from a wander through the Al Shahania stallion barn: no fewer than five of the stud's resident sires are past winners of the race, including the one-eyed globe-trotter Aziz ASF, another son of Amer whose 10 victories include the G1 Zabeel International S. in the UK. **Cont. p7**

Al Shahania: Doha's Oasis Dream Cont.

The keenness of the Qataris to diminish the us-and-them divide between Thoroughbred and Arab racing is demonstrated in the major Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club (QREC) sponsorship of the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe meeting, which now stages the



Camels at Al Shahania

world's richest Arab race--the €1 million Qatar Arabian World Cup--alongside arguably the world's most prestigious mile-and-a-half race for Thoroughbreds. At last year's HH The Emir's Sword Festival, another major Group 1 race for Arabs in Europe was announced, which saw the inaugural running of the £400,000 Qatar Harwood International S. at Goodwood in August 2015. With it came the launch of the Qatar Arabian Triple Crown, which starts in England and moves on to France before culminating in Qatar with the Emir's Sword, where a bonus of \$1 million is on offer for a horse who can claim all three stages of the unique world series.

The two sectors of the racing world share equal billing during QREC's major meeting at Al Rayyan, with the major Thoroughbred race of the three days, the HH The Emir's Trophy, a domestic Group 1 contest, attracting an international cast and sponsorship by

Longines. Of the 15 declared runners, six are trained outside Qatar, with Richard Hannon, David O'Meara and Brian Meehan fielding Tashaar (Ire) (Sea The Stars {Ire}), Afonso De Sousa (Henrythenavigator) and Agent Murphy (GB) (Cape Cross {Ire}) from Britain, while South Africa's Mike de Kock and Germany's Mario Hofer once again lock horns via their representatives Tannaaf (Ire) (High Chaparral {Ire}) and Rogue Runner (Ger) (King's Best), who were split only by pixels in a photo finish for the Qatar Derby in December. Completing the international line-up is the Moroccan-bred Billabong (Mor), who is trained in Chantilly by Pascal Bary, but is the pride and joy of his owner-breeder Sharif El Alami.



Nicolas De Watrigant (I) & Bertrand Le Metayer

One of the many visitors to Al Shahania for a tour of the stud and breakfast al fresco alongside camels, hawks and salukis, El Alami commented, "It's really exciting to be here and to be among the first international horses to run here in Qatar."

Billabong, a 7-year-old son of the Monsun (Ger) stallion Gentlewave (Ire), was bred at the El Alami family's Jalobey Stud in Souissi Rabat, just a little way along the Moroccan coast from Casablanca. With 150 acres, 40 broodmares and 10 stallions--including the former Al Shahania-owned Hermival, 1998 Arc winner Sagamix (Fr) and recent French recruit Naaqoos (GB)--it is the country's most significant privately-owned stud.

With Qatar's dominant champion trainer Jassim Al Ghazali a frequent visitor to the horses-in-training sales in Britain and Ireland, there will be plenty of familiar names on the racecard for visitors from those countries over the next few days but among the horses to have been shipped in specially for the occasion is recent Lingfield listed winner Rivellino (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}). He will become the first runner in Qatar for his owners Colin and Melba Bryce of Laundry Cottage Stud and for trainer Karl Burke when he takes his place in Saturday's At The Races-sponsored Katara Sprint Cup.

"We'd been thinking about going to Dubai with him this winter but it looked like the only options for him there would be on the dirt, which we didn't think would suit him," said Colin Bryce, whose daughter Gina Harding is also in Qatar as a raceday presenter along with fellow Brit Nick Luck.



Colin and Melba Bryce and Gina Harding

"Then he won the Cleves S. at Lingfield which qualified him to come here so we thought, 'why not give it a go?' The prize-money is good and it's a privilege to be here. The horse arrived on Monday and he appears to have taken the traveling really well."

Rivellino will face the 2014 G2 Norfolk S. winner Baitha Alga (Ire) (Fast Company {Ire}), who is still owned by Al Shaqab but is now under the tutelage of Al Ghazali, in the 16-runner field. Among the other international visitors is Chelsea Thoroughbreds' Tony Curtis (GB) (Rock Of Gibraltar {Ire}), who is having a slightly unusual prep for the Classics. Winner of the listed EBF Stonehenge S. at Salisbury last season, the 3-year-old has accompanied Tashaar and Moheet (Ire) (High Chaparral {Ire}) from Richard Hannon's stable and is set to run in Saturday's G2 Al Biddah Mile.

DIAMOND DRAW COULD COST PRICE

Caulfield-based trainer Mick Price appeared to hold all the aces for Saturday's A\$1.5 million G1 Blue Diamond S. at that course, with a three-strong team headed by the two race favourites, **Extreme Choice (Aus)** (Not A Single Doubt {Aus}) and **Flying Artie (Aus)** (Artie Schiller {Aus}). The race's forecast, however, was made a little more cloudy at Tuesday's barrier draw, with last weekend's G3 Blue Diamond Prelude victor Flying Artie landing in gate 17, last-out G3 Chairman's S. winner Extreme Choice faring not much better in 13 and longshot **China Dream (Aus)** (Snitzel {Aus}) handed barrier 14 for Victoria's most



Mick Price | *Racing and Sports*

prestigious 2-year-old race.

Price, who won the Diamond in 2012 with Samaready (Aus) (More Than Ready), noted that Flying Artie won last weekend from the extreme outside barrier 16, but recognized the Blue

Diamond will be a tougher task.

"It'll definitely be a tough job for him, so I suppose Damien Oliver just has to have a bit of luck and the race has to be run the right way," Price told reporters after the barrier draw, expressing more optimism with Extreme Choice's position.

"I think the gate is alright for him; he ends up in 11 out of 16 if there are no scratchings," Price reasoned. "I've been talking to [jockey Craig Newitt] about running the right sectionals, especially the first half of the race; we don't want to be gassing out 10 and a bit sectionals and then expect him to finish. It'll be a little messy for my horses in those barriers but that's what happens."

Asked if the two favorites could overcome their draws and win, Price said, "I think Extreme Choice can. I think Flying Artie will need a bit of joy;



Flying Artie | *Racing and Sports*

he'll need the right things to happen in the race." The conditioner, however, was offering up no excuses. "I would say that from two months ago, when you're sort of making these long range plans to get these horses in, that things have gone perfectly for all three," he said. "I wouldn't change anything, so they go in there spot on and they'll win if they're good enough."

Despite Extreme Choice's ultra impressive win over Highland Beat (Aus) (Exceed and Excel {Aus}) in the Feb. 6 Chairman's S., it was Flying Artie who Damien Oliver made the difficult decision to stick with, as much for his game maiden-breaking win in the Prelude as for his perceived ability to relish the 1200 metres. Flying Artie bested **Star Turn (Aus)** (Star Witness {Aus}) last weekend, and that one--who broke his maiden at second asking at Randwick in October--breaks one barrier to the inside of Extreme Choice.

The fancied fillies fared better overall than the colts at the draw, with third choice **Samara Dancer (NZ)** (Hinchinbrook {Aus}) drawing five, and fourth choice **Concealer (Aus)** (Nicconi {Aus}) one to her outside. Samara Dancer took her record to two straight with a smart win in the G2 Blue Diamond Prelude for fillies last weekend over Concealer, and she looks to be the second South Australian-based filly to win the Diamond in the last four years, following Miracles Of Life (Aus) (Not A Single Doubt {Aus}) in 2013.

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Saturday, Caulfield, Australia, post time: 4:45 p.m. (12:45 a.m. EST)

LADBROKES BLUE DIAMOND S.-G1, A\$1,500,000 (£772,125/€982,446), 2yo, 1200mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Hell Of An Effort (Aus)	Reward For Effort (Aus)	Nolen	Moody	124
3	Miss Nymeria (Aus)	Stryker (Aus)	Maloney	Griffiths	120
4	Hey Doc (Aus)	Duporth (Aus)	Bosson	McEvoy	124
5	Samara Dancer (NZ)	Hinchinbrook (Aus)	Tourneur	Stokes	120
6	Concealer (Aus)	Nicconi (Aus)	Zahra	McEvoy	120
7	Zamzam (Aus)	Redoute's Choice (Aus)	Hall	Hyes/Dbernig	120
8	Valliano (Aus)	Equiano (Fr)	Lane	Hyes/Dbernig	124
9	Power Trip (Aus)	Hard Spun	Mott	McArdle	124
10	Star Turn (Aus)	Star Witness (Aus)	Dunn	Hawkeses	124
12	Highland Beat (Aus)	Exceed and Excel (Aus)	Currie	Hyes/Dbernig	124
13	Extreme Choice (Aus)	Not A Single Doubt (Aus)	Newitt	Price	124
14	China Dream (Aus)	Snitzel (Aus)	Boss	Price	124
15	Areti (Aus)	Street Sense	Williams	Griffiths	120
16	Sweet Sherry (Aus)	Bel Esprit (Aus)	Winks	Stanley	120
17	Flying Artie (Aus)	Artie Schiller	Oliver	Price	124
19	Kinetic Design (Aus)	Master Of Design (Aus)	Payne	Webb	120
Also Eligible:					
18	Selenia (Aus)	Not A Single Doubt (Aus)	McNeil	Griffiths	120
2	Seaburge (Aus)	Sebring (Aus)	No rider	Hyes/Dbernig	124
11	Revolving Door (Aus)	Sebring (Aus)	No rider	McDonald	124

FREE RACE REPLAYS from IRELAND, ENGLAND and FRANCE.

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WINX HEADS WALLER QUINTET

Peerless mare **Winx (Aus)** (Street Cry {Ire}) takes the next step in what could become a historic campaign in Saturday's G1 Chipping Norton S. going a mile at Randwick. The bay mare rounded out her spring campaign with a resounding win in the G1 Cox Plate Oct. 24, capping a perfect season that also included a win in the G1 Epsom H. over this trip. Winx got her autumn campaign going on the right foot when scooping the G2 Apollo S. over 1400 metres at this track two weeks ago. As is always the case in these important events, her trainer, Chris Waller, holds a



Winx | Magic Millions

formidable hand, and saddles five here, among them are dual Group 1 winner **Preferment (NZ)** (Zabeel {NZ}) and **Storm The Stars (Sea The Stars {Ire})**, who makes his Australian debut.

Preferment, the 2014 G1 Victoria Derby winner, took the 2000-metre G1 Turnbull S. in the spring prior to unplaced efforts in the Cox Plate, G1 Emirates Melbourne Cup and G1 Longines Hong Kong Vase, and will likely need the race first-up as well as added distance further on in the preparation. Sheikh Juma Dalmook Al Maktoum's Storm The Stars remains an entirely unknown quantity on these shores; however, he was classy enough to place in a pair of Derbies in Europe last year as well as France's G1 Grand Prix de Paris, while also winning the G2 Great Voltigeur S., so his prospects are as good as any.

Mongolian Khan (Aus) (Holy Roman Emperor {Ire}), one of last year's standouts after winning the G1 Australian Derby and G1 Caulfield Cup, makes his seasonal debut here, and while the distance will be short of his best, he did make a respectable showing over this trip first-up last prep in the G1 Makybe Diva S.

Godolphin and trainer John O'Shea bring a three-pronged attack, even bringing in British-based stable jockey William Buick to partner **Magic Hurricane (Ire)** (Hurricane Run {Ire}), who wants longer but has the class to hit the board over this trip. Godolphin's best chance at victory likely comes in the form of last year's G1 The BMW S. winner **Hartnell (Ire)** (Authorized {Ire}), who made a good showing over this distance first-up last prep and has the benefit of two recent trials.

Saturday, Randwick, Australia, post time: 4:25 p.m. (12:25 a.m. EST)
PRECISE AIR CHIPPING NORTON S.-G1, A\$600,000 (£309,623/€391,209), 3yo/up, 1600mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Dibayani (Ire)	Shamardal	Shinn	Hyes/Dbernig	130
2	Gust Of Wind (NZ)	Darci Brahma (NZ)	Avdulla	Sargent	125
3	Grand Marshal (GB)	Dansili (GB)	Collett	Waller	130
4	Mongolian Khan (Aus)	Hly Rman Emperor (Ire)	McEvoy	Baker	130
5	Preferment (NZ)	Zabeel (NZ)	Berry	Waller	130
6	Storm The Stars	Sea The Stars	England	Waller	129
7	Hartnell (GB)	Authorized (Ire)	McDonald	O'Shea	130
8	Winx (Aus)	Street Cry (Ire)	Bowman	Waller	125
9	Centre Pivot (Aus)	More Than Ready	Costin	Robl	130
10	Hauraki (Aus)	Reset (Aus)	Clipperton	O'Shea	130
11	Magic Hurricane (Ire)	Hurricane Run (Ire)	Buick	O'Shea	130
12	Who Sht Thebrman (NZ)	Yamanin Vital (NZ)	Reith	Waller	130

TURN ME LOOSE TIGHT FOR FUTURITY

The 2014 G1 NZ 2000 Guineas winner **Turn Me Loose (NZ)** (Iffraaj {GB}) made a big impression when winning three of four Australian outings last season, including the G1 Emirates S. and the G2 Crystal Mile, and the 4-year-old continues his buildup to that favoured distance in Saturday's 1400-metre G1 Futurity S. at Caulfield. Debuting over this track and trip in the G1 C.F. Orr S. two weeks ago, Turn Me Loose tired in the closing stages, but



Turn Me Loose | Racing and Sports

his second-up record is much more telling: he has won two of three tries at second asking, while he has never won at first asking, so should be geared up to go Saturday. Turn Me Loose is the latest project of New Zealand trainer Murray Baker, who has produced

horses like **It's A Dundee (NZ)** (High Chaparral {Ire}) and **Mongolian Khan (Aus)** (Holy Roman Emperor {Ire}) to win major Australian features.

The 14-1 winner of the C.F. Orr was the 4-year-old mare **Suavito (Aus)** (Thorn Park {Aus}), and she goes into this with plenty to recommend her, having also won this race last year. She is clearly at home over this track and trip and, along with last year's G1 Myer S. winner **Politeness (Aus)** (Street Sense), gets a five-pound weight break from the boys. Politeness, who has yet to finish out of the top two in five starts since last June, was second to Turn Me Loose in the Emirates and filled the same position in the G2 Rubiton S. a fortnight ago.

The reliable **Boban (Aus)** (Bernardini) ran admirably to be sixth first-up in the C.F. Orr after losing plenty of ground early, and 5-year-old gelding **Hucklebuck (Aus)** (Elvstroem {Aus}), who has run just three times in the last 16 months, was a strong third first-up in the Orr.

Saturday, Caulfield, Australia, post time: 4:05 p.m. (12:05 a.m. EST)

ITALKTRAVEL FUTURITY S.-G1, A\$500,000 (£256,753/€325,714), 3yo/up, 1400mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER
1	Politeness (Aus)	Street Sense	Dunn	Smerdon
2	Boban (Aus)	Bernardini	G Schofield	Waller
3	Suavito (Aus)	Thorn Park (Aus)	Currie	Blackiston
4	Hucklebuck (Aus)	Elvstroem (Aus)	Tourneur	Stokes
5	Stratum Star (Aus)	Stratum (Aus)	Zahra	Weir
6	Scissor Kick (Aus)	Redoute's Choice (Aus)	Williams	Messara
7	Entirely Platinum (NZ)	Pentire (GB)	Winks	Hawkeses
8	Rebel Dane (Aus)	California Dane (Aus)	Oliver	Portelli
9	Turn Me Loose (NZ)	Iffraaj (GB)	Bosson	Baker
10	Trust In A Gust (Aus)	Keep The Faith (Aus)	Rawiller	Weir
11	The United States (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)	Payne	Hickmott

All carry 130 pounds bar Suavito and Politeness, 125 pounds.

AN ARRAY OF CHANCES IN OAKLEIGH

Saturday's G1 Oakleigh Plate gives sprinters the chance to shine under handicap conditions, leaving the door wide open for horses to sneak into the winner's circle under low weights. One who fits that profile is race favourite **Keen Array (Aus)** (Bel Esprit {Aus}), a lightly raced 3-year-old gelding who has been out of the top two just twice in eight starts. Keen Array recorded a career-best victory in last term's Listed Blue Sapphire S., and handled a big class jump with aplomb to finish second in the G1 Coolmore Stud S. when last seen Oct. 31. He carries just 110 pounds here and also fared well at the draw, landing in barrier four.

Like last year, when Shamal Wind (Aus) (Dubawi {Ire}) was victorious, the race could easily fall to a female, with classy mares like **Bounding (Aus)** (Lonhro {Aus}) and **Heatherly (Aus)** (Lonhro {Aus}) lining up. New Zealand Group 1 winner Bounding



Heatherly | Racing and Sports

returned from a near 10-month layoff to take the G3 Theshark.com.au S. over this track and trip in August, but hasn't been seen since finishing third in Rosehill's G3 Sheraco S. Sept. 12. She can clearly win first out, though, and has the benefit of two trials going into this. Heatherly won the G2 Rubiton S. over this track and trip two weeks ago in her first start in group company, beating Group 1 winner Politeness and the talented Lake Geneva (Aus) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}) and, like Keen Array, she shoulders just 110 pounds.

Saturday, Caulfield, Australia, post time: 5:22 p.m. (1:22 a.m. EST)
CLAMMS SEAFOOD OAKLEIGH PLATE-G1, A\$500,000 (£256,753/€325,714), 3yo/up, 1100mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Gregers (Aus)	Hard Spun	Williams	Hyes/Dbernig	117
2	Heatherly (Aus)	Lonhro (Aus)	Mallyon	Ellerton/Zahra	110
3	Atmospherical (Aus)	Northern Meteor (Aus)	Payne	Smerdon	114
4	Keen Array (Aus)	Bel Esprit (Aus)	Baster	Hyes/Dbernig	110
5	Fell Swoop (Aus)	Not A Single Doubt (Aus)	G Schofield	Dale	117
7	Fast 'N' Rocking (Aus)	Fastnet Rock (Aus)	Dunn	Hyes/Dbernig	124
8	Bounding (Aus)	Lonhro (Aus)	Zahra	Snowdens	122
9	Pittsburgh Flyer (Aus)	Street Cry (Ire)	McNeil	Hopes	114
10	Griante (Aus)	Good Journey	Coffey	Brideoake	114
12	The Quarterback (Aus)	Street Boss	Currie	Griffiths	116
13	Kuro (NZ)	Denman (Aus)	Stackhouse	Freedmans	117
14	Eclair Choice (Aus)	California Dane (Aus)	Tourneur	Stokes	123
15	Smokin' Joey (Aus)	Encosta de Lago (Aus)	Mott	Hunter	124
17	Flamberge (Aus)	Exceed and Excel (Aus)	Lane	Moody	128
18	Headwater (Aus)	Exceed and Excel (Aus)	Moloney	Hawkeses	110
19	Lord Of The Sky (Aus)	Danerich (Aus)	Oliver	Laing	123
20	Veزالay (Aus)	Shamardal	Boss	Corstens	114
21	Dothraki (Aus)	Mossman (Aus)	Arnold	Snowdens	124
Also Eligible:					
16	Reldas (Aus)	Testa Rossa (Aus)	No rider	Smerdon	114
11	Swinging Arms (Aus)	Planchet (Aus)	Bayliss	Trenowden	114
6	Secret Agenda (Aus)	Not A Single Doubt (Aus)	Newitt	Price	110

Sunday, Sha Tin, Hong Kong, post time: 3:30 p.m.

CITI HONG KONG GOLD CUP-G1, HK\$10,000,000 (£923,074/€1,166,451), 3yo/up, 2000mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER
1	Dominant (Ire)	Cacique (Ire)	Moore	Moore
2	Helene Super Star	War Front	Chadwick	A Cruz
3	Flame Hero (NZ)	Savabeel (Aus)	Barzalona	Ho
4	Secret Weapon (GB)	Choisir (Aus)	Whyte	Yip
5	Designs on Rome (Ire)	Holy Roman Empr (Ire)	Berry	Moore
6	Giant Treasure	Mizzen Mast	Soumillon	Gibson
7	Mr Gnocchi (Aus)	Hard Spun	Rawiller	Millard
8	Military Attack (Ire)	Oratorio (Ire)	Purton	Fownes
9	Dan Excel (Ire)	Shamardal	Teetan	Moore
10	Blazing Sped (GB)	Dylan Thomas (Ire)	Callan	A Cruz
11	Helene Happy Star (Ire)	Zamindar	Moreira	Moore

All carry 126 pounds.

Click for the [HKJC form guide](#).

Sunday, Sha Tin, Hong Kong, post time: 4:35 p.m.

QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE CUP-G1, HK\$10,000,000 (£923,074/€1,166,451), 3yo/up, 1400mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER
1	Beauty Only (Ire)	Holy Roman Empr (Ire)	Moore	A Cruz
2	Beauty Flame (Ire)	Footstepsinthesand (GB)	Purton	A Cruz
3	Multivictory (NZ)	Bachelor Duke	Williams	A Cruz
4	Gold-Fun (Ire)	Le Vie Dei Colori (GB)	Soumillon	Gibson
5	Thewizardofoz (Aus)	Redoute's Choice (Aus)	Moreira	Size
6	Charles the Great (Ire)	Holy Roman Empr (Ire)	Teetan	Moore
7	Dundonnell	First Defence	Callan	Fownes
8	Contentment (Aus)	Hussonet	Prebble	Size
9	Rewarding Hero (GB)	Exceed and Excel (Aus)	Berry	Moore
10	Secret Sham (Aus)	Shamardal	Rawiller	Moore

All carry 126 pounds.

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