

DIRT FUTURE FOR OSCAR NOMINATED?



Oscar Nominated | Coady Photography

by Andrew Caulfield

For all their undoubted virtues, all-weather tracks don't make it easy when it comes to forecasting how accurately the form will translate to a different surface. Keeneland's relationship with Polytrack developed an eight-year itch which ended in divorce. I suspect that one of the issues which led to the parting of the ways was the failure of the GI Blue Grass S. to prove a reliable stepping stone to the GI Kentucky Derby, just down the road and only a few weeks later. Although Street Sense contested the first Polytrack Blue Grass, he was beaten a nose by Dominican, who could finish only 11th on the big day. Over the next seven years, the only Blue Grass winner to reach the first three at Churchill Downs was Dullahan, third in 2012.

As it's now more than 10 years since the Polytrack surface was first raced on at Turfway Park, there is a reasonable amount of data available concerning the track's Derby trial, the Spiral S. (formerly the Lane's End S). Seven of the 10 winners have gone on to contest the Kentucky Derby, of which Hard Spun finished second in 2007, Animal Kingdom was triumphant in 2011 and Went The Day Well was a creditable fourth in 2012.

The clear message is that this year's [GIII Spiral S.](#) winner, Oscar Nominated, merits respect if connections stump up the \$200,000 needed to nominate this colt, who was claimed for \$75,000 last October. **Cont. p3**

ATTFIELD BEGINS FAMILIAR SEASONAL JOURNEY *by Ben Massam*

If patience is the game, you'll be hard pressed to find many as skilled at the practice as Hall of Fame trainer Roger Attfield. After enduring a winter of unsettled Florida weather and a quarantine that essentially kept his runners out of the starting gate for the month of March, Attfield is prepared to once again make his seasonal migration north to Canada by way of Kentucky, beginning with three runners entered on Keeneland's opening day Friday. Among them is RGH Bloodstock and Dan Gale's **Shakhimat** (Lonhro {Aus})--the latest promising 3-year-old prospect for the eight-time Queen's Plate winning conditioner.

Cont. p5

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Oscar Nominated, by Kitten's Joy, wins the Spiral (G3). Next stop ... the Kentucky Derby (G1).

Coming off a stakes win last time out, Oscar Nominated, bred by Mrs. Jerry Amerman, put in a gutsy performance for owners Kenneth and Sarah Ramsey to prevail in the \$500,000 Horseshoe Casino Cincinnati Spiral Stakes (G3), earning a berth in the starting gate for the Kentucky Derby (G1).

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in this issue...



G2 UAE Derby winner Lani (Tapit), who arrived at Churchill Downs Sunday, was out for his first gallop at the Louisville oval Monday morning.

Coady Photography

TRANSYLVANIA ON KEENELAND OPENER

6

A field of nine was entered Monday for the GIII Transylvania S., the highlight of Friday's opening-day card at Keeneland. The field includes a pair of runners from the Chad Brown barn in Converge (Sidney's Candy) and Catapult (Kitten's Joy).

TOO MUCH BLING FILLY TOPS TEXAS SALE

1RR

A filly by Too Much Bling topped Monday's Texas 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale at Lone Star Park. The juvenile sold for \$95,000 to the bid of Danny Keene.

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PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

by Andrew Caulfield



Dirt Future for Oscar Nominated?

(cont. from p1)

Remember, the 1999 Kentucky Derby fell to Charismatic, who contested a claimer with a tag of \$62,500 less than three months before he took the Derby on his 15th appearance.

Oscar Nominated will be venturing into the unknown if he does appear in the Derby, as his six starts prior to his success in the Spiral S. had all been on turf. There have to be some doubts about whether he will be able to reproduce his best form on the Churchill dirt (but the Ramseys have nothing to lose--apart from that \$200,000--by letting him take his chance).

There's no escaping the fact that Oscar Nominated is a son of Kitten's Joy. This stallion made only two appearances on dirt during a 14-race career which earned him the title of champion turf horse. Those dirt starts yielded earnings of only \$10,550, compared to the \$2,065,241 which came his way on turf. What's more, five of the six horses in the first two generations of Kitten's Joy's pedigree were winners on turf--four of them at Group 1 level in Europe.

In the circumstances, it is hardly surprising that the bulk of Kitten's Joy's considerable success as a stallion has been with his turf runners--to the extent that he has been champion sire of turf runners in each of the last three years. In 2013 75% of Kitten's Joy's progeny earnings came on turf, with a further 10% on all-weather; in 2014 it was 77%, with 8% on all-weather; and last year it was a whacking 86% on turf, with 3% on all-weather. A bit of quick arithmetic reveals that only 15% of his earnings came on dirt in 2013 and '14 and only 11% last year. **Cont. p4**

OSCAR NOMINATED, c, 2013

Kitten's Joy	El Prado (Ire)	Sadler's Wells	Northern Dancer
		Lady Capulet	Fairy Bridge
	Kitten's First	Lear Fan	Sir Ivor
		That's My Hon	Cap and Bells
Devine Actress SW, 6-3-2-0, \$107,300 4Fls, 1GSW	Theatrical (Ire)	Nureyev	Roberto
		Tree of Knowledge (Ire)	Wac
	Devine Beauty 14-0-0-0 4Fls, 1SW	Mr. Prospector	L'Enjoleur
		Magical Holiday 12Fls, 1GSW, 1GSP	One Lane
			Northern Dancer Special
			Sassafras (Fr) Sensibility
		Raise a Native Gold Digger	
		Slew o' Gold American Drama	

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Of course this type of situation often becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. With so many Kitten's Joys excelling on turf, why would owners and trainers bother to see if their Kitten's Joy youngster is proficient on dirt? Perhaps they should, as there has been the occasional graded winner on dirt, such as Pick of the Litter (GII Fayette S.) and Csaba (a multiple Grade III winner). Mention of Csaba reminds me that, just over three years ago, I wrote an article [\[click here\]](#) in which I concluded that "we can surely expect to see future crops by Kitten's Joy coming up with high-class winners on all surfaces." I'm not so sure about that now, but a successful transition to dirt by Oscar Nominated would be a powerful catalyst for a change of attitude.

Of course Oscar Nominated isn't just a son of Kitten's Joy, but his dirt aspirations won't get too much help from his dam Devine Actress or broodmare sire Theatrical. There are some distinct parallels between the racing careers of Kitten's Joy and Theatrical, mainly that they both landed the Eclipse Award for turf male. However, Theatrical did so as a 5-year-old, rather than at three. Theatrical also shone primarily as a sire of turf horses, some of which--like Theatrical--improved with age. It has been a similar story with the Grade I winners out of Theatrical's daughters, one exception being Coil (Haskell Invitational, etc).

Devine Actress was true to type in that she raced only on turf and all-weather during a brief career, winning on both surfaces. On the last of her six starts, as a 5-year-old, she won the Santa Lucia H. over 1 1/16 miles over Santa Anita's Pro-Ride surface.

Devine Beauty was one of seven black-type winners sired by Theatrical from Mr. Prospector mares, best of the others being Geri, who achieved the difficult feat of becoming a Grade I winner on both dirt and turf, and Startac, a winner of the GI Secretariat S. on turf who also enjoyed stakes success on dirt. Perhaps there's some hope here that Oscar Nominated will handle dirt.

Oscar Nominated's second dam, Devine Beauty, had a distinguished three-parts-brother by Mr. Prospector's champion son Gulch. Named Sorcerer's Stone, this Grade III winner earned an Experimental Free Handicap figure of 115, having won three of his four starts at two, all on dirt. Their dam Magical Holiday also did well with her Thunder Gulch colt Holiday Thunder, another dirt performer who also earned 115 on the Experimental.

Magical Holiday in turn had a distinguished brother in Dramatic Gold, a durable dirt performer who collected more than \$2.5 million, thanks largely to wins in the GI Molson Export Million and the GI Meadowlands Cup, both over a mile and an eighth.

While there may be some doubt about Oscar Nominated's dirt credentials, there is none about his stamina. His narrow win in the Spiral shows that he appreciates a mile and an eighth, and his sire and broodmare sire both landed the Turf Classic over a mile and a half.

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Attfield Begins Familiar Seasonal Journey

(cont. from p1)

Speaking over the phone Monday, Attfield explained with a laugh that Shakhimat means “checkmate” in Russian, a name fitting for a colt that was last seen notching a decisive 9 3/4-length win

over Woodbine’s all-weather track in the Nov. 8 Coronation Futurity. The trainer said that he brought Shakhimat down to his Payson Park winter base with the intention of keeping the dark bay fresh for a spring and summer campaign



Shakhimat |

Woodbine Entertainment/Michael Burns

beginning in March, but was steered toward Friday’s GIII Transylvania S. after a equine herpes virus scare put the training center on lockdown until late last month.

“I gave him some nice freshening time because I didn’t want to get caught up in the bigger stuff down [in Florida],” Attfield said. “It’s unfortunate that we were under quarantine for most of March, because I wanted to get a race into him in March and then go to [Turfway Park’s Apr. 2 GIII] Spiral. We didn’t get that accomplished, so I decided to go to the Transylvania at Keeneland.”

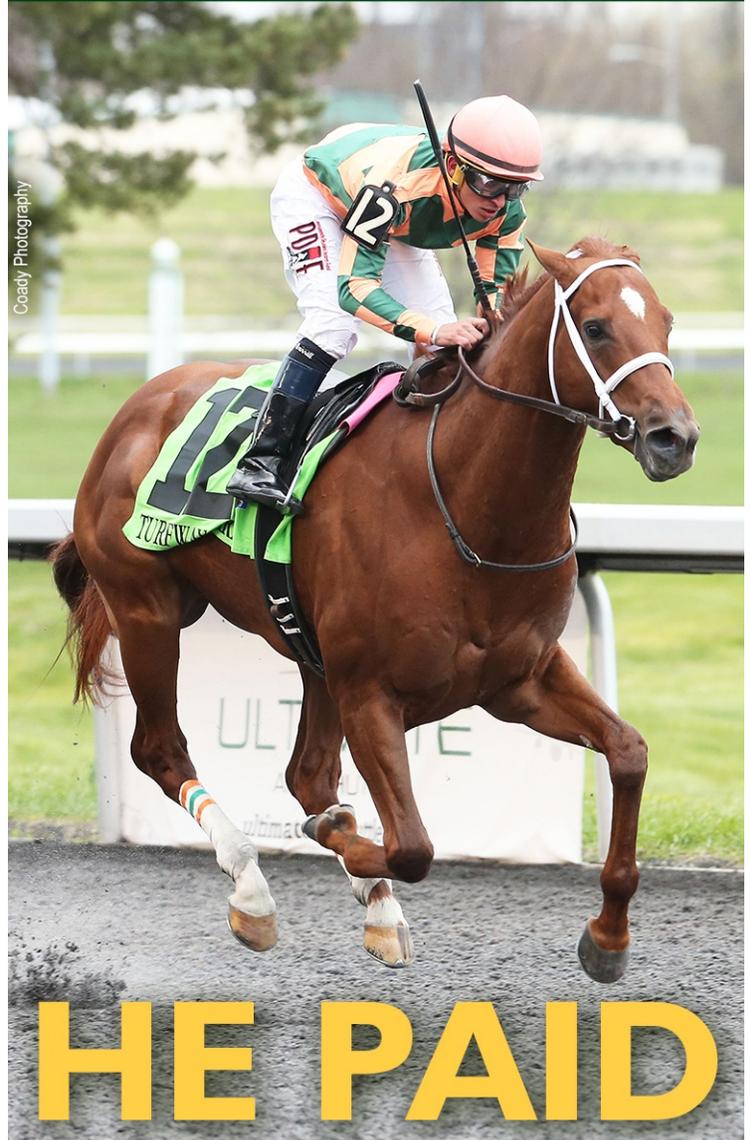
While the inability to follow the original plan is understandably a concern, Attfield believes Shakhimat will perform well over the Keeneland grass Friday, with his ultimate goal being the Canadian Triple Crown in the summer months. According to the trainer, Shakhimat has been training forwardly in recent weeks, with many of his works coming in company with 4-year-old stable star and 2015 Breeders’ S. hero **Danish Dynaformer** (Dynaformer). The pair notably breezed six furlongs in company in 1:12 flat [1/8] over the Payson turf Mar. 26.

“He’s been doing very, very well,” the native of England continued. “The owners are Canadian, and the Queen’s Plate would be a major thing for him, so we’re aiming that way.”

Compared to the once-beaten Shakhimat’s relative precocity, William K. Werner’s **Remembering Mickey** (Bernardini) has been a true developmental project. Out of a dam who is a half-sister to Attfield’s 2011 GI Breeders’ Cup Filly and Mare Turf winner Perfect Shirl (Perfect Soul {Ire}) and multiple graded stakes winner Lady Shakespeare (Theatrical {Ire}), the bay broke through in his fifth career start with a much-improved half-length graduation over the Gulfstream Park turf Saturday after encountering some hard luck earlier in his career. **Cont. p6**

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"I bought him out of the 2-year-old in training sale at Ocala [in March for \$150,000], and he was quite backward," Attfield acknowledged. "We had some 2-year-old shin issues with him and baby problems, so he didn't start until later on. We just gave him plenty of time, and his winter got messed up because of the weather down here. We entered, and it came off the grass, and I gave him one go where I left him in [on dirt], and that was a disaster. The next time, we got him in and we came out. I must have entered him six times."

Now that Remembering Mickey has cleared the maiden condition, Attfield said he intends to run the colt back in a second-level allowance at Keeneland scheduled for Apr. 29.

Danish Dynaformer could also make an appearance over the Keeneland lawn one week earlier in the GII Dixiana Elkhorn S. going 12 furlongs--a race that the 76-year-old trainer has won four times previously. The Charles Fipke homebred captured last year's Queen's Plate Trial and ran second behind Shaman Ghost (Ghostzapper) in the Queen's Plate prior to his greatest triumph in the Breeders' S. last August. Away for an extended rest since a seventh-place run in the GI Canadian International Oct. 18, Attfield noted that he believes Danish Dynaformer can return to the highest level with more maturity this year.

"He's been doing exceptionally well," the conditioner remarked. "He might go right into the Elkhorn at the end of the meet, and that's always been a pretty good race for me. Or, I might find an allowance race for him and aim at a race at Churchill in May. I haven't quite made up my mind yet, but he's got a long summer ahead of him with some major races in the east that he's capable of running in."

As for Friday, Attfield also has a rather unusual entrant in 'TDN Rising Star' Tap it Rich (Tapit), unraced since a runner-up finish for trainer Bob Baffert behind fellow 'Rising Star' and eventual GI Breeders' Cup Classic winner Bayern (Offlee Wild) in a Santa Anita allowance race in February 2014. The gray--who may well be the greatest test of Attfield's patience--became known for his quirks after racing erratically when fifth in the 2013 GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile. Although he has had ample time to become acquainted with Tap it Rich since the horse was transferred to his care, Attfield admitted that he does not know what to expect from him in Friday's nine-panel turf test.

"He's been a very difficult horse to train," commented Attfield. "He's quite unpredictable, really."



Roger Attfield
Horsephotos

Despite the uncertainty surrounding Tap it Rich, the position Attfield finds himself in after the first quarter of 2016 is a familiar one: heading north with a stable full of fresh and improving horses.

"I've [also] got a number of 3-year-olds that didn't show a whole lot at two or didn't start at two, horses that I gave some time to develop, and I think they could turn out to be nice horses,"

concluded Attfield, who has won 108 graded stakes races in his career. "It's going to be interesting and exciting in the next few months to see how it all unwinds." — @BMassamTDN



Danish Dynaformer | Woodbine Entertainment/M Burns

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Friday, Keeneland, post time: 5:30 p.m. EDT

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3	Prime Time Man	Zensational	Velazquez	Lukas	118
4	Urban Bourbon	City Zip	Bravo	Kenneally	118
5	J R 's Holiday	Harlan's Holiday	Jaramillo	Garoffalo	123
6	Sorryaboutnothing	Repent	Lanerie	O'Neill	118
7	Converge	Sidney's Candy	Castellano	Brown	123
8	Catapult	Kitten's Joy	Leparoux	Brown	120
9	One Mean Man	Mizzen Mast	Torres	Flint	118

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Breeders: 1-Stuart S. Janney, III LLC. & PhippsStable, 2-Adena Springs, 3-Zayat Stables, LLC, 4-K & G Stables, 5-Dr. John A. Chandler, 6-Woodford Thoroughbreds, 7-SF Racing, 8-Breffni Farm, 9-Bernard Flint & Ron Hillerich

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Monday's Results:

9th-PRX, \$37,000, (S), Msw, 4-4, 3yo, 6f, 1:11.27, ft.

SMARTY MR D (g, 3, Smarty Jones--Lelander, by Cherokee Run)

was part of a 1-2 entry in his Mar. 5 PA-bred debut and ran well to be second behind his stablemate despite bobbling at the start and failing to switch leads in the stretch. He was runner-up in open company at 4-5 over track and trip Mar. 19. Taking all the play at 1-5 in this spot, the chestnut broke well and kicked on from the field through splits of :22.26 and :45.64. He switched leads professionally and opened up eight lengths by the furlong grounds, but Watch My Dust (Majestic Warrior) made a strong late bid that the winner had to be shaken up as he held for a 1 1/4-length tally. Lifetime Record: 3-1-2-0, \$43,600. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-Joshtylane Farm & Daut, Harry J.; B-D.J. Stable (PA); T-John C. Servis.

7th-PRX, \$33,670, (S), Msw, 4-4, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:12.32, ft.

HEARTY JONES (f, 3, Smarty Jones--Philly Gal {SP, \$157,095}, by Doneraile Court) lost her best chance after careening off the gate in her career bow at Penn National Jan. 14, but recovered to make a sneaky late run to finish sixth versus state-breds. She followed that up with a local second-place effort at a furlong shorter than this Mar. 5. Adding Lasix in here for a red-hot barn, the bay homebred broke alertly as the even-money second choice in this scratch-decimated field of three, before settling in third, just a length off the front end. She's Chubs (Albert the Great), the 4-5 leader, began to get away on the bend and appeared to be in control turning into the stretch past a :46.37 half. Hearty Jones began to encroach on the leader nearing the eighth pole, however, and wore down the chalk in the final 100 yards to triumph by one length. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-0, \$29,600. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O/B-Main Line Racing Stable LLC (PA); T-John C. Servis.

▶ Central U.S.

Jim Byers Named Lone Star Announcer:

Jim Byers has been named the new track announcer at Lone Star Park. Byers replaces John Lies, who resigned last month. "I couldn't be happier to be back in racing," Byers said. "I've always thought very highly of Lone Star Park and the Metroplex and

can't wait to get started." Byers began his career in 1983 in the publicity department at Caliente Race Track in Tijuana, Mexico. Later that year, he joined the Los Angeles circuit as backup announcer at Del Mar and Santa Anita before being named Hollywood Park's track announcer in 1984. He was the first announcer at Remington Park, where he called races from 1988 through 1989. He handled broadcasts for the American Hockey League's Oklahoma City Barons from 2010-2015, when the team ceased operations. Lies, Lone Star Park's announcer from 2005-15, left the Grand Prairie track to accept the position of Racing Secretary for both Cherokee Casino's Will Rogers Downs in Claremore and at Fair Meadows in Tulsa. He is also the announcer at both Oklahoma tracks, as well as for Kentucky Downs. Live racing returns to Lone Star Park Apr. 7.

Too Much Bling Filly Tops Texas Sale:

A filly by Too Much Bling attracted a final bid of \$95,000 from Danny Keene to top Monday's Texas 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale at Lone Star Park. The juvenile, out of Soft Music (Action This Day), was bred by W.S. Farish and was consigned by Asmussen Horse Center, agent. She turned in the fastest furlong breeze of **:10 1/5** at Saturday's under-tack show.

In all, 53 horses sold Monday for a total of \$981,300. The average was \$18,515 and the median was \$12,000. With 13 horses reported not sold, the buy-back rate was 19.7%. A year ago, 66 head sold for \$1,161,900. The average was \$17,605 and the median was \$13,000.



Too Much Bling--Soft Music |
Mary Cage

The sale, which was previously managed by Fasig-Tipton in partnership with the Texas Thoroughbred Association and Lone Star Park, was conducted for the first time Monday jointly by the TTA and Lone Star.

"Especially considering we got a bit of a late start in putting this sale together, we could not be more pleased with the results and the increase in average over last year," said Mary Ruyle, executive director of the Texas Thoroughbred Association. "With a Texas-bred topping the sale and a very low buyback rate, I think that proves there is still strength in the industry here."

The TTA will next conduct a yearling sale in late August.

"The TTA is committed to advancing the Texas racing and breeding industry, and part of that commitment includes giving horsemen a venue to buy and sell horses in this state," said Ruyle. "In advance of this decision, we found significant interest from Texas breeders with yearlings to consign, and with the

central location and quality facility at Lone Star we also expect to attract quality consignments from around the region. We were lucky to have Tim Boyce on board to manage this sale for us, and he will do the same for the yearling sale.”

For complete results, visit www.texasoroughbred.com.

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Brass Hat Among Entries for Thoroughbred Show:

Grade I winner Brass Hat (Prized) is one of the most prominent names on the list of entries for the Thoroughbred Horse Show Association’s fifth annual show at the Kentucky Horse Park May 8. The show features a variety of jumping, dressage and pleasure classes. Brass Hat, winner of the 2006 GI Donn H., will be ridden by 12-year-old Jett Bradley, daughter of the gelding’s trainer William “Buff” Bradley and granddaughter of his owner/breeder Fred Bradley.

Entries for the show close Apr. 22. A complete prize list and entry forms can be obtained at www.tbredhorseshow.com

“We are grateful to all of our sponsors whose generosity has made this an annual and much anticipated event,” said THSA executive director Jan Roehl. “Thanks to their support, we can continue giving owners an affordable option for their Thoroughbreds under actual show conditions. The horses gain valuable experience and fans enjoy seeing horses from the track transitioning to a new career.”

This year's show is sponsored in part by simulcast service provider AmWest Entertainment and Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP), which promotes economic opportunities in the horse industry. Other sponsors include Bad Girl Racing Stable and David and Sue Masson. Sponsorships can be obtained by contacting Roehl at (859) 559-1409 or janroehl@gmail.com.

▶ California

Sunday Night’s Results:

10th-SA, \$60,415, Alw (NW1\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$40,000), 4-3, 4yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2ft, 1:13.81, fm.

SO SWEETITIZ (f, 4, Grand Slam--Sweetitiz, by El Prado {Ire}) broke her maiden at Los Alamitos Dec. 10, then finished last of eight in Arcadia Jan. 10. The roan filly finished second in her turf bow with an 88 Beyer Speed Figure here Feb. 11. Sent off at 13-10 in this spot, the homebred wasted no time, breaking on top and shooting straight to the lead under Kent Desormeaux. Left alone through a quarter in :21.73, she motored along with ears pricked through a half in :44.52. Cut loose into the stretch, she remained in the clear and easily held off the bids of longshot

Hundi (Ire) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}), who nosed out Entrechat (Giant’s Causeway) for bridesmaid honors, to post a 1 1/2-length score. Lifetime Record: 6-2-2-0, \$84,690. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)** O/B-Pamela Ziebarth (KY); T-Martin F. Jones.

8th-GG, \$28,845, Alw (NW1\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$40,000), 4-3, 3yo, 6f (AWT), 1:09.96, ft.

ACCESS THIS (g, 3, City Zip--High Speed Access {SW, \$157,115}, by Kingmambo) flew home on debut to just miss over track and trip, finishing a neck second behind a return winner Jan. 10. He broke his maiden at stretching out here Feb. 6 before fading to sixth at this venue Mar. 5. The bay was off well here at just under 5-1 from his outside post and stalked in a joint second through a :22.82 opening quarter. Ranging up to challenge the leader around the three-eighths, he took command at the top of the lane. With 17-10 choice Midnight Ming (Midnight Lute) charging down the crown of the track, the \$60,000 OBSOPN buy accelerated strongly and dug in his heels to hold that one off by a neck. Sales History: \$80,000 Ylg '14 FTKOCT. Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-0, \$37,225. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)**

O-Peter Redekop B. C., Ltd.; B-G. Watts Humphrey Jr. & St. George Farm LLC (KY); T-Blaine D. Wright.

LANE’S END Sales Graduate

9th-SA, \$57,035, (S), Msw, 4-3, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:09.58, ft. **ROCKET FUEL (g, 4, Cyclotron--Crystal Chandelier, by Houston)** stalked the pace and ran on strongly to be a debut second behind a wire-to-wire winner against state-breds Mar. 13. He bounced away nicely as the 9-10 chalk here, tracking a moderate quarter in :22.28. Set down on the far turn, he easily overtook the longshot leader and kicked for home strongly after a :45.89 half. Finding another gear once switching leads, the chestnut zoomed to the wire in an :11.92 final eighth to score by 1 3/4 lengths. Third-timer Tengas Ransom (Tenga Cat) was an impressive runner-up in his first start since Aug. 1, keeping with and in fact making up some ground on the winner through the last furlong. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$44,800. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)** O/B-Bruce Headley, Andrew Molasky & Irwin Molasky (CA); T-Bruce Headley.

 **JockeyTalk360.com**

Congratulations to last week’s [JockeyTalk360.com](#) Jockey of the Week Jose Ortiz, who won the winter riding title the recently concluded Aqueduct meeting.



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APPOINTMENTS

STEVE MAY: Supervisor of KHRC Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Compliance

- Responsible for all compliance matters related to pari-mutuel wagering and the entities involved, oversee and coordinate licensing and approvals, and create procedures to ensure compliance and auditing.
- Since 2010, May served as vice-president and business manager of the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI), a quasi-regulatory trade association representing pari-mutuel racing commissions across North America, Central America, and the Caribbean. Prior to joining ARCI, May worked for the Harness Tracks of America, Tioga Downs Racetrack and Rillito Race Track.
- The Commission is fortunate and excited for Steve to join our team," said Marc Guilfoil, executive director of the KHRC. "He brings much experience and a deep knowledge of pari-mutuel wagering and the horse racing industry."
- "I am excited to go to work for the commission," said May. "The KHRC is a leader in the industry and I look forward to helping maintain the integrity of horse racing in Kentucky."

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IN JAPAN:

#Strong Barows, c, 3, [Mineshaft](#)--Chelsea Ballad, by Street Cry (Ire). Nakayama, 4-3, Fukuryu S., 9f. Lifetime Record: 5-3-2-0, \$391,964. O-Hirotsugu Inokuma; B-Fox Straus (KY); T-Noriyuki Hori. *\$150,000 Ylg '14 FTNAUG; \$340,000 2yo '15 FTFMAR. **"He could save ground and had a perfect race," commented hoop Christophe Lemaire. "He was very relaxed during the race and had a lot left in his tank even in the closing stage of the race."



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ROOKIES

First/second-crop starters to watch: Tuesday, April 5

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

[ARCHARCHARCH](#) (Arch), Spendthrift Farm, \$10K, 251/31/2 8-PRX, Alw 7f, Spitfire Wind, \$7K KEE SEP yrl, 5-2

BIG DRAMA (Montbrook), Bridlewood Farm, \$10K, 109/17/1 5-PRX, Msw 6f, Blazin Drama, 20-1

CAPITOL GUY (Dome), 2/2/0

6-SUN, Alw 4 1/2f, Running Fauzett, 8-1

FRIESAN FIRE (A.P. Indy), Country Life Farm, \$4K, 102/18/1 5-PRX, Msw 6f, Hennessy Fire, \$6K EAS SEP yrl, 6-5

BREEDERS' EDITION AMERICA

STAKES RESULTS:

WILMA MANKILLER MEMORIAL S., \$50,850, WRD, 4-4, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10.88, ft.

1--**#STORMQUILITY, 118, m, 5, After Market--Southern Protocol {SP}**, by **Dixieland Band**. (\$5,000 Ylg '12 KEESEP). O-Stacy and Steve Umland and Barry Koch; B-G. Watts Humphrey (KY); T-Tim G. Williams; J-Curtis Kimes. \$30,000. Lifetime Record: 18-4-3-3, \$108,921.



LANE'S END Sales Graduate



2--**Magnificent Margo, 118, f, 4, [Congrats](#)**--Holy Miss, by Holy Bull. (\$80,000 Ylg '13 KEESEP; \$85,000 2yo '14 OBSAPR). O-Jeff Drown; B-Bacarri Bloodstock, Carolin Von Rosenberg DVM & Prince Farm (FL); T-Joe Sharp. \$10,000.

3--**More Than Even, 121, m, 6, Stephen Got Even--Sallybrooke**, by Dehere. O-Doyle Williams; B-Doyle Williams (OK); T-Roger F. Engel. \$6,050.

Margins: 1 1/4, 2HF, 4 1/4. Odds: 6.10, 7.60, 1.00.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Hotbob, g, 3, Heat Shield--Rocket Kitty, by Rocket Cat. GG, 4-3, 6f (AWT), 1:10.68. B-Kristen Amber Mulhall (CA).

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INGLIS EASTER SALE BEGINS TUESDAY



Trainer Gerald Ryan inspecting Easter yearlings | Inglis

by Kelsey Riley

The Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale kicks off its three-day stand at the Newmarket complex in Sydney Tuesday, with the first 195 of a total 580 yearlings catalogued set to go under the hammer during the opening session. The first 450 of those yearlings comprise Session I of the sale, while Session II will wrap up proceedings the second half of Thursday's session.

This year's Easter sale has big boots to fill, with last year's renewal setting seven-year highs for aggregate (A\$102,110,000), average (A\$291,743, up 15.4%) and median (A\$200,000, up 5.3%).

Inglis's National Bloodstock Director Jonathan D'Arcy admitted that eclipsing last year's results will be difficult.

"It wouldn't surprise me to see the average come off a little bit, but having said that the market's been strong all year," he said. "We have some really nice horses, and stallions like More Than Ready, Snitzel and Redoute's Choice are having great runs, so we're quietly hopeful of a strong sale. Number one for us is always the clearance rate, just getting the horses sold on behalf of our clients."

Vendors have been busy parading their yearlings over the past week, and D'Arcy said the turnout of buyers has been very satisfactory.

Cont. p6

SETBACK FOR CLASSIC HOPE ULTRA

Godolphin's early season Classic hopes were dealt a blow when they announced that last year's high-class juvenile **Ultra (Ire)** (Manduro {Ger}) will miss the early part of the season. The Andre Fabre-trained colt was unbeaten in three starts including when successful on his last outing in the G1 Qatar Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere at Longchamp in October.

John Ferguson confirmed the news on the Godolphin website reporting, "Ultra has developed a splint and, as a result, has missed training at a crucial time. He is unlikely to be ready for any major prep races, which in turn puts his Classic aspirations on hold."

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AWAY DAY FOR JOHNSTON CLASSIC HOPES

Mark Johnston put his two main G1 1000 and 2000 Guineas contenders through their paces in a racecourse gallop at Haydock Monday. **Lumiere (GB)** (Shamardal) and **Buratino (Ire)** (Exceed And Excel {Aus}) both worked over the Guineas trip of a mile with connections delighted with their well-being.

"They both worked great this morning," said Johnston's son and assistant Charlie. "It was pretty soft at Haydock and they worked in separate sets of three. William Buick rode Lumiere



Lumiere | *Racing Post*

and James Doyle rode Buratino. Everyone was very happy with them."

Lumiere established herself as one of the best juvenile fillies in Britain last year when beating Illuminate (Ire)

(Zoffany {Ire}) in the G1 Connolly's Red Mills Cheveley Park S. over six furlongs on good ground. Johnston was filled with confidence after watching how Lumiere moved over the different underfoot conditions and extra distance Monday.

"William said that Lumiere, despite never having run on it, handled the soft ground really well and she looks in great form," said Johnston. "It is another reason to be optimistic that if it did turn up with a bit of cut in the ground that it would not inconvenience her, judged on that."

Buratino had a busy first season, running eight times, winning four and never finishing worse than third. He showed his class when beating Air Force Blue (War Front) in the G2 Coventry S. at Royal Ascot before that rival turned the tables in the G1 Keeneland Phoenix S. with Buratino back in third at The Curragh Aug. 9. Buratino concluded his juvenile campaign with a runner-up performance in the wake of Shalaa (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) in the G1 Juddmonte Middle Park S. at Newmarket Sept. 26.



Buratino | *Racing Post*

"We know Buratino is a much better horse on quicker ground, but even so James was very pleased with the way he felt," said Johnston. "The plan is now to go to the Craven meeting and gallop them both before racing on Thursday, all being well."

BOLGER FILLIES PROGRESSING WELL

Jim Bolger is equally adept at training colts or fillies, but it was two members of the fairer sex that contributed most to another successful Bolger season last year and both **Pleascach (Ire)** (Teofilo {Ire}) and **Lucida (Ire)** (Shamardal), will be back for more this season. Pleascach is already a dual Group 1 winner; beating Found (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) in the G1 Tattersalls Irish 1000 Guineas and then nailing Covert Love (Ire) (Azamour {Ire}) in the G1 Darley Yorkshire Oaks, so she has 'done her job' so to speak, but Bolger is more than hopeful the 4-year-old can add to her haul during the summer.



Pleascach getting the better of Covert Love at York | *Racing Post*

"She is back in training and should be versatile between 10 and 12 furlongs," Bolger commented of the Godolphin colorbearer. "She was one of a very good crop of 3-year-old fillies last season and you'd have to hope she'll stand up well again this year. She is likely to return in May and while fillies' races will be targeted, we'd probably take on the colts at some stage too."

Lucida also carries the all-blue silks, but so far a Group 1 victory has eluded the 4-year-old, something Bolger is keen to put right.

"Winning a Group 1 will be the big target with Lucida this year, as she was unlucky not to win one last year," Bolger told *At The Races*. "We learned in her first couple of runs last season that she needed to be held up until the last minute and we probably then overdid it in the G1 Falmouth S., as when the gap appeared, Kevin decided to wait in order to carry out my orders to deliver her late, but the gap then closed when he wanted it. She picked up a hairline fracture after that which ruled her out for the rest of the season, but she's in good shape now."

Bolger should have no trouble keeping the two fillies from clashing on the racecourse as he added, "A mile looks to be her trip, but I wouldn't be against trying nine furlongs with her if the opportunity presented itself. She is forward and it won't be too long before she appears."

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NO ROYAL TRIP FOR BUFFERING

Evergreen Australian sprinter **Buffering (Aus)** (Mossman {Aus}) will bypass a Royal Ascot trip this year in favour of a domestic and Hong Kong campaign. The 8-year-old won the G1 Al Quoz Sprint at Meydan last month, but trainer Robert Heathcote has decided against targeting the G1 King's Stand S. at the Royal meeting in June.

"Ascot was certainly enticing but in the end it was just a bridge too far," Heathcote commented. "I've still got a business to run



Buffering | *Racing Post*

back home and the logistics of it were too hard. He deserves a trip home and some sun on his back and hopefully I can get him ready to win a fourth [G1] Moir S.,"

Buffering's next aim is the G1 Chairman's Sprint Prize in Hong Kong May 1 where he

will again lock horns with fellow Australian speedster **Chautauqua (Aus)** (Encosta De Lago {Aus}), himself fresh off landing a back to back win in the G1 TJ Smith S. Chautauqua has beaten Buffering twice and although Heathcote is aware of the challenge facing his runner he is certainly not shying away from it.

"I am looking forward to a rematch in Hong Kong. Chautauqua is a thrilling animal and clearly the world's best sprinter, but there was only a neck between us in the Darley Classic," added Heathcote.

For his role in the whole saga Paul John commented, "I fully accept what I did was wrong. I want to apologise to the sport for my conduct in those two races."

Jim Best's legal team later reported that the trainer is highly likely to appeal the four-year ban.

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FERGUSON DISPERSING STOCK

John Ferguson is to disperse all of his training stock at Tattersalls Ireland's Cheltenham Sale April 22. The Bloomfields Dispersal will consist of 48 horses and includes Grade 1 and Grade 2 winning hurdlers in addition to a number of unexposed young horses.

Richard Pugh, Director of Horses in Training Sales for Tattersalls Ireland said, "We are delighted and honoured that John Ferguson has chosen the sale to disperse such an outstanding team of national hunt performers. It is a privilege to be dealing with such an array of talent on behalf of the Bloomfields team and we look forward to being able to market these high quality horses in the weeks leading up to the sale. I really cannot imagine that any jumps trainer can afford to miss this sale."

Full catalogue details for the sale will be available Wednesday.

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FOUR YEAR BAN FOR BEST

Trainer Jim Best has been banned from racing for four years with immediate effect following a British Horseracing Authority (BHA) disciplinary enquiry. The other plaintiff involved, jockey



Jim Best | *Racing Post*

Paul John has received a 150-day ban. The case centred around the performance of two Best trained horses, Echo Brava (GB) (Proclamation {Ire}) at Plumpton in December 2015 and Missile Man (Ire) (Winged Love {Ire}) at Towcester the same month, both who were deemed by the

enquiry not to have been allowed run on their merits, on the instruction of the trainer.

BHA's director of integrity Adam Bricknell commented, "Jim Best's behaviour was reprehensible and an abuse of the privilege of holding a license."

op/ed by John Berry



WAR FRONT'S EUROPEAN SUCCESS ENHANCES FORCE OF COOLMORE

As the flat season kicks into gear in Europe, few events have done more to whet the appetite than Aidan O'Brien's announcement that he is likely to saddle only one colt in the G1 QIPCO 2,000 Guineas. It is not unusual for O'Brien to run several colts (or fillies) in a Classic, so there is one, and only one, obvious conclusion to draw from his statement: **Air Force Blue** (War Front) must be streets ahead of his peers within his own stable. If that is indeed the case, then he could be a very special horse indeed, a horse with the potential to light up the season.

If Air Force Blue does indeed turn out to be a true champion, then he will merely be fulfilling the promise which he showed last year when he appeared to be clearly the best 2-year-old in Europe, notwithstanding the fact that he was beaten early in his campaign when runner-up in the G2 Coventry S. His subsequent Group 1 wins in the Phoenix S., National S. and Dewhurst S. were outstanding. [Cont. p4](#)

War Front's European Success Enhances Cont.

Air Force Blue thus appears to have the potential to provide the perfect vindication of Coolmore's policy over the last few years of focussing on the offspring of War Front, the Danzig horse who has worked his way into the top tiers of Kentucky's stallion ranks. The course of War Front's stud fee at Claiborne



Air Force Blue | *Racing Post*

tells the tale of his progress: from a first-season price of \$12,500 in 2007, it has risen to its current height of \$200,000 during the 2016 season. War Front--whose stakes-winning dam Starry Dreamer (Rubiano) is also responsible for the successful Uruguyan-based sire Ecclesiastic (Pulpit), the

Grade 2-winning A. P. Indy filly Teammate and the listed winner Riviera Cocktail (Giant's Causeway)--is still aged only 14, so is still unproven as a sire of sires. However, he seems to have the potential to establish his own significant branch of the Danzig line--and if he does, Coolmore will be perfectly placed to capitalise.

War Front's best win as a racehorse came when he landed the GII Alfred G Vanderbilt H. over six furlongs at Saratoga in August 2006, carrying the colours of his breeder Joseph Allen. Subsequently, he quickly showed that he could rise to even greater heights as a stallion, enjoying his first Grade 1 strikes in this role at Del Mar in August 2011 when his first-crop 3-year-olds Summer Soiree and The Factor landed the Del Mar Oaks and the Pat

O'Brien Handicap respectively. Since then, there have been another 11 Grade/Group 1 races won by sons or daughters of War Front--and seven of these victories been recorded by horses trained in Ireland



War Front | *Claiborne Farm*

by Aidan O'Brien. Furthermore, another of these races have fallen to a horse who started off in the Coolmore fold--Helene Super Star (formerly Lines Of Battle), who scored at Group 1 level in Hong Kong after starting his racing career in Ireland. He won the 2013 G2 UAE Derby for Aidan O'Brien.

It is clear that Coolmore were awake to the stallion's potential from the outset. This awareness has already paid rich dividends. Declaration Of War, who carried Mrs. John Magnier's colours to victory in the G1 Queen Anne S. at Royal Ascot and the G1 Juddmonte International at York in 2013, is currently in his second season at Ashford Stud in Kentucky at a fee of \$40,000, having initially spent one season at Coolmore in Ireland at a fee of €40,000. He was one of two individual War Front horses to score in Group 1 company in England for Aidan O'Brien in 2013, along with Dewhurst S. winner War Command, who is currently in his second season at Coolmore, where he stands for €15,000. Another War Front horse to have graduated from Ballydoyle to a position at stud is the listed-winning, Group 1-placed sprinter Due Diligence, who stands at Whitsbury Manor in England; while last year's G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf hero Hit It A Bomb will no doubt take up stud duties in due course.

Coolmore have invested heavily in the stock of War Front. The two most expensive War Front yearlings to date have been the colt out of Blading Gold (During) who fetched \$2.5 million at Keeneland in September 2013 and the colt out of Gold Vault (Arch) who realised \$2.2 million at the same venue 12 months later. Both were knocked down to M. V. Magnier and both have raced from Ballydoyle, named Treaty Of Rome and Air Vice Marshal respectively. The latter has done the better, having won at Gowran Park last June before finishing second in the G2 Superlative S. at Newmarket. War Front



Air Vice Marshall | *Racing Post*

weanlings proved stunningly popular last year when a filly out of Take Charge Lady (Dehere) set a new North American record by selling for \$3.2 million at the Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale. The same auction saw a colt out of Serena's Cat (Storm Cat) knocked down to M. V. Magnier for \$2.6 million. The latter seems sure to find his way to Ballydoyle towards the end of this year.

However, Air Force Blue seems potentially the best of all the War Front horses to have gone to Ballydoyle (or anywhere else, for that matter). Bred by Stone Farm, he was bought by M. V. Magnier at Keeneland in September 2014 for \$490,000. He comes from the immediate family of the former U.S. champion 2-year-old filly Flanders (Seeking The Gold) and her three-time Grade 1-winning daughter Surfside (Seattle Slew) and will clearly rank as a wonderful stallion prospect even merely on the achievements of his first season, achievements which he looks likely to augment in the months to come. **Cont. p5**

War Front's European Success Enhances Cont.

War Front has been one of the success stories of the past decade, and it speaks highly of the acumen of John Magnier that Coolmore has been at the forefront of this tale throughout. Magnier's admiration for one son of Danzig (i.e. Danehill) proved crucial to Coolmore's expansion as the last century ended and the current one began. Now, his admiration for another son seems also to be playing its part in the stud's prosperity.

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Monday's Results:

First Winner for Freshman Sire

1st-LIN, £4,500, Cond, 4-4, 2yo, 5f 6y (AWT), :58.93, st.
STORMY CLOUDS (IRE) (f, 2, Sir Prancealot {Ire}--Singingintherain {Ire}, by Kyllachy {GB}), who was second to 'TDN Rising Star' Chupalla (GB) (Helmet {Aus}) on debut at Kempton Mar. 26, was quickly shadowing the leader Decadent Times (Ire) (Art Connoisseur {Ire}). Tackling that rival and gradually subduing him with 100 yards remaining, the £24,000 DNPRM yearling from the family of the G1 Queen Elizabeth II S-winning sire Where or When (Ire) (Danehill Dancer {Ire}) asserted for a half-length success as the 4-9 favourite. Stormy Clouds becomes the first winner for his first-season sire (by Tamayuz {GB}), who stands at Tally-Ho Stud for a fee of €5,000. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$5,801. [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)
 O-Chris Giles; B-Tally Ho Stud (IRE); T-Richard Hannon.

3rd-LIN, £4,500, Mdn, 4-4, 3yo, 8f (AWT), 1:38.77, st.
BATTLEMENT (GB) (f, 3, Dansili {GB}--Scuffle {GB} {SP-Eng}, by Daylami {Ire}), runner-up on her initial racecourse outing over an extended seven furlongs at Wolverhampton Mar. 18, was considered a solid proposition at 4-11 and raced freely up with the early pace. Sent to the front approaching the furlong pole, the homebred held on to win by a neck from Taraabut (Ire) (Lilbourne Lad {Ire}). The dam, who is a half-sister to the top-flight Juddmonte flagbearers Cityscape (GB) (Selkirk) and Bated Breath (GB) (Dansili {GB}), has a 2-year-old filly by Oasis Dream (GB) named Alienate (GB) and a yearling colt by Frankel (GB). Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$5,676. [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)
 O-Khalid Abdullah; B-Juddmonte Farms Ltd (GB); T-R. Charlton.

FRANCE results sponsored by  Destination Europe
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Monday's Results:

4th-DVL, €33,000, Cond, 4-4, 4yo/up, 7f (AWT), 1:25.95, ft.
USHERETTE (IRE) (f, 4, Shamardal--Monday Show {SP-Ger}, by Maria's Mon), a last-out conditions winner at Deauville Mar. 8 after suffering her only defeat in the Aug. 2 G1 Prix Rothschild, raced in the vanguard from the outset of this test. Looming large when angled into clear runway at the two-pole, the 11-10 chalk was stoked up to lead soon after and kept on well under whipless rousting to comfortably best SW & GSP Kenouska (Fr) (Kendargent {Fr}) by three lengths. From the family of G1 Juddmonte Grand Prix de Paris and G1 Prix Jean Prat victor Vespone (Ire) (Llandaff), and MG1SP G1 Melbourne Cup runner-up Purple Moon (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), Usherette is a full-sister to the 3-year-old filly Show Day (Ire), who shed maiden status at Morlaix Sunday, a half-sister to a 2-year-old colt by Raven's Pass and a yearling colt by Cape Cross (Ire). Lifetime Record: 5-4-0-0, €57,500. [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)
 O-Godolphin SNC; B-Darley (IRE); T-Andre Fabre.

2nd-CHY, €29,000, Cond, 4-4, 3yo, 9 1/2f (AWT), 2:01.71, ft.
HESHEM (IRE) (c, 3, Footstepsinthesand {GB}--Doohulla {SP-Eng}, by Stravinsky), a three-length third going 10 furlongs in a Saint-Cloud firsters' test on the turf last time Mar. 12, was steadied in a close second after a smart getaway here. Allowed his head passing the quarter-mile marker, the 31-10 second choice quickened to the front approaching the final eighth and ran on strongly in the closing stages to easily defeat Saunter (Fr) (Myboycharlie {Ire}) by 3 1/2 lengths. The bay is a half-brother to Xanadou (Ire) (Peintre Celebre), GSW-Fr & SP-HK, \$1,185,971, and a 2-year-old filly by Peintre Celebre. Sales history: €80,000 RNA Wlg '13 ARDEC; €85,000 Ylg '14 ARAUG. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-1, €18,250. [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)
 O-Al Shaqab Racing; B-Yeguado de Milagro SA (IRE); T-Christophe Ferland.

5th-CHY, €25,000, Mdn, 4-4, unraced 3yo, c/g, 9 1/2f (AWT), 1:58.58, ft.
+CHELKAR (FR) (g, 3, Azamour {Ire}--Cherryxma {Fr}, by Linamix {Fr}), who is out of a winning full-sister to MG1SW dual heavyweight Cherry Mix (Fr), was sharply into stride and led from the outset of this first go. Maintaining control throughout, the crowd's 14-5 choice was never seriously threatened and went safely clear under mild coaxing inside the final quarter-mile to prevail by an easy three lengths from Illustissime (Mizzen Mast). **Cont. p6**

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5th-CHY Cont.

Galileo's Spear (Fr) (Galileo {Ire}), a son of MGSW Lady Shakespeare (Theatrical {Ire}), was handily placed through the early fractions, but faded in the straight and finished last of 16. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €12,500. [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O-H H The Aga Khan; B-H H The Aga Khan's Studs SC (FR); T-Jean-Claude Rouget.

3rd-CHY, €25,000, Mdn, 4-4, unraced 3yo, f, 9 1/2f (AWT), 1:59.10, ft.

+NEKO (FR) (f, 3, [Dansili {GB}](#)--Epopee {Ire} {MSP-Fr}, by Sadler's Wells), a full to Testosterone (Ire), MGSW & G1SP-Fr, SW-Eng, \$370,893, was well away from an outside gate to occupy a prominent berth in second after the initial stages of this unveiling. Stalking the lead into the straight, the 79-10 chance cruised to the fore approaching the final quarter-mile and quickened ever clear under negligible urging thereafter to



Neko | Scoop Dyga

score by an impressive nine lengths from Nolwenn (Fr) (Pour Moi {Ire}). The €220,000 ARAUG yearling's second dam Encens (GB) (Common Grounds {GB}) is a winning half-sister to G1 Dewhurst S.

dead-heater Scenic (Ire) (Sadler's Wells), and to the Group 1 placegetters Cupid (Ire) (Generous {Ire}) and Ithaki (Ire) (Sadler's Wells). The family also includes, among others, G1 Epsom Oaks runner-up Slightly Dangerous (Roberto), herself the dam of Juddmonte's top-level performers Commander in Chief (GB), Warning (GB), Dushyantor, Yashmak and Jibe. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €12,500. [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O-George Strawbridge; B-Berend van Daltsen (FR); T-Freddy Head.

Purchased by Justin Casse

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6th-CHY, €28,000, Cond, 4-4, 4yo/up, 9 1/2f (AWT), 1:57.12, ft. **NOW WE CAN (GB) (g, 7, [Martillo {Ger}](#)--Notre Dame {Ger}, by Acatenango {Ger})** Lifetime Record: GSW-Fr, 14-7-1-1, €250,461. O-Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges; B-Gestut Zoppenbroich (GB); T-Nicolas Clement.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Clemente (Fr), f, 3, Dream Ahead--Courchevel (Ire) (SW-Fr), by Whipper. AGN, 4-4, 1850mT, 1:58.70. B-Ballantines Racing Stud Ltd (FR). *€150,000 Ylg '14 ARQAug.

Just For Love (Fr), g, 3, Literato (Fr)--Yes My Love (Fr), by Anabaa. HYR, 4-4, 1850mT, 1:59.56. B-M & Mme G Forien (FR). *€10,000 RNA Ylg '14 ARNOV.

Bonjour Mamie (Fr), f, 3, Manbolix (Fr)--La Deauvillaise (Fr), by Aureliano (Fr). HYR, 4-4, 12 1/2fT, 2:43.82. B-A Lucas (FR).

IN OTHER NEWS: A DAILY ROUNDUP OF RACING ARTICLES IN OTHER MEDIA

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[Maybe the Chairman's Sprint Prize will reveal #WBS--but a revamped Global Sprint Challenge is the way to go](#)

The term "World's Best Sprinter" has become a game of pass-the-parcel over the last few years, so much so that it has become a running joke on Twitter to be first up with the #WBS hastag after a Group 1 sprinter--or any old stakes race for that matter--with the claim. **Michael Cox, South China Morning Post**

[March Down for Macau as Beijing Tosses Bones](#)

After a sprinkling of optimism and a spike in share prices in the wake of February's near rise in gaming revenue, Macau's March numbers soured the view. **Muhammad Cohen, Forbes.com**



[Inglis Easter Sale Begins Tuesday Cont.](#)

"We know in advance about the interstate and overseas people coming, so we were very comfortable with those numbers, but the locals have really arrived in force as well," he said. D'Arcy said he thinks there is plenty of value to be found.

"Most people are telling me they have shortlists that are longer than they normally have at this sale," he said. "I think there's some really good value to be had. The thing we always try to do is emphasize that not every horse can make A\$200,000-plus; there are a lot of horses here that are going to be making between A\$80,000 and A\$150,000, and I think buyers that are shopping in that bracket are going to get some outstanding value." **Cont. p7**

Inglis Easter Sale Begins Tuesday Cont.

The Kentucky-based WinStar Farm made its first big splashes Down Under when signing for a handful of yearlings in partnership with the likes of China Horse Club at the Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale in January, and that operation's



David Hanley (right) and Tom Ryan | Sharon Chapman

General Manager David Hanley arrived in Sydney on the weekend.

"WinStar is involved in a partnership with China Horse Club, Newgate, SF Bloodstock and some other partners, and buying some yearlings down here to race," said Hanley, revealing WinStar

is thus far partners in about 26 horses Down Under.

"Hopefully we're going to get some more here," he said, adding that the yearlings he had seen over the weekend made a favourable impression.

"I think they're all very nice horses," he said. "These horses down here, the ones we're trying to buy, are more 2-year-olds; forward horses that are going to run in the [G1 Golden] Slipper. Consequently, we're focusing on that type of horse and there's a lot of those fast, early maturing types here."

WinStar Farm is the home base of More Than Ready, who is perennially one of Australia's leading sires.

A regular buyer on the Inglis Easter scene is Mark Richards, a member of the buying team for the Hong Kong Jockey Club. A pair of Easter buys topped Hong Kong's International Sale last month; the top-priced lot (HK\$8.5 million/£767,148/€982,659/A\$1,441,435/US\$1,103,896) was a 3-year-old Starcraft (NZ) gelding out of Top Cuban (Aus) (Anabaa), whose Redoute's Choice (Aus) half-brother sells Tuesday as [lot 113](#), and he was followed on the leaderboard by a 2-year-old Manhattan Rain full-brother to Group 1 winner Wandjina (Aus) (Snitzel {Aus}) at HK\$7 million.

"We've just had our main sale over in Hong Kong and two of our biggest lots both came out of this sale," said Richards. "It's a very significant sale for us and it's been a very lucky sale for us as well. It doesn't matter how much homework you do and how many hard hours you put in, you need that drop of luck to really make it work."

Richards pointed out that Easter graduates have performed not only in the Hong Kong sale ring, but also on its racetracks.

"It's always been a very successful sale, not just from a selling-on point of view, but performance on-track as well," he said. "Winners have come out of this sale with alarming regularity and we're trying to find the best of them."

Richards noted that the HKJC team shops for sprinter/milers, primarily by proven sires, to suit the Hong Kong race program, but he said the increased competitiveness of the sale has caused them to sometimes relax their standards.

"We're looking primarily for proven sires, but that's become harder," he said. "We've got to look a little outside our comfort zone, but primarily sprinter/milers and top-of-the-ground horses and horses that are correct. When you're buying them for resale in Hong Kong, you're very much trying to fit the mold for the people up there."

Royston and Catriona Murphy of Sledmere Stud bring a draft of 20--one of their largest consignments to date--to the Easter sale, including a pair of colts from the last crop of Street Cry (Ire)--[10](#) and [63](#)--to sell on opening day, and another by that late Darley sire to sell Wednesday ([lot 197](#)), as well as a filly by More Than Ready ([lot 280](#)).

"We're very happy with the parades going into the sale," said Catriona. "We've had a large number of inspections and have a really lovely bunch of horses. It's good to see there are a lot of internationals here, which is very positive. We're quite looking forward to getting the first lot in the ring tomorrow."

Chris Watson's Mill Park Stud brings its typical small but select draft: [lot 136](#), a Lonhro (Aus) colt out of stakes winner Very Discreet (Aus) (Exceed and Excel {Aus}); [lot 230](#), a Sebring (Aus) filly out of stakes winner Celebrity Girl (Aus) (Starcraft {NZ}); and [lot 249](#), a Street Cry (Ire) half-brother to the Mill Park-bred Group 1 winner Fawkner (Aus) (Reset {Aus}) and dual Group 2 winner Tanby (Aus) (Galileo {Ire}).

"Inspections have been positive," said Watson. "We were a bit slow off the mark so we were a bit concerned, but the last two days have been very good; we couldn't be happier."

Explaining how he selects his Easter draft, Watson said, "We like to be in the top third of any one sale, so we try to bring horses here that fit that mold on type and pedigree. To us this is one of the major sales for international buyers so we try to bring a horse that suits that marketplace."

Breeders both Down Under and in the Northern Hemisphere will be keenly anticipating the results of the five Frankel (GB) yearlings set to go under the hammer. Three Bridges Thoroughbreds offers [lot 237](#), a filly out of Chocolicious (SAF) (Kahal {GB}). **Cont. p8**



Royston and Catriona Murphy Kelsey Riley

Inglis Easter Sale Begins Tuesday Cont.

That operation’s Toby Liston said, “She’s handling the sale well; she’s very fit. She’s a precocious 2-year-old type and that’s what the Australian market wants. They’ve never sold in Australia so it’s hard to value her, but she’ll be put on the market and she’s ready to be sold.”

“She’s been really popular and the good judges like her,” he added. “The inspections have been great. Inglis has done a great job getting the international buyers here. It’s our most international sale. If you’ve got a nice horse you’ll be rewarded, if not you’ll be in trouble.”

The sale begins at 10 a.m. local time Tuesday through Thursday.

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AGA KHAN DYNASTY GOES DOWN UNDER

By Kelsey Riley

The Aga Khan has enjoyed success of epic proportions as an owner/breeder in Europe, and his operation has also been quietly making waves in Australia over the last eight years, breeding a select handful of yearlings Down Under each year and selling them through Arrowfield Stud. That project is set to write its latest chapter at Easter this week when three yearlings go through the ring as part of the Aga Khan/Arrowfield venture.

[Lot 151](#) will be the first to pass through the ring Tuesday, and she is a Redoute’s Choice (Aus) filly out of Zarakiysha (Ire) (Kendor {Fr}), an unraced half-sister to one of the Aga Khan’s



Lot 189, the Aga Khan’s Redoute’s Choice colt | Inglis

greatest success stories in the European Horse of the Year and unbeaten G1 Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe winner Zarkava (Ire) (Zamindar). Zarakiysha has produced three winners from three foals to race, headed by the Group 3-placed Zarzali (Aus) (Hussonet).

Going through the ring late on day one will be [lot 189](#), another Redoute’s Choice, this one a colt who is the first foal out of a half-sister to the Aga Khan’s four-time Group 1 winner Azamour (Ire) (Night Shift). [Lot 395](#), the fifth horse through the ring on day three, is a colt by Redoute’s Choice’s red-hot sire son Snitzel (Aus) and the first foal out of the French Group 2-placed Mandistana (Fr) (Azamour {Ire}). His second dam is a full-sister to Manighar (Fr) (Linamix {Fr}), the winner of the G2 Prix Chaudenay in France for the Aga Khan who went on to win three Group 1s in Australia.

The Aga Khan Studs got the Australian yearling sale season off to a positive start when selling a Snitzel colt through Arrowfield for A\$310,000 at the Melbourne Premier Yearling Sale last month, and the Aga Khan’s French studs manager, Georges Rimaud—who is in Sydney this week with the operation’s French marketing director Aline Giraud—said Monday, “We’ve had this venture going for eight years. There have been ups and downs in terms of results at the sales, but this year we had two horses that sold at Melbourne very well, and we have three here—two nice colts and a nice filly—and we’re really looking forward to an improved result.”

It was the relationship developed through this venture that led to Arrowfield’s three-time champion sire Redoute’s Choice shuttling to the Aga Khan’s Haras de Bonneval in France in 2013 and 2014. Redoute’s Choice’s first-crop Northern Hemisphere yearlings were well received at last year’s European yearling



Georges Rimaud | Aga Khan Studs

sales, selling for up to €950,000 and €660,000 at Arqana.

“[Arrowfield Chairman] John [Messara] sent Redoute’s Choice to France for us to use and commercialize there, and he was very well supported there and we’re very happy to

have two good individuals by him here,” Rimaud said.

Rimaud said that while Redoute’s Choices progeny have loosely followed the respective Southern or Northern-hemisphere molds, the stallion is one that stamps his foals no matter where they’re born.

“I tend to agree with people who said the European Redoute’s Choices were somewhat different and more classic-looking,” he said. “The yearlings [in Australia] are much more forward than they would be in Europe in general, but there’s not a whole lot of difference. Redoute’s Choice is a horse that really marks his offspring and he throws a type of horse.”

Rimaud explained that the objectives for sending Aga Khan mares to Australia—they currently board nine with Arrowfield—included increasing awareness of the Aga Khan’s bloodlines Down Under and building relationships to encourage Australians to come to Europe.

“We have a lot of horses in Europe,” he said. “In order to keep the same numbers we sell a lot of racehorses and a lot of fillies and mares. This was a useful way to get our families known in Australia. We’ve sold yearlings here and we’ve also sold racehorses here, and it gets people interested in our bloodlines. We also benefit from it from Australians coming to buy our bloodlines in Europe.” **Cont. p9**

Aga Khan Dynasty Goes Down Under Cont.

Rimaud said considering those objectives, the project has been a success. “The whole thing works,” he said. “It’s not just selling yearlings here; it has made us participate in this very worldwide market, and we find that a good thing.”

The Aga Khan has thus far sold all his yearlings bred in Australia, and Rimaud said that business plan isn’t likely to change. “Overall everything goes to the market, generally without reserve,” he said. “We haven’t yet considered doing anything different.”

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INGLIS AUSTRALIAN EASTER YEARLING SALE DAY TWO - WEDNESDAY

**lot 229, c, Fastnet Rock (Aus)--Celebria (Aus),
by Peintre Celebre**

Consigned by Segenhoe Stud

This colt represents another offering by John Camilleri’s Fairway Thoroughbreds, which is best known as of late for producing the peerless mare Winx (Aus) (Street Cry {Ire}) and last year’s G1 Golden Slipper winner Vancouver (Aus) (Medaglia d’Oro). This Oct. 31 foal is a half-brother to the Fairway-bred G1 Railway S. winner Gathering (Aus) (Tale of the Cat) and Group 3 winner Florentina (Aus) (Redoute’s Choice {Aus}). The colt descends from the dynasty of the blue hen mare Dancing Show (Nijinsky), responsible for the likes of three-time champion sire Redoute’s Choice and prolific producer Monsoon Wedding (Aus) (Danehill).

**lot 231, f, Street Cry (Ire)--Chantilly Tiffany (GB),
by Pivotal (GB)**

Consigned by Newgate Farm

The late Street Cry is represented by 30 yearlings from his final Southern Hemisphere crop at this sale, and this filly is the third foal out of the champion German miler Chantilly Tiffany, winner of the G3 Badener Sprint Cup. Chantilly Tiffany’s lone foal to race, Axiom (Aus) (Lonhro {Aus}), is a two-time winner in Australia.

**lot 237, f, Frankel (GB)--Chocolicious (SAf), by Kahal (GB)
*Consigned by Three Bridges Thoroughbreds***

This August-born chestnut is the first of five highly anticipated first-crop Frankel yearlings to be offered at Easter. Bred by Australian Thoroughbred Bloodstock, she is the first foal out of the South African 2-year-old Group 1 winner Chocolicious, herself a daughter of the Group 3 winner and Group 1-placed Candy Box (SAf) (Exclusive Patriot).

**lot 240, c, Not A Single Doubt (Aus)--Colorado Claire (Aus),
by Hussonet**

Consigned by Arrowfield Stud

Arrowfield’s Not A Single Doubt is currently second only to Street Cry by earnings on Australia’s general sire table and is the clear leader by wins for the season, and he has just two catalogued for this sale. This colt is the first foal out of G2 Phar Lap S. winner Colorado Claire, a half-sister to dual Group 3 winner Moonovermanhattan (Aus) (Manhattan Rain {Aus}).

**lot 260, c, Sebring (Aus)--Diana’s Secret (Aus), by Anabaa
*Consigned by Widden Stud***

This Oct. 25 foal is the fourth produce of the stakes-placed Diana’s Secret, who has already made quite a name for herself in her young career as a producer thanks to the exploits of Australian Horse of the Year and champion sprinter Dissident--this colt’s full-brother.

**lot 312, f, Fastnet Rock (Aus)--Forest Native, by Forest Wildcat
*Consigned by Coolmore Stud***

The cross of the stakes-placed Forest Native with champion sire Fastnet Rock has already proven highly prolific, with the mare having produced Group 1 winner Foxwedge (Aus) and stakes-winning filly She’s A Fox (Aus) to the cover of the Coolmore resident. Foxwedge cost A\$925,000 at this sale while She’s A Fox was a A\$600,000 buy here, and the mare’s 2-year-old Redoute’s Choice filly made A\$380,000 at Magic Millions last year.



Lot 312 | Inglis

**lot 357, f, Frankel (GB)--Jeu De Cartes (NZ), by Stravinsky
*Consigned by Cressfield***

The second Frankel filly to be offered on the day is also a first foal, being a daughter of New Zealand Group 2 winner Jeu De Cartes (NZ). The dam is herself a daughter of New Zealand champion Prized Gem (NZ) (Prized), and a half-sister to G1 Australian Derby victor Nom Du Jeu (NZ) (Montjeu {Ire}).

Lots to Look At Cont.

lot 388, c, Redoute's Choice (Aus)--Love Wings, by Grand Slam

Consigned by Arrowfield Stud

This August-foaled bay has a truly international pedigree, being by three-time Australian champion sire Redoute's Choice and out of a daughter of the prolific Canadian producer Dancing With Wings (Danzig). Love Wings is a half-sister to Canadian Horse of the Year and multiple Sovereign award-winner Soaring Free (Smart Strike), and is the second or third dam of three other stakes winners. This colt is Love Wings's fourth foal, and she has produced a three-time winner in the U.S. in Eight Stitches (Orientate).



Lot 388 | Inglis

INGLIS EASTER YEARLING SALE DAY TWO OUTS
238, 247, 265, 269, 284, 310, 326, 343, 359, 380, 389

TIMEFORM

**Highest Timeform Annual Ratings
for Progeny of Galileo (Ire)**

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

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



Upcoming Sales Distribution Dates:

**Inglis Australian
Easter Yearling Sale**
April 3-7

Tattersalls Craven Breeze-Up Sale
April 11-13

Goffs UK Breeze-Up
April 19-20

**OBS Spring Sale
of 2YOs in Training**
April 11-22

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