

UNIQUE BELLA ONE OF A KIND IN LAS VIRGENES



Unique Bella | Benoit Photo

Don Alberto Stable's 'TDN Rising Star' **Unique Bella** (Tapit) more than lived up to her significant hype with a jaw-dropping 8 3/4-length demolition of the field in Sunday's GII Las Virgenes S. at Santa Anita--her first try around two turns. Taking control with a wide sweep past a quick half-mile, she easily dispatched 2016 champion juvenile filly **Champagne Room** (Broken Vow) and bounded away with ease. The win marked the second graded stakes victory of the imposing gray's career, having previously captured the Jan. 8 GII Santa Ynez S. in similarly facile fashion.

"I was pretty confident when Mike [Smith] kind of made his move early," winning trainer Jerry Hollendorfer said. "I knew that he knew he had a lot of horse, so he just went for it and it turned out well. She did settle, and the reason she went was Mike felt like he had a lot of horse. So when he did that, I felt pretty confident that she would really lay it down."

Unique Bella was away a step slowly and got rolling too late when second as the 3-10 favorite in her June 23 career debut sprinting five furlongs at Santa Anita, but the filly made amends for that defeat with a unopposed 10 1/4-length romp traveling 6 1/2 furlongs at Del Mar Nov. 26.

Cont. p3

IRISH WAR CRY, CLASSIC EMPIRE LIKELY TO TARGET DIFFERENT PATHS

In the aftermath of 'TDN Rising Star' **Irish War Cry** (Curlin)'s decisive 3 3/4-length victory in Saturday's GII Lambholm South Holy Bull S., trainer Graham Motion reported that the New Jersey-bred sophomore will likely remain in South Florida for the duration of the winter. According to Motion, the Isabelle de Tomaso homebred could compete in the GII Fountain of Youth S. Mar. 4, the GI Florida Derby Apr. 1, or both Gulfstream fixtures en route to a potential start in the May 6 GI Kentucky Derby. **Irish War Cry** earned 10 points toward a spot in the Kentucky Derby starting gate for his win Saturday.

"We have to decide if we run in both races down here and how we go about it," Motion said Sunday morning. "I think there is a good shot that he will do both. I guess we'll see how things go." **Cont. p5**

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Monday, February 6, 2017



A Taylor Made sales prospect gets a good luck kiss while being shown to prospective buyers at the Fasig Tipton Winter Mixed Sale. The sale gets underway today beginning at 10am. | FasigTipton Photo

UNCONTESTED DRILLS FOR SOUTHWEST

8

'TDN Rising Star' Uncontested (Tiz Wonderful), a dominant 5 1/4-length winner of the Jan. 16 Smarty Jones S., breezed five furlongs in 1:00.60 Sunday morning at Oaklawn Park in preparation for the Hot Springs oval's Feb. 20 GIII Southwest S.

F-T WINTER SALE OPENS MONDAY

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Unique Bella One of a Kind (cont. from p1)

Earning 'Rising Star' status with that performance, the daughter of 2010 GI Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic winner Unrivaled Belle (Unbridled's Song) returned to Arcadia for the



Unique Bella and Mike Smith
Benoit photo

Santa Ynez and was somewhat surprisingly let go as the second choice in wagering behind GIII Delta Downs Princess S. winner Shane's Girlfriend (Adios Charlie). The \$400,000 Keeneland September yearling left little to doubt when the running began in the Santa Ynez, however, sweeping to the front with ease en route to a 7 1/2-length triumph. The form of that race received a boost when Unique

Bella's second-finishing stablemate and fellow 'Rising Star' It Tiz Well (Arch) returned to comfortably annex a seven-furlong optional claimer Friday.

Sent off the 1-9 favorite Sunday, Unique Bella was again outfooted for the early lead and chased **Mopotism** (Uncle Mo) and Champagne Room while racing three wide through an opening quarter in :22.82. She rushed up to take the lead midway down the backstretch and was 1 1/2 lengths in front after a blistering half in :45.62. She extended her advantage turning for home and sailed further clear down the lane under a motionless Mike Smith, completing the mile in 1:35.66. Mopotism was second and Champagne Room was third.

"It's crazy how she gets up underneath herself," said Smith, referring to his filly's adaptable style. "She's very athletic. I was really happy with the way that she settled. I could have taken her farther back. You want to experiment but you don't want to do something so drastic that you completely throw them off



Unique Bella | *Benoit photo*

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their game. I didn't want to grab her any harder. She was very happy. She was pricking her ears and having a good time. I was very happy to let her do whatever she wanted to do after that."

Unique Bella is Hollendorfer's second exceptional 3-year-old filly in as many years, having conditioned Fox Hill Farms'

Songbird (Medaglia d'Oro) to her second championship campaign in 2016. With her win, Unique Bella vaulted herself into third on the GI Kentucky Oaks leaderboard with 20 points, just three behind leader Champagne Room. The gray is also nominated to the Triple Crown series.

"I really like to concentrate on the filly races," Hollendorfer commented. "If an opportunity came to do something else we'd probably have to consider that, but I'd like to keep her against the fillies if I can...I'd like to

keep her in California [for the GI Santa Anita Oaks Apr. 8], just like I did with Songbird last year. There's enough money to run out here and run against the girls, not the boys. I think we'll try and run here and if we'd be fortunate enough, we'd point to the [Kentucky] Oaks."



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LANE'S END

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Pedigree Notes:

In addition to her Breeders' Cup success, millionaire Unrivaled Belle captured the GII La Troienne S. and GIII Rampart S. and finished in the trifecta in all but one of her 14 career starts. Unique Bella's breeder, Brushwood Stable, purchased Unrivaled Belle for \$2.8 million at the 2011 Keeneland November sale and parted ways with the gray for a sales-topping \$3.8-million carrying in utero a full-sibling to the winner at the same sale in 2016. That Tapit filly has since been foaled as property of Whisper Hill Farm. Unrivaled Belle is also responsible for a 2-year-old filly by Malibu Moon named Relicario who sold for \$550,000 as a Keeneland September yearling. Second dam Queenie Belle (Bertrando) captured two graded stakes races and is herself a half-sister to GSW Canon Can (Green Dancer).

Don Alberto purchased Siren Serenade, another Unbridled's Song mare in foal to Tapit for \$1.025 million at Keeneland January.

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Sunday, Santa Anita Park

LAS VIRGENES S.-GII, \$196,000, SA, 2-5, 3yo, f, 1m, 1:35.66, ft.

1--**UNIQUE BELLA, 120, f, 3**, by [Tapit](#)

**1st Dam: Unrivaled Belle (GISW, \$1,854,706),
by Unbridled's Song**

2nd Dam: Queenie Belle, by Bertrando

3rd Dam: Lady Argyle, by Don B.

'TDN Rising Star' (\$400,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP). O-Don Alberto Stable; B-Brushwood Stable (PA); T-Jerry Hollendorfer; J-Mike E. Smith. \$120,000. Lifetime Record: 4-3-1-0, \$282,400. **Werk Nick Rating: A+++**. ***Triple Plus***. [Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.](#)

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2--**Mopotism, 118, f, 3**, [Uncle Mo](#)--Peppy Rafaela, by Bernardini. (\$135,000 Wlg '14 KEENOV; \$200,000 Ylg '15 FTSAUG; \$300,000 2yo '16 FTFMAR). O-Reddam Racing LLC; B-Frank T Batten (KY); T-Doug F. O'Neill. \$40,000.

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3--**Champagne Room**, 123, f, 3, [Broken Vow](#)--Lucky to Be Me, by Bernstein. (\$70,000 Wlg '14 KEENOV; \$55,000 RNA Ylg '15 KEESEP; \$310,000 2yo '16 OBSAPR). O-Ciaglia, Exline-Border, Gulliver Racing, R. Christensen, D. Legan, S. Alesia; B-Respite Farm (KY); T-Peter Eurton. \$24,000.

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Irish War Cry, Classic Empire Likely to Target Different Paths (cont. from p1)

Motion continued, "I just feel like I've thrown a lot at this horse in a short period of time, and that is the only reason that I



Graham Motion | Coady photo

have some reservations about both races. But we'll keep him in Florida because it makes sense. We're not going to get too clever about it and I see no reason to go anywhere else."

Irish War Cry is undefeated in three starts, having earned his 'Rising Star' badge with a rallying debut victory at Laurel Nov. 11 and following that effort up

with a gritty wire-to-wire score in that venue's seven-furlong Marylander S. Dec. 31. Adding Lasix for his first try around two turns Saturday, the chestnut soundly defeated John Oxley's

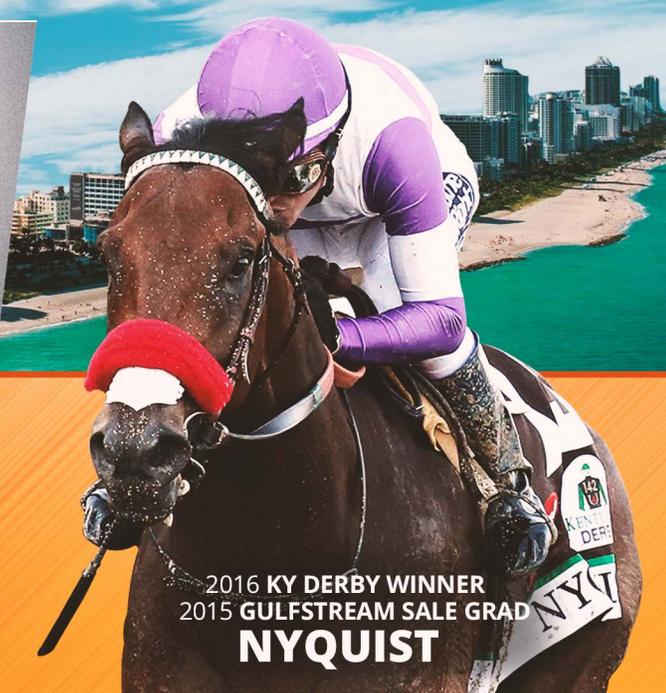
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Classic Empire (Pioneerof the Nile), recently crowned champion juvenile male of 2016.

“You always hope you can win, but you don’t necessarily expect to win like that, especially when you’re running against the 2-year-old champion,” Motion added.



Irish War Cry | *Coglianesse photo*

As for Classic Empire, trainer Mark Casse made no excuses for his colt’s third-place finish in the Holy Bull Sunday morning. Left 8 3/4 lengths in the wake of Irish War Cry after being put to a drive early on the far turn, the bay appeared no worse for the wear the next morning.

“He’s fine,” Casse said. “[Saturday] morning, he was as happy and good as I’ve ever seen him. He just did not take the trip [from Palm Meadows to Gulfstream] well. He’s run in the Bashford Manor with the crowd and the lights, and we flew him to the Breeders’ Cup, and those things didn’t bother him, but yesterday was the first time he ever had to ship and run [in the same day]. He’s shipped all the time and never fretted before, but yesterday he really fretted. I don’t know what was going on

with him. Yesterday was also the first time I ever saw him balk about going into the gate. This horse wasn’t happy yesterday, and we really don’t have a good answer. He ate [Saturday] night. He’s happy as he can be now, standing in his stall.”

Classic Empire became noticeably washy in the post parade and hesitated to approach the starting gate for the Holy Bull as others loaded dutifully. While Irish War Cry will remain in South Florida, Casse said he will likely employ a different strategy for Classic Empire’s next race.

“I would say more than likely you won’t see him back at Gulfstream again,” he said. “We’re already thinking about where we want to go, but wherever it is it will be somewhere he will train a little bit there before he runs. Yesterday came as a complete surprise to us, but the battle is far from over.”



Mark Casse | *Coady photo*

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PROGRESSIVE BEASLEY POSSIBLE FOR FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

Lee Lewis and Mark Grier’s steadily developing **Beasley** (Shackleford) could make his stakes debut in the Mar. 4 GII Fountain of Youth S. at Gulfstream Park, trainer Mark Hennig said Sunday. The bay set the pace and finished a good second behind highly regarded ‘**TDN Rising Star**’ Battalion Runner (Unbridled’s Song) in a contentious allowance optional claiming event Friday.



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“He ate every oat [Friday] night and looked great [Saturday] morning, full of energy,” Hennig said. “Obviously, both horses ran hard and you just want to see how they respond. He jumped right in the feed tub and it’s good to see him respond that way. I



Mark Hennig | NYRA photo

think he’s a horse that’s still learning. That was his first trip around two turns and hopefully he can improve off of it.”

Beasley was confronted by Battalion Runner after completing six furlongs of the 1 1/16-mile race and battled back along the rail despite being put in tight quarters by his rival.

Despite ceding the victory to the heavily favored Todd Pletcher trainee, Beasley crossed the wire 7

3/4 lengths ahead of previously unbeaten Painter’s Rags (Union Rags).

“He’s messing around a little bit on the turns and I think it’s

cost him a little bit,” Hennig noted. “It almost cost him his first race and it definitely cost him [Friday]. Jose [Ortiz] said he was just a little bit unmanageable around the turn and he said he’s fine in the stretch, he starts running. He said he’s just playing around more than anything else. I think we can correct that and hopefully move forward.”

If all goes according to plan, Hennig said his charge could be ready to tackle stiffer competition next time out in the Fountain of Youth.

“It would [make sense] in terms of not having to travel, and you can always travel after the Fountain of Youth if you wanted to do that,” the trainer concluded. “We want to see who else is going and how the other races shape up around the country.”

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‘TDN Rising Star’ Unique Bella (Unbridled’s Song) wins the GII Las Virgenes S.

EXCEPTIONAL G1SW AT 2

- 1st Hopeful Stakes-Gr.1, 7f., Saratoga by **5 3/4 lengths** (pictured) from Gr.2 winner I Spent It
- 1st Maiden, 6f., Saratoga by **10 1/4 lengths**

Competitive Edge followed up on a jawdropping debut victory with a scintillating 5 3/4-length triumph in the G1 Hopeful S. at Saratoga Monday. “This one has a great talent,” said winning rider John Velazquez
 TDN, SEPT. 02, 2014



COMPETITIVE EDGE

Gr.1 winning 2YO by Kentucky Derby winner **SUPER SAVER**

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A M E R I C A

UNCONTESTED DRILLS FOR SOUTHWEST

Robert LaPenta and Harry Rosenblum's 'TDN Rising Star' **Uncontested** (Tiz Wonderful), a dominant 5 1/4-length winner of the Jan. 16 Smarty Jones S., breezed five furlongs in 1:00.60 Sunday morning at Oaklawn Park in preparation for the Hot Springs oval's Feb. 20 GIII Southwest S. Working beneath regular rider Channing Hill just after the renovation break, the Wayne Catalano trainee covered his final quarter-mile in :23.80 and galloped out six furlongs in 1:14.40.



Uncontested | Coady photo

"What Wayne wanted was a real nice maintenance move," said Hill, the son-in-law of Uncontested's trainer. "Nothing too crazy, and that's what he did. [He is] just super calm and does everything you ask him to do. Went out there

and had a little fun--stretched his legs out."

Catalano added, "He did everything right."

The conditioner said the speedy Uncontested, a two-time

winner from three lifetime starts, will have one more easy work before the Southwest, Oaklawn's President's Day feature.

Uncontested will likely be joined in the starting gate by **Petrov** (Flatter), runner-up in the Smarty Jones for trainer Ron Moquett. The gray posted a work of his own Sunday morning, breezing four panels in :48.20 with a final quarter of :22.60 and a gallop-out of five furlongs in 1:00.40.

"I thought it was a very smooth, nice work," said Moquett. "I really loved his gallop out, and it moves us closer to the Southwest."



Ron Moquett | Coady photo

Like Uncontested, Petrov is expected to work once more ahead of the race. **Rowdy the Warrior** (Warrior's Reward) and **Warrior's Club** (Warrior's Reward), third and fourth, respectively, in the Smarty Jones, are also under consideration for the Southwest.

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RECORD-BREAKING GSW AT 3

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

1st **Tamarac Stakes**, 7f., Gulfstream Park by 8¼ lengths

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Source: Horseracingnation.com, May 03, 2015

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FINEST CITY BREEZES, COULD STRETCH OUT

Seltzer Thoroughbreds' **Finest City** (City Zip), champion female sprinter of 2016, worked for the first time since capturing her 2017 debut with a comfortable victory in the Jan. 21 GII Santa Monica S., traveling four furlongs in :50.20 Sunday morning in Arcadia. Trainer Ian Kruljac was pleased with the workout, which could be a stepping stone for a return to a route distance for his GI Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint winner.

"She looked fabulous, went easy, just cruising," Kruljac said. "The Santa Margarita looks pretty enticing."

The nine-furlong GI Santa Margarita S. Mar 18 would represent Finest City's first try around two turns since a runner-up effort over the Del Mar lawn in the Sept. 4 John C. Mabee S. Sept. 4. The versatile 5-year-old mare previously finished third behind champions Beholder (Henny Hughes) and Stellar Wind (Curlin) in the GI Vanity Mile on dirt at Santa Anita June 4.

Finest City could run into Bob Baffert-trained **Vale Dori (Arg)** (Asiatic Boy {Arg}) in the Santa Margarita should that one add to her three-race winning streak in next Saturday's 1 1/16-mile GII Santa Maria S. Vale Dori breezed four furlongs in :49.80 Sunday, after which Baffert deemed the 5-year-old "ready" for her next test. Baffert also sent out unbeaten '**TDN Rising Star Mastery** (Candy Ride {Arg}) to a five-furlong work in 1:00.20 Sunday. The Hall of Fame trainer said that charge could make his next start in either the Mar. 11 GII San Felipe S. at Santa Anita or the Mar. 18 GII Rebel S. at Oaklawn Park.



Finest City | Benoit photo

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MILLER SPRINTERS EYE DUBAI

Following **St. Joe Bay** (Saint Andaan)'s wire-to-wire win in the GII Palos Verdes S. at Santa Anita Saturday, trainer Peter Miller said the streaking gelding and two of his stablemates could be pointed toward races at the Dubai World Cup Carnival Mar. 25. St. Joe Bay, who previously captured the Dec. 31 GIII Midnight Lute S. as part of a three-race win streak, is being considered for the six-furlong G1 Dubai Golden Shaheen.

"He is in top form right now," Miller said. "He has shown he

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Meanwhile, Rockingham Ranch's **Richard's Boy** (Idiot Proof)-- recent winner of the Jan.

28 California Cup Sprint S.- and **Stormy Liberal**

(Stormy Atlantic)--

victorious in the Clocker's

Corner S. Jan. 29--could

also make the trip to the

United Arab Emirates.

Richard's Boy is

nominated to both the

Golden Shaheen and the

grassy G1 Al Quoz Sprint

S., while Stormy Liberal has been nominated to the latter.

"[Richard's Boy] has shown a ton of versatility being able to win on both the grass and dirt," Miller noted. "I tend to think he has an edge on the turf, but he just tied his career best turf Beyer with a 98 on the dirt...[Stormy Liberal] is the perfect kind of horse to take to Dubai. I think he has a shot at winning the turf sprint."



Peter Miller and jockey Kent Desormeaux following St. Joe Bay's win | Benoit

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**UPCOMING MAJOR
NORTH AMERICAN STAKES**

Date	Race	Track
2/11	GI Gulfstream Park Turf H.	GP
	GII Gulfstream Park H.	GP
	GIII Suwannee River S.	GP
	GII Arcadia S.	SA
	GII Santa Maria S.	SA
	GIII Lambholm South Endeavour S.	TAM
2/12	GIII Tampa Bay S.	TAM
	GII Sam F. Davis S.	TAM
2/18	GII San Vicente S.	SA
	GIII El Camino Real Derby	GG
	GII Royal Delta S.	GP
	GII Barbara Fritchie S.	LRL
	GIII General George S.	LRL
	GIII Bayakoa S.	OP
	GII Buena Vista S.	SA
	2/20	GIII Razorback H.
GIII Southwest S.		OP

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F-T WINTER MIXED SALE OPENS MONDAY

by Jessica Martini

The Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Winter Mixed Sale begins its two-day run Monday in Lexington with the first of 640 catalogued lots scheduled to go through the sales ring at Newtown Paddocks at 10 a.m.

Brisk activity at the Fasig-Tipton sales grounds Sunday has given Derek MacKenzie of Vinery Sales reason to be optimistic for a good auction, despite some lackluster results at earlier mixed sales.

“The looker traffic has been very good,” MacKenzie said. “It’s been better than I expected. The traffic makes me think it might be better than everyone thinks after January at Keeneland and OBS were pretty bad markets. I hope I’m not being unrealistic and maybe the traffic doesn’t necessarily mean that the market will be any good, but it feels better anyway.”

Mixed sales results this year have been polarized, with plenty of demand for quality lots and a steep fall-off for those less popular offerings, but consignor Archie St. George did see some improvement in the middle market at the recent Keeneland January sale and looks for respectable results at the winter sale.

“I expect it will be a solid sale,” St. George said. “[Keeneland] January was up and down, it seems like it’s all or nothing. Good foals, now short yearlings, are selling well. There is plenty of

appeal there and they are selling well. The middle-of-the-road mare was probably more solid in January than it had been in November. So, I wouldn’t say I have high expectations for this sale, but I think it will be solid.”

With the breeding season scheduled to begin in just a few weeks, St. George said young broodmare prospects will be particularly sought after at the two-day auction.

“I think the above-average fillies off the track with pedigree and some black-type is what seems to sell the best, with the breeding season right around the corner. A filly with some black-type appeals to people who are still looking to fill some nice seasons.”

Among the 60 supplemental entries to the catalogue, St.

George will offer the racing/broodmare prospect **Sastrugi** (Bodemeister) ([hip 604](#)). The 3-year-old half-sister to Grade I winner Morning Line (Tiznow) is unraced, but worked twice at Thoroughbred Training Center in January.



Fasig-Tipton sales grounds | Fasig-Tipton photo




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Barbara Livingston photo

“She had some very minor setbacks, but she has some breezes under her belt and she is pretty close to being ready to go,” St. George said.

Another supplemental entry is Grade I winner **Dr. Zic** (Milwaukee Brew) ([hip 611](#)). In foal to Constitution, the 11-year-old mare sells through James Keogh’s Grovendale consignment. Darby Dan Farm sends 5-year-old graded stakes winner and ‘**TDN Rising Star**’ **Super Majesty** (Super Saver) ([hip 238](#)) through the ring as a broodmare prospect.

Taylor Made consigns **Cinnamon Spice** (Candy Ride {Arg}) ([hip 345](#)), a half-sister to Grade I winner Violence (Medaglia d’Oro), on behalf of Fox Hill Farms. The 6-year-old sells as a racing or broodmare prospect. Also for Fox Hill, Taylor Made will sell multiple graded stakes placed Glory (Tapit) ([hip 640](#)).

Action on the perceived quality weanlings and short yearlings has been brisk throughout the mixed sales season and pinhookers will likely be busy shopping at the season’s last event.

“A nice yearling will always probably sell well because there is always the demand for the good ones by a commercial stallion,” St. George said. “Realistically, the better yearlings have maybe already been through auction, but it’s still a solid market to sell a good yearling in.”

Last year’s leading freshman sire Dialed In, represented by Saturday’s GII Lambholm South Holy Bull S. runner-up Gunnevera as well as the topper at last month’s Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Mixed Sale, has five yearlings in the Kentucky catalogue, including [hip 281](#). Out of Casey’s Irish Pride (Salt Lake), the St. George Sales-consigned colt is a half-brother to recent Sugar Bowl S. winner Proforma (Munnings). St. George sold Proforma at the Winter sale two years ago and sees similarities between the two youngsters.

“The Dialed In is a nice horse,” St. George said. “He is pretty similar. They’re both big, strong horses and physically they’re pretty compatible. And Dialed In is obviously doing very well.”

The catalogue features 28 horses from the dispersal of Dr. Robert Zoellner’s Oklahoma-based Rockin Z Ranch. Handled by Vinery Sales, the dispersal features graded stakes winner **She’s All In** (Include) ([hip 96](#)), in foal to Magna Graduate, and 3-year-old **Rowdy the Warrior** (Warrior’s Reward) ([hip 571](#)), recently third behind Uncontested (Tiz Wonderful) in the Smarty Jones S.

MacKenzie added the dispersal was adding another level of buyers as regional shoppers look to stock up.

“We’ve got it all in the barn from the dispersal; we’ve got a stallion, we’ve got mares, yearlings and a lot of them are Oklahoma accredited, and racing stock that is still running. I think we tick all the boxes in the barn right now. We actually even have a couple of foals that were just born. It’s a one-stop shop. The dispersal has definitely drawn some extra people. Not only have people shown up for the Oklahoma-breds, but I’ve had numerous texts and e-mails from people that are out there that are definitely interested and asking a lot of questions.”

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He continued, “The high-end mares are drawing attention from Oklahoma, but also from everywhere else. She’s All in and Peach Brew are attracting plenty of attention as graded stakes winners.”

A total of 341 head grossed \$8,260,600 during the 2016 Winter sale, for an average of \$24,225 and a median of \$9,500. Flashy American (Flashy Bull), in foal to Orb, brought the auction’s highest price when selling for \$395,000. Returned to the Fasig-Tipton sales ring in November and in foal to Tapit, the mare sold for \$950,000 and her Orb weanling sold for \$310,000.

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2--**Isabelle**, 121, m, 6, Successful Appeal--Merrill Gold, by Gold Fever. (\$100,000 Ylg '12 FTSAUG). O-William C. Schettine; B-Bluegrass Farm Partners & Jeffrey Tucker (NY); T-William I. Mott. \$20,000.

3--**Jules N Rome**, 121, m, 5, Dunkirk--Pretty Honoree, by Double Honor. (\$19,000 Wlg '12 FTNMIX; \$24,000 RNA Ylg '13 FTKJUL; \$77,000 Ylg '13 FTKOCT). O-Michael Dubb; B-Harry L. Landry, Constanca Farm & Dunkirk Syndicate (NY); T-Rudy R. Rodriguez. \$10,000.

Trained at Crupi's New Castle Farm
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NEW YORK

Sunday's Results:

BIOGIO'S ROSE S., \$100,000, AQU, 2-5, (S), 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m, 1:44.59, ft.

1--**SUPER SURPRISE**, 121, f, 4, [Giant Surprise](#)--Miz Lynne Kelly, by Langfuhr. (\$55,000 Ylg '14 SARAUG). O-Repole Stable; B-Allen C. Hallett (NY); T-Todd A. Pletcher; J-Jose L. Ortiz. \$60,000. Lifetime Record: MSW, 9-4-2-2, \$462,300.

Trained at Crupi's New Castle Farm
VINERY SALES GRADUATE

Margins: 2HF, 3/4, 5 3/4. Odds: 2.50, 1.05, 2.85.

Also Ran: Daisy Cutter, Legally Bay, Dream On.

Super Surprise broke her maiden in a 17-1 upset of the 2015 Empire-bred Maid of the Mist S. and captured the state-bred Fleet Indian S. last summer at Saratoga. Third at odds-on in a New York Stallion Series stake here Nov. 13, she had most recently run a distant second to re-opposing Isabelle in the New York-bred Bay Ridge S. here Dec. 11.

Off as the second choice in this Sunday feature, the dark bay stalked the aforementioned Isabelle from second through tepid fractions of :24.87 and :49.04. Inching closer passing the three-eighths pole, Super Surprise poked her head in front at



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MOMENT

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the top of the stretch and edged away in the final furlong to a convincing score. Isabelle held off late-running Jules N Rome for the place.



Super Surprise | Adam Coglianesse

“She’s a really good filly,” said winning rider Jose Ortiz. “The last time, the other filly [Isabelle] ran her eyeballs out and she got there.

Today, [it was]

like a match race, I felt like, and we won. Turned the tables a little bit. Todd [Pletcher] always does a great job with her and she was ready.”

Super Surprise has a 2-year-old half-brother by Soaring Empire named Captain Empire and her dam was bred to Palace last spring. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

5th-AQU, \$55,860, (S), Alw (NW1\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$75,000), 2-5, 3yo, 6f, 1:11.62, ft.

SAL THE TURTLE (c, 3, Caleb’s Posse--Northern City, by City Zip) graduated against \$50,000 maiden claimers at Belmont last October before a runner-up effort in the Nov. 19 Notebook S. He returned this term with an easy 4 1/4-length victory in a track-and-trip optional claimer Jan. 6. The even-money favorite chased Tribeca (Bustin Stones) through fractions of :22.97 and :46.19. The leader snuck clear as Sal the Turtle floated wide into the stretch, but the bay forged past with a furlong to run and came home one length in front. Remstin (Frost Giant) bested Tribeca for second. Northern City, who sold with the winner in utero for \$17,000 at the 2013 Keeneland November sale, produced a filly by Mission Impazible in 2016 and was bred back to Shakin It Up. Lifetime Record: SP, 4-3-1-0, \$116,600. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-Bloom Racing Stable; B-Sequel Thoroughbreds & Bloom Racing Stable (NY); T-Michelle Nevin.

THOROSTRIDE—featured horse

6th-AQU, \$60,000, Msw, 2-5, 3yo, 1 1/16m, 1:46.99, ft. MIGGSY (c, 3, Hard Spun--Yes She’s a Lady {SW, \$122,407}, by Yes It’s True) finished second on debut here Nov. 19 and filled the same slot as the favorite Dec. 31. Made an 8-5 favorite routing for the first time here, the \$330,000 KEESEP pickup tracked the pace of a longshot from second through splits of :23.78 and :48.53, swept to the lead three deep under no urging passing the quarter pole, and responded gamely in the lane to hold off stablemate Glennrichment (Pioneerof the Nile) by a desperate nose. The winner’s dam produced a colt by Bodemeister last spring before being bred back to Hard Spun. Lifetime Record: 3-1-2-0, \$60,000. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-Robert V. LaPenta; B-Olly Tait (KY); T-Rudy R. Rodriguez.

Brookdale Raised & Sold for Mr/Mrs Olly Tait

FLORIDA

Sunday’s Results:

8th-GP, \$41,000, Alw (NW2X)/Opt. Clm (\$62,500), 2-5, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10.87, ft.

SUMMER READING (f, 4, Hard Spun--Paradise Playgirl, by Speightstown), second behind Lightstream (Harlan’s Holiday) in last year’s Soaring Softly S., had not been out since finishing eighth sprinting 5 1/2 furlongs over the Saratoga lawn last August. The 7-2 shot contested the pace through fractions of :22.41 and :45.19. She assumed command at the top of the lane and determinedly held on late to best 82-1 longshot Savingtime (Kantharos) by one length. The winner, a \$150,000 KEESEP yearling, is a half-sister to Heart of Paradise (More Than Ready, GSP). Not bred in 2015, Paradise Playgirl was covered by Triple Crown winner American Pharoah last year. Lifetime Record: SP, 12-3-3-1, \$157,700. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-Joseph V. Shields, Jr.; B-Pollock Farms (KY); T-James A. Jerkens.

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Updates: HIP 116 - Sells TODAY!

Hip 116 - SOOKIE: 6YO broodmare prospect: Curlin - Island Escape, by Petionville

- ★ 4yo half-sis TRICKY STAR won a MdnSpWt third time out at Laurel Park 02/05
- ★ Stakes placed HELLUVA NOTION now has 6 wins 3 to 5, 2017, \$116,920

9th-GP, \$46,000, Msw, 2-5, 3yo, 5fT, :56.74, fm.
WHITE SMOKE (c, 3, J P's Gusto--Silver Island, by The Silver Move) was cutting back to five furlongs and moving to the lawn after setting the pace and tiring to fourth in his six-furlong debut against state-bred foes at this oval Jan. 21. The 10-1 shot was off half a step slowly, but recovered to chase the early leaders. Forced to wait for racing room in traffic into the stretch, the gray tipped out a path at the top of the lane and surged to the lead en route to a 1 1/4-length victory over Dynamic Dancer (Sky Mesa). Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$32,700. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#). O-Luis Duco Stables Inc.; B/T-Luis Duco (FL).

3rd-GP, \$38,000, Msw, 2-5, 3yo, 6f, 1:10.71, ft.
LENSTAR (g, 3, Shackleford--Cryptos' Best {SW & GSP, \$158,090}, by Cryptoclearance) was most recently a well-beaten third behind 'TDN Rising Star' Malagacy (Shackleford) sprinting 5 1/2 furlongs over a sloppy Gulfstream strip Jan. 4. The 7-5 second choice jumped out to the early lead, set fractions of :22.32 and :45.35 before skipping clear on the turn and bounding home a 6 1/4-length winner. Longshot Valdocco (Tapizar) was second, while favored Secret Recruit (To Honor and Serve) was bumped at the break and, after chasing the pacesetter early, tired to fifth. Lenstar was a \$130,000 KEESEP yearling. Cryptos' Best produced a filly by Yes It's True in 2016 and sold for \$8,000 in foal to Majesticperfection at last month's Keeneland January sale. Lifetime Record: 6-1-1-1, \$44,281. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#). O-My Meadowview Farm LLC; B-Lazy Lane Farms, LLC. (VA); T-Nicholas P. Zito.

 **Trained at Crupi's New Castle Farm** 

4th-GP, \$38,000, Msw, 2-5, 4yo/up, f/m, 7 1/2fT, 1:29.29, fm.
+BE MY BABY (f, 4, Artie Schiller--Bambolina, by War Chant), let go at 20-1, was away slowly and trailed the field as Caffeine (Medaglia d'Oro) set a measured pace up front. Still last as the field turned for home, Be My Baby swung out five wide at the top of the stretch and reeled in the pacesetters to win going away by 1 1/2 lengths. Stormy Alexis (Ire) (Excellent Art {GB}) was second and Caffeine faded to fourth. The winner, who RNA'd for \$35,000 at the 2014 Keeneland September sale, is a half-sister to Kitten's Roar (Kitten's Joy, SW & GSP, \$316,958). Bambolina, a half-sister to graded stakes winner Scherzinger (Tiz Wonderful), produced a colt by Magician (Ire) in 2016 and was bred back to Lemon Drop Kid. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$22,800. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O/B-George Krikorian (KY); T-Michael R. Matz.

 **Consigned by Hill 'n' Dale Sales Agency** 

EASTERN U.S.

Sunday's Results:

4th-LRL, \$40,000, Msw, 2-5, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:11.51, ft.
+LIL HABIT OF MINE (f, 3, Mineshaft--Tiger Cat Lilly {SW}, by Tale of the Cat), an \$80,000 KEESEP yearling, was sent off at 8-1 in this unveiling. The chestnut filly stepped out quickly and assumed the early lead, setting fractions of :23.41 and :47.07. Headed by Adios Annie (Adios Charlie) in midstretch, Lil Habit of Mine clawed her way back on top and bested that foe by a neck. Tiger Cat Lilly, a half-sister to multiple graded stakes winner Gypsy Robin (Daaher), produced a filly by Quality Road last year and was bred back to Tonalist. Her Arch filly sold for \$190,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton New York August yearling sale. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$22,800. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-Collingsworth Thoroughbred Racing LLC; B-Timber Town Stable, LLC & Dr. Richard Holder (KY); T-Hamilton A. Smith.

7th-LRL, \$40,000, Msw, 2-5, 4yo/up, f/m, 7f, 1:25.73, ft.
TRICKY ESCAPE (f, 4, Hat Trick {Jpn}--Island Escape {SW, \$325,010}, by Petionville), runner-up on debut at this track last December, missed by just a head when second over track and trip Jan. 7. Sent off the 3-5 favorite, the dark bay filly settled just off the pace before moving to challenge for the lead with a four-wide move into the lane. She took command in upper stretch and held off Indian Paint (Uncle Mo) to the wire to score by three-quarters of a length. Tricky Escape, who RNA'd for \$65,000 at the 2014 Keeneland September sale, is a half-sister to Felifran (Discreet Cat, GSP). Island Escape produced a full-brother to the winner last year and sold in foal to Stay Thirsty for \$2,000 at last month's Keeneland January sale. Lifetime Record: 3-1-2-0, \$39,600. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-Jon A. Marshall; B-Robert B. Trussell Jr. & John T.L. Jones III (KY); T-Lynn A. Ashby.

HIP 116: 1/2 Sis sells @ FTKFEB w/ Shawhan Place

Saturday Night's Results:

3rd-CT, \$23,000, (S), Msw, 2-4, 3yo, f, 4 1/2f, :53.34, ft.
+CASTLE MARI (f, 3, Windsor Castle--Lesliemari, by Distorted Humor) came into this debut off of a bullet local half-mile from the gate in :48 4/5 (1/14) Jan. 31 and was let go as the 23-10 second choice. Stalking the pace of odds-on firster Brooksie Robinson (City Zip) through a :22.38 quarter, the bay inhaled that foe at the top of the lane and drew clear nicely to romp by 7 3/4 lengths. The favorite narrowly held second. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$13,740. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-Taylor Mountain Farm LLC; B/T-James W. Casey (WV).

GIANT SURPRISE

Giant's Causeway – Twisted Sis, by A.P. Indy
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SUPER SURPRISE wins her 4YO debut in the Biogio's Rose Stakes at Aqueduct, 2/5. The New York-Bred Champion 3YO Filly nominee has now won a stakes every year she raced.

SUPER SURPRISE proved her grit challenging the tough leader Isabelle, then pulled away for the win.

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KENTUCKY

Saturday Night's Results:

CINCINNATI TROPHY S., \$50,000, TP, 2-4, 3yo, f, 6 1/2f (AWT), 1:17.52, ft.

1--**#DELPHINIA, 118, f, 3, [The Factor](#)--Ramblin Rosie, by Roar.** (\$250,000 Ylg '15 FTKJUL; \$510,000 2yo '16 EASMAY). O-Stonestreet Stables LLC & Fog City Stables; B-Morris B. Floyd & Gary Layman (KY); T-Wesley A. Ward; J-Julio A. Garcia. \$30,380. Lifetime Record: 3-2-1-0, \$63,980. *Third SW for sophomore sire (by War Front).

Purchased by  GAINESWAY

2--**Sister Nation, 118, f, 3, [Into Mischief](#)--Evita's Sister, by Candy Ride (Arg).** (\$85,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP). O-Mark Dodson; B-Marvin Little Jr. & William Lynn (KY); T-Michael P. De Paulo. \$9,800.

McElroy Equine Purchase

3--**On Probation, 118, f, 3, [Into Mischief](#)--Chinchilla, by Rubiano.** O-Suzanne M. Mundy; B-Canamer Farm (KY); T-Mark Hubley. \$4,900.

Margins: 7, 3HF, 3/4. Odds: 2.40, 2.30, 31.50.

Also Ran: Hansen's Girl, Spanish Arch, Promises Broken, Beloved Betty. Scratched: Jenna J, Creative Element, Follow the Petals.



Delphinia | Coady Photography

Delphinia finished second in her well-bet debut Oct. 14 at Keeneland and went one better as the favorite when removing blinkers Dec. 17 over the Gulfstream lawn. Made the narrow third choice in this stakes debut, the gray broke sharply and pressed the pace of favored

Promises Broken (Algorithms) through a quarter in :22.30. Taking over willingly at the five-sixteenths pole, Delphinia drifted wide off the turn, but steadily drew clear once straightening out approaching the eighth pole to score as much the best. Sister Nation was clearly second, while Promises Broken faded to finish sixth. The winner has a juvenile full-brother in Great Britain. Her dam, a half to GISW Buddy Gil (Eastern Echo), foaled a colt by Violence last spring before being bred to Munnings. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

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CALIFORNIA

Sunday's Results:

7th-SA, \$64,380, Alw (C)/Opt. Clm (\$75,000), 2-5, 4yo/up, 1 1/8mT, 1:47.33, fm.

PAPACOOLPAPACOOOL (g, 5, [Temple City](#)--Sainttwok, by Saint Ballado) captured the Pasadena S. and La Puente S. in back-to-back efforts over this turf course in the spring of 2015, but was off the board in six consecutive stakes tries after that and remained winless since, most recently running third at 98-1 behind Horse of the Year California Chrome (Lucky Pulpit) in the Winter Challenge S. Dec. 17 at Los Alamitos. Given a 67-10 chance here, the gelding stalked the pace of a loose longshot through fractions of :23.54, :47.66 and 1:11.33. Inheriting the lead as that one retreated in early stretch, Papacoolpapacool battled resolutely to hold off the charge of Prospect Park (Tapit) for a head tally. Sales History: \$2,200 Wlg '12 KEENOV; \$14,000 RNA Ylg '13 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: MSW, 20-5-1-4, \$291,660. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O-Ali & Francie Nilforushan & John Snedegar; B-Chesapeake Farm & Gianca Stables (KY); T-Philip D'Amato.

1st-SA, \$56,345, Alw (NW1\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$75,000), 2-5, 3yo, 1mT, 1:35.20, fm.

CISTRON (c, 3, [The Factor](#)--Major Allie, by Officer) was a good third first out over the local dirt Oct. 10 and dueled with 'TDN Rising Star' Beach Bum (Arch) Nov. 6 before fading to finish sixth. A wire-to-wire winner in his turf debut Dec. 4 at Del Mar, he most recently ran a close third in the Eddie Logan S. over course and distance Dec. 30. Let go as the 8-5 second choice here, the \$180,000 KEESEP buy ran clear through moderate fractions of :23.86, :47.90 and 1:11.51. Challenged in the final furlong by longshot Ky. Colonel (Into Mischief), Cistron dug in gamely to hold that foe off by a head. Odds-on favorite Soglio (Scat Daddy) was a nonthreatening third. The winner has a juvenile half-sister by First Samurai and his dam was bred to Liam's Map last spring. Lifetime Record: SP, 5-2-0-2, \$80,889. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O-Hronis Racing LLC & Little Red Feather Racing; B-St. George Farm, LLC (KY); T-John W. Sadler.



LANE'S END Sales Graduate



2nd-SA, \$54,345, Msw, 2-5, 3yo, f, 6 1/2f, 1:18.24, ft.

MEANIE IRENIE (f, 3, Henny Hughes--Playcaller {MSW, \$128,825}, by Saratoga Six) was an even sixth on debut here Dec. 26 and was given an 18-5 chance to graduate second out. Sitting third off the speed duel of Sheza Firstsamurai (First

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Samurai) and odds-on favorite Beautiful Princess (Giant's Causeway), the bay advanced into contention in midstretch and swept by the former pace player in the final sixteenth to score going away by 1 1/4 lengths. The victress is a half to Diplomat Lady (Forestry), GISW, \$552,784; and Dream Play (Hennessy), GSW, \$187,906. Sales History: \$30,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP; \$80,000 2yo '16 TTAAPR. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$32,745. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)**

O-Richard Baltas & J K Racing LLC; B-Gaines-Gentry Thoroughbreds, Larry Byer & Fox-Straus (KY); T-Richard Baltas.

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DIALED IN (Mineshaft), Darby Dan Farm, \$7.5K, 174/20/3

8-MVR, Msw 5 1/2f, +Landline, \$2K RNA FTK OCT yrl, 9-2

GEMOLOGIST (Tiznow), WinStar Farm, \$15K, 205/18/2

8-HOU, Alw 1 1/16mT, I'm a Rock, \$17K KEE SEP yrl, 7-2

UNION RAGS (Dixie Union), Lane's End Farm, \$35K, 220/19/3

10-HOU, Msw 1mT, Miss Spot On, \$200K FTF MAR 2yo, 4-1

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ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

9th-OP, \$75,000, (S), 2-5, (C), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:13.02, ft.

EASTER INDY (m, 5, A. P. Million--Anniano, by Jamiano)

Lifetime Record: SW, 14-4-1-2, \$222,440. O-John & Libbie Thiel & Martin Brothers, Inc.; B-John & Libbie E. Thiel (AR); T-William N. Martin.

10th-GP, \$40,000, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$25,000), 2-5, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:44.18, ft.

FRAMMENTO (g, 5, Midshipman--Ginger Bay {SW}, by Golden Missile) Lifetime Record: GSP, 15-2-1-1, \$311,107.

O-Mossarosa; B-Oliver S. Tait (KY); T-Nicholas P. Zito. *\$50,000 Wlg '12 KEENOV; \$85,000 Ylg '13 FTKJUL; \$260,000 2yo '14 FTFMAR.

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11th-GP, \$40,000, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$25,000), 2-5, 4yo/up, f/m, 5ft, :55.26, fm.

SPINNING WHEEL (m, 5, Smart Strike--Magical Ride {GSP, \$102,738}, by Storm Cat) Lifetime Record: 9-2-3-2, \$88,910.

O-G. Watts Humphrey, Jr.; B-G. Watts Humphrey Jr. & Louise Ireland Humphrey Revocable Trust - 2008 (KY); T-George R. Arnold, II. *1/2 to Ride on Curlin (Curlin), MGISP, \$795,175.

8th-SUN, \$34,600, (S), 2-5, (NW2X), 4yo/up, 6f, 1:09.53, ft.

PERTY DIRTY DUDE (h, 5, Elusive Jazz--Perty Gerty, by Peaks and Valleys) Lifetime Record: 20-5-3-6, \$96,408. O-Jeff Stinson & Miguel Mungia; B-John Pinkerton (NM); T-Dick Cappellucci.

6th-PEN, \$31,329, 2-4, (NW1X), 4yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2f, 1:05.64, ft.

MOONLIGHT BASIN (f, 4, Eurosilver--Sweetheart Sami, by Broad Brush) Lifetime Record: 16-3-2-2, \$77,139. O-McCarty Racing; B-Blackoak Farm (MN); T-Timothy C. Kreiser. *1/2 to Grasshoppin (Cat Thief), MSP, \$344,080.

8th-DED, \$30,820, 2-4, (NW1X), 4yo/up, 1m, 1:39.45, ft.

MINEYEROWNMALONE (g, 4, Mineshaft--Molly Malone, by Strong Hope) Lifetime Record: 14-5-0-1, \$72,455. O-Maggi Moss; B-Hare Forest Farm, Ltd. (KY); T-Thomas M. Amoss. *\$20,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP.



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- Champion **ARE YOU KIDDING ME [G2]** (\$981,852)
- **GOLDENCENTS [G1]** (\$3,044,000, Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile **[G1]** twice)
- **PALACE MALICE [G1]** (\$2,691,135)
- **VERRAZANO [G1]** (\$1,878,013)
- **UNDRAFTED [G1]** (\$1,300,813)
- **HABIBI (NZ) [G1]** (\$702,711)
- **JOHA [G1]** (\$613,182), etc.

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8th-GG, \$29,457, (NW1\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$32,000), 2-4, 4yo/up, 1m (AWT), 1:37.37, ft.

BROKEN UP (g, 5, Broken Vow--Not Here {SP}, by Gone West)
 Lifetime Record: 17-4-2-3, \$77,760. O-Red Baron's Barn LLC & Rancho Temescal; B-Wertheimer Et Frere (KY); T-John F. Martin.
 *\$52,000 3yo '15 BAROCT.

8th-HOU, \$20,000, (S), 2-4, (NW1X), 4yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:44.37, ft.
ITS OVER BABY (g, 4, Sing Baby Sing--Dixie Duet, by Dixieland Band)
 Lifetime Record: 13-3-2-3, \$38,935. O/T-Karen E. Jacks; B-Tom Durant (TX).

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Customized, g, 3, Custom for Carlos--Absolutely Smart, by Vindication. DED, 2-4, (S), 5f, :59.82. B-Allen J. Guillotte (LA).
 *\$10,000 Ylg '15 OBSAUG; \$12,000 RNA 2yo '16 OBSMAR.

+Halloween Horror, g, 3, Distorted Humor--Cabbage Key (MSP), by A.P. Indy. GP, 2-5, (C), 1 1/16mT, 1:43.58. B-Doug & Felicia Branham (KY).
 *\$200,000 RNA Ylg '15 FTKJUL; \$90,000 RNA Ylg '15 FTKOCT; \$45,000 2yo '16 OBSAPR.

Potente Alba, g, 3, Eskendereya--Pleasing Sunrise (SP), by Speightstown. SA, 2-5, (S), 5 1/2f, 1:04.99. B-SLO Racing Stable (CA).

Aye Fancy, f, 3, Fiber Sonde--Aye Jacoby (MSW), by Aye's Turn. CT, 2-4, (S), 4 1/2f, :53.85. B-John D. McKee (WV).

Joe T Garcia's, g, 3, My Golden Song--Cafe Pacific, by Gold Legend. HOU, 2-4, (S), 1m, 1:42.14. B-Clarence Scharbauer (TX).

Dr. Tucker, g, 4, Great Notion--Follow the Queen, by Not For Love. CT, 2-4, (S), 6 1/2f, 1:20.78. B-Gary L. Williams (WV).

Street Lad, g, 4, Street Cry (Ire)--Lady Lochinvar, by Lord At War (Arg). GG, 2-5, 1m (AWT), 1:37.76. B-Larry D. Williams (KY).
 *\$220,000 RNA Ylg '14 KEESep. **1/2 to Master Command (A.P. Indy), MGSW, \$1,137,188; Aurora Lights (Pulpit), MGSW, \$277,076.

Miss Nobility, m, 5, Noble Silence--Convincing Era, by Exclusive Era. SUN, 2-5, (S), 5 1/2f, 1:04.85. B-J-D Stables & Dan Carter (NM).

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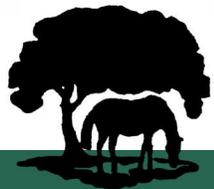
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WILD GOOSE LONG FLOWN THE NEST



Geoffrey Russell receives his ITBA award from Enda Stanley of Derrinstown Stud | Caroline Norris

by Daithí Harvey

Despite being born and raised in Sutton, County Dublin, there is very little of the native twang audible from Geoffrey Russell these days. Thirty-five years living in Kentucky would have that affect, but Keeneland's director of sales operations hasn't forgotten his roots and he was back on home soil recently to collect an award at the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association annual awards ceremony at The Heritage Hotel in Laois. Russell was the recipient of the 'Wild Geese Award,' which is presented to Irish emigrants who have made their mark in the international bloodstock industry.

His rise up the corporate ranks at Keeneland since he landed in America in 1982, not knowing anybody, is certainly testament to his professionalism and work ethic, though it was a different style of work ethic that was put to the test at the awards night on Jan. 29.

As Russell explains, "That was the first time I've been up until 5 a.m. for a long time, although they did warn me it would be a long night. In fact I was quite shocked when the lights came on and we were all told to go to bed--time just flew by. But it was great to catch up with so many friends from Ireland and the industry and it was a proud night and I was honoured to be selected." [Cont. p2](#)

'STAR' ON COURSE FOR SATURDAY RETURN

Group 1 winning filly **I Am A Star (NZ)** (I Am Invincible {Aus}) is on course to make her seasonal return in the G2 Rubiton S. at Caulfield on Saturday. Her trainer Shane Nichols intends to let the 3-year-old warm up for Saturday's task in an 800-metre barrier trial for fillies at Cranbourne Monday morning. Last seen winning the G1 Myer Classic at Flemington in October, I Am A Star will be partnered on Saturday by Craig Williams and despite the potential inclusion of star sprinter **Chatauqua (Aus)** (Encosta De Lago {Aus}) in the race, Nichols is confident of a bold show.

"She's going well. She looks far better now than what she did in the spring," the trainer told *Racing And Sports*. "She's strengthened up, her work has been good and she's coming into the preparation sound, well and in very good condition."

[Cont. p4](#)

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

UNIQUE BELLA ONE OF A KIND IN THE LAS VIRGENES
'TDN Rising Star' **Unique Bella** (Tapit) romped by 8 3/4 lengths in Sunday's GII Las Virgenes S. at Santa Anita Park. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

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Wild Goose Long Flown the Nest Cont. from p1

The Wild Geese Award is a relatively recent initiative and Russell is in good company with previous winners, including Japan-based Harry Sweeney of Paca Paca Farm and Russell's fellow adopted Kentuckian Pat Costello of Paramount Sales.

"Pat was in here only the other day and we were talking about it as he won it two years ago and John Troy won it last year, so it is an honour to be among those names," said Russell.

Achieving a high rank in the global bloodstock industry without any family connections to ease open doors is not a straightforward task, but it was something that Geoffrey Russell tackled head on when he embarked on his career in the early 1980s.

"I came over to Lexington for a summer internship with Fasig-Tipton in July of 1982 and I've been here ever since," he explained. "I honestly had no firm plans to stay beyond that summer, but I was quite fortunate that my stay coincided with a time when the commercial sales market in the U.S. really took off. I remember the November Sale in 1982

doubled from a three-day sale to a six-day sale and they needed people to help out. I always maintain I was in the right place at the right time."

Russell's hometown of Sutton wouldn't be regarded as a hotbed of Thoroughbred activity and it was frequent family trips to Leopardstown which whetted his appetite.

"My best friend growing up was John Cuddy and his father Michael owned racehorses, so I attended race-meetings with them on a regular basis," Russell explained. "I guess you could say they cultivated my interest in the sport. When I look back now though, I consider myself so fortunate to have been exposed to racing at an early age. I work in a job that is also my hobby, I even get paid to read the TDN; other people have to do that on their own time."

Russell's early years in America saw him based with Fasig-Tipton, while he also did a stint working for Elmendorf Farm in Kentucky before joining the sales team at Keeneland in 1996. For a company that sold almost 6,500 horses in 2016, its unusual aspect is that this quantity of horses changed hands



Joseph O'Brien, Geoffrey Russell, JP Magnier & Adian O'Brien | Racing Post

over the course of just three different sales throughout the calendar, a small number considering Tattersalls and Goffs each host nine auctions per annum. This does not mean, however, that there is an excess of leisure time for Russell, as an enormous amount of work goes into preparing for these sales between inspections, assessments and cataloguing of lots, with more than 11,000 horses catalogued last year.

"Both the September and the November Sale are the largest of their kind in the world," Russell noted. "The November Sale had just under 4,800 lots catalogued and the logistics of organising

such a sale are quite extensive. At Keeneland we also have an important responsibility to market the sport and to engage with buyers and investors, both domestic and international, to ensure a maximum attendance at each sale."

Keeneland is equally synonymous with racing as it is with sales, and the company received widespread credit for hosting an excellent renewal of the Breeders' Cup in 2015, overcoming a number of challenges, most notably

accommodating a crowd far in excess of the track's regular attendance figures. While not directly involved on the racing side, Russell is wise enough to know that one can't separate them completely. He said, "We'll all help out with the racing if needed because ultimately there are a lot of the same clients involved. The trainer and owner who come to buy a yearling at the September Sale are just as likely to be racing at Keeneland in

the spring. There is an obvious synergy involved and as it's very much a people and relationship based business, it is so important to have a presence at the races."

That presence also extends to Ireland, where Keeneland sponsors the G1 Phoenix S. run at The Curragh in August, a race won two years ago by Keeneland yearling graduate Air Force Blue (War

Front).

Immigration is a contentious issue in America at the moment and back in the early 1980s Russell was just one of a great number of Irish men and women who sought a new way of life in America, seduced by the sheer scale and breadth of opportunities available to those not afraid of hard work. [Cont. p3](#)

"Very little can be achieved without hard work and that is something that is very evident here in the States. If you're willing to work hard opportunities will continue to present themselves."

Wild Goose Long Flown the Nest Cont. from p1

"When I came over here in 1982 there was a huge population of Irish people working here and while some returned to Ireland when the economy began to roar over there at the turn of the century, a core group remained," he recalled. "Many of that core group--people like Pat Costello, Gabriel Duignan, Adrian Regan, Fergus Galvin, Michael Hennon, James Keogh and several others--they have all graduated from mucking out stalls and mowing grass to being highly influential people in the U.S. bloodstock industry. They've all sort of looked out for each other also over the years; there's good camaraderie, even though we all laugh and joke about each other in typical Irish fashion."

Every year Russell gives a talk to the Godolphin Flying Start trainees and one piece of advice he offers them, and indeed anyone else starting out in the industry, is to travel. This is despite his journey ending at its first pit-stop. However; Russell is keen to stress that there are so many opportunities for people to carve out a rewarding career in the bloodstock and racing industries.

"If I was starting out again, I would travel, get as much experience in different aspects of the industry and by doing that hopefully figure out which part of our industry suits best. That's one of the great things about the Thoroughbred industry. You can be any number of things: you can rear your own horses, be a stallion man, be a bloodstock agent, be an insurance agent, be a sales-company official, the list goes on. However very little can be achieved without hard work and that is something that is very evident here in the States. If you're willing to work hard opportunities will continue to present themselves," he notes.

One of the reasons Russell ultimately settled in Lexington was the familiarity he felt about the place. "There are a lot of similarities between central Kentucky and Ireland, Russell continued. "The hospitality here is wonderful and the people here are so warm and welcoming. I knew nobody when I arrived but people here made me feel at home straight away. I guess that's one of the reasons why I don't miss home all that much. Then again I've lived here longer than I have lived in Ireland so I guess it's time I started referring to Lexington as my real home."

The bloodstock industry has become a global community and it seems to matter less these days where one bases oneself. Nowadays, horses race with frequency in both hemispheres and racing professionals can be at the Breeders' Cup one day and at the Melbourne Cup the next; likewise on the sales circuit where no doubt there were some who took in sales in Australia, South Africa and Newmarket all in the space of four weeks this year. Keeneland is another such venue that brings together all these players from all walks of life and they are fortunate to have someone like Geoffrey Russell on board ensuring everything runs like clockwork.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

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GODOLPHIN ADD TO RANKS

Godolphin have bought out trainer David Elsworth's share in **Swiss Storm (GB)** (Frankel {GB}) reports the *Racing Post*. The colt was well touted before his juvenile debut last September



Swiss Storm | *Racing Post*

but he never threatened the principals in a maiden at Haydock. He derived considerable benefit from that experience and stepped up markedly to break his maiden two weeks later at Newbury, where he beat subsequent winner City Of Joy (GB) (Elusive City) in impressive fashion.

The win prompted Elsworth to comment, "He's got a beautiful temperament and a lot of speed, we can dream on at the moment."

Godolphin join breeders Lordship Stud as owners of the colt, who has been earmarked as a potential Classic contender this year. Commenting on the purchase Godolphin's media manager Jim Clarke said, "I can confirm that Godolphin have bought a half-share in Swiss Storm and he is to stay in training with David Elsworth. He's a promising colt and I believe the plan is for him to carry the Godolphin blue next season."

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Ruby Walsh, Douvan and groom Rachel Robbins after he sauntered to his 14th consecutive win in the G2 Tied Cottage Chase at Punchestown on Sunday | *Racing Post*

WORLDWIDE NEWS

I Am A Star Cont. from p1

Although her Group 1 victory came over a mile, Nichols is keeping an open mind about what trips she will be campaigned over this autumn. "It is possible if she happened to run really, really well in the Rubiton, she may have a sprinting campaign," he added.

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HOUTZEN BEGINS GOLDEN SLIPPER PREP

Jeep Magic Millions 2YO Classic winner **Houtzen (Aus)** (I Am Invincible {Aus}) is currently vying for favouritism for the G1 Golden Slipper and her trainer Toby Edmonds is considering options for the filly in the lead up to that prestigious juvenile contest scheduled for Mar. 17 at Rosehill. "She had 10 days in the paddock and was probably doing a bit too well, so we brought her back in," Edmonds told *Racing And Sports*. The filly is now unbeaten in three starts following her half-length win over **Chauffeur (Aus)** (Snitzel {Aus}) at Gold Coast Jan. 14 and Edmonds has a loose plan in mind.

He added, "One option is to trial her at Randwick on Monday week and then run in the Sweet Embrace two weeks after that but nothing is set in stone."

There is also a chance Houtzen could skip those trials and commence in the G2 Riesling S. at Rosehill Mar. 4. With various options in the mix, Edmonds will make a final decision over the filly's preparation later this week.

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Houtzen after winning the Listed Magic Million 2YO Classic | *Magic Millions*

FESTIVAL SALE WRAPS UP BUSINESS

The National Yearling Sales Series concluded on Sunday with New Zealand Bloodstock's Festival Sale which failed to match last year's impressive gains made from 2015. 2016 saw increases in all areas and, despite the clearance rate holding up well this year at 78% and the top price paid improving on recent years, the aggregate fell 22% to NZ\$2,332,000. The average dropped 7.5% to NZ\$14,854 and the median fell by 16% to NZ\$10,000.

New Zealand Bloodstock managing director Andrew Seabrook was far from despondent however and commented, "It was pleasing to see the Sale end up with 78% clearance and to have buyers from Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore stay on. We also have some new initiatives domestically with the likes of the New Zealand Chinese Jockey Club that could grow to be quite considerable contributors to the industry."

The abovementioned New Zealand Chinese Jockey Club made their presence felt by acquiring the top lot, a colt offered by Hallmark Stud as [lot 1132](#) from the winning O'Reilly (NZ) mare Astrogal (NZ). Knocked down for NZ\$90,000 the Super Easy (NZ) colt is destined for the Donna Logan and Chris Gibbs stable. Alan Fu, CEO of the successful buying group is pleased with how the concept has been received and said, "There's been interest from



Lot 1132 | NZB Photo

the local Chinese community to invest in racehorse ownership for some time but the general perception out there was that it's a very expensive sport. We've put a lot into changing that perception, educating people and answering their

questions."

He continued, "Syndication has made racing horses more accessible and our members like the idea, the lifestyle and the community we've created. When we showed the colt to investors today, he was quickly fully syndicated. We hope the Super Easy colt can be a Karaka Million horse and earlier in the sale we also bought into a Power (GB) colt with David Ellis."

Next highest of the day was [lot 1212](#), a colt by Dalghar (Fr) offered by Long Acres Stud and hammered down to Regal Farm for NZ\$70,000. Bloodstock agent Paul Moroney had a productive sale, ending up the leading purchaser by spend, signing for four lots for a total of NZ\$171,500. The most expensive of the quartet was [lot 1288](#) a filly by Dalghar (Fr) that cost NZ\$48,000. Victorian-based trainer Paddy Payne was the most active of the international purchasers, with five lots bought for NZ\$113,000 including [lot 1179](#) a colt by Shocking (Aus) that sold for NZ\$55,000. [Cont. p5](#)

Several months into a long, grey winter, it's hard to imagine that somewhere, people are somewhere sitting on a warm beach. In this month's TDN Weekend, you'll be inspired to do just that. It's February, and for those of who grew up in the Northeast (and grew tired of the cold-weather racing at Aqueduct, or Laurel) that means one thing: it's time for a visit to Gulfstream. Whether you're planning a trip for the big 3yo races, or the Gulfstream sale March 1, it's time to read up on what to see and where to be seen in South Beach. Further south still, we'll catch up with Teo Ah King, who is planning a racing paradise in St. Lucia. Graham Motion has also headed to Miami for winter racing, and he'll have this month's Last Word. Chris McGrath reminds us that winter in England doesn't mean sunbathing: it means steeplechasing, and there's no better place to do it than Cheltenham. And finally, before you get ready to breed your mare in Europe this year, take heed: there's a revolution happening in France.



Sue Finley, Co-Publisher

TDN WEEKEND

FEBRUARY 2017

A 48-HOUR RESPITE IN
MIAMI

**GRAHAM
MOTION**
has The Last Word

TEO AH KING
and his **GAMEPLAN**

SIREs return to FRANCE
in droves **VIVE LA
RÉVOLUTION**

CHOOSING CHASING? CHOOSE
CHEL TENHAM



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Festival Sale Cont.

The session's leading vendor was Haunui Farm who traded 12 horses in total for NZ\$193,000 including a top price of NZ\$40,000 for [lot 1241](#), a colt by Iffraaj (GB) that sold to Hong Kong-based Tartan Meadow Bloodstock. The final result for Karaka 2017 saw a total of NZ\$82m traded, down 5% on the previous record-breaking edition. The average remained steady at NZ\$86,973 versus last year's NZ\$88,042. The median dropped to NZ\$50,000, NZ\$5,000 less than last year's amount while the clearance rate was an encouraging 78%, up from 75% in 2015.

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NZB FESTIVAL YEARLING SALE

SESSION TOTALS	2017	2016
• Catalogued	241	298
• No. Offered	201	239
• No. Sold	157	188
• RNAs	44	51
• % RNAs	22%	21%
• High Price	NZ\$90,000	NZ\$80,000
• Gross	NZ\$2,332,000	NZ\$3,020,200
• Average (% change)	NZ\$14,854	NZ\$16,065
• Median (% change)	NZ\$10,000	NZ\$12,000

Sunday, Tokyo, Japan

TOKYO SHIMBUN HAI-G3, ¥75,140,000 (*US\$668,038*), Tokyo, 2-5, 4yo/up, 1600mT, 1:34.90, fm.

1--#**@BLACK SPINEL (Jpn)**, 123, c, 4, by **Tanino Gimlet (Jpn)**

1st Dam: Morganite (Jpn), by **Agnes Digital**

2nd Dam: Tanzanite, by **Sunday Silence**

3rd Dam: Catherine Parr, by **Riverman**

O-Sunday Racing; B-Northern Farm; T-Hidetaka Otonashi; J-Mirco Demuro; ¥39,378,000. Lifetime Record: 14-4-3-1. **Click for the [eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree](#). Werk Nick Rating: C.**

2--**Prodigal Son (Jpn)**, 123, c, 4, Deep Impact (Jpn)--Loves Only Me, by Storm Cat. (¥180,000,000 Ylg '14 JRAJUL). O-Makoto Kaneko Holdings; B-Northern Farm; ¥16,108,000.

3--**Air Spinel (Jpn)**, 126, c, 4, by King Kamehameha (Jpn)--Air Messiah (Jpn), by Sunday Silence. O-Lucky Field Inc.; B-Shadai Farm; ¥9,854,000.

Margins: NK, HF, 1 3/4; Odds: 5.40, 10.40, 0.80.

Also Ran: Meiner Aurato (Jpn), Stormy Sea (Jpn), Young Man Power (Aus), (Daiwa Liberal (Jpn), Black Moon (Jpn), Leukerbad

(Jpn), Tagano Burg (Jpn). **Click for the [JRA chart and video](#), for the [Racing Post](#) result or the [free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree](#).**

Black Spinel made just about all the running here and clung on grimly in the last furlong to hold off the persistent challenge of Prodigal Son to win by a neck. He enjoyed a relatively soft lead early on and upon straightening up he was eyeballed by Meiner Aurato (Jpn) (Stay Gold {Jpn}) with two furlongs to go. He soon shrugged off that challenger and with the rail to help he galloped on powerfully holding all at bay to register his first graded stakes win. He had come agonizingly close on his previous start when beaten a nose by Air Spinel (Jpn) (King Kamehameha {Jpn}) in the G3 Sports Nippon Sho Kyoto Kimpai at Kyoto last month.

Sunday, Kyoto, Japan

KISARAGI SHO-G3, ¥72,430,000 (*US\$643,979*), Kyoto, 2-5, 3yo, 1800mT, 1:50.10, sf.

1--#**@AMERICA'S CUP (JPN)**, 123, c, 3, by **Manhattan Cafe (Jpn)**

1st Dam: Vegas Night, by **Coronado's Quest**

2nd Dam: Words of War, by **Lord at War (Arg)**

3rd Dam: Right Word, by **Verbatim**

(¥49,000,000 Wlg'14 JRAJUL). O-Tatsuo Tanikake; B-Shadai Farm; T-Hidetaka Otonashi; J-Fuma Matsuwaka; ¥38,301,000 Lifetime Record: 4-3-0-0. *1/2 to Omega In Vegas (Jpn) (Special Week {Jpn} SP-Jpn \$340,822. **Werk Nick Rating: C+** **Click for the [eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree](#).**

2--**Satono Arthur (Jpn)**, 123, c, 3, Deep Impact (Jpn)--King's Rose (NZ), by Redoute's Choice (Aus). (¥195,000,000 Ylg '15 JRAJUL). O-Hajime Satomi; B-Northern Farm; ¥15,086,000.

3--**Danburite (Jpn)**, 123, c, 3, Rulership (Jpn)--Tanzanite (Jpn), by Sunday Silence. O-Sunday Racing; B-Northern Farm; ¥9,543,000.

Margins: 1 3/4, HD, 1 1/4; Odds: 16.20, 0.40, 4.60.

Also Ran: Platina Voice (Jpn), Espirituoso (Jpn), Matera Rex (Jpn), Tagano Asura (Jpn), Suzuka Major (Jpn) (unseated rider). **Click for the [JRA chart and video](#), for the [Racing Post](#) result or the [free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree](#).**

There was drama at the start, as Suzuka Major (Jpn) (Daiwa Major {Jpn}) appeared to do very little wrong jumping from the stalls, yet her rider failed to keep the partnership intact. Ultimately it was America's Cup who got the job done under a no-nonsense ride. The colt was delivered to challenge early in the straight and picked up well under a vigorous drive to draw clear close home for an authoritative victory. Winner of first two juvenile starts, America's Cup was deemed good enough to contest the G1 Asahi Hai Futurity S. last December and despite making little impression in that contest, he proved his quality when dropped in grade on Sunday.

Sunday, Sha Tin, Hong Kong**CENTENARY VASE H.-G3, HK\$3,000,000**

(US\$386,720/£309,772/€358,524/A\$503,279), SHT, 2-5, 3yo/up, 1800mT, 1:47.04, gd.

1--**#SUPREME PROFIT (AUS), 113, g, 6, by [Encosta De Lago \(Aus\)](#)**

1st Dam: Sun Song (Aus) (SP-Aus), by Desert Sun (GB)

2nd Dam: Sunny Song (Aus), by Simonstad (NZ)

3rd Dam: Songline (NZ), by Western Symphony

(A\$320,000 Ylg '12 MMGCYS; HK\$3,300,000 HRA '12 HKJCS).

O-Mr & Mrs William Yem Wai Lai; B-Orpheo Pty Ltd (NSW);

T-Danny Shum; J-Chad Schofield. HK\$1,710,000. Lifetime

Record: 36-9-3-0, \$1,017,559. **Werk Nick Rating: C. Click for**

the [eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree](#).

2--**Basic Trilogy (NZ), 117, g, 5, [Mastercraftsman \(Ire\)](#)--Gold Class (NZ), by Gold Brose (Aus). (NZ\$100,000 Ylg '13 NZBPRES).**

O-Francis Yip Chi Hung; B-W Pegg (NZ); T-John Moore.

HK\$660,000.

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3--**Romantic Touch (Aus), 129, g, 6, Northern Meteor (Aus)--Dearness (Aus), by Snippets (Aus). O-Ming Shui Sum & Alice Ming Bo Ting; B-Gooree Park Stud Pty Ltd (NSW); T-Tony Cruz. HK\$345,000.**

Margins: 1, 1 3/4, NK. Odds: 7.50, 6.90, 5.30.

Also Ran: Helene Super Star, The Alfonso (Aus), Flame Hero (NZ), Helene Charisma (Fr), Horse of Fortune (SAF), Harbour Master.

Click for the [HKJC chart](#) or the [HKJC PPs](#). [HKJC Video](#).

Making his initial foray into group company, Supreme Profit lived up to his name admirably, passing the US\$1-million mark in career earnings with a one-length victory in the HK\$3-million 1800m G3 Centenary Vase H. at Sha Tin Sunday.

The 15-2 shot raced in sixth two deep as 2015 Hong Kong champion stayer Helene Super Star (War Front), formerly Lines of Battle, covered the first three furlongs in :37.10 with



Supreme Profit en route to the biggest payday of his career | HKJC photo

Romantic Touch just off his flank. Sensing a slow pace, Chad Schofield gave Supreme Profit his cue shortly thereafter, and he duly obliged, rolling past rivals on the backstretch and straight to the head of affairs. Traveling

the first 1000 metres in 1:01.31, the scarlet-blinkered Supreme Profit angled to the fence on the final bend and dropped the hammer on his foes, edging away to a 1 1/2-length advantage

inside the final 200 metres. With his final half-mile divided into virtually identical splits of :22.89 and :22.84, Supreme Profit still had a length to spare from the rapidly closing Basic Trilogy, with Romantic Touch 1 3/4 lengths back, a neck ahead of Helene Super Star. Heavily favored at 13-10, Helene Charisma (Fr) (Air Chief Marshal {Ire}), with Joao 'Magic Man' Moreira aboard, could only manage seventh after a troubled trip.

"When the pace was so slow, it just didn't suit me at all," said Schofield. "I was three pairs back and it was going to be a sit and sprint which he wouldn't have enjoyed, so I let him stride with the light weight, and stride he did. I kept him rolling the whole way, from the 1000-metre mark, pretty much, and with the light weight they couldn't pick him up."

Purchased for A\$320,000 out of the Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale by Hong Kong International Sale Executive Manager Mark Richards, Supreme Profit sold for HK\$3.3 million as Lot 1 in the December 2012 Hong Kong International Sale, but had an eventful journey to the winner's circle. After joining trainer Danny Shum's yard, Supreme Profit required surgery on a twisted intestine, which set him back for quite some time.

"As a result of that operation, we had to wait for more than a year before he made his Hong Kong debut [in January 2014], and at the time he was very fat and carrying a lot of condition," recounted Shum, who was winning his first group race since Little Bridge (NZ) (Faltaat) captured the G1 King's Stand S. at Royal Ascot in June 2012. "If you asked me early this season what I would have expected from this horse, I would have said he could win one race. But today, he has scored win three, so it was a bit of a surprise to me. Mark was obviously right, he just needed time to mature."

Off the board in a Sha Tin Class 2 going 1600 metres to start his season Oct. 8, Supreme Profit improved to fourth going this distance locally Oct. 23. He dropped a spot against similar when cut back to a mile Nov. 20, but rebounded for a victory over 1800 metres at Happy Valley Dec. 7. Making it back-to-back victories returned to Sha Tin Dec. 27, the dark bay ran sixth last out over course and distance Jan. 22.

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G3 Centenary Vase H. Cont.

Pedigree Notes...

The best foal out of his SP dam, Supreme Profit is a half-brother to Australian GSP Kachina (Aus) (So You Think {NZ}) and a full to SP Zombie Dancer (Aus). Out of the winning Sun Song (Aus) (Desert Sun {GB}), Supreme Profit's second dam is a half-sister to the seven-time Australasian Horse of the Year Sunline (NZ) (Desert Sun {GB}). Sun Song has an unraced filly of 2014 named Reposition (Aus) (So You Think {NZ}). She was barren in 2015 and foaled a filly by Dissident (Aus) in the fall of 2016.

Click for the [free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree](#).

Moreira Hits 500...

Moreira still enjoyed a banner day, despite an unplaced run aboard Helene Charisma in the G3 Centenary Vase H. The Brazilian rode three winners on the card: Bravo Watchman (Aus) (Congrats) in the Cineraria H., Mambo Rock (Ire) (Rock of Gibraltar {Ire}) in The Heung Yee Kuk Cup H. and the Orchid H. aboard Western Express (Aus) (Encosta de Lago {Aus}), which brought his total to 500 victories in Hong Kong. The two-time champion rider in Hong Kong had two wins in December of 2012 and began competing in Hong Kong in earnest in October of 2013.

"The milestone, it means a high five," said a cheeky Moreira to a waiting crowd after the last. "It's very nice to get to that mark, but I think we're going to stretch that number out a little bit yet, don't worry." [@HLAndersonTDN](#)

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Western Express, with Joao Moreira aboard, lands the Orchid H. at Sha Tin Sunday. It was Moreira's 500th win in Hong Kong. | HKJC photo

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