



F-T GULFSTREAM SALE WEDNESDAY



Fasig-Tipton photo

by Jessica Martini

HALLANDALE, FL - The juvenile auction season kicks off Wednesday afternoon with the Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream Sale which gets underway at 4 p.m. in the Hallandale track's picturesquely paddock. A catalogue of 162 2-year-olds had been reduced by 43 scratches as of Tuesday afternoon and Fasig-Tipton President Boyd Browning, Jr. is expecting the buzzword for Wednesday's sale to be "quality" as the Thoroughbred auction scene continues its trend of polarized, all-or-nothing, demand.

"There is going to be tremendous demand for the horses that the buyers perceive to be the quality offerings," Browning said. "It will be tough on some of the other ones. But there are a lot of nice horses on the sales grounds. And there are a lot of really good buyers on the grounds."

A day after a well-attended under-tack show Monday, activity at the sales barns was frenetic Tuesday.

"I have never worked so hard in such a short period," admitted consignor Cary Frommer in a rare break from showing on a gloriously sunny day in South Florida. "At one point we had six shows going on at one time and that's over my head."

Nick DeMeric agreed the large number of shoppers at the sales grounds was heartening.

Cont. p3

McCRAKEN TO SKIP TAMPA BAY DERBY

'[TDN Rising Star](#)' McCraken (Ghostzapper), who remained perfect in four career starts with a season-opening victory in the GIII Sam F. Davis S. at Tampa Feb. 11, will be forced to skip his next intended appearance in the Mar. 11 GII Lambholm South Tampa Bay Derby due to a minor injury, trainer Ian Wilkes confirmed Tuesday.

"He's got a slight strain in his ankle," the former Carl Nafzger assistant explained. "He X-rayed clean, but I don't want to come back and work him next week [ahead of the Tampa Bay Derby]. I would rather skip that race and take care of the horse."

Wilkes said he will regroup and point McCraken towards the GII Toyota Blue Grass S. at Keeneland Apr. 8. What was meant to be a three-race lead-up into the GI Kentucky Derby is now down to two preps, but the conditioner is downplaying that fact.

Cont. p6

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

SIBLINGS TO ARDAD, 'DREAM BOAT' AT GOFFS UK

Siblings to its 2016 Royal Ascot-winning graduates **Ardad** (Ire) and **My Dream Boat** (Ire) are among the 152 2-year-olds set to be offered at Goffs UK's breeze-up sale on Apr. 12.

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HIP 102

:10²

“ My colt selling at (Fasig-Tipton) Gulfstream is one beautiful horse, and he is **really fast**. I don’t just like him, I love him. ”

—J.J. CRUPI

Crupi's New Castle Farm

HIP 150

:10¹

“ I really like the Flat Outs. They have good minds and are **exceptional movers**. The Flat Out I have in the sale is a big, scopey horse who is very fast and the type that can get two turns. ”

—QUINCY ADAMS

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TODAY in the **TDN**
THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

Wednesday, March 1, 2017



Frolic with a purpose. A February 14 filly by Uncle Mo out of Walkwithapurpose (Candy Ride {Arg}) gambols at Sagamore Farm in Reisterstown, MD. Named Maryland-bred Champion Three-Year-Old Filly of 2013, Walkwithapurpose was undefeated at Laurel Park, including a victory in the Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship S. This is her third foal and she will be bred to American Pharaoh in 2017. [Click here](#) to submit photos of your 2017 foals for consideration in the TDN. Please include sire, dam, owner, and photographer's name. | Photo courtesy of Sagamore Farm

MOTION ENTERING NEW TERRITORY

6

Ben Massam chats with trainer Graham Motion, who is entering new territory with top Triple Crown contender and 'TDN Rising Star' Irish War Cry (Curlin).

FINGER LAKES AGREEMENT REACHED

RR

An agreement between Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack and local horseman has been reached, making way for racing to return to the upstate New York oval for 2017.

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Fasig-Tipton cont. from p1

"We all seem to be busy in the barns--which is always a positive and makes us feel good," DeMeric said.

"There is nothing worse than having your crew all dressed to the nines and having nothing to do. So the activity is a very positive sign."

On his expectations for the sale, DeMeric added, "I am sure it will be wonderful in places and hopefully it will have a little more depth to it than what we've seen in recent years, but we are cautiously optimistic and we are taking a positive view."

On his hopes for a broader middle market, DeMeric explained, "I think the sale company has done a good job of bringing a good cross-section of horses here, certainly the top is very strong. There is definitely something for everyone here and I think the

message is getting out that you don't have to have half a million dollars to play here, you can buy some very nice horses in the \$150,000 range and even less--the history books are proving

that to be true. If that message filters through to the general horse buying public, this sale should go from strength to strength."

Frommer, who sold a \$1-million colt by Uncle Mo at last year's Gulfstream sale, admitted she and her partners tailored their approach to the yearling sales to the increasingly discriminating demands of buyers.

"We played a lot more and bought a much more select yearling last year

because we recognize that's the trend, people want the best," she said. "I feel like we bought the best our money could buy and stretched farther money-wise than we ever have before. Now we'll find out if it was worth it." **Cont. p4**



Fasig-Tipton Photo

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Fasig-Tipton cont.

The approach already seems vindicated by the reaction of potential bidders.

"I have a middle market horse or two here and I don't know how we'll fare there," she admitted. "They are absolutely zoned in on my standouts."

Consignor Clovis Crane found reason for optimism ahead of Wednesday's sale.

"All of the major players are here and it looks like there are plenty of buyers, so I am hopeful," Crane said Tuesday. "There is a lot of excitement--there is a bit of a buzz. A lot of times sales feel flat and you can feel it coming, but there is a little bit of a buzz with this one."

Crane will offer four juveniles at the Gulfstream sale and will be looking for buyers interested in more than just the top-tier

horses.

"I am the middle-market guy," Crane smiled. "I am not the guy who is giving hundreds of thousands of dollars for my horses.

I'm trying to buy a real good athlete. I might not have the pedigree that some people do, but I try to buy a good athlete and bring it to market sound and healthy and ready to go. I think my horses have performed well enough. I didn't have any :10 flats, but they all made good videos, they were all professional and they were ready to do everything they did and they came back well. I've done all I can do, my horses have

done all they can do, so now it's just a matter of whether the buyers are here. My horses are sound and ready to sell, so I am optimistic."



Fasig-Tipton Photo

Cont. p5

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Fasig-Tipton cont.

This will be the third year that Gulfstream Park has hosted Fasig-Tipton's boutique juvenile auction, which produced subsequent GI Kentucky Derby winner Nyquist (Uncle Mo) in its first edition in Hallandale in 2015. The location and facility continue to draw high marks.

"Miami has that little bit of magic to it that you can't recreate elsewhere," DeMeric confirmed. "And with Mr. [Frank] Stronach's fabulous facility here at Gulfstream, it does provide a wonderful backdrop for what we are doing."

Browning agreed the sale, after stops at Palm Meadows and Adena Springs South, has found a fitting home in South Florida

"It takes a while to establish the consistency, the familiarity and the comfort," Browning said. "It's hard to characterize those intangibles, but I think the buyers really love watching horses breeze Monday and train in advance of the under-tack show over a track that they are familiar with—it's a lovely facility. And I think there will be a really strong buyer bench here for Wednesday."

Frommer said she has noticed that the sale continues to attract a wider audience each year.

"Last year, I saw people I didn't see the first year and this year I think there are even more people coming," she confirmed.

During last year's Gulfstream sale, four horses sold for \$1 million or more, including the \$1.8-million sale-topping colt by Tapit. In all, 66 juveniles sold at the 2016 auction for a total of \$21,590,000 and an average of \$327,121. The median was \$250,000. Of the 96 horses offered, 30 failed to sell for a buy-back rate of 31.3%.

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Listen to our TDN PODCAST with Duncan Taylor

The most high-profile stallion to retire to stud this year was North America's leading money-winner, California Chrome, the two-time Horse of the Year. As his initial breeding season gets underway at his new home, Taylor Made Farm in Nicholasville, Kentucky, they are hopeful he will prove to be as great a sire as he was a racehorse. Taylor Made's president, Duncan Taylor, fills us in on all things Chrome and all the latest news from the family-run operation on this week's Thoroughbred Daily News podcast.



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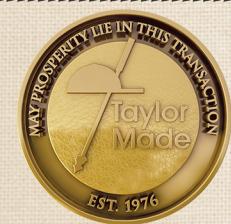
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Leading 2016 Sires of Yearlings

by cumulative average price for stallions standing in North America

Rank	Name	FYr	Loc	2014 Fee	Ring	Sold	Avg	Median
1	Tapit	F06	KY	\$150,000	54	43	\$629,069	\$600,000
2	War Front	F08	KY	\$150,000	30	22	\$613,276	\$562,500
3	Medaglia d'Oro	F06	KY	\$100,000	59	46	\$331,749	\$300,000
4	Speightstown	F06	KY	\$80,000	57	40	\$304,537	\$275,000
5	Scat Daddy	F09	KY	\$30,000	103	76	\$243,158	\$160,000
6	Curlin	F10	KY	\$25,000	61	48	\$238,062	\$197,500
7	Pioneerof the Nile	F11	KY	\$20,000	68	52	\$230,346	\$160,000
8	Malibu Moon	F01	KY	\$95,000	58	44	\$230,068	\$185,000
9	Uncle Mo	F13	KY	\$27,500	88	72	\$219,041	\$170,000
10	Ghostzapper	F07	KY	\$50,000	50	38	\$214,078	\$142,500
11	Bernardini	F08	KY	\$100,000	56	39	\$212,749	\$210,000
12	Smart Strike	F98	KY	\$100,000	31	26	\$177,571	\$168,722
13	Giant's Causeway	F02	KY	\$85,000	47	31	\$165,617	\$110,000
14	Distorted Humor	F00	KY	\$100,000	40	27	\$159,925	\$100,000
15	Street Cry (Ire)	F04	USA (D/R/E)	100,000	42	32	\$155,028	\$125,239
16	Candy Ride (Arg)	F06	KY	\$35,000	69	47	\$154,542	\$140,000
17	Tiznow	F03	KY	\$75,000	65	41	\$152,390	\$100,000
18	Orb	F15	KY	\$25,000	71	55	\$148,318	\$125,000
19	More Than Ready	F02	KY	\$50,000	82	66	\$141,072	\$100,920
20	Into Mischief	F10	KY	\$20,000	97	79	\$126,149	\$115,000
21	Arch	F00	KY	\$40,000	41	26	\$124,761	\$80,000
22	Flatter	F05	KY	\$20,000	37	32	\$118,468	\$80,000
23	Shanghai Bobby	F15	KY	\$20,000	75	64	\$115,804	\$90,000
24	City Zip	F03	KY	\$25,000	39	31	\$114,967	\$85,000
25	Oxbow	F15	KY	\$20,000	31	25	\$108,960	\$85,000

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McCraken cont. from p1

"It is not really a concern, to be honest," Wilkes commented. "Maybe he knows better than me."

Owned and bred by Janis Whitham, McCraken turned in his first work since annexing the Sam Davis Monday at Palm Meadows, covering a half-mile in a smooth :48.90 (6/27).

"He worked great, galloped out tremendously and I couldn't ask for more," Wilkes said. "He was out in [a minute] 13 and change, I was tickled to death. Now we just have to take care of him."

McCraken, at the head of the list in the [TDN Kentucky Derby Top 12, sponsored by WinStar](#), was the lowest price among the individual entries at 6-1 in the most recent Kentucky Derby Future Wager pool, which closed the evening of Feb. 26.

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McCraken winning the Sam F. Davis
SV Photography



March Grad MOANIN G1 (JPN)

The Two Year Old Source

Track Performance

Two Year Old Sales Graduates in North America 2016

	OBS Safetrack	FT Dirt	BAR Dirt
G1 Winners	11	2	0
G1 Horses	32	6	2
Graded Winners	43	9	1
Graded Horses	118	26	12

Two Year Olds of 2016

G1 Winners	5	0	0
G1 Horses	14	1	0
Graded Winners	10	0	0
Graded Horses	29	3	3

IRISH WAR CRY HAS MOTION ENTERING

NEW TERRITORY by Ben Massam

With a GI Kentucky Derby, a G1 Dubai World Cup and three Breeders' Cup successes to his name, Graham Motion has reached the highest level of the game numerous times, but when '[TDN Rising Star](#)' Irish War Cry (Curlin) enters the starting gate for Saturday's GII Fountain of Youth S. at Gulfstream Park, the British-born trainer will confront a new challenge: sending out a top 3-year-old as the clear favorite in a Triple Crown prep race. Most recently, [Isabelle de Tomaso](#)'s undefeated New Jersey-bred colt played the role of upsetter in the Feb. 4 GII Holy Bull S., winning the race by 3 3/4 lengths and leaving heavily favored juvenile champion Classic Empire (Pioneerof the Nile) in his wake [[video](#)]. But with Saturday approaching, Motion was reflective about his new spot on virtually everyone's Kentucky Derby radar.

"I don't ever remember being in a position close to this," Motion said. "Obviously, I've followed these races closely, like we always do. I'm not even sure I've ever been in a position to participate--[2011 Kentucky Derby winner] Animal Kingdom ran in an 'a other than' allowance race down here, and we certainly weren't even thinking Derby at the time. In that respect, this horse is already much more accomplished, although it would be very unfair to compare the two of them." [Cont. p7](#)

OBS MARCH March 14 - 15

10:30 AM

Under Tack March 9-11 8:00 AM



Irish War Cry cont.



Irish War Cry | Lauren King

While champion Animal Kingdom is among the most versatile American horses in recent memory by virtue of his proficiency on all three racing surfaces, Irish War Cry presents Motion with a unique--but likely more straightforward--assignment as an undefeated 3-year-old placed squarely on the Kentucky Derby trail from the outset of his sophomore season.

"It's been fairly uncomplicated," Motion explained, speaking of his colt's progression since the Holy Bull. "He's come out of the race well. I had only planned on working him once, and that went very smoothly, so I've been very pleased with him. I think, as time goes on, he's sharper and sharper. He's really growing into a strong 3-year-old--which is what happens at this time of year."

Irish War Cry has shown tangible improvement with each start--from his flashy late-running maiden score [[video](#)] to his hard-fought win over the talented O

Dionysus (Bodemeister) in the Dec. 31 Marylander S. [[video](#)], and culminating with his decisive wire-to-wire victory in the Holy Bull. When confronted with the decision to enter the chestnut in one or two more Derby preps following his recent win, Motion's instinct was to give his trainee the benefit of added seasoning.

Cont. p8



Graham Motion | Coady photo

OBS March ON THE DERBY TRAIL



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Irish War Cry cont.

"I try not to get too far ahead of myself in these situations," Motion added. "Once I sat down and thought about him, he's a relatively lightly raced colt. I think I'm in a position where if we are good enough to be around in the first weekend in May, he needs the experience. So I wasn't really in a position to be passing up on [the Fountain of Youth]."

Regardless of the future racing schedule, Motion remains realistic about the challenges posed by Irish War Cry's rapid ascendancy to the top of the 3-year-old heap.

"I do worry that I've asked a lot," he acknowledged. "I'm glad that this time we get to run back at a distance that he's already run at, so it's been a good progression for him. He certainly seems to handle it very well; he seems to be a smart horse."

Motion is well acquainted with the family of Irish War Cry, having conditioned four of the colt's siblings for de Tomaso. Irish War Cry's 5-year-old half-brother **Irish Strait** (English Channel) recently finished third in the GIII Tampa Bay S. in his graded stakes debut Feb. 11, while **Irish Defence** (First Defence), a once-beaten 4-year-old half-sister to the pair, had her first workout of the year at Fair Hill Feb. 23.

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BC '17 TICKETING INFO RELEASED; ATTENDANCE TO BE CAPPED

The Breeders' Cup announced Tuesday that attendance for the 2017 Breeders' Cup World Championships, to be held Nov. 3 and 4 at Del Mar Racetrack, will have a 37,500 attendance cap per day.

Tickets will go on sale Monday, Mar. 6 at noon EST/9:00 a.m. PST, and can be purchased online at breederscup.com/tickets or by calling 877-849-4287. A ticket pre-sale will be conducted before Mar. 6, and those interested in signing up for pre-sale access can do so at dmtc.com/season/breeders-cup.

Breeders' Cup and Del Mar are investing approximately \$4.5 million to increase premium seating options and enhance amenities for fans and participants, with 2,700 new premium seats, including trackside luxury chalets and temporary box seats. The infield will accommodate an additional 250 people with a new sanded area called 'The Beach,' which will have casual seating, umbrellas, a video screen and private bar. The Pacific Pavilion will offer table seating for up to 1,300 guests.

All seating options are now available to [view](#).

"We are thrilled to bring Breeders' Cup to Del Mar for the first time this fall," said Craig Fravel, Breeders' Cup President and CEO. "Together with Del Mar Thoroughbred Club and the local Del Mar, Solana Beach, and San Diego communities, we have been working tirelessly to enhance every element of the fan experience and ensure that fans enjoy the best that the sport and the local area have to offer." **Cont. p9**

FASIG-TIPTON FLORIDA 2YOS

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includes gallop-out
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HIP 54 C. EXCHANGE RATE



CONSIGNMENT BY
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Strike 1/2 to GSW
Broadway Empire,
G2SP filly

By sire of reigning
2yo filly champ
Champagne
Room, 4 other
GISW females

HIP 62 F. BROKEN VOW



CONSIGNMENT BY
Bill Harrigan

First Foal o/o
Dress the Part, a
SW Malibu Moon
full to MG2SW
Onlyforyou

Sire of Irish War
Cry, one of the
favorites for the
Derby

HIP 48 C. CURLIN

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Single day ticket prices for Friday will range from \$35 to \$375, and from \$50 to \$500 on Saturday. Two-day packages will cost between \$85 and \$1,875. All tickets will be sold in advance--there will be no walk-up purchases.

"We are excited and honored to host our first Breeders' Cup this November," offered Joe Harper, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club President and CEO. "By capping the attendance number and adding 2,700 premium seats, the Breeders' Cup will be an amazing experience for all guests and we can't wait to welcome fans from around the world to our venue and city."



Breeders' Cup Photo

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THIS or THAT?

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- Apple or Android?** Apple
- Movie theater or on demand?** On demand
- Introvert or extrovert?** Extrovert
- Breeders' Cup win or Eclipse Award statue?** Breeders' Cup win
- Convertible or air conditioning?** Air conditioning
- Burgers and fries, or a fine French meal?** French meal
- Turf or dirt?** Dirt
- Affirmed or Alydar?** Affirmed

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OXBOW

Awesome Again - Tizamazing, by Cee's Tizzy



OUTSTANDING REVIEWS:

Ian Brennan (*Stonestreet Training*)

"The Oxbows are very athletic and have terrific minds. The '15 colt o/o Psalms Twenty Three reminds me of Oxbow himself as a 2YO – Smooth mover, covers a lot of ground, and full of class."

Bill Harrigan (*Miacomet Farm*)

"They [Oxbow 2YOs] are well balanced, nice scope, athletic moving, nice to work with, and very intelligent horses. I give Oxbow a huge chance to make an impact as a stallion."

#3 SIRE OF FIRST CROP YEARLING BY SALES AVERAGE IN 2016 - \$111,125

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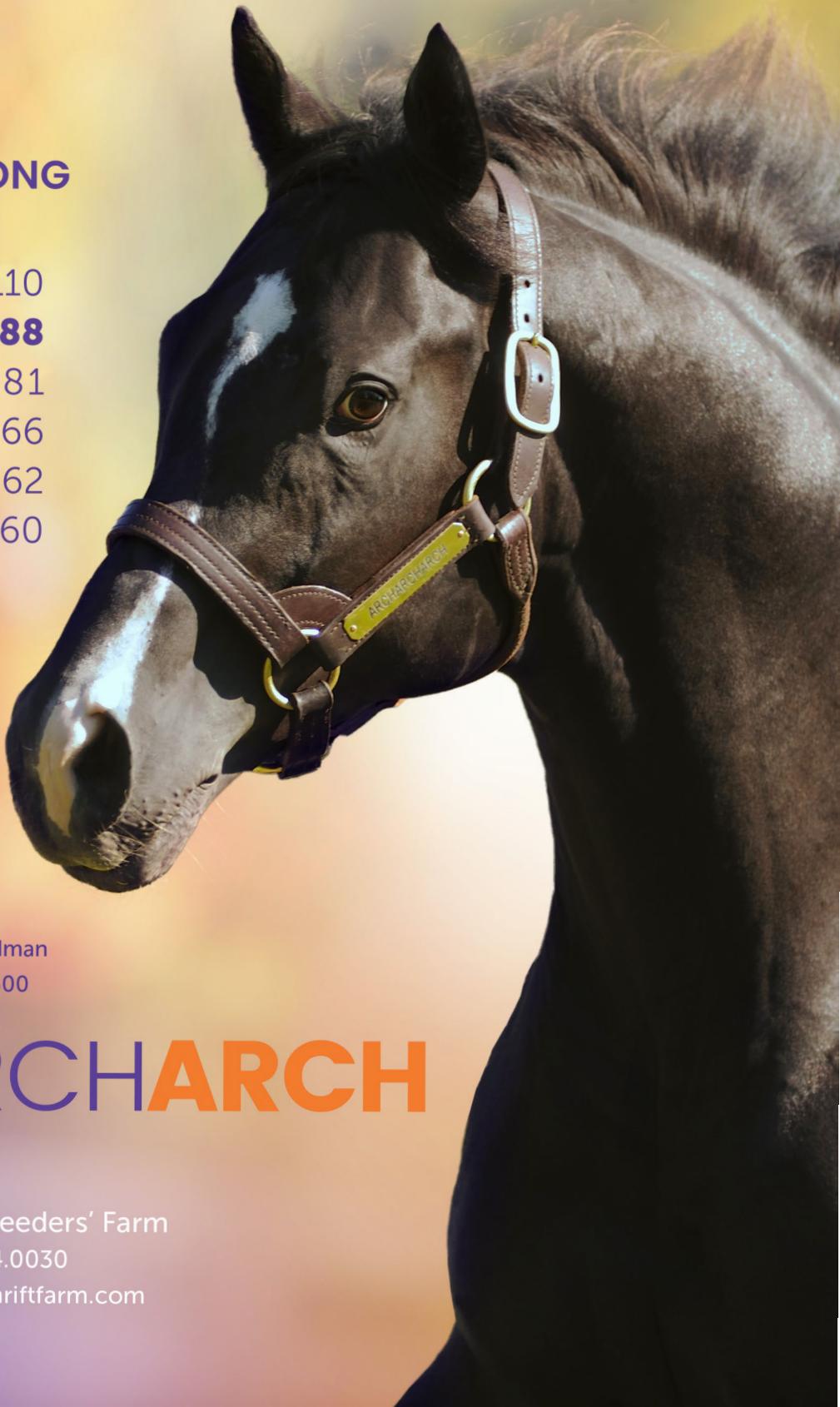
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Archarcharch	88
Paddy O'Prado	81
Trappe Shot	66
Twirling Candy	62
Gio Ponti	60

Source: TDN Sire Lists, 2/28



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AGREEMENT REACHED AT FINGER LAKES FOR 2017 RACE SEASON

Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack (FLGR) and the Finger Lakes Horsemen's Benevolent Protective Association (FLHPBA) reached an agreement Monday night, ending a months-long stalemate and ensuring that the upstate New York oval will race in 2017. Finger Lakes will hold its 56th consecutive season of racing from Apr. 22 through Nov. 28 with a total of 145 race days.



Finger Lakes | Horsephotos

"We are pleased to have come to an agreement that sets the wheels in motion for racing to continue at Finger Lakes this

spring," said Chris Riegler, president and general manager of Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack. "All parties involved worked hard and productively over a long period of time toward a reasonable solution that most importantly provides assurance for close to 1,000 people who depend directly on the local racing industry for their livelihood."

Issues arose at Finger Lakes due to the recent opening of nearby del Lago Resort & Casino and the expectation that gaming business at Finger Lakes would suffer, resulting in fewer funds available for purses ([click here](#) for 'Finger Lakes Woes Could be Big Blow for NY,' Bill Finley, 2/16/17). A statute mandates that 8.75% of gaming revenue at Finger Lakes must be used to fund purses.

As part of the agreement between FLGR and FLHPBA, Finger Lakes's operator Delaware North will contribute at least an additional \$600,000, and up to \$1 million, to account for the expected shortfall. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's office [recently proposed](#) a solution to the issue at Finger Lakes, and was involved in negotiations.

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G1SW AT 2

1st Hopeful Stakes-Gr.1, 7f,
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First foal, a colt,
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GSW AT 3

1st Pat Day Mile Stakes-Gr.3,
8f, Churchill Downs
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On my list of top five things in the world (following my two children, of course), I am fairly certain that France, the beach and racing would run 3-4-5. So you can only imagine how exciting it is to present Jocelyn Targett's whimsical tale about a winter respite at Cagnes-sur-Mer, a race-track in France. On the beach. With wine (#6). Dive on in. We also give you a guide to the birthday celebration for Man o' War, who turns 100 this month; introduce you to McCracken, Kansas, population 190, which is about to become famous for its Kentucky Derby namesake and give 85-year-old Janis Whitham the thrill of a lifetime; show you what's new in Dubai (it's always something!) and let Australian trainer Chris Waller have the last word. Hint: we're all going to want that sleeping app of his...



Sue Finley, Co-Publisher



MARCH 2017

TDN \ WEEKEND

WHAT'S NEW IN DUBAI? A LOT.

AUSSIE TRAINER CHRIS WALLER HAS THE LAST WORD

ROSÉ, SUN AND HORSES AT CAGNES SUR MER

A LATE-LIFE DERBY RUN FOR JANIS WHITHAM

MAN O' WAR TURNS 100

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MERCER COUNTY HORSES FLOURISHING

At the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation's Blackburn Correctional Facility in Lexington, Kentucky--where inmates are taught a vocation in horse care and management--one of the most recent Second Chances Program success stories involved some of the 43 horses rescued from Mercer County in the summer of 2016. Several of the horses that arrived at the Blackburn facility were severely malnourished and one suffered from a serious foot abscess. Among the horses taken in at the Blackburn facility from Mercer County include: Z Camelot, Silver Cliff, Parhelion, Meddling and Princess Megan. All have shown drastic improvement due to the care received at the hands of the inmates, the TRF confirmed Tuesday.

"Z Camelot was the worst of the group," said Linda Dyer, Second Chances Farm Manager at Blackburn. "The veterinarians thought he could die. Personally, I had never seen a horse so starved that he just had skin--what was left of it--and skeleton. Previous connections of the Zayat team found him a good home in Pennsylvania. The [inmates'] dedication to him was amazing."



Buddies Parhelion & Silver Cliff | TRF photo

TRF Herd Manager Sara Davenport added, "Silver Cliff will stay here at Blackburn. He was originally adopted from us and is happy at Blackburn. He easily made a full recovery and is perfectly healthy now. Parhelion was one of the first rescues and now he and Silver Cliff are best buds."

"Once the yearlings were weaned, the mares bounced back pretty fast," Davenport continued. "We still have Meddling and she is such a good girl--horrible cribber--but a sweetheart. She might even be able to do therapy one day. Princess Megan was returned to a previous contact once she recovered."



Meddling | TRF photo

Once Z Camelot and Princess Megan left Blackburn, mares L C Mystery and Golden Thief arrived in November and December, respectively.

"We sent L C Mystery to the TRF's Second Chances Program at Vandalia, Illinois two weeks ago to make more room at Blackburn, and she is doing great," said Davenport. "Synergistic is still with us and she is 18. She's had some sort of trauma to her hip, so she's a little arthritic getting up and down and needs a smaller herd setting."

Dyer and Davenport are quick to commend the dedication and hard work that made caring and providing for the Mercer County horses possible, as well as all the donations of supplies.

"All of these horses were on Ulcerguard, and we thank all of the people who donated this and other supplies for them," said Dyer. "We still have some horses that are on it and the veterinarian has told us they will probably have to live on it for the rest of their lives. We hope these horses have continued good lives, as they sure do deserve it after being so badly abused."

To [donate](#) towards the ongoing care of these horses, or for more information about the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, please go to www.trfinc.org/.

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Rapid Rhythm (*Successful Appeal*) remains perfect on the Fair Grounds turf in the Mardi Gras S.



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WINNER OF THE QUEEN'S PLATE
OUT OF (CAN) CHAMPION 3YO FILLY



SNAPY HALO (ARG)

Southern Halo

GRADE 1 WINNER AND
FULL BROTHER TO TWO GRADE 1 WINNERS

EASTERN U.S.

Tuesday's Results:

8th-PRX, \$54,494, Alw, 2-28, (NW1X), 4yo/up, 6f, 1:11.81, ft.
SUDDEN SURPRISE (g, 4, Giant Surprise--Ready and Good, by More Than Ready), who racked up four New York-bred stakes victories as a juvenile, took a New York Stallion Series S. last April before three dull efforts to close his sophomore account, including a sixth in a Monmouth optional claimer when last seen Aug. 27. Sent off as the 14-5 second choice returning as a new gelding here, the bay tracked a loose longshot from a joint second through a sharp :21.98 quarter. Sweeping to the lead three-deep passing a half in :45.66, Sudden Surprise spurted clear past the furlong grounds before staving off the closing bid of West Hills Giant (Frost Giant) by a neck. The victor has a juvenile half-sister by Stay Thirsty and his dam was bred to Uncle Mo last term. Lifetime Record: MSW, 13-7-1-0, \$531,734.
[Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O/B-Repole Stable (NY); T-Todd A. Pletcher.

 Trained at Crupi's New Castle Farm 

7th-PRX, \$64,240, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 2-28, 3yo, 1m, 1:40.93, ft.
HASHTAG ALEX (g, 3, Afleet Alex--Aesculus {SP, \$118,624}, by Horse Chestnut {Saf}) was a distant fifth in his track-and-trip career bow Jan. 10 and improved markedly to be a hard-luck nose second here Jan. 31. Made a 73-10 proposition running out of condition in this spot, the gelding was hustled early to make the point heading into the clubhouse turn and dictated terms through splits of :24.17 and :48.75 while pursued by odds-on favorite Win With Pride (Distorted Humor). That foe turned up the heat passing the three-eighths pole, but Hashtag Alex rebuffed him in early stretch and drew clear to score by five lengths. Win With Pride held for the place. The winner's dam was bred to Flat Out last spring. Sales History: \$22,000 Ylg '15 KEEJAN; \$40,000 Ylg '15 FTKOCT. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-0, \$54,340. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-Cash is King LLC; B-Anita Nesser (KY); T-John C. Servis.

 WAR HORSE PLACE BORN, RAISED & SOLD 

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CENTRAL U.S.

Tuesday's Results:

MARDI GRAS S., \$74,250, FG, 2-28, 4yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2fT, 1:03.73, fm.
1--RAPID RHYTHM, 121, m, 5, Successful Appeal--Patriot Miss {SP}, by Quiet American. (\$38,000 RNA Ylg '13 EASSEP; \$19,000 RNA 4yo '16 KEEJAN). O-Robert S. Evans; B-Lazy Lane Farms, LLC. (VA); T-Michael Stidham; J-James Graham. \$45,000. Lifetime Record: MSW, 19-8-1-1, \$245,903.

Recommended by P. Lawley-Wakelin • Cathy Sweezy for R. S. Evans

 Warrendale Sold, Congratulations To All The Connections 

2--Wheatfield, 121, m, 5, Lone Star Special--Thistle Bear, by Gators N Bears. O/B-Tigertail Ranch (LA); T-Danny Pish. \$15,000.
3--Simple Surprise, 121, f, 4, Cowboy Cal--Simplify, by Pulpit. O/B-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC (KY); T-Steven M. Asmussen. \$7,500.

Margins: NK, 2, NO. Odds: 1.30, 10.40, 4.00.

Also Ran: Blip n' Th Bye, Equation, Boom Bam Bing, Lovable Lyss, Clairenation.

Rapid Rhythm rallied from last and surged late to capture the featured Mardi Gras S. at Fair Grounds, running her record to a perfect five-for-five over the New Orleans lawn. A first-out victress over this course in March of 2015, the bay annexed a \$30,000 claimer and an optional claimer here last term. Sixth in both the Giant's Causeway S. and GIII Royal North S. before running second in the Kentucky Downs Ladies' Sprint Sept. 10, she captured the Maryland-bred Oakley S. Sept. 24 at Laurel.



Rapid Rhythm (outside) gets up late | Hodges

She most recently scored in the Battle of New Orleans S. Dec. 3, her first start since being acquired privately from DARRS, Inc. by owner Robert Evans. Made the clear favorite in this Fat Tuesday

mainstay, Rapid Rhythm broke decently from the rail before dropping back to run at the tail of an eight-horse group behind a :22.60 quarter. Winding up while angling out on the turn, the chalk found herself in the seven-path at the top of the lane.



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- **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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Photo by Equisport Photos



Producing a steady charge into contention around the eighth pole, she continued on to just nail Wheatfield in the waning strides. The winner's dam is responsible for a 2-year-old Tale of the Cat gelding and foaled a colt by Sky Mesa last season before being bred to Competitive Edge.

"She's so special," said Hilary Pridham, assistant to winning trainer Mike Stidham. "She knows where the wire is and she really wants to win. She's so professional and she shows up every race and guarantees she's going to give you her best."

Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

5th-FG, \$40,000, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 2-28, 3yo, f, 1mT, 1:36.65, fm.

EMPHATICALLY (f, 3, [Scat Daddy](#)--Indy Groove {GSW & GISP, \$366,575}, by A.P. Indy) was fourth in her unveiling over the Delaware dirt Sept. 22 and dropped one spot first time on turf Oct. 16 at Laurel before graduating in frontrunning fashion there Nov. 18. Let go as the 17-5 second choice in this competitive group, the homebred bobbed a touch at the start and tugged her way up to run a close second through fractions of :24.08 and :48.33. Poking a head in front at the three-sixteenths pole, the chestnut kicked away to tally by 2 1/4 lengths over Signalpath (Eskendereya). The victress has a 2-year-old full-brother named Pitching and her dam was paired with Street Sense last term.

Lifetime Record: 4-2-0-0, \$50,040. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).**

O/B-Glen Hill Farm (FL); T-Thomas F. Proctor.

3rd-FG, \$38,000, Msw, 2-28, 3yo, f, 1mT, 1:37.52, fm.

MISS EMMA MARIA (f, 3, [Tiznow](#)--Deja Blu, by Seeking the Gold) ran an even fifth on debut for the Todd Pletcher barn Aug. 7 at Saratoga and showed improved speed before fading to finish fourth first out for this outfit sprinting here Dec. 31. Finishing fourth as the favorite in a local off-the-turfer Jan. 22, the homebred was well supported again stretching back out here, breaking as the 11-10 chalk. Stalking from second through a :23.57 quarter, the bay increased her pressure on the longshot leader past a :48.32 half and three-quarters in 1:12.78. Taking over at the eighth pole, she held sway late to graduate by a half-length over She'sagraciouslady (Gemologist). The winner's dam, a half to GSW/MGISP Santa Catarina (Unbridled), produced a filly by Pioneerof the Nile last season before visiting Uncle Mo. Second dam Purrfectly (Storm Cat) is a half to European champion and MG1SW Culture Vulture (Timeless Moment).

Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-0, \$29,850. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).**

O/B-Siena Farms LLC (KY); T-Thomas M. Amoss.

STALLION SEASON AUCTION

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9th-FG, \$38,000, (S), Msw, 2-28, 3yo, f, 1mT, 1:38.06, fm. **BERMUDA STAR (f, 3, Star Guitar--Bermuda Bride {SP}, by Runaway Groom)** was fourth at first asking against state-breds Nov. 17 at Delta and finished a fast-closing second at 50-1 here Dec. 10 before failing to make a dent when fifth in the Louisiana-bred Azalea S. in the Delta slop Jan. 20. Dismissed at over 13-1 in this initial turf try, the gray settled in second through a :23.99 quarter and :49.23 half. Cruising to the front in early stretch, she skipped well clear by the eighth pole and coasted home 3 1/2 lengths to the good of odds-on favorite Agent Provocateur (Interactif). The victress has a juvenile half-brother by Half Ours named Our Bermuda and her dam was bred back to that sire last term. Sales History: \$5,000 RNA Ylg '15 ESLYRL; \$20,000 2yo '16 EQL2YO. Lifetime Record: 4-1-1-0, \$36,280. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).**

O-Brittlyn Stable, Inc.; B-Tom Curtis & Wayne Simpson (LA); T-Victor Arceneaux.

HAVE A NEW FOAL?

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WESTERN U.S.

Tuesday's Results:

6th-SUN, \$21,500, Msw, 2-28, 3yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2f, 1:03.87, ft.
THREE DIAMONDS (f, 3, Wilburn--Diamond Highway, by Harlan's Holiday) showed early interest before finishing fourth in her track-and-trip debut Jan. 29 and was sent off at 5-1 here. Tracking from third through a :22.36 quarter, the bay sidled up to the leader three-wide approaching the top of the lane, took charge soon thereafter and quickly drew clear once switching leads at the furlong pole, romping by eight lengths in the end. Wicked Factor (The Factor) was second. Three Diamonds has a yearling half-brother by Jimmy Creed and his dam visited Take Charge Indy last season. Sales History: \$8,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP; \$35,000 2yo '16 BARMAY. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$13,760.

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Sire (Sire's Sire), current farm, 2013 Fee, #foals of racing age/Winners/
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ALGORITHMS (Bernardini), Claiborne Farm, \$7.5K, 155/15/1
 6-DED, Alw 7 1/2f, Crown and Seven, \$16K OBS OPN 2yo, 6-1
CREATIVE CAUSE (Giant's Causeway), Airdrie Stud, \$15K, 174/22/1
 6-DED, Alw 7 1/2f, Cause You Can, \$14K RNA KEE NOV wnl, 12-1
OVERDRIVEN (Tale of the Cat), Ocala Stud Farm, \$3K, 114/16/0
 5-CT, Msw 4 1/2f, +Gallant Calling, 6-1
STAR GUITAR (Quiet American), Clear Creek Stud, \$4K, 80/5/0
 6-DED, Alw 7 1/2f, Air Guitar Star, \$65K RNA OBS APR 2yo, 8-1
STORMY'S MAJESTY (Stormy Atlantic), 10/0/0
 5-CT, Msw 4 1/2f, Paying Dividens, 12-1

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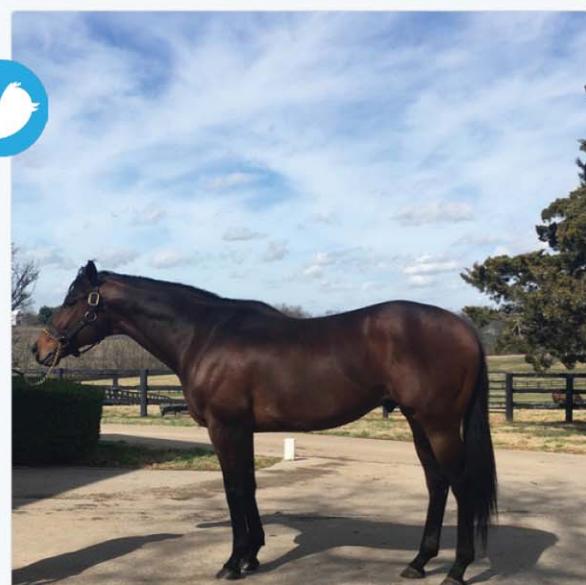


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IN SOUTH KOREA:

+King of Ace, c, 3, [Malibu Moon](#)--Cintarosa (SW, \$177,730), by Grand Slam. Busan, 2-26, Hcp. (\$49k), 1200m. B-Jack Grunwald (KY). *Won by five lengths at first asking as the 4-5 favorite. *\$200,000 RNA Ylg '15 FTSAUG; \$28,000 2yo '16 OBSMAR; \$85,000 2yo '16 OBSJUN; \$50,000 HRA '16 FTKNOV.

Winning with Woodford

Cheonjiga, g, 4, [Trappe Shot](#)--What a Girl Needs, by Dixieland Band. Seoul, 2-26, Hcp. (\$67k), 1200m. B-Nursery Place (KY). *\$85,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP; \$14,000 2yo '15 OBSJUN.

Clean Up Joy, g, 6, [Purge](#)--Greta's Joy, by Joyeux Danseur. Seoul, 2-26, Hcp. (\$133k), 2000m. B-James Meadows (KY). *1/2 to Livi Makenzie (Macho Uno), SW & MGSP, \$354,069. **SW-Kor. ***\$1,400 Wlg '11 KEENOV; \$7,000 Ylg '12 FTKOCT; \$14,000 2yo '13 OBSJUN. ****Winner of the 2016 Grand Prix, Clean Up Joy won for the 12th time in 22 starts with earnings now in excess of ₩1.4 billion (US\$1.29 million). He carried top weight of 132 pounds to a five-length success as the 3-10 chalk, with money back the place.

IN PERU:

Buford, c, 3, [Creative Cause](#)--Sealaunch, by Unbridled's Song. Monterrico, 2-24, Maiden, 1400m, 1:27.03. B-Tim Thornton, Robert Watt & Doug Glass (KY). *\$42,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP.

VIDEO

Maldita Primavera, f, 3, [Sky Mesa](#)--Giant Leap, by Giant's Causeway. Monterrico, 2-26, Cond., 1200m, 1:12.70. B-Belwood Stables LLC (KY). *1/2 to Macha (Majestic Warrior), GSP, \$156,014. **\$15,000 Ylg '15 KEEJAN; \$21,000 RNA Ylg '15 KEESEP; \$20,000 2yo '16 OBSJUN. [VIDEO](#)

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BREEDERS' EDITION

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

7th-HOU, \$20,000, 2-28, (NW1X), 4yo/up, 6f, 1:10.93, ft.

SHOW BOUND (c, 4, [Warrior's Reward](#)--[Spanish Cat](#), by [Hennessy](#)) Lifetime Record: GSP, 14-3-2-7, \$131,140. O-Imaginary Stables; B-Don Amos & Crossroads Farm, LLC (KY); T-Karl Broberg. *\$30,000 Wlg '13 KEENOV; \$170,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP.

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ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Bixie, f, 3, **Beta Capo**--Dixie Duces, by Carson City. HOU, 2-28, (S), 5 1/2f, 1:05.78. B-Kenneth Eugene Sykes (TX).

Tin N Lint, f, 3, [Maclean's Music](#)--Holiday Lights, by A.P. Indy. PRX, 2-28, 5 1/2f, 1:06.52. B-Blackstone Farm LLC (PA). *\$13,000 Ylg '15 OBSAUG; \$20,000 2yo '16 EASMAY.

Gallant Warrior, c, 3, **Majestic Warrior**--Eye Vow, by Broken Vow. SUN, 2-28, 6 1/2f, 1:21.10. B-Kenneth L. Corazza (KY).

My Coyn, f, 4, **Gruff**--Rare and Sixy, by Rare Brick. HOU, 2-28, 1 1/16mT, 1:47.44. B-Brent & Colleen Davidson (OK). *1/2 to Fly the Red Eye (Early Flyer), SW, \$320,725.



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SIBLINGS TO ARDAD, MY DREAM BOAT AT GOFFS UK



A Society Rock half-sister to Ardad will be offered at the Doncaster Breeze-Up sale | *Racing Post*

The catalogue is online for the Goffs UK Breeze Up Sale at Doncaster on Apr. 12. The sale last year was the only breeze-up sale to enjoy success at Royal Ascot, with four of its graduates saluting at the famed meeting: Group 1 winners Quiet Reflection (GB) (Showcasing {GB}) and My Dream Boat (Ire) (Lord Shanakill), and 2-year-old winners Prince Of Lir (Ire) (Kodiac {GB}) and Ardad (Ire) (Kodiac {GB}). Last year's sale produced more juvenile winners than any other European sale, with 37 winners.

A catalogue of 152 has been compiled for this year, including a Declaration of War half-brother to G1 Irish Derby winner Frozen Fire (Ger) (Montjeu {Ire}) ([lot 7](#)); a Society Rock (Ire) half-sister to Ardad ([lot 20](#)); a Le Havre (Ire) colt out of a full-sister to stakes winner Joursanvault (Fr) (Verglas {Ire}) ([lot 29](#)); a More Than Ready filly from the family of Group 1 winners Cityscape (GB) (Selkirk) and Bated Breath (GB) (Dansili {GB}) ([lot 45](#)); a Kitten's Joy grandson of American champion mare Escena (Strawberry Road {Aus}) ([lot 69](#)); a Dark Angel (Ire) colt out of a half-sister to the dam of Camelot (GB) (Montjeu {Ire}) ([lot 85](#)); an Elnadim half-brother to My Dream Boat ([lot 127](#)); and an Invincible Spirit (Ire) filly out of a half-sister to that sire's champion 2-year-old filly Hooray (GB) ([lot 128](#)). [cont. p2](#)



FREEDMAN EMBRACING HONG KONG CHALLENGE by Alan Carasso

Michael Freedman was sort of bred for a challenge like this.

For years a key cog of his family's high-class Thoroughbred operation in Sydney, the 48-year-old somewhat audaciously relocated to Singapore in 2008. Over the course of eight seasons, he saddled no fewer than 470 winner at a 15% strike rate, and conditioned a dozen domestic Group 1 winners, including champion and two-time Horse of the Year Super Easy (NZ); Singapore Gold Cup hero Tropaios (GB); and Better Be the One (Aus), third in the G2 Al Quoz S. in 2012.

In late 2015, Freedman announced his departure from Singapore, with a return to Sydney next on the agenda, but before he left Kranji, he put out a feeler to the Hong Kong Jockey Club, on a whim almost. On Friday, Feb. 17, Freedman's dreams became reality when he was awarded a license to train in Hong Kong for the 2017-2018 season. [Cont. p3](#)

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

2YO SALES SEASON KICKS OFF IN FLORIDA

A select group of 2-year-olds are set to go under the hammer in the year's first breeze-up sale, the Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream Sale just outside Miami. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

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Siblings To Ardad, My Dream Boat At Goffs UK cont. from p1

Goffs UK Managing Director Tony Williams said, "This is the 40th year of the Doncaster Breeze Up Sale and in that time it's had some tremendous years to remember, and 2016 was certainly one of them. For a sale that offers only around 160 horses annually, to produce four Royal Ascot winners in one year is a huge achievement. We have been well-supported by the Breeze Up consignors and have assembled what is a quality catalogue of 2-year-olds. On the back of that support, and the results this sale achieved in 2016, we have traveled extensively in Asia, the Middle East and throughout Europe in the last weeks promoting this sale, which with its results, has established itself as a destination for buyers globally."

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MUTAKAYYEF STILL DUBAI-BOUND

Last year's G2 Summer Mile S. winner **Mutakayyef (GB)** (Sea The Stars {Ire}), who missed Saturday's G3 Winter Derby at Lingfield with a foot abscess, is still on course for the G1 Dubai Turf at Meydan on Mar. 25. The 6-year-old gelding, who finished third in last year's G1 Juddmonte International and GI Woodbine Mile after his Summer Mile score, will prep for that seasonal debut with a racecourse gallop.



Mutakayyef | racingfotos.com

"His foot is fine, it was just very unfortunate timing," said trainer William Haggas. "He'll be back ridden tomorrow and there's no question of it ruling him out of Dubai."

It's a shame we can't get a run into him first, but he was fairly fit for Saturday. I'm just viewing it as God's way. He obviously didn't want me to get a run into him first. We'll take him away for a gallop somewhere first, that will put him right."

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TWO MARES IN-FOAL FOR NEW BAY

G1 Prix du Jockey Club winner **New Bay (GB)** (Dubawi {Ire}) has had his first two mares covered at Ballylinch Stud scanned in foal. They are Jean-Claude Seroul's Parade Music (Giant's Causeway) from the family of Protectionist (Ger) and Pawneese (GB); and Ennistown Stud's Elltaaf (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), a full-sister to stakes winner Tantshi (Ire) from the family of G2 Celebration Mile winner Afsare (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}).



New Bay | Ballylinch Stud

Ballylinch Stud Managing Director John O'Connor said, "New Bay was a top-class racehorse and he has the pedigree, looks and walk to go with it. We have had a lot of success standing Prix du Jockey Club winners and I am confident New Bay will continue that

success. The support of shareholders like China Horse Club and Juddmonte Farms has ensured that his first book will be a very high-class one and will give him every chance to succeed at stud." New Bay stands for €20,000.

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TWILIGHT SON FIRST MARES IN FOAL

Dual Group 1 winner **Twilight Son (GB)** (Kyllachy {GB}) has had the first three mares bred to him at Cheveley Park Stud scanned in foal. Cheveley Park Managing Director Chris Richardson said, "I am delighted Twilight Son has started the stud season so promisingly, having had the first three mares bred to him scanned in foal. Having impressed at the highest level as a racehorse, Twilight Son continues to be the ultimate professional. In this competitive business, we are very grateful to our friends and breeders for their support and we, like them, are excited by the potential he offers the breeding and racing industry in the future." [Cont. p3](#)

Twilight Son cont.

Twilight Son's first book is set to include the dams of stakes winners Sole Power (GB) (Kyllachy {GB}), Penitent (GB) (Kyllachy {GB}), Tariq (GB) (Kyllachy {GB}), Aetna (GB) (Indesatchel {Ire}) and Supplicant (GB) (Kyllachy {GB}), as well as stakes winners Soar (GB) (Danzero {Aus}), Firenze (GB) (Efisio {GB}) and Geesala (Ire) (Barathea {Ire}). He stands for £10,000.

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BRITAIN



CONDITIONS RESULT:

4th-LIN, £27,000, 2-28, 4yo/up, f/m, 8f 1y (AWT), 1:38.32, st.
CAROLINAE (GB) (m, 5, Makfi {GB})--You Too {GB}, by Monsun {Ger} Lifetime Record: 14-5-2-2, \$69,942. O-The Dalmunzie Devils Partnership; B-Meon Valley Stud (GB); T-Charlie Fellowes.
 *10,000gns Ylg '13 TAOCT; 8,000gns HRA '16 TAJUL.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Traveller (Fr), c, 3, Henrythenavigator--Nantes (Ger), by Night Shift. LIN, 2-28, 7f 1y (AWT), 1:25.32. B-Eric Puerari (FR).
 *€30,000 Ylg '15 ARAUG; €60,000 2yo '16 ARQMAY. *1/2 to Rockinante (Fr) (Rock of Gibraltar {Ire}), GSW-Eng & SW-Fr, \$146,174.

Atkinson Grimshaw (Fr), c, 3, Rio de la Plata--Cosabawn (Ire), by Barathea (Ire). WOL, 2-27, 9f 103y (AWT), 1:59.37. B-Ali Alqama (FR). *€37,000 Wlg '14 ARQDEC; 40,000gns Ylg '15 TATYEA.

WORLDWIDE NEWS

Freedman Embracing the Hong Kong Challenge cont. from p1

So how did it all come together?

"While I was still in Singapore, I put in an application to see if I could get a license to train," Freedman explained by phone last week. "They received it and basically said we'll keep it on file and if or when the opportunity presents, we'll certainly consider. Just before I left to come back to Australia, I checked in again and asked the question and at that stage there were no vacancies. I made the move back to Australia and started rebooting, but I got a call middle of January to ask whether I still had an interest, to which I naturally said yes and it went from there. I had some interviews and I got the call following the meeting of the licensing committee to say I'd been granted a license."

And he leaped at the opportunity, with nearly zero trepidation.

"I think Hong Kong is the pinnacle for a trainer," he offered. "I love everything about how the Club is run, the facilities that are provided, the quality of the horses—it just goes from strength to strength there. It's a huge credit to Hong Kong racing that so many of their races are among the top 25 in the world. I approach it with a great deal of excitement. It something I've obviously wanted to try and do for quite a long time. I see it very much as a long-term prospect for me. It's not something I'm looking to use as a short-term thing at all. I'm hoping--should things go well--that it's a place where I can see out my career."

Still, having only returned to Australia in early 2016, one might assume that the decision to relocate yet again was not straightforward. But for Freedman, his path was crystal clear.

"Certainly not on a professional level," he said when asked whether there was any hesitation at all. "To be offered an opportunity in Hong Kong—I just jumped at it. So, professionally, not a moment's doubt or consideration at all. That was a very easy decision."



Michael Freedman met the media in Hong Kong Feb. 24
 HKJC photo

He added, "I guess on a personal level, just the fact that we've brought the kids back to Australia and now they're settled in schools here in Sydney—but we felt that they're at an age where they can handle it. We certainly discussed it with them and they seemed fine with the idea as well. That was really the only main consideration, but on a professional level, the idea of getting an opportunity in Hong Kong didn't take me any time at all to say yes."

Training in one of the most competitive jurisdictions in the world against well-rooted and highly successful peers like John Moore, John Size, Caspar Fownes and Tony Cruz will almost certainly translate into a strike rate far less than the 15% he was achieving in Singapore. But Freedman, by his own admission, isn't one to hide. [Cont. p4](#)

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Michael Freedman cont.

"It's a little bit daunting with the quality of trainers you come up against in Hong Kong, but I love a challenge," he commented. "I've never shied away from a challenge and I am looking forward to it with a great deal of excitement."

While in Singapore, Freedman had a tremendous amount of his success with Brazilian Joao Moreira in the saddle. The 'Magic Man' has taken Hong Kong by storm over the last three seasons, establishing records left and right. Freedman is relishing the prospect of reuniting with Moreira.

"Absolutely looking forward to the chance," Freedman said. "Joao was one of the first to send me a congratulatory text and he said if there's anything I can do to help, and I said, 'well, you could ride some winners, that would be a great help!' That's very exciting. Joao is obviously world-class and he's taken everything before him in Hong Kong, which doesn't surprise me at all. Hopefully we get some opportunities to team up, for sure."



At one point, Super Easy won 12 straight races in Singapore, each with Joao Moreira up | Singapore Turf Club photo

In terms of trying to build a competitive stable in Hong Kong, Freedman plans on drawing upon his experience of buying horses, both in Australasia and further afield.

"I've been buying horses in this part of the world for a number of years," he explained. "I also spent a good deal of time buying horses out of the Northern Hemisphere, specifically England, Ireland and France, and that to me will be a big focus as well. It seems that European horses are coming to the fore a lot more. I am hopeful that if I get some good backing and people who want to try to buy some nice horses, I'll be looking for horses in both hemispheres."

Freedman has been in contact with his various owners since the Hong Kong call up to set things straight for the near future.

"Within the next three or four weeks, we'll have a pretty good idea of what's going on with most of my horses here," he reported.

"I am in daily discussions with owners about their preferences, we're working through that day by day at the moment and I'd say we'd have that resolved within the next few weeks. My plan would be to sort of see things out here in Sydney through the end of The Championships in early April and after that I'd be winding things up and taking a little break and starting to focus on Hong Kong."

And for their part, executives at the Hong Kong Jockey Club are as excited about welcoming Freedman as he is to join the ranks.

"If you look to Michael's record in terms of statistics: his tally of group-race wins, his strike-rate during the eight years that he was in Singapore and during the time he's been back in Sydney, these things speak for themselves," commented Andrew Harding, executive director, racing authority, for the HKJC. "What he's been able to do in terms of building a very strong and loyal owner base and assisting them in sourcing good horses from across the world that he's then taken on to success, again, he's a proven performer. When you consider all these things and you take into account also his impeccable integrity and probity, we have in Michael Freedman someone who will make an extremely strong contribution to Hong Kong racing."

Not that he required any additional wind in his sails, but Freedman says the support he's received from fellow horse people since the announcement has been tremendous.

"The response down here has been amazing," he related. "Just about everyone that's texted or phoned or that I've bumped into has had nothing but nice things to say and wishing me the best. Some of my fellow trainers agree that it's the chance of a lifetime. The response has been fantastic and it sort of reinforced to me that I have made the right decision."

Freedman, who will make frequent trips back and forth to Hong Kong over the coming months, will officially begin his tenure July 17.

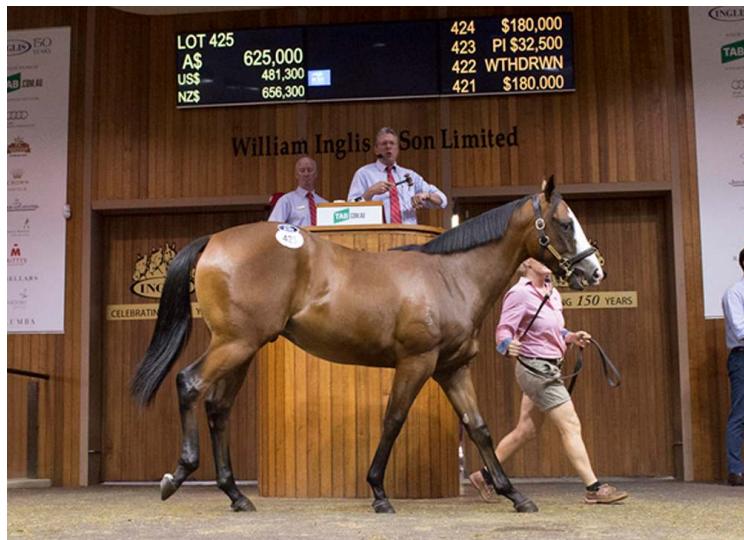
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FIGURES UP AT PREMIER'S SESSION ONE

Session I of Inglis's Melbourne Premier Yearling Sale drew to a close on Tuesday with increases in average and median. A total of 430 yearlings were sold over three days for A\$52,880,000 (up from 466 sold for A\$51,578,000 last year). The average climbed 11% to A\$122,977, while the median jumped 17.6% to A\$100,000. The clearance rate of 85% was down slightly from 88% last year. Twenty-two horses sold for A\$300,000 or more (two more than last year), while six sold in excess of a half-million, up from two last year. Twenty-five sires were represented among the 63 lots purchased for A\$200,000 or more. Tuesday's session was topped by a A\$625,000 son of

Snitzel (Aus), which proved to be the sale's second-highest price, while a daughter of All Too Hard (Aus) returned the sale's highest price for a filly at A\$500,000.

"The end result is so pleasing on every front," said Inglis's Victorian Bloodstock Manager Simon Vivian. "The vendors did a great job presenting the horses and were rewarded accordingly and the buyers bought very well with some extremely high-quality yearlings in the catalogue. To have eclipsed last year's gross with less horses offered is testament to the strength of that."



Tuesday's session-topping Snitzel colt | *Inglis*

Tuesday's session-topping Snitzel colt ([lot 425](#)) was offered by Rosemont Stud and picked up by Sun Bloodstock. His unraced dam Consistency (Aus) (All Bar One {Aus}) is a half-sister to the dam of Snitzel's Group 1-winning Snitzerland (Aus) and Group 3-winning Sooboog (Aus). Sun Bloodstock's David O'Callaghan, who had also signed for a Not A Single Doubt (Aus) colt for A\$520,000 on Monday, said, "We got the two colts we came to the sale to buy so we leave happy. The Snitzel's got a good, fast pedigree, there's plenty of speed there and that's what we were looking for. This bloke is very good-looking, he's by the right stallion, and now we try to turn him into a stallion himself." Rosemont's Anthony Mithen added, "He's sound, he's healthy and he's going to a great home in Sun Stud so I'm really pleased. Congratulations also to Ed McKeon of Palya Bloodstock who bred the colt."

Rosemont also sold the day's third-highest priced yearling, a filly by first-season sire Zoustar (Aus) ([lot 495](#)) sold for A\$360,000.

All Too Hard is yet to notch a winner from his first crop, but is nonetheless Australia's second-leading first-season sire by prizemoney earnings. Little Kwok Hing Hung therefore opted to

take a chance on a daughter of the Vinery resident when going to A\$500,000 for [lot 496](#) on Tuesday. The bay is out of the stakes-placed Fuhrnatic (Aus) (Langfuhr), whose two foals to race thus far are both winners. Hung, working in conjunction with agent Justin Bahen, bought last year's Premier sale topper, the Listed Talindert S. winner Ducimus (Aus) (Snitzel {Aus}), and the Hong Kong resident also bought a A\$620,000 son of Snitzel during the sale's opening session. The filly was offered by Supreme Thoroughbreds, which finished the sale as leading vendor by aggregate, selling 26 horses for A\$3,492,500.

"We're called Team Supreme and it really was a supreme team effort," said the operation's Brent Grayling. "We've sold to Hong Kong, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia, a great example of the diverse buying bench that's at the sale and we're very proud of what we've achieved the past three days."

Aquis Farm and Blue Sky Bloodstock went to A\$350,000 to secure a son of Written Tycoon (Aus) ([lot 524](#)) from the Bombora Downs draft. He is out of Hot Spa (Aus) (Spartacus {Aus}), a full-sister to the dam of Written Tycoon's G2 Danehill S. winner and G1 Caulfield Guineas-second Rich Enuff (Aus).

Session II of the Inglis Melbourne Premier Yearling Sale begins at 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

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SESSION TOPPERS

INGLIS MELBOURNE PREMIER YEARLING SALE

TUESDAY'S TOP FOUR LOTS

Lot	Sex	Sire	Dam	Price (A\$)
425	c	Snitzel (Aus)	Consistency (Aus)	625,000
			B-Palya Bloodstock Pty Ltd (Vic) Consigned by Rosemont Stud Purchased by Sun Bloodstock	
496	f	All Too Hard (Aus)	Fuhrnatic (Aus) <i>(A\$40,000 i/u '15 MGLMAY)</i>	500,000
			B-Mr R J Crabtree (Vic) Consigned by Supreme Thoroughbreds Purchased by Little Kwok Hing Hung/Bahen Bloodstock	
495	f	Zoustar (Aus)	Fuddle Dee Duddle (Aus)	360,000
			B-Widden Stud Australia Pty Ltd & Saconi Thoroughbreds (NSW) Consigned by Rosemont Stud Purchased by C Roscoe/B Crawford	
524	c	Written Tycoon (Aus)	Hot Spa (Aus) <i>(B-Mrs P & Mr M P Hickey (Vic))</i>	350,000
			Consigned by Bombora Downs Purchased by Aquis/Blue Sky Bloodstock Pty Ltd	



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SPONSORS OF THE FOLLOWING STATS FOR THE:

Inglis Melbourne Premier Yearling Sale

SESSION TOTALS	2017	2016
• Catalogued	200	211
• No. Offered	187	179
• No. Sold	156	164
• RNAs	31	32
• % RNAs	17%	16%
• No. \$500K+	2	1
• High Price	A\$625,000	A\$700,000
• Gross	A\$18,552,500	A\$17,183,500
• Average (% change)	A\$118,926 (+13.5%)	A\$104,777
• Median (% change)	A\$90,000 (+5.9%)	A\$85,000

CUMULATIVE	2017	2016
• Catalogued	550	573
• No. Offered	508	532
• No. Sold	431	466
• RNAs	77	66
• % RNAs	15%	12%
• No. \$500K+	6	2
• High Price	A\$1,400,000	A\$700,000
• Gross	A\$52,927,500	A\$51,578,000
• Average (% change)	A\$122,802 (+11%)	A\$110,682
• Median (% change)	A\$100,000 (+17.6%)	A\$85,000

"I'm disappointed because I thought the horse had a great chance of winning the race but I'm disappointed too because of the trouble that the Jockey Club people took to make sure we could go," Moore told *SCMP*. "The club made contact with Dubai to ensure we had an invitation and it was issued 10 hours before Werther ran in the Gold Cup on Sunday and, at that stage, if Werther won the Gold Cup, Johnson had given me a green light to go. There didn't seem any change of heart after the race, after what was a very good win, so you can imagine how surprised I was to get this text. Most of the horses I've travelled away have come back and won Group 1 races after, and I wasn't bothered about the trip away from that view point. Anyway, it's the owner's decision in the final analysis so we're staying here to target the QE II Cup [Apr. 30, 2000m] and [G1] Champions & Chater [2400m, May 28] again."



Werther | HKJC photo

WERTHER OUT OF DUBAI TURF

by Alan Carasso

Werther (NZ) (Tavistock {NZ}), narrow winner of the G1 Citi Hong Kong Gold Cup (2000m) Feb. 26, will not make the trip to Meydan for the \$6-million G1 Dubai Turf Mar. 25, a story first reported by the South China *Morning Post*.

Last year's Hong Kong Derby and G1 Audemars Piguet Queen Elizabeth II Cup hero, Werther was forced to miss the 2016 Longines Hong Kong International Races via injury and was making his second start of the season at the weekend. He resumed from a May absence to finish sixth to stablemate Helene Paragon (Fr) (Polan {Fr}) in the G1 Stewards' Cup (1600m) Jan. 30.

The *Post* reported that trainer John Moore received a text from owner Johnson Chen that read: "in consideration of the climate change, travelling pains and the fact that Werther has just recovered from injury" and that the trip to the desert was off. Moore didn't hide his feelings.

In other Dubai-related news, **Lucky Bubbles (Aus)** (Sebring {Aus}) and **Peniaphobia (Ire)** (Dandy Man {Ire}) have been ruled out of the G1 Al Quoz Sprint (1200mT), leaving the Hong Kong challenge for World Cup night at a maximum of four: **Not Listenin'tome (Aus)** (Dylan Thomas {Ire}, Golden Shaheen); **Amazing Kids (NZ)** (Falkirk {NZ}, Al Quoz); **Dundonnell (First Defence, Golden Shaheen); and **Fabulous One (NZ)** (Elusive City, Al Quoz).**

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AUSTRALIAN-BRED WINNERS

IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Sir Frenchie (Aus), c, 2, [Choisir \(Aus\)](#)--Volando (Aus), by Viscount (Aus). Kenilworth, 2-28, Juvenile Plate, 1000mT, :58.76. O-Messrs A J van Huyssteen & William Henderson; B-G Walsh, L Maxsted & S Tuxen (Vic); T-Justin Snaith. *A\$83,500 Ylg '16 MMADE; R500,000 2yo '16 CAPTRR.

Saturday, Meydan, Dubai, post time: 6:55 p.m. (9:55 a.m. ET)**AL MAKTOUM CHALLENGE - R3 SPONSORED BY EMIRATES AIRLINE-G1**, \$400,000, 3yo/up, 2000m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Triple Nine (Kor)	Ecton Park	Cosgrave	Kim	125
2	Long River	A.P. Indy	Barzalona	bin Ghadayer	125
3	Move Up (GB)	Dubawi (Ire)	De Vries	bin Suroor	125
4	Furia Cruzada (Chi)	Newfoundland	Fresu	Charpy	121
5	Special Fighter (Ire)	Teofilo (Ire)	Jara	Ritchie	125
6	Second Summer	Summer Bird	Dobbs	Watson	125
7	Mizbah (GB)	Dubai Destination	Hitchcott	Watson	125
8	Lani	Tapit	Moore	Matsunaga	125

Saturday, Meydan, Dubai, post time: 7:30 p.m. (10:30 a.m. ET)**JEBEL HATTA SPONSORED BY EMIRATES AIRLINES-G1**, \$300,000, 3yo/up, 1800mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Decorated Knight (GB)	Galileo (Ire)	Atzeni	Charlton	125
2	Elliptique (Ire)	New Approach (Ire)	Mullen	Seemar	125
3	Muffri'Ha (Ire)	Iffraaj (GB)	Cosgrave	Haggas	121
4	Earnshaw	Medaglia d'Oro	Barzalona	bin Ghadayer	125
5	Light The Lights (SAf)	Western Winter	Soumillon	de Kock	125
6	Epsom Icon (GB)	Sixties Icon (GB)	Monaghan	Channon	121
7	Elleval (Ire)	Kodiac (GB)	Hitchcott	Marnane	125
8	Promising Run	Hard Spun	Moore	bin Suroor	121
9	Roi De Vitesse (Ire)	Chineur (Fr)	O'Neill	Jan	125
10	Ertijaal (Aus)	Hard Spun	Crowley	de Kock	125
11	Sanshaawes (SAf)	Ashaawes	Fayd'Herbe	de Kock	125
12	Folkswood (GB)	Exceed and Excel (Aus)	Buick	Appleby	125

Saturday, Meydan, Dubai, post time: 5:10 p.m. (8:10 a.m. ET)**DUBAI CITY OF GOLD SPONSORED BY EMIRATES SKYCARGO-G2**, \$250,000, 3yo/up, 2410mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Rembrandt Van Rijn (Ire)	Peintre Celebre	Barzalona	bin Ghadayer	125
2	Famous Kid	Street Cry (Ire)	Murphy	bin Suroor	125
3	Memorial Day (Ire)	Cape Cross (Ire)	Crowley	bin Suroor	125
4	Prize Money (GB)	Authorized (Ire)	De Vries	bin Suroor	123
5	King Bolete (Ire)	Cape Cross (Ire)	Mitchell	Varian	125
6	Dylan Mouth (Ire)	Dylan Thomas (Ire)	Dettori	Botti	125
7	Emotionless (Ire)	Shamardal	Buick	Appleby	123
8	Cooptado (Arg)	Equal Stripes (Arg)	Mullen	Schiergen	125
9	Good Trip (Ire)	Dansili (GB)	Mazrooei	Al Rayhi	123
10	Postponed (Ire)	Dubawi (Ire)	Atzeni	Varian	125



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Saturday, Meydan, Dubai, post time: 4:35 p.m. (7:35 a.m. ET)

MAHAB AL SHIMAAL SPONSORED BY EMIRATES SKYWARDS-G3, \$200,000, 3yo/up, 1200m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Wild Dude	Wildcat Heir	Foley	Halford	131
2	Dundonnell	First Defense	Soumillon	Fownes	131
3	Cool Cowboy 	Kodiak Kowboy	Dobbs	Watson	131
4	High On Life (GB)	Invincible Spirit (Ire)	Ffrench	bin Ghadayer	131
5	Reynaldothewizard 	Speightstown	Mullen	Seemar	131
6	Raafid (GB)	Shamardal	O'Neill	Al Rayhi	131
7	Morawij (GB)	Exceed and Excel (Aus)	Hayes	Selvaratnam	131
8	Comicas	Distorted Humor	Buick	Appleby	131
9	Muarrab (GB)	Oasis Dream (GB)	Crowley	Ritchie	131
10	Dios Corrida (Jpn)	Kane Hekili (Jpn)	Atzeni	Takahashi	121

Saturday, Meydan, Dubai, post time: 5:45 p.m. (8:35 a.m. ET)

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PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Stormardal (Ire)	Shamardal	De Vries	Mohammed	125
2	Power Blade (Kor)	Menifee	Cosgrave	Kim	125
3	Stunned (GB)	Shamardal	Dobbs	Watson	125
4	Ross (Ire)	Acclamation (GB)	Atzeni	Schiergen	125
5	Heavy Metal (GB)	Exceed and Excel (Aus)	Barzalona	bin Ghadayer	125
6	Lindo Amor (Arg)	Dynamix	Soumillon	de Kock	125
7	Brex Drago (Ity)	Mujahid	Fresu	Botti	125
8	Alabaster	Medaglia d'Oro	Murphy	bin Suroor	125
9	Polar River 	Congrats	Hitchcott	Watson	121
10	Le Bernardin	Bernardini	O'Shea	Al Rayhi	125
11	Nathr 	Dixie Union	Crowley	Watson	125
12	Ennobled Friend	Malibu Moon	bin Harmash	O'Donoghue	125
13	Shamaal Nibras 	First Samurai	O'Neill	Watson	125



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2017 Second-Crop Sires by Cumulative Earnings

for stallions standing in Europe through Monday, Feb. 27

Earnings represent North America/Europe figures

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	Sir Prancealot (Ire) <i>(2010) by Tamayuz (GB) FYR: 2014 Crops: 2 Stands: Tally-Ho Stud Ire (€8,000)</i>	2	4	1	2	--	--	79	38	\$290,961	\$894,048
2	Helmet (Aus) <i>(2008) by Exceed and Excel (Aus) FYR: 2014 Crops: 2 Stands: Dalham Hall Stud Eng (£10,000)</i>	1	4	1	3	1	1	55	18	\$277,692	\$743,488
3	Frankel (GB) <i>(2008) by Galileo (Ire) FYR: 2014 Crops: 2 Stands: Banstead Manor Stud Eng (£125,000)</i>	6	7	6	6	1	1	41	17	\$181,609	\$641,139
4	Dragon Pulse (Ire) <i>(2009) by Kyllachy (GB) FYR: 2014 Crops: 2 Stands: Irish National Stud Ire (€8,000)</i>	2	5	1	3	--	--	50	23	\$69,712	\$616,459
5	Harbour Watch (Ire) <i>(2009) by Acclamation (GB) FYR: 2014 Crops: 2 Stands: Tweenhills Farm & Stud Eng (£6,000)</i>	2	3	1	1	--	--	78	21	\$98,957	\$598,327
6	Mayson (GB) <i>(2008) by Invincible Spirit (Ire) FYR: 2014 Crops: 2 Stands: Cheveley Park Stud Eng (£6,000)</i>	3	7	--	2	--	--	50	21	\$103,676	\$589,664
7	Power (GB) <i>(2009) by Oasis Dream (GB) FYR: 2014 Crops: 2 Stands: Coolmore Stud Ire (€8,000)</i>	4	5	2	3	--	1	45	18	\$178,103	\$560,379
8	Foxwedge (Aus) <i>(2008) by Fastnet Rock (Aus) FYR: 2014 Crops: 2 Stands: Whitsbury Manor Stud Eng (£7,000)</i>	--	4	--	4	--	1	56	23	\$127,050	\$547,207
9	Excelebration (Ire) <i>(2008) by Exceed and Excel (Aus) FYR: 2014 Crops: 2 Stands: Coolmore Stud Ire (€10,000)</i>	--	3	--	2	--	--	66	27	\$37,339	\$472,796
10	Rajsaman (Fr) <i>(2007) by Linamix (Fr) FYR: 2014 Crops: 2 Stands: Haras De La Cauviniere Fr (€6,000)</i>	1	2	--	1	--	--	64	15	\$96,852	\$431,436
11	Bated Breath (GB) <i>(2007) by Dansili (GB) FYR: 2014 Crops: 2 Stands: Banstead Manor Stud Eng (£8,000)</i>	--	3	--	3	--	--	51	19	\$126,861	\$416,713
12	Sepoy (Aus) <i>(2008) by Elusive Quality FYR: 2014 Crops: 2 Stands: Dalham Hall Stud Eng (£15,000)</i>	2	5	1	4	--	1	54	23	\$62,010	\$378,117
13	Casamento (Ire) <i>(2008) by Shamardal FYR: 2014 Crops: 2 Stands: Dalham Hall Stud Eng (£5,000)</i>	--	2	--	2	--	--	61	15	\$42,805	\$377,286
14	Elzaam (Aus) <i>(2008) by Redoute's Choice (Aus) FYR: 2014 Crops: 2 Stands: Ballyhane Stud Ire (€6,000)</i>	1	1	--	1	--	--	38	16	\$124,229	\$360,919
15	Requinto (Ire) <i>(2009) by Dansili (GB) FYR: 2014 Crops: 2 Stands: Coolmore Stud Ire (€5,000)</i>	--	1	--	1	--	--	35	18	\$75,124	\$360,120

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