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CLASSIC EMPIRE TO SKIP FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH



Classic Empire | Horsephotos

by Jessica Martini

John Oxley's **Classic Empire** (Pioneerof the Nile) will skip the Mar. 4 GII Fountain of Youth S. as he continues to recover from a foot abscess, trainer Mark Casse said Sunday, confirming a story first reported by *Daily Racing Form*.

"He trained this morning and he trained well, but his foot is still not 100%," Casse explained. "If we were going to run him, we'd want to breeze him [Monday], and we're just not ready to breeze him. So I called Mr. Oxley up and had a nice conversation with him and we're just going to wait and see. Our hopes are that we can gallop him another week and possibly breeze next weekend."

Classic Empire captured last year's GI Breeders' Futurity and GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile on his way to being named Eclipse champion juvenile colt. Heavily favored in his sophomore debut, the bay colt came home a distant third in the Feb. 4 GII Holy Bull S. and the abscess was discovered two days later.

"It's been hard on him," Casse said. "Not only did he get all worked up in the race, then two days later he could barely walk. I just want him to look better and feel better. It looks like he's lost some weight and his foot is still draining just a touch and this race wasn't a have-to-be, so why push it."

As for a potential next start, Casse said, "We're just going to wait and see. If worse came to worse, he won the Breeders' Futurity off of a three-month layoff and then won the Breeders' Cup. So if necessary, we feel like we could go with only one more [GI Kentucky Derby] prep." **Cont. p3**

LOTHENBACH TRIES THE PINHOOKING GAME

by Jessica Martini

Longtime owner and breeder Bob Lothenbach has participated in virtually every facet of the racing game, but he'll be venturing into new territory during next Wednesday's Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream Sale when he offers three juveniles he purchased last summer at Saratoga specifically to pinhook.

"I've been in the business for a long time and pinhooking is the only thing I think I haven't gotten into," Lothenbach explained. "I started off with low-end claimers and started getting more into a better stable, got into breeding and started selling, but the thing that I have not done was to try pinhooking. That was our main focus with the ones we picked out in Saratoga."

A native of Bloomington, Minnesota, Lothenbach's love of racing has been a lifelong passion.

"I love the animals," he said. "I had a horse when I was a kid, it's always been my favorite animal. When I was a kid, I used to drive from Minneapolis to Chicago to go to the horse races. I loved it. I love the horses and I love the track." **Cont. p3**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

EPICHARIS SECURES DERBY BERTH

Epicharis (Jpn) (Gold Allure [Jpn]) secured a starting place in the Kentucky Derby with a win in the Hyacinth S. at Tokyo Sunday. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

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Monday, February 20, 2017



Charismatic, winner of the 1999 GI Kentucky Derby and GI Preakness S., died Sunday at Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Facility. Story p1RR. | Laura Battles

TOUGHER TASK FOR UNCONTESTED

5

Uncontested (Tiz Wonderful) faces several imposing newcomers as he looks to follow up on his victory in the Smarty Jones S. in Monday's GIII Southwest S. at Oaklawn Park.

GUN RUNNER RETURNS IN RAZORBACK

7

Grade I winner Gun Runner (Candy Ride {Arg}) is favored as he makes his return to racing in Monday's GIII Razorback H. at Oaklawn Park. The 4-year-old's stiffest competition could be an off track with a forecast of rain in Hot Springs.

TODAY'S GRADED STAKES

EST Race
5:09p Razorback H.-GIII, OP
6:09p Southwest S.-GIII, OP

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Classic Empire to Skip Fountain of Youth

(cont. from p1)

Classic Empire won the July 2 GIII Bashford Manor S. at Churchill Downs before wheeling and losing the rider at the start of the Sept. 5 GI Hopeful S. and was off another month before taking the Breeders' Futurity Oct. 8.

Casse said he wasn't concerned about the change in schedule.

"I'd be worried if this was April," he said. "If you were going to have it, this was the time to have it. He has trained the last four mornings, so it's not like he isn't training."

The Casse barn unveiled another potential sophomore star Saturday at Fair Grounds in 'TDN Rising Star' Souper Tapit (Tapit). After breaking last, the colt, out of Grade I winner Zo Impressive (Hard Spun) circled the field five wide turning for home and battled to a neck victory ([video](#)).

"We're excited about Souper Tapit," Casse said. "We have been for some time. I thought his race was just special. Not too many horses can spot the field, eat all the dirt, circle the field. The move he made around the turn, running by horses like they were standing still, five and six wide, is not an easy task. I thought then he lost focus a little down the lane and then galloping out, he took off again. He is an extremely talented horse, we just have to get all his energy in one direction."

As for what is next for the Live Oak Plantation homebred, Casse added, "We're probably going to take baby steps with him. I have to talk to [owner] Mrs. [Charlotte] Weber a little bit more about it--we want to let everything calm down--but he'll probably run in an allowance race somewhere. I would think that he should improve off of yesterday's performance and if he can do that, then we can think about bigger and better things."

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Lothenbach Tries Pinhooking Game *(cont. from p1)*

What has become a racing stable of some 100 runners and a breeding operation of 15 broodmares began harmlessly enough.

"There were four of us and we each threw in \$1,000 and claimed a \$4,000 horse," Lothenbach laughed. "And it's grown from there."

Lothenbach's biggest success on the racetrack came via his homebred Vacare (Lear Fan), who won the 2006 GI Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup before selling for \$2.8 million at that year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Sale.



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Lothenbach also bred and campaigned Grade I winner Mayo on the Side (French Deputy) and multiple graded stakes winner Mister Marti Gras (Belong to Me).

With the support of racing manager Drew Nardiello and trainers Chris Block, Ian Wilkes and Neil Pessin, as well as input from Werk Thoroughbred Consultants, Lothenbach was busy at last year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale, ultimately purchasing six yearlings for a total of \$1.21 million. Three of those youngsters will return to the sales ring Mar. 1 at Gulfstream Park. A colt by Curlin out of Dress the Part (Malibu Moon) will sell as [hip 48](#). The juvenile was purchased for \$240,000 at Saratoga. [Hip 101](#), a filly by Oxbow out of Mexican Moonlight (El Prado {Ire}), was purchased for \$125,000 and [hip 154](#), a colt by Into Mischief out of Sweet Seventeen (Hard Spun) was a \$200,000 buy last summer. In addition, an Arch filly, picked up for \$190,000 at Saratoga last year, is catalogued to sell as [hip 254](#) at the upcoming OBS March sale.

Asked what his team was looking for in pinhooking prospects, Lothenbach answered perspicaciously, "Good, marketable, hot sire lines." He added, "And also an individual that, if I don't sell them, I'm totally ok with that. It's more about something that I'd be happy with keeping. The focus is on pinhooking. If I can sell them and it goes well, that's great. If not, I'll keep them."

Cont. p4

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Lothenbach founded Imagine Print Solutions in 1988 and sold the printing company last winter, freeing up capital he has been more than happy to put into his passion for racing. In addition to his Saratoga buying spree, the Minnesotan also purchased seven yearlings at the Keeneland September Yearling Sale for a total of \$2.655 million. His highest-priced purchase at the sale was a \$650,000 son of Tapit ([hip 209](#)).

“I sold my business in March, so last year I spent a little more than I normally have,” Lothenbach explained. “And this year, again, I have a little more liquid money and that is fun money.”

As much as he loves the racing game, there is one place you can count on not finding Lothenbach.

“I don’t like to go to the sales,” he laughed. “As a matter of fact, I don’t go. I went one time. I went to one Saratoga sale and I knew I was not the guy to be sitting in that seat. So, I’ll have three people that will give me an evaluation on what they appraise the horse at--and they don’t communicate. I get that number.



Vacare | Horsephotos

“I look at what I appraise them at from a distance, without seeing the individual, and I come up with a number,” he continued. “If I can get them for that or less, I buy them. If they are \$1,000 more, I don’t. I’ve been very diligent that way. I guess I have bought a couple where I get above what my set price was because I like it, but I found when I went to the sales, I exceeded it by a bigger percentage than I normally would have.”

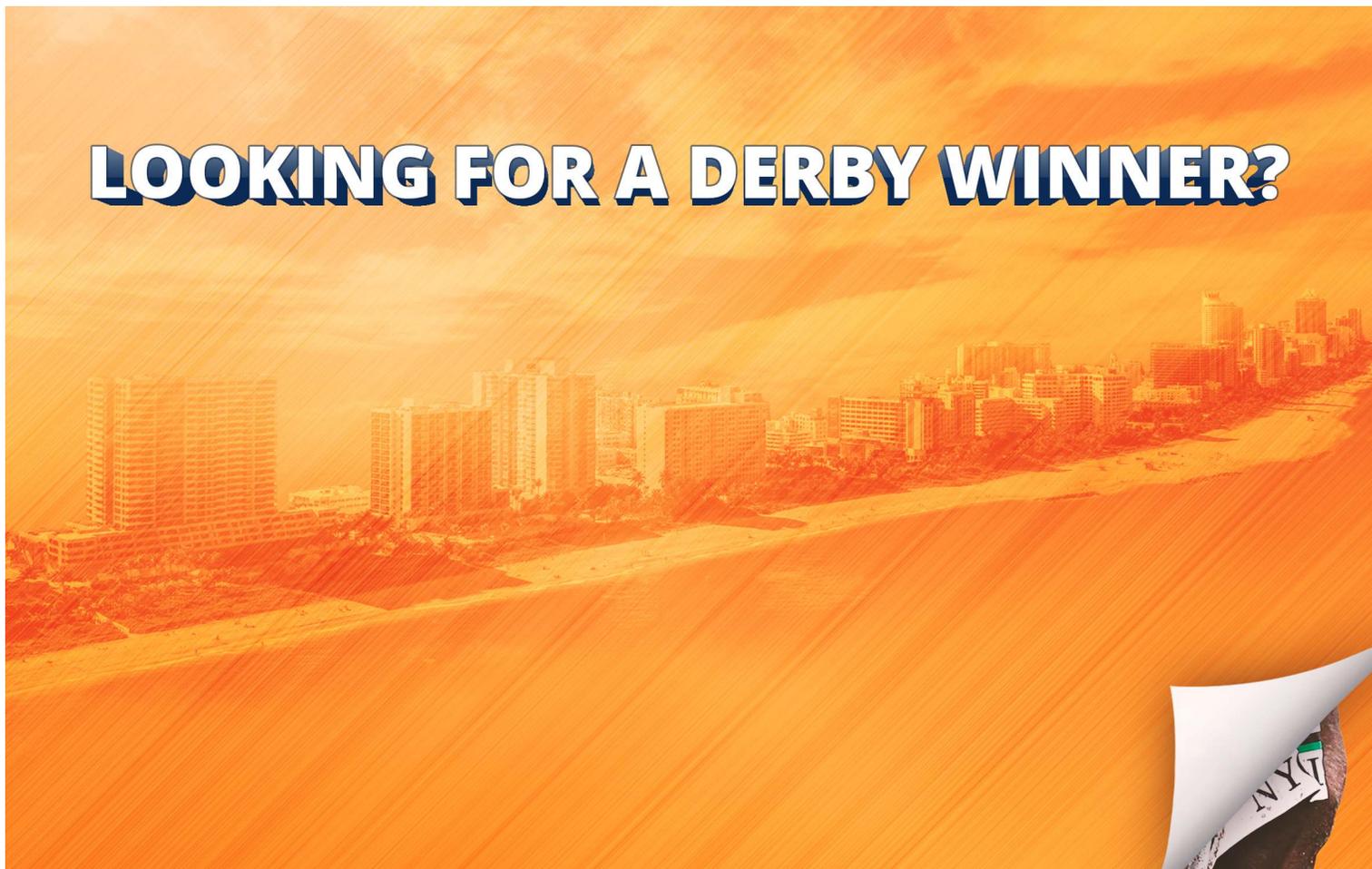
Lothenbach has already enjoyed success at the highest level on the racetrack. He’ll be looking to add to his resume with his initial foray into the pinhooking game when Fasig-Tipton returns to Gulfstream Park next week.

The under-tack show for the Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream Sale will be held Feb. 27 beginning at 10 a.m. The sale will be held Mar. 1 in the

Gulfstream paddock with bidding scheduled to commence at 4 p.m.

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LOOKING FOR A DERBY WINNER?



TOUGHER TASK FOR UNCONTESTED

While **Uncontested** (Tiz Wonderful) will face many of the same rivals he easily bested in the sloppy Smarty Jones S. last out, and could enjoy similar underfoot conditions this time, the speedy ‘**TDN Rising Star**’ must also take on several formidable new foes in Oaklawn’s GIII Southwest S. Monday.

One Liner (Into Mischief) invades from Florida and makes his two-turn debut for Todd Pletcher. A debut winner over subsequent GI Hopeful S. runner-up Royal Copy (Bodemeister) at Saratoga in July, the bay returned at Gulfstream Jan. 26 to annex a six-panel optional claimer by daylight with an 87 Beyer

GIII Southwest S., 3yo, 1 1/16m

PP	Horse	Sire
1.	Cool Arrow	Into Mischief
2	Silver Dust 🐾	Tapit
3	Uncontested 🐾	Tiz Wonderful
4	Lookin At Lee 🐾	Lookin At Lucky
5	Rowdy the Warrior	Warrior's Reward
6	Cu Rahy	Curlin
7	Warrior's Club 🐾	Warrior's Reward
8	Petrov 🐾	Flatter
9	Dilettante	Unbridled's Song
10	Hence	Street Boss
11	One Liner 🐾	Into Mischief
12	P C Cowboy 🐾	Archarcharch
13	Chief Know It All	Flashy Bull

(see Graded Stakes Entries)

Speed Figure. While Pletcher hasn’t shipped a runner in for the Southwest in recent memory, he did take back-to-back runnings of the GI Arkansas Derby in 2013 and 2014 with Overanalyze (Dixie Union) and Danza (Street Boss), respectively.

“Obviously, he’s stepping up to a big race Monday,” said One Liner’s regular rider John Velazquez. “But I think he’s a very talented horse and hopefully he can put it all together and run really well. He’s always shown a lot of talent in the morning. He’s done everything really well. Now, it’s going from an allowance race to the wolves, basically. I think he’s definitely a very good horse. It’s a tough task coming from a long layoff, with just one race, and then running into the tough guys. I mean, he’s a tough guy himself.”

Lookin At Lee (Lookin At Lucky), a stakes winner last summer at Ellis, played also-ran to two of the top juveniles from last season. He took turns finishing second to Not This Time (Giant’s Causeway) and Classic Empire (Pioneerof the Nile) in the GIII Iroquois S. and GI Claiborne Breeders’ Futurity, respectively, before checking in fourth behind those two in the GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Nov. 5.

Brad Grady’s **Cool Arrow** (Into Mischief) hasn’t been out of the exacta since adding blinkers before romping in a Laurel maiden claimer in July, and was last seen dominating Remington’s Springboard Mile on an uncontested lead Dec. 11. **Cont. p6**

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1st Pegasus Stakes [G3], 8 1/2f., by 9 1/4 lengths

1st Allowance, 8f., by 16 1/4 lengths

1st Maiden, 6 1/2f., on debut by 7 3/4 lengths

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Sophomores who competed in the Springboard Mile have done well in the Oaklawn series of Triple Crown preps in recent years--last year's Southwest winner Suddenbreakingnews (Mineshaft) entered off a runner-up effort in that race.

Hence (Street Boss) knocked on the door last year, and barged his way through on seasonable debut last time with a drama-filled maiden breaker over sloppy track and trip Jan. 16. Having stumbled at the start, the Calumet Farm homebred uncorked a powerful turn move and appeared well on his way to victory before ducking in badly and nearly hitting the rail. The chestnut somehow regained his composure, and kicked back in to defeat his Calumet entymate Horse Fly (Mineshaft), who returned to grab his own diploma next out.



Uncontested | Coady Photography

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GUN RUNNER RETURNS IN RAZORBACK

Two-million dollar earner **Gun Runner** (Candy Ride {Arg}) may have been forced to miss last month's lucrative GI Pegasus World Cup

Invitational due to the EHV-1 outbreak and quarantine at Fair Grounds, but the recently turned 4-year-old will look to start making up for lost time in Monday's \$500,000 GIII Razorback H. at Oaklawn. Last seen finally getting his

Grade I in Churchill's Nov. 25 Clark H., the Steve Asmussen pupil lays over this field on paper, but may need to dodge some wet weather--his only two off-the-board finishes came on a wet strip. California-based **Blue Tone** (Birdstone) is proven on both wet and dry surfaces. He most recently annexed the rained-off GIII San Gabriel S. in the Santa Anita slop Jan. 7, and trainer Bob Hess, Jr. boasts recent success shipping eastward for a dirt route stakes--he upset the Poseidon H. on the Pegasus World Cup

GIII Razorback H., 4yo/up, 1 1/16m
 PP. Horse Sire

1. Gun Runner	Candy Ride (Arg)
2. Domain's Rap	Cherokee Rap
3. Blue Tone 🐾	Birdstone
4. Smack Smack	Closing Argument
5. Hawaakom	Jazil
6. Chief of Staff	Majestic Warrior
7. Dazzling Gem 🐾	Misremembered
8. Goats Town	Dublin

(see Graded Stakes Entries)

undercard with Imperative (Bernardini).

"He's ready to run," Hess said of Blue Tone. "Gun Runner, obviously, is a huge, huge obstacle, a horse we respect. Hopefully, we can run second to him. That's all I can say. We're trying to win, but a second wouldn't be too shabby, either."



Gun Runner | Coady Photography

Hawaakom (Jazil) and **Dazzling Gem** (Misremembered) ran one-two in the muddy Louisiana S. at Fair Grounds Jan. 21. Nine-year-old **Domain's Rap** (Cherokee Rap) has won his last two starts locally--the Jan. 13 Fifth Season S. and a Feb. 4 optional claimer.

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Trainer

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Ed DeRosa of TwinSpires .com takes on TDN's Steve Sherack and Brian DiDonato as they handicap each prep race leading up to the GI Kentucky Derby. The three will make \$100 Win/Place bets--highest bankroll after the GIII Lexington S. wins.

DeRosa: GIII El Camino Real Derby - The Southwest concludes the Derby Prep Season, and not a moment too soon for yours truly, who has managed just a win and a second from seven races after Saturday's El Camino Real, where my pick **Ann Arbor Eddie** was disqualified from second. **Bankroll: \$490.**

GIII Southwest S. - We'll try to bring the Derby Championship Series in with a bang by going with 12-1 **Cool Arrow**. That was a slow pace when he won the Springboard Mile, and he won't get that here, but he's shown an ability to rate and the rail and weight are both benefits here. **Selection: #1 Cool Arrow (12-1).**

DiDonato: GIII El Camino Real Derby - **Sheer Flattery** couldn't have made less of an impact as the 5-2 second choice. Pretty impossible to have that winner. **Bankroll: \$1160.**

GIII Southwest S. - This is a tough spot for a 3-year-old debut, but **Silver Dust** might be really good, and trainer Randy Morse does well with comebackers in dirt routes at Oaklawn. Extremely green both in his breeze at OBS March (\$510K) and when fifth first out at Churchill, the big, grey son of Tapit sat behind horses just waiting to explode second out Nov. 20, and did just that as soon as he saw daylight. That race has been productive enough, and, hopefully the time off has allowed Silver Dust to continue

to grow up a bit. His works look solid enough on paper, and he's got the pedigree to be a nice one. **Selection: #2 Silver Dust (10-1).**

Sherack: GIII El Camino Real Derby - Well, at least I didn't pick one of the two favorites. **Tribal Storm** was moved up to third at 10-1 via DQ after getting cut off badly in deep stretch. **Bankroll: \$590.**

GIII Southwest S. - The lightly raced **Silver Dust** flashed plenty of ability in his ultra-impressive maiden breaker going a one-turn mile second out at Churchill last fall to take a chance on coming off the bench in this ambitious spot. The son of leading sire Tapit has run like a horse dying to stretch out in both of his career trips to the post as well as his :21.2 breeze prior to realizing \$510,000 as an OBSMAR 2-year-old. Silver Dust sports a flashy worktab at Oaklawn this winter, including a pair of five-furlong bullets in January, and is well-drawn to make some noise in his sophomore debut. **Selection: #2 Silver Dust (10-1).**

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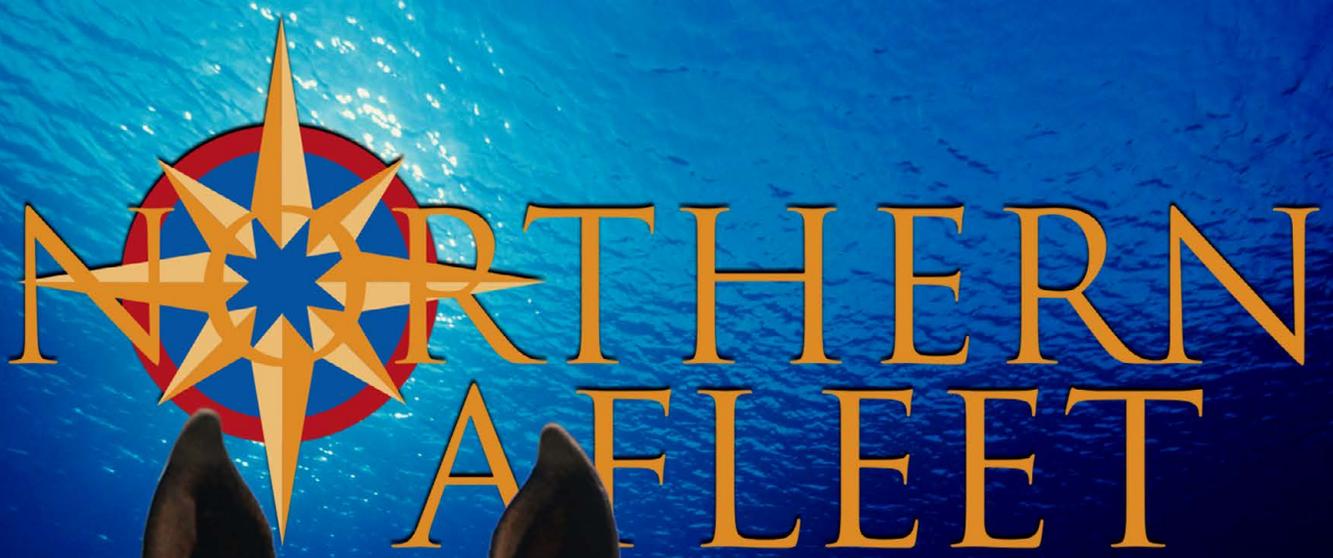
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Northern Afleet Best in Durability Study

By EJMitchellKy | 13 February, 2017 11:34 AM | 5 Comments



Taylor Made Stallions' Northern Afleet ranked among the top 10 by starts per starter, the top 20 by percentage of starters from foals of racing age, the top 10 by number of 2016 graded stakes winners 4 years old and up, and was in the top 12 by number of 2016 black-type stakes winners 4 years old and older.

By lifetime starts per starter, Northern Afleet is the third-leading active sire with 19.87 out of 1,328 foals of racing age. Besides durability, Northern Afleet's runners have shown class as well. He is co-ranked in 12th by 2016 black-type stakes winners with five that were 4 years old and up and co-ranked in eighth place with three graded/group winners that were 4 or older.

Source: Bloodhorse, Feb. 13, 2017

Afleet – Nuryette, by Nureyev

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RAZORBACK H.-GIII, \$500,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	ML
1	Gun Runner	Candy Ride (Arg)	Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC and Three Chimneys Farm	Asmussen	Geroux	4-5
2	Domain's Rap	Cherokee Rap	Danny R. Caldwell	Villafranco	Vazquez	6-1
3	Blue Tone 	Birdstone	Schroeder Farms LLC	Hess, Jr.	Ortiz	9-2
4	Smack Smack	Closing Argument	Dream Walkin Farms Inc	Von Hemel	Laviolette	10-1
5	Hawaakom	Jazil	Stephan H Smoot & Wesley E Hawley	Hawley	Mena	10-1
6	Chief of Staff	Majestic Warrior	Mark Dedomenico LLC & Muddy Waters Stables	Van Berg	De La Cruz	20-1
7	Dazzling Gem 	Misremembered	Steve Landers Racing LLC	Cox	Albarado	8-1
8	Goats Town	Dublin	Calumet Farm	Lukas	Landeros	20-1

Breeders: 1-Besilu Stables, LLC, 2-William P Stiritz, 3-Far View Stables, 4-Dream Walkin' Farms Inc., 5-Shadwell Farm, LLC, 6-Lou Neve, 7-Lisa Reynolds & Jennifer Feiner, 8-Calumet Farm

[TJCIS PPs](#)

Monday, Oaklawn Park, post time: 6:09 p.m. EST

SOUTHWEST S.-GIII, \$500,000, 3yo, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	ML
1	Cool Arrow	Into Mischief	Brad Grady	Sharp	Hernandez, Jr.	12-1
2	Silver Dust 	Tapit	Tom R. Durant	Morse	Lanerie	10-1
3	Uncontested 	Tiz Wonderful	Harry T. Rosenblum & Robert V. LaPenta	Catalano	Hill	5-2
4	Lookin At Lee 	Lookin At Lucky	L & N Racing LLC	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	8-1
5	Rowdy the Warrior	Warrior's Reward	Robert H. Zoellner	Von Hemel	Quinonez	20-1
6	Cu Rahy	Curlin	HFT-Xpress Racing Stables	Durham	Corbett	50-1
7	Warrior's Club 	Warrior's Reward	Churchill Downs Racing Club	Lukas	Landeros	12-1
8	Petrov 	Flatter	Rialto Racing Stables and Southern Springs Stables	Moquett	Ortiz	5-1
9	Dilettante	Unbridled's Song	Calumet Farm	Lukas	Geroux	15-1
10	Hence	Street Boss	Calumet Farm	Asmussen	Vazquez	20-1
11	One Liner 	Into Mischief	WinStar Farm LLC, China Horse Club and SF Racing LLC	Pletcher	Velazquez	7-2
12	P C Cowboy 	Archarcharch	Thomas Julian	Ortiz	Marquez, Jr.	30-1
13	Chief Know It All	Flashy Bull	Lucky Seven Stable	Cox	Rocco, Jr.	12-1

Breeders: 1-H. Allen Poindexter, 2-Don Alberto Corporation, 3-Richard Forbush, 4-Ray Hanson, 5-Robert H. Zoellner, 6-Huckleberry Farm, LLC, 7-John O'Meara, 8-Sun Valley Farm, 9-Donald R. Dizney, LLC & The Unbridled'sSong Syndicate, 10-Calumet Farm, 11-Kingswood Farm, 12-David Jacobs, 13-Lucky Seven Stable

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CHARISMATIC DIES

Charismatic (Summer Squall--Bali Babe, by Drone), winner of the 1999 GI Kentucky Derby and GI Preakness S., died Sunday at Old Friends Thoroughbred retirement facility in Georgetown, Kentucky. The cause of death is not known. The 21-year-old stallion had been repatriated to the U.S. after standing much of his stud career at JBBA Shizunai Stallion Station in Japan. He arrived at Old Friends in early December.

“Right now, everyone is pretty much inconsolable,” said Old Friends president Michael Blowen. “Last night, at 6:30, he was fine. He was a really tough horse and he deserved a much longer retirement. But none of us, unfortunately, has a magic wand. Everyone at Old Friends takes solace from the few great months that this great champion gave us.”

Bred by Parrish Hill Farm and W. S. Farish, Charismatic was campaigned by Bob and Beverly Lewis and trained by D. Wayne Lukas. He graduated from the claiming ranks to capture the Derby as a 31-1 outsider and added the Preakness two weeks later. Favored to complete the Triple Crown sweep, the handsome chestnut suffered career-ending injuries just before the wire in the GI Belmont S. In an enduring image, jockey Chris Antley quickly dismounted and held Charismatic's injured left front leg off the ground, preventing further damage and likely saving the colt's life.

Charismatic was named champion 3-year-old and Horse of the Year in 1999. On the board in 11 of 17 starts, he won five times and earned \$2,038,064.

Charismatic began his stud career at Lane's End in 2000 and stood there for three seasons before relocating to Japan in 2002. He is the sire of 2005 GII Pennsylvania Derby winner Sun King and multiple graded stakes winner Gouldings Green, as well as Japanese group winner Wonder Acute (Jpn).

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Charismatic | Shigeki Yusa

FLORIDA

Sunday's Results:

1st-GP, \$41,000, Alw (NW2X)/Opt. Clm (\$62,500), 2-19, 4yo/up, f/m, 7 1/2fT, 1:28.93, fm.

CONQUEST BABAYAGA (f, 4, [Uncle Mo](#)--Undercover Justice, by Lawyer Ron), runner-up in the Glorious Song S. at Woodbine in November of 2015, broke slowly and settled for fifth behind 'TDN Rising Star' and subsequent GI Kentucky Oaks heroine Cathryn Sophia (Street Boss) in the G2 Forward Gal S. last January. Returning off a layoff, the dark bay won an allowance in her turf bow at Woodbine Sept. 10 in her final start for Conquest Stables and Mark Casse. Snapped up for \$210,000 out of the Keeneland November Sale by these connections, the chalk was 70 cents on the dollar Sunday. Breaking dead last, Conquest Babayaga glided towards the fence and settled in the two path through the early going in fourth. Asked for her run as noses pointed toward home, she came in between horses three deep inside the final furlong and kicked away to win well. It was a length back to Gliding By (Artie Schiller) in second. Undercover Justice, a half-sister to GI Darley Alcibiades S. heroine Negligee (Northern Afleet), is the dam of the winning sophomore filly Mo Justice (Lemon Drop Kid) and produced a full-sister to that runner in 2016. She was bred back to Uncle Mo last spring. Sales history: \$70,000 RNA Ylg '14 KEESEP; \$425,000 2yo '15 OBSOPN; \$210,000 HRA '16 KEENOV. Lifetime Record: SP, 5-3-1-0, \$101,860. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

O-Louis Lazzinarno; B-Bill Justice (KY); T-Chad C. Brown.

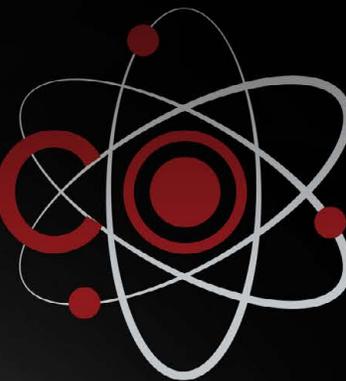


9th-TAM, \$21,000, Alw (NW2X)/Opt. Clm (\$32,000), 2-19, 4yo/up, 1mT, 1:34.54, fm.

NOBLE THOUGHT (c, 4, Harlan's Holiday--No Use Denying {SW, \$219,016}, by Maria's Mon) began his career with three starts for the Malcolm Pierce barn at Woodbine and graduated from the maiden ranks when transferred to the care of Mike Stidham at the Fair Grounds in December 2015. Laid up for over a year following that effort, he returned back under the care of Pierce with a fast-closing runner-up effort over course and distance Dec. 23. The dark bay switched to dirt and annexed an optional claimer traveling an extended mile Jan. 20 and was given a 3-1 chance to make it two-in-a-row in this grassy affair. Taken back well off the pace in the early stages, Noble Thought bided his time at the rear of the lead pack behind a half-mile in :46.92. Gaining steam while hugging the rail on the far turn, he quickly shifted outside midway on the bend and stormed home down

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Keeneland - **1:48.79**

107 Beyer Speed

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the center of the course under moderate encouragement to score by a half-length over Vici (War Front). Lifetime Record: 7-3-2-2, \$70,079. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O/B-Pin Oak Stud, LLC (KY); T-Malcolm Pierce.

7th-GP, \$38,000, Msw, 2-19, 3yo, 1 1/16mT, 1:41.81, fm. DOVER CLIFFS (c, 3, [English Channel](#)--Dreams, by Silver Hawk) got a useful education chasing an honest pace and closing strongly to finish second, a neck shy of Creative Courage (Creative Cause), at odds of 13-1 in his course-and-distance unveiling Jan. 7. The bay was bet down to 3-5 favoritism for this second try and secured a similar spot locked on the outer flank of the pacesetter through fractions of :23.36 and :48.52. Asked to go after the leader on the far turn, he poked his head in front coming off the bend, braced for an outside challenge from first-time turfer Morocco (Pioneerof the Nile) in midstretch and turned that one back to prevail by 1 1/2 lengths. The winner has a number of accomplished siblings, including GIII Hawthorne Derby winner Kid Dreams (Lemon Drop Kid, GSW, \$290,344); GII Swaps S. hero Dreamy Kid (Lemon Drop Kid, GSW, \$174,452), Elysium Fields (El Prado {Ire}, GSP, \$154,920) and Lonesome Town (Broken Vow, GSP, \$141,603). Dreams is also responsible for the 2-year-old filly Joyful Dreams (Kitten's Joy) and a yearling colt by English Channel. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$30,400.

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O/B-Robert S. Evans (KY); T-Christophe Clement.

9th-GP, \$38,000, Msw, 2-19, 3yo, f, 1m, 1:40.73, ft. SARATOGA CITIZEN (f, 3, Proud Citizen--Fortuesque {SP, \$116,915}, by Fortunate Prospect) showed little in her first three starts and was claimed for \$25,000 out of a runner-up finish on the local turf Dec. 26. Returning with a few sharp breezes for this new barn, including a best-of-82 half-mile in :47 3/5 here Feb. 4, the \$220,000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga buy was dismissed at over 31-1 in this sophomore debut. Dueling for command through a :23.76 quarter, the bay found some daylight past a :47.37 half and arrived at the top of the stretch in the clear under confident handling. Getting a bit leg-weary late, she held sway for a one-length upset over Analyze (Candy Ride {Arg}). Bill Mott firster Greatreviews (Leroidesanimaux {Brz}) finished well to get third after a troubled trip. The victress is a half to Musket Man (Yonaguska), MGSW & MGISP, \$1,236,820. Her dam is responsible for a 2-year-old Heavy Breathing colt



Regally bred Morse Code (Tapit) wins the sixth at Gulfstream Sunday | *Lauren King photo*

named San Juan Diego and she was bred to Amira's Prince (Ire) last term. Lifetime Record: 5-1-1-0, \$30,118. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O-Luis Duco Stables Inc.; B-Maybrys Farm, Inc (NY); T-Luis Duco.



10th-GP, \$38,000, Msw, 2-19, 3yo, f, 1 1/16mT, 1:42.78, fm. TALAAQY (f, 3, [Distorted Humor](#)--Habaya {GSW, \$135,000}, by Storm Cat) made an early bid to duel on the front end before finishing a game third at 23-1 on debut here Jan. 7 and was given a 43-10 chance to graduate in this spot. Settling in seventh behind fractions of :23.16 and :48.41, the homebred progressed three deep on the far bend and closed strongly in the middle of the course to earn a neck decision over 27-1 firster Naples Parade (Street Cry {Ire}). Talaaqy's second dam is 2002 champion grass mare Golden Apples (Ire) (Pivotal {GB}). Lifetime

Record: 2-1-0-1, \$26,220. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O-Shadwell Stable; B-Shadwell Farm, LLC (KY); T-Kiaran P. McLaughlin.

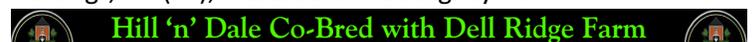
6th-GP, \$38,000, Msw, 2-19, 4yo/up, 1 1/16mT, 1:40.49, fm.

MORSE CODE (c, 4, [Tapit](#)--Serena's Cat {SW, \$131,391}, by Storm Cat), a half-brother to 2015 champion older horse Honor Code (A.P. Indy, MGISW, \$2,518,260), added blinkers and switched to turf to graduate from the maiden ranks Sunday in Hallandale. Prominent throughout, the dark bay sat an ideal trip stalking the pace

behind a half-mile in a sharp :45.80 and commenced his rally on the far turn. Moving three wide into the lane, the regally bred colt collared Snicker (Twirling Candy) in midstretch and forged ahead to score by a neck over that rival. The winner hit the board twice from his first three starts in New York and most recently came home a punchless fourth in a seven-furlong main-track event here Jan. 11. Morse Code--whose third dam is 1995 champion sophomore filly Serena's Song (Rahy)--is also a half to Noble Tune (Unbridled's Song), MGSW & GISP, \$492,222. Serena's Cat produced a War Front colt who sold for \$2.6 million as a KEENOV weanling in 2015 and a Tapit colt who sold for \$1.05 million as a KEENOV weanling in 2016. She was bred to Tapit once again last year. Lifetime Record: 5-1-1-1, \$46,000.

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O-Lane's End Racing; B-Dell Ridge Farm, LLC & Hill N Dale Equine Holdings, Inc (KY); T-Claude R. McGaughey III.



8th-TAM, \$21,750, Msw, 2-19, 3yo, f, 1 1/16mT, 1:43.44, fm. GRACEFUL HEART (f, 3, [Bodemeister](#)--Heart of Grace, by [Exploit](#)), broke poorly and trailed in ninth behind 'TDN Rising Star' and GI Frizette S. heroine Yellow Agate (Gemologist) when unveiled at Belmont Sept. 11 and she improved a bit to sixth in an off-the-turfer there going a mile for the first time Oct. 9. The \$400,000 FTSAUG yearling had the misfortune of facing off with undefeated future 'TDN Rising Star' and SW Stallion Heiress (Exchange Rate) when ninth trying the Fair Grounds turf going 5 1/2 furlongs last out Dec. 8 and she was disregarded at 19-1 Sunday. Headstrong past the stands the first time, Graceful Heart eventually secured position three deep near the rear of the field, behind a swift early pace. Beginning her bid on the final turn, she wove in between horses in midstretch and flashed home a determined winner. It was three-quarters of a length back to Collections Choice (Bernardini) in second. Her dam Heart of Grace is a half-sister to Gil Astarita S. victress Broad Dynamite (Broad Brush) and was covered by Constitution last spring. The winner is a half to Edison (Bernardini), GSW, \$186,647. Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-0, \$13,940. [Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O-John C. Oxley; B-Destiny Oaks of Ocala (FL); T-Mark E. Casse.

NEW YORK

Sunday's Results:

FRANKLIN SQUARE S., \$100,000, AQU, 2-19, (S), 3yo, f, 6f, 1:11.88, ft.

1--**WILBURNMONEY, 118, f, 3, by Wilburn**

1st Dam: Lady in the Money, by Yes It's True

2nd Dam: For Rubies, by Not For Love

3rd Dam: Eliza Donner, by Oh Say

(\$26,000 Wlg '14 FTNMIX; \$70,000 Ylg '15 SARAUG). O-Bob Petersons Stables, LLC & Frank Bellavia; B-Clark O Brewster (NY); T-Gary P. Gullo; J-Angel S. Arroyo. \$60,000. Lifetime Record: 6-2-1-1, \$129,034.

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2--**Bluegrass Flag, 117, f, 3, Bluegrass Cat--No More Flags, by Personal Flag.** O-Thomas C. Albrecht & Vincent J. Fusaro; B-Susanne & James Hooper & Thomas Albrecht (NY); T-Thomas Morley. \$20,000.

3--**Luna Rising, 116, f, 3, [Stay Thirsty](#)--Tangier Sound, by Rahy.** (\$20,000 Ylg '15 SARAUG; \$110,000 2yo '16 EASMAY). O-Zilla Racing Stables; B-Robert Hahn (NY); T-Kieran P. McLaughlin. \$10,000.

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Margins: 2, 3 3/4, NO. Odds: 20.40, 3.95, 13.80.

Also Ran: Overnegotiate, Toni Tools, Maple Mo, Bertranda, Passporttovictory, Out of Trouble, Treatherlikestar.

Wilburnmoney proved to be the antithesis of her name with a two-length upset victory on debut at odds of 13-1 at Belmont in June and subsequently added a runner-up finish in the six-furlong Lynnbrook S. for Empire-breds there July 17. A soundly beaten seventh and sixth in the Aug. 26 Seeking the Ante S. and Nov. 25 Key Cents S., respectively, the bay demonstrated signs of reawakening with a closing third-place finish in an optional claimer over this same track and trip Jan. 15. Overlooked once again at odds of 20-1, Wilburnmoney tracked the pace from a three-wide perch through a quarter-mile in :22.67 and inched closer on the far turn. She reached even terms with pacesetter Bluegrass Flag in midstretch and gradually forged past that one to score by two lengths. "I thought she ran great," said winning trainer Gary Gullo. "She was coming into the race very good. She's had a few issues with heat and the second time and third time she ran, it was very hot out and she didn't run that well, but today she ran good. I've always liked this filly."

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8th-AQU, \$69,000, Alw (NW2\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$62,500), 2-19, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:46.01, ft.

SPLASHTASTIC (c, 4, Tiz Wonderful--Monrow {SP, \$287,344}, by Fool the Experts) graduated powerfully at third asking Oct. 16 at Belmont and repeated with a convincing starter allowance score on the local main track Nov. 12 before tallying once again in a track-and-trip allowance Dec. 18 despite a wide trip. Bet to 8-5 favoritism here, the dark bay bobbed a bit at the break and settled in third at the rail behind dawdling splits of :25.17 and :50.83. Hemmed in for the far turn run, he switched into the three path approaching the eighth pole and gamely outkicked Testosterone (Birdstone) to the line for a head tally. The winner's lone unraced sibling is a 2-year-old filly by Stay Thirsty. Sales History: \$40,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 6-4-1-0, \$171,620. [Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O-Michael Dubb, Bethlehem Stables LLC & The Elkstone Group LLC; B-Julia Householder & Clay Bank Farms (KY); T-Rudy R. Rodriguez.

4th-AQU, \$55,000, (S), Msw, 2-19, 3yo, f, 1m 70y, 1:45.70, ft.

NO HAYNE NO GAYNE (f, 3, [Haynesfield](#)--Star Orchid, by Successful Appeal) was third as the favorite on debut over the local main track Dec. 4 and was fourth switching to the inner surface Jan. 14 before running second stretching out here Jan. 27. Let go at 43-10, the dark bay was a bit rank in the early stages while fourth behind a :24.24 quarter. Advancing one spot past a :48.78 half, she hooked up with Decorator Jenn (Shackleford) down the stretch and edged past that rival in the final yards to score by a neck. Easy Way Out (Harlan's Holiday)



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finished fast to be a close third as part of a 1-5 entry, with her stablemate, pacesetter My Girl Annie (Boys At Tosconova) fading to fifth. The winner has a juvenile half-sister by Desert Party and a yearling full-sister. Lifetime Record: 4-1-1-1, \$52,250. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-Toby Sheets, ZBS Thoroughbreds & Paradise Farms Corp.; B-ZBS Thoroughbreds (NY); T-Steven M. Asmussen.

EASTERN U.S.

Sunday's Results:

5th-LRL, \$42,520, Msw, 2-19, 4yo/up, 7f, 1:24.09, ft.

FREEDOM TOWER (c, 4, [Broken Vow](#)--Tale of the South {SP}, by Tale of the Cat), a \$80,000 KEESEP yearling turned \$950,000 OBSMAR 2-year-old, showed marked improvement in this first start outside of New York and graduated in wire-to-wire fashion. A non-factor ninth on debut traveling this distance over the Belmont turf course Oct. 19, the hulking bay raced evenly to report home third in a six-panel dash over a sealed Aqueduct inner track Dec. 18. He was last seen chasing the pace and fading to finish a distant fourth over an extended mile in Ozone Park Jan. 22 and was given a 5-2 chance for this cutback to a one-turn trip. Away in good order, Freedom Tower set the pace in the two path through a half-mile in :45.77, turned for home with a daylight advantage and found more to stave off favored Self Start (Jump Start), prevailing by a half-length. Sales History: \$80,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP; \$950,000 2yo '15 OBSMAR. Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-1, \$32,100. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-Iris Smith Stable, Lady Sheila Stable & Linda Rice; B-Diane Connell (KY); T-Linda Rice.

H Hidden Brook Foaled, Raised & Sold H
Winning with Woodford

7th-LRL, \$40,520, Msw, 2-19, 3yo, f, 1m, 1:38.00, ft.

+TICKLED PINK (f, 3, [Shackleford](#)--Champagne Royale {SP}, by French Deputy) took all the money for this debut and cruised to a facile victory at Laurel. Showing a good worktab, including a bullet five furlongs from the gate in 1:01 flat (1/9) Jan. 27 at Fair Hill, the \$250,000 KEESEP buy was sent off at even-money and came away well. Rated to track from third through splits of :24.36 and :48.64, the chestnut cruised to the lead three wide under no urging by the top of the lane, and was only given the occasional glance of the whip the rest of the stretch, hitting the wire 1 1/4 lengths to the good of My Golden Rose (Mineshaft). Tickled Pink is a half to Majestic Harbor (Rockport Harbor),

GISW, \$1,295,814; and Danza (Street Boss), GISW, \$866,428. Her dam, an \$825,000 buy at the Fasig-Tipton November Sale in 2014, is responsible for a 2-year-old Eskendereya filly and foaled a filly by Tapit last term before visiting Uncle Mo. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$22,800. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-Burning Daylight Farms, Inc. & Rebecca Galbraith; B-Brandywine Farm (Jim & Pam Robinson) (KY); T-H. Graham Motion.

BRED, FOALED & RAISED by Brandywine Farm (Jim & Pam Robinson)
NBS GRADUATE

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KENTUCKY

Saturday Night's Results:

5th-TP, \$18,500, Msw, 2-18, 3yo, 1m (AWT), 1:38.64, ft.

GORGEOUS KITTEN (c, 3, [Kitten's Joy](#)--Gorgelicious, by More Than Ready) reported home second when unveiled going 7 1/2 furlongs on the Gulfstream Park sod Dec. 4 and weakened to seventh after steadying upped to nine panels there Dec. 26. The crowd's pick at 8-5, the Ramsey homebred was outfooted early in this all-weather bow, drifting back to second last behind a :23.91 opening quarter and :48.28 half-mile. Left with a lot of ground to make up on the far turn, Gorgeous Kitten dove through a gap at the fence inside the final quarter mile and steamed across the wire a half-length in front of Porter Street (Giant's Causeway). Gorgelicious has a 2-year-old full-brother to the winner named Serengeti Cat and a yearling filly by Orb. She was covered by Discreet Cat last term. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-0, \$18,660. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O/B-Kenneth L. & Sarah K. Ramsey (KY); T-Michael J. Maker.

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'TDN Rising Star' Jenda's Agenda (Proud Citizen) remains unbeaten in her first try around two turns in New Orleans.

CENTRAL U.S.

Sunday's Results:

3rd-FG, \$42,000, Alw (NW2X)/Opt. Clm (\$40,000), 2-19, 4yo/up, f/m, 1mT, 1:38.73, fm.

SCATTER GUN (m, 5, [Scat Daddy](#)--Above It, by Holy Bull) notched the first two victories of her career turf sprinting in seasonal journeys to Kentucky Downs in September 2015 and 2016 and broke through with her first win on another turf course Sunday. A non-factor ninth in the Buffalo Trace Franklin County S. at Keeneland Oct. 14, she kicked off the meet in New Orleans with a runner-up effort going 1 1/16 miles over the lawn Dec. 1. Last seen finishing a distant sixth in a one-mile off-the-turfer here Jan. 21, the dark bay was hammered down to 8-5 favoritism for this return to the sod. She jetted straight to the front, opened up a three-length advantage through a half-mile in :48.93 and came under pressure as the chase pack closed in on the far turn. Finding more along the inside, Scatter Gun rebroke in upper stretch and kicked clear to win by 1 1/2 lengths from Shes a True Beauty (Yes It's True). The winner's dam is also responsible for a juvenile colt named Cosmic Cloud (Pioneer of the Nile) and a yearling colt by Take Charge Indy. Sales History: \$180,000 Ylg '13 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 8-3-2-1, \$201,886. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#). O-Lothenbach Stables, Inc.; B-WinStar Farm, LLC (KY); T-Neil L. Pessin.



4th-FG, \$41,710, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 2-19, 3yo, f, 1m 70y, 1:43.51, ft.

JENDA'S AGENDA (f, 3, Proud Citizen--Just Jenda {MGSW, \$760,780}, by Menifee) took charge at the start and cruised around the track to back up her 'TDN Rising Star' selection and go two-for-two at Fair Grounds. Leading wire-to-wire to capture her debut by 6 1/4 lengths Jan. 7, the bay, since bought into by Fox Hill Farm, was bet down to 3-5 favoritism in this stretchout and broke on top to show the way. Dictating terms through splits of :24.72 and :48.30, Jenda's Agenda was briefly challenged by Stonetacular (Speightstown) at the top of the lane, but soon shook away from that foe and won by a measured length under no urging in the final furlong from her rider. The winner's dam, a three-time graded stakes winner, has a 2-year-old Old Fashioned colt named Just Old School and foaled a filly by Majesticperfection last spring before being bred to Creative Cause. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$50,400. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#). O-Cindy & J. Larry Jones & Fox Hill Farms, Inc.; B-Larry & Cindy Jones (KY); T-J. Larry Jones.

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9th-OP, \$72,000, Msw, 2-19, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:11.00, ft.
SWING AND SWAY (f, 3, [Maclean's Music](#)--Placerita, by Gilded Time) had no punch when fifth on debut at odds of 3-1 at Saratoga in September and was sent to the sidelines for over five months following that effort. Sent postward as the 2-1 favorite here, the filly broke in good order and settled into stride tracking the pace in fourth along the rail behind a quarter-mile in :21.87. Guided outward to the three path on the far turn, she rallied stoutly down the center of the strip and held off a late bid from Sameeha (Street Cry {Ire}) to score by a length. The winner is a half to Saturday Nite Ride (Flower Alley), MSW, \$220,471; and Sticksstatelydude (First Dude), GSW, \$326,400. Sales History: \$50,000 Ylg '15 KEEJAN; \$117,000 Ylg '15 SARAUG; \$185,000 2yo '16 OBSMAR. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$45,390. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#). O-Westrock Stables LLC; B-Canyon Lake Thoroughbreds (NY); T-Ron Moquett.



Saturday Night's Results:

JIM'S ORBIT S., \$65,000, HOU, 2-18, (C), 3yo, c/g, 6f, 1:10.75, ft.
1--#RUMPOLE, 117, g, 3, Too Much Bling--Dehere's Dream, by Dehere. O/B-Fletcher Properties, Inc. (TX); T-Robert A. Young; J-David Cabrera. \$39,000. Lifetime Record: 4-2-0-0, \$52,470.
2--Contrarytoordinary, 117, c, 3, Valid Expectations--Frieda Frau, by Shaquin. O-Danny Pish & Dennis E. Foster; B/T-Dan Pish (TX). \$13,000.
3--Imma Wild Bling, 122, c, 3, Too Much Bling--Imma Be a Wildcat, by D'wildcat. O-Chuck Fisher; B-Hall Family Trust (TX); T-Charles K. Haverkamp. \$7,150.
 Margins: 6HF, HF, 1. Odds: 4.00, 23.60, 10.00.
 Also Ran: Checker Czech, Shaded, Comanche Hopper, Too Much Gone, My Expectations, Raising Rumors, Witt Stamp.



Rumpole | Coady Photography

Off the mark by open lengths against state-breds at Retama Park Oct. 22, ran fifth and fourth in the Nov. 5 My Dandy Division of the Clarence Scharbauer, Jr. Texas Stallion S. there and the Space City S. at Sam Houston Jan. 29, respectively. One of the quickest from the stalls, the gelding established a narrow advantage through a :45.60 half-mile, before edging away thereafter. He rolled by open lengths across the wire and to add a first black-type badge to his ledger. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#).**

TWO ALTAZANO S., \$65,000, HOU, 2-18, (C), 3yo, f, 6f, 1:10.47, ft.

1--**#ARCHER CITY, 119, f, 3, Silver City--Pete's Five, by Arch.**

O/B-Douglas Scharbauer (TX); T-W. Bret Calhoun; J-Deshawn L. Parker. \$39,000. Lifetime Record: 6-3-1-1, \$82,648.

2--**Kat's Infatuation, 119, f, 3, Silver City--Red Thread, by Devil His Due.** O/B-Wayne Sanders & Larry Hirsch (TX); T-W. Bret Calhoun. \$13,000.

3--**Too Much to Bear, 117, f, 3, Too Much Bling--Real Bear, by Formal Gold.** O/B-Tom R. Durant (TX); T-Randy L. Morse. \$7,150.

Margins: 3, 3/4, 3 1/4. Odds: 0.90, 8.20, 17.50.

Also Ran: Mighty Ferrari, Country Candy, Gold Shock, Pure Grey.

Archer City steadily progressed through her first three starts, culminating with a four-length graduation going six furlongs at Remington Nov. 10. The gray caught a sloppy strip for her first start against winners at Remington Dec. 3 and checked in a narrowly beaten fourth. Recently a dominant wire-to-wire winner over this same track and trip Jan. 28, the sophomore rated just off the pace behind a quarter-mile in :22.21 here and rallied to win comfortably, earning her first stakes success. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#).**

CALIFORNIA

Sunday's Results:

SPRING FEVER H., \$100,000, SA, 2-19, (S), 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:09.86, ft.

1--**#CUDDLE ALERT, 119, m, 6, Bedford Falls--Tee Dee, by Gilded Time.** (\$3,500 Ylg '12 BAROCT). O-Reed Saldana & Leopoldo Urbina; B-Carol A. Lingenfelter (CA); T-Melissa Saldana; J-Agapito Delgadillo. \$60,000. Lifetime Record: 21-6-1-7, \$229,000.

2--**Late 'n Left, 120, f, 4, Lucky Pulpit--Royal Grand Slam, by Grand Slam.** O-Steven & Sabina Romo Zolotas & David Hamilton; B-Larry D. Williams (CA); T-Anthony K. Saavedra. \$20,000.

3--**Sunday Rules, 126, m, 6, Tribal Rule--Sunday Dress, by General Meeting.** O/B-Nicholas B. Alexander (CA); T-Philip D'Amato. \$12,000.

Margins: HD, 1 3/4, 6HF. Odds: 8.20, 9.40, 0.40.

Also Ran: Smooove It, Allsquare. Scratched: Kiss At Midnight.

Cuddle Alert continued to pay dividends for as a former bottom-level claim, rallying to get up in the final jump and annex the California-bred Spring Fever H. at Santa Anita. Claimed for \$8,000 out of a victory July 22 at Del Mar, the bay was then taken for \$10,000 by these connections from a seventh-place effort there Aug. 17. Third at 27-1 in a state-bred allowance on the Del Mar turf Sept. 4, she captured an off-the-turf restricted optional claimer here Oct. 30, was third in the Cal-bred Betty Grable S. Nov. 13 and took an open optional claimer in another off-the-turf spot Jan. 6. Coming in off a fourth-place effort in the Sunshine Millions Filly and Mare Sprint Jan. 28, Cuddle Alert posted up in fourth behind a :21.93 quarter. Drawing into contention three-deep passing a :45.01 half, she appeared to be spinning her wheels behind Late 'n Left at the eighth pole, but kept on tenaciously to reel that one in just before the wire. Heavily favored Sunday Rules finished third in her first start since July 4. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).**

5th-SA, \$54,690, Msw, 2-19, 3yo, f, 6 1/2f (off turf), 1:16.93, ft. MISCHIEVOUS CHAMP (f, 3, [Into Mischief--Distorsionada, by Distorted Humor](#)) closed steadily to check in third on debut in a five-panel dash over the Del Mar turf Dec. 4 and posted a series of stamina-building six-furlong works in the interim. Allowed to meet the starter after this event originally scheduled for the turf course was washed off due to torrential rain, the bay was tabbed as the 9-5 favorite and secured a forward position pressing the pace in the three path through a quarter-mile in :22.10. She ranged up to gain a narrow advantage turning for home and drew clear to report home a 3 1/4-length winner over True Testament (Hansen). The winner's dam is also responsible for a 2-year-old Candy Ride (Arg) colt named Latrobe's King and a yearling filly by To Honor and Serve. Sales History: \$100,000 Wlg '14 KEENOV. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-1, \$38,640. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).**

O-Stepaside Farm, LLC; B-J.D. Stuart, P.C. Bance, & A R Enterprises, Inc. (KY); T-Neil D. Drysdale.

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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)
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Second-crop starters to watch: Monday, February 20

Sire (Sire's Sire), current farm, 2013 Fee, # foals of racing age/Winners/BlackTypeWnrs * Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)

ALGORITHMS (Bernardini), Claiborne Farm, \$7.5K, 155/14/1

6-OP, Msw 1 1/16m, Boxer Boy, 15-1

AMERICAIN (Dynaformer), Calumet Farm, \$20K, 69/2/0

6-SA, Msw 1 1/8mT, +Larrikin, \$3K RNA EAS OCT yrl, 12-1

CAL NATION (Distorted Humor), Country Life Farm, \$3.5K, 35/4/0

8-LRL, Aoc 5 1/2f, Parade of Nations, 6-1

CALEB'S POSSE (Posse), Three Chimneys Farm, \$10K, 71/11/1

8-AQU, \$100K Jimmy Winkfield S., 6f, Sal the Turtle, 2-1

FEARLESS EAGLE (Invisible Ink), C.M. Stables, 15/1/0

10-HOU, Msw 1mT, +Fearless Edna, 20-1

GEMOLOGIST (Tiznow), WinStar Farm, \$15K, 205/21/2

6-OP, Msw 1 1/16m, Appalachian Gem, \$90K OBS OPN 2yo, 3-1

6-SA, Msw 1 1/8mT, Marq One, \$22K KEE SEP yrl, 15-1

MACLEAN'S MUSIC (Distorted Humor), Hill 'N' Dale Farms, \$6.5K, 147/24/2

10-SA, \$75K Baffle S., 6 1/2f, Bay Muzik, \$23K EAS MAY 2yo, 6-1

MAD FLATTER (Flatter), Diamond B Stables, 36/3/0

8-LRL, Aoc 5 1/2f, Windcries, 7-2

MUSKETIER (GER) (Acatenango {Ger}), Calumet Farm, \$2.5K, 26/1/0
1-MVR, Msw 1m, Muskettier's Angel, \$4K FTK OCT yrl, 6-1

SHACKLEFORD (Forestry), Darby Dan Farm, \$20K, 208/25/1

6-OP, Msw 1 1/16m, Grandpa's Dream, \$25K FTK OCT yrl, 4-1

STAR GUITAR (Quiet American), Clear Creek Stud, \$4K, 80/5/0

6-SA, Msw 1 1/8mT, Chord On Blues, \$40K KEE SEP yrl, 20-1

STAY THIRSTY (Bernardini), Ashford Stud, \$17.5K, 160/26/1

8-AQU, \$100K Jimmy Winkfield S., 6f, Jamminwithbrandon, \$100K OBS OPN 2yo, 30-1

TAPIZAR (Tapit), Gainesway Farm, \$15K, 181/19/2

2-HOU, Msw 6f, Zargaux, 8-5

TO HONOR AND SERVE (Bernardini), Gainesway Farm, \$30K, 172/16/1

10-OP, Msw 1 1/16m, Blueridge Traveler, \$100K FTK JUL yrl, 6-1

UNION RAGS (Dixie Union), Lane's End Farm, \$35K, 220/21/3

10-HOU, Msw 1mT, Miss Spot On, \$200K FTF MAR 2yo, 6-1

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BREEDERS' EDITION

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-OP, \$76,000, Alw (C)/Opt. Clm (\$62,500), 2-19, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10.63, ft.

PLEASANT TALES (m, 5, Tale of Ekati--S' Avall, by Awesome Again) Lifetime Record: SP, 20-4-2-1, \$205,060. O/B-Charles E.

Fipke (KY); T-Dallas Stewart. *Full to Tale of S'avall, GSP, \$270,767.

8th-DED, \$34,810, 2-18, (NW2L), 4yo/up, 7 1/2f, 1:33.50, ft. JUST RUN SKINY RUN (g, 4, Orthodox--Just Call Me Janet, by Pure Prize) Lifetime Record: 11-2-4-2, \$81,930. O-End Zone Athletics, Inc.; B-Bentley T Early (LA); T-Karl Broberg. *\$3,500 Ylg '14 BSCYRL; \$22,000 RNA 2yo '15 EQL2YO.

8th-SUN, \$33,600, (S), (NW2X)/Opt. Clm (\$15,000), 2-19, 4yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:15.56, ft. WHATAKISS (g, 6, To Teras--Crypto Kiss, by Kissin Kris) Lifetime Record: 33-12-7-4, \$188,732. O-Judge Lanier Racing; B-Jeffrey B. & Mary W. Keckley (NM); T-Miguel L. Hernandez.

6th-GG, \$29,232, 2-19, (NW1\$X), 4yo/up, 6f (AWT), 1:09.76, ft. PERCY'S BLUFF (g, 5, Raise the Bluff--Persephonie, by Conquistador Cielo) Lifetime Record: 30-12-8-5, \$132,608. O/T-Jerry Hollendorfer; B-Nina & Ron Hagen (WA). *\$5,000 Ylg '13 WASSEP.

8th-HOU, \$20,000, 2-18, (NW1X), 4yo/up, f/m, 5fT, :58.64, fm. KIMS STAR (m, 7, Autonomy {Ire}--Another Audible {SP}, by Menifee) Lifetime Record: 45-15-9-4, \$246,520. O-Richard P. Chandler; B-Milton Gaede (IA); T-Mindy J. Willis.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Soulja Slim, g, 3, Half Ours--Wildcat At Dawn, by D'wildcat. FG, 2-19, (S), 5 1/2fT, 1:05.51. B-Billy J. Fuzette (LA). *\$7,500 Ylg '15 ESLYRL.

Bigshot Lacewell, c, 3, Ice Box--Sunny Side Up, by Pleasant Colony. OP, 2-19, (C), 1 1/16m, 1:46.63. B-Dream Walkin' Farms, Inc. (OK).

Keep the Magic, f, 3, Malibu Moon--Trail Magic, by Indian Charlie. PEN, 2-18, (S), 6f, 1:12.21. B-Brushwood Stable (PA).

Long Game, g, 3, Pleasantly Perfect--Lemon Drop Ridge, by Lemon Drop Kid. SA, 2-19, (C), 7f, 1:23.53. B-Kretz Racing LLC (KY).

Ice Patrol, g, 3, Weather Warning--Diamond Bracelet, by Metfield. SUN, 2-19, (S), 6f, 1:10.69. B-Mike Abraham (NM).

Wrapped, g, 4, Attila's Storm--Sentimental Gift, by Green Dancer. SUN, 2-19, (S), 6f, 1:10.53. B-R. D. Hubbard (NM). *1/2 to Alexine (Arg) (Runaway Groom), G1SW-Arg, MSW & GISP-US, \$468,190; and a full to Attila's Gift (Attila's Storm), SP, \$186,452.

Glacken's Ghost, g, 4, Smoke Glacken--Ho Joy, by Silver Ghost. OP, 2-19, (S), 6f, 1:11.65. B-McDowell Farm (AR). *\$25,000 Ylg '14 OBSWIN; \$20,000 RNA Ylg '14 OBSAUG; \$25,000 2yo '15 OBSOPN.

Chosen One Elijah, g, 6, Western Expression--Apocalyptical, by Wiseman's Ferry. AQU, 2-19, (S), (C), 6f, 1:13.23. B-Flying Zee Stables (NY). *1/2 to Weekend Hideaway (Speightstown), MSW & GISP, \$874,532.



ANDREW CHESSER: A SELF-STARTER FLYING HIGH



Andrew Chesser | Keni Parks

by Tom Peacock

Andrew Chesser is one of the men at the forefront of the International Conference of Horseracing Authorities held annually in Paris as well as the Longines World's Best Racehorse and World's Best Horse Race ceremony in London and, at age 32, already holds two senior positions in the Thoroughbred industry. One wonders, then, how far he will have risen by the age of most of the racing establishment's grandees. Even more surprisingly, this self-starter had not even seen a horse race until he was nearly 15.

The day job is manager of registration services at The Jockey Club, while since October 2015, Chesser has been appointed secretary general of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA). All because of stumbling upon the televised GI Preakness victory of Charismatic (Summer Squall), who rose from claiming level to be narrowly denied Triple Crown glory.

"It was pretty much after that race that I persuaded my family to take me down to Saratoga for the racing and to the Fasig-Tipton sales and I knew then that I wanted to be involved in the industry," he said. "I grew up in New York and I was then able to work at Stonewall Farm on weekends and holidays, but I knew that if I wanted to make racing my career then I would have to go to the centre of it all in Lexington."

Cont. p2

BREEDERS' CUP DREAM ALIVE FOR 'GOLD'

The first Japanese Group 1 of 2017 was a Breeders' Cup "Win And You're In" race with the victor gaining an automatic berth to the GI Breeders' Cup Classic at Del Mar later this year. **Kafuji Take (Jpn)** (Precise End) went off favourite for the race over a mile on the Tokyo dirt and despite running on strongly in the last two furlongs from what seemed a hopeless position, he could not get to grips with the winner **Gold Dream (Jpn)** (Gold Allure {Jpn}) and the runner up **Best Warrior** (Majestic Warrior). Gold Dream, the punters' second choice, was delivered with a perfectly timed challenge by jockey Mirco Demuro who grabbed the lead a furlong out and was always just doing enough to see off the determined challenge of the runner-up to win by a neck with Kafuji Take another three parts back in third.

Cont. p4

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

CLASSIC EMPIRE TO SKIP FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

Last year's champion 2-year-old **Classic Empire** (Pioneer of the Nile) will skip an expected start in the GI Fountain of Youth S., as he continues to recover from a foot abscess. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

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Andrew Chesser: a Self-Starter Flying High Cont. from p1

Chesser enrolled and graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in agricultural economics and business, but had already spread his wings far beyond the campus walls. He learned from another greatly respected UK graduate, Walter Hillenmeyer, who was managing the former Woodlyn Farm at the time and completed a year's internship in the advertising department of the Blood-Horse, crediting the now Darley head of marketing Jim Cox for his development.

All this experience led to an opportunity in the offices of The Jockey Club, firstly in digital customer service and internal procedure, and he has now been at the venerable institution for 11 years full-time.

"The Jockey Club is the keeper of the American Stud Book and my role involves working with others in registering and naming all Thoroughbreds born in the US, Canada, and Puerto Rico, including microchipping and DNA, the imports and exports, as well as budgeting and training," he said.

Chesser's integration into the business led to Jockey Club president, Jim Gagliano, asking him if he would be interested in helping out with some work with the IFHA, and the role became more formal after the departure of deputy secretary general Aki Akitani at the end of 2013.

"Day to day, it was planning conferences and organising the internal and external communication, such as the website and social media," said Chesser. "It was around that time that Longines had become involved in sponsorship and I've been working with them for the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings, helped by the likes of the British Horseracing Authority and Hong Kong Jockey Club."

"I think it has done well in terms of coverage and it was wonderful to be able to be in London last month to have Bob Baffert and Chris Waller there," Chesser continued. "It's greatness recognised as greatness. Since 2013, we've also had the Longines and IFHA International Award of Merit, the first one of which was presented to Jim Bolger, and most recently to the Romanet family. There is also the World's Best Jockey ceremony in Hong Kong in December and the World's Best Race."

This involves a considerable amount of travel, including three annual visits to France-Galop's headquarters in Paris, and Chesser believes he clocked up 13 different countries last year.

"Lexington is home but France has very much become a second home," he said. "If I'm not there, it'll be an airport somewhere. I'm very fortunate as it has allowed me to go to Royal Ascot, the G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and I've been to my first G1 Melbourne Cup. Each racecourse has its own influences but we're all speaking the same dialect."

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with **Hugh Bowman**

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The IFHA's mission is to harmonise the world's racing rules and procedures, and to attempt to grow the sport commercially, though a number of committees and an annual conference, which drew delegates from 52 countries in 2016.

"One of the main issues is medication, in the form of labs and testing," Chesser explained. "There are many amazing labs around the globe, but its important to share best practices and for there to be such resources in every part of the world. We want to bring up the standard, efficiency and quality up to the highest possible level."

"Welfare of riders and horses is obviously another subject that must be taken very very seriously," he noted. "It's important to keep raising awareness and continue bringing up the standard of care, and aftercare. Racing must also recognise there is more and more competition, not just in terms of leisure activities, but of gambling, from online, the lottery and so on. It's important to embrace new technologies and ensure that racing continues to remain an attractive product."

Any pronouncements made are not always as easy to implement, as Chesser added diplomatically, "We do everything we can, but we're not a regulatory body. We make concessions, we all want to pull in the same direction."

Chesser's life is clearly a non-stop blizzard of commitments, but his voice lit up in recollection of what was perhaps his first serious racing achievement. Back at UK, he founded the Kentucky Horse Racing Club and it continues to thrive today with visits to studs, the racetrack and inviting trainers such as Carl Nafzger and Kenny McPeck to give talks.

Cont. p3

Andrew Chesser: a Self-Starter Flying High Cont.

“It’s been a joy to watch, actually,” he said. “I didn’t have any connections in the industry when I arrived and now I see many students that have gone on to racing internships, or working in bloodstock, sales, nomination or administrative roles. I was back there last year and it made me think ‘they’re a lot smarter than I was.’”

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EUROPEAN NEWS

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NEW SPONSOR FOR IROQUOIS CHALLENGE

A lucrative Trans-Atlantic challenge could be in store for the winner of the G1 Sun Bets Stayers Hurdle at Cheltenham next month, with the news that TVV Capital is stepping in to sponsor the second instalment of the Iroquois Cheltenham Challenge. A

\$500,000 bonus is up for grabs if the Stayers Hurdle winner follows up in the GI Iroquois Hurdle at Nashville in May or indeed does the reverse within a 12 month period. Last year’s Iroquois winner **Rawnaq (Ire)** (Azamour {Ire}), owned by Irv Naylor, was on target to attempt the double before a training injury derailed his Cheltenham challenge and such a hefty bonus is sure to tempt winning connections this year especially considering how well the Willie Mullins-trained pair of **Shaneshill (Ire)** (King’s Theatre {Ire}) and **Nichols Canyon (GB)** (Authorized {Ire}) ran in defeat when second and third in Nashville last May.

TVV Capital Founder and President Andrew Byrd feels the Challenge has elevated the sport across borders and continents in a way that truly connects Irish and UK racing with the best of American steeplechasing.

“That historical connection is strong, as is our relationship with the Iroquois, and so we are very pleased to announce the TVV Capital Iroquois Cheltenham Challenge,” said Byrd.

Iroquois Chairman Dwight Hall, who also serves on the Board of Directors for the National Steeplechase Association, sees the Challenge as an opportunity to showcase the best of jump racing in the United States. [Cont. p4](#)



The field turning for home in the Credit Suisse GP von Sils at St Moritz. **Uzbekia and Valeria Holinger (pink)** are now two-for-two at this year’s White Turf meeting. | *Emma Berry*

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"The Iroquois last year was a race for the ages, and we fully anticipate the top trainers in Europe entering their best horses again here in May," said Hall. "Our intent was to reignite that overseas rivalry, and I believe we succeeded in doing that. They've seen how our tracks run and they have experienced our hospitality, and we expect the word to spread."

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FRANCE



ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

- +**Acemanan (Fr)**, c, 3, **Rajsaman (Fr)**--Assentessana (Fr), by Paris. MAC, 2-19, 8 1/2fT, 1:42.53. B-Gerard Decocq (FR). *€16,000 RNA Wlg '14 ARQDEC; €3,000 RNA Ylg '15 ARQNOV.
- +**Louve Sage (Fr)**, f, 3, **Sageburg (Ire)**--Louve Rouge (Fr) (GSP-Fr, \$119,985), by Gold Away (Ire). NIM, 2-19, 9 1/2fT, 1:56.29. B-SARL Jedburgh Stud, Mme I Corbani & Famille Boutin (FR). *€68,000 Ylg '15 OSASEP.

EUROPEAN-BRED WINNERS

IN HONG KONG:

- Booming Delight (Ire)**, g, 4, **Fastnet Rock (Aus)**--Starship (Ire), by Galileo (Ire). Sha Tin, 2-19, Hcp. (£182k/€212k), 2000mT, 2:02.34. B-T Hirschfeld. *1/2 to Alexander Pope (Ire) (Danehill Dancer {Ire}), GSW-Ire, GSP-Eng, \$246,542; full to Rivet (Ire), G1SW-Eng, \$265,998. **Formerly Out and About (Ire). [VIDEO](#)
- Limitless (Ire)**, g, 4, **Lope de Vega (Ire)**--Portelet (GB), by Night Shift. Sha Tin, 2-19, Hcp. (£182k/€212k), 1400mT, 1:21.69. B-Ballylinch Stud. *1/2 to Etlala (GB) (Selkirk), GSW & G1SP-Eng, \$260,324. *Formerly Defrocked (Ire). ***€90,000 Ylg '14 GOFORB. [VIDEO](#)

WORLDWIDE NEWS

Breeders' Cup Dream Alive for 'Gold' cont.

Demuro was obviously thrilled with the result, allowing himself some brief 'wings' showboating after the line and he commented, "In the Champions Cup, he broke poorly and was keen--he didn't stretch at all. But today he was relaxed even

after entering the track. His start was good, he was positioned well and responded beautifully in the straight. He still had a lot left at the end."

In an eight-race career prior to Sunday, Gold Dream had always looked capable of a performance like this and he bounced back from his only sub-par effort when down the field in the G1 Champions Cup at Chukyo last December to claim his first top-level success. Unbeaten in his first three outings, he claimed his initial stakes win on his third run when winning the Listed Hyacinth S. on the same Tokyo card last year before being turned over at short odds by K T Brave (Jpn) (Admire Max {Jpn}) in a similar race at Sonoda in May. He coped well with a rise in class to win the G3 Unicorn S. at Tokyo in June before a further two placings in a pair of listed and Group 3 races. He seemed to find the competition too hot when running 12th behind Sound True (Jpn) (French Deputy) in the Champions Cup, but erased the memory of that display with a stylish performance on Sunday for trainer Osamu Hirata and owner Katsumi Yoshida.



Gold Dream (right) en route to victory in the G1 February S.

Horsephotos

Pedigree Notes...

Bred by Northern Farm, Gold Dream is by the late Gold Allure (Jpn) (Sunday Silence), who died at Shadai Stallion Station Thursday, and a first stakes winner for the four-time winner Mon Vert (Jpn) (French Deputy), who achieved 'small black-type' with a third place in the Listed Kanto Oaks. Mon Vert has maintained a 100% breeding record with four winners from four foals and is a half-sister to Australian stakes winner Tucanchoo (NZ) (Pentire {GB}). [Click for the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree.](#)

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G1 February S.
Presented by
LANE'S END **AMERICA'S BEST RACING**
WIN AND YOU'RE IN.

Sunday, Tokyo, Japan

FEBRUARY STAKES-G1, ¥189,740,000

(US\$1,681,275/£1,354,147/€1,585,065), Tokyo, 2-19, 4yo/up, 1600m, 1:35.10, gd.

1--**&GOLD DREAM (JPN), 126, c, 4 by Gold Allure (Jpn)**

1st Dam: Mon Vert (Jpn) (SP-Jpn, \$575,280), by French Deputy

2nd Dam: Special Jade, by Cox's Ridge

3rd Dam: Statistic, by Mr Prospector

O-Katsumi Yoshida; B-Northern Farm; T-Osamu Hirata; J-Mirco Demuro; ¥100,528,000. Lifetime Record: 9-5-2-1. **Werk Nick**

Rating: A+++. *Triple Plus*. [Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.](#)

2--**Best Warrior, 126, h, 7, by Majestic Warrior-Flirtatious Miss, by Mr Greeley.** (\$47,000 Wlg '10 KEENOV; \$34,000 RNA Ylg '11 FTKJUL; \$400,000 2yo '12 OBSAPP). O-Yukio Baba; B-Buck Pond Farm, Inc; ¥40,008,000.

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3--**Kafuji Take (Jpn), 126, h, 5, Precise End-Take the Cake (Jpn), by Scan.** O-Mamoru Kato; B-Hidaka Farm; ¥24,504,000.

Margins: NK, 3/4, 1 1/4; Odds: 4.00, 6.60, 3.50.

Also Ran: A Shin Bakken (Jpn), Nishiken Mononofu (Jpn), K T Brve (Jpn), Nonkono Yume (Jpn), Sound True (Jpn), White Fugue (Jpn), Brightline (Jpn), King's Guard (Jpn), Moanin, Incantation (Jpn), Copano Rickey (Jpn), Asukano Roman (Jpn), Denim And Ruby (Jpn). [Click for the JRA chart and video, or the Racing Post result.](#)

Gold Dream's connections earn:
Automatic berth into the **Breeders' Cup Classic**
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Sunday, Kokura, Japan

KOKURA DAISHOTEN-G3, ¥78,110,000

(US\$691,986/£557,461/€652,431), Kokura, 2-19, 4yo/up, 1800mT, 1:45.80, fm.

1--**MALTESE APOGEE (JPN), 123, h, 5, Goshawk Ken**

1st Dam: Maltese Heat (SW-Jpn, \$960,443), by Old Trieste

2nd Dam: Heat Is On, by Sunshine Forever

3rd Dam: Barbs Dancer, by Northern Dancer

O-Nagako Fujita ; B-Yamaoka Farm; T-Masahiro Horii; J-Tomoharu Bushizawa; ¥41,567,000. Lifetime Record:

19-7-1-3. [Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.](#) **Werk Nick Rating: A.**

2--**Historical (Jpn), 126, h, 8, Deep Impact (Jpn)-Brilliant Very (Jpn), by Northern Taste.** O-Hideko Kondo; B-Northern Farm; ¥16,162,000.

3--**Clarity Sky (Jpn), 127, h, 5, by Kurofune-Taiki Clarity (Jpn), by Special Week (Jpn).** O-Tadakuni Sugiyama; B-Paca Paca Farm; ¥10,081,000.

Margins: 2, NK, NK; Odds: 6.80, 13.80, 8.70.

Also Ran: Lord Cent D'Or (Jpn), Strong Titan (Jpn), Fluky (Jpn), Red Solomon (Jpn), Spirits Minoru (Jpn), Cosmo Thorn Park (Jpn), D'Accord (Jpn), Danon Major (Jpn), Beruf (Jpn), Crans Montana (Jpn), Katie Pride (Jpn), Paddle Wheel (Jpn), Meiner Honey (Jpn).

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

EPICHARIS SECURES DERBY BERTH

Potential GI Kentucky Derby candidate **Epicharis (Jpn)** (Gold Allure {Jpn}) came through his latest test in the Listed Hyacinth S. ([Video](#)) at Tokyo on Sunday to remain unbeaten in four starts. His cosy three-quarter length defeat of **Adirato (Jpn)** (Rulership {Jpn}) garnered 50 points and an invitation to compete in the Run for the Roses May 6 at Churchill Downs. Epicharis had been a wide margin winner of his three juvenile starts and despite not putting quite so much distance between himself and his rivals on this occasion, his rider never had to get too serious to get the job done.

The 1600-metre Hyacinth S. was the second race in a new two-part race series in Japan that could produce a starter in the Kentucky Derby, thanks to a partnership between Churchill Downs Incorporated and the Japan Racing Association. [Cont. p6](#)



Epicharis lands the Hyacinth S. | *Horsephotos*

Listed Hyacinth S. Cont.

The Japanese trained G2 UAE Derby winner **Lani** (Tapit) took part in all three U.S. Triple Crown races last year highlighted by a third-place finish in the GI Belmont S. and Epicharis could well attempt to emulate that feat.

Should the connections of Epicharis decline to take up their offer of a berth in the Kentucky Derby, the horse with the second-most points, Listed Cattleja Sho winner **Mont Saint Legame (Jpn)** (Came Home) may accept. If Mont Saint Legame declines, the horse with the third-most points, Hyacinth runner-up Adirato (Jpn) may accept. No other invitation will be extended beyond the top three point earners.

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Sunday, Tokyo, Japan

LISTED HYACINTH S. (JPN-G3), ¥34,700,000

(US\$307,407/£247,692/€289,751), Tokyo, 2-19, Open, 3yo, 1600m, 1:37.80, ft.

1--EPICHARIS (JPN), 125, c, 3, by Gold Allure (Jpn)

1st Dam: Stapes Mitsuko (Jpn), by Carnegie (Ire)

2nd Dam: Martin Miyuki (Jpn), by Maruzensky (Jpn)

3rd Dam: Miyuki Kamada (Jpn), by Diatome (GB)

(¥26,000,000 Wlg '14 JRAJUL). O-U. Carrot Farm; B-Masatsugu Kamada (Jpn); T-Kiyoshi Hagiwara; J-Christophe Lemaire. ¥18,350,000. Lifetime Record: 4-4-0-0, \$463,768. *1/2 to Meisho Naruto (Jpn) (Heart's Cry {Jpn}), MGSW-Jpn, \$2,055,250.

2--**Adirato (Jpn)**, 123, c, 3, Rulership (Jpn)--Narita Blue Star (Jpn), by Manhattan Cafe (Jpn). O-Koji Yasuhara; B-Tagami Farm (Jpn); T-Naosuke Sugai. ¥7,300,000.

3--**Hypernova (Jpn)**, 123, c, 3, I'll Have Another--Special Queen (Jpn), by Special Week (Jpn). O/B-Junzo Miyakawa (Jpn); T-Hiroyuki Oneda. ¥4,550,000.

Margins: 3/4, 1 3/4, HF. Odds: 0.40, 4.50, 33.40.

Also Ran: Foggy Night (Jpn), Captain King (Jpn), Goodhumour (Jpn), Shigeru Bengaltora (Jpn), Liverdy (Jpn), Shigeru Kong (Jpn), Mont Saint Legame (Jpn), Matera Sky, Bullbear Baboon (Jpn), Caucus (Jpn), Stapes Maria (Jpn), Copano Mizaru (Jpn).

Click for the [JRA Chart](#) or the [Video](#).

GOLD ALLURE DIES AT 18

Shadai Stallion Station resident **Gold Allure (Jpn)** (Sunday Silence--Nikiya, by Nureyev), a four-time Group 1 winner over dirt in Japan, succumbed to heart disease Feb. 16. He was 18. Among those four top-level victories for Shadai Race Horse Co. Ltd. was the G1 February S. in 2003, with Gold Allure eventually winning half of his 16 starts and over \$3.3 million before retiring to Shadai.

Fittingly, the Oiwake Farm-bred's son Gold Dream (Jpn) captured the 2017 edition of the race, a GI Breeders' Cup Classic 'Win And You're In' race, Sunday. His 3-year-old son Epicharis (Jpn), added further luster to Gold Allure's weekend, as he took his record to a perfect four-for-four in the Listed Hyacinth S. (JPN-G3), a race worth 50 points on the Road to the Kentucky Derby and a berth in the 1 1/4-mile Grade I on the first Saturday in May at Churchill Downs.



Gold Allure | JBIS photo

Other progeny of Gold Allure to shine on the racetrack are: Copano Rickey (Jpn), the 2015 Japanese Champion Dirt Horse who scooped two editions of the February S. (2014/2015); Smart Falcon (Jpn), the prolific \$11-million plus earner who excelled over dirt; and Espoir City (Jpn), who won the 2010 February S. and 2009 G1 Japan Cup Dirt. In total, Gold Allure's progeny have raked in over \$170 million in prize money from 11 crops of racing age, good for dirt sire championship titles in 2014 and 2016. He has also been runner-up on that list an additional six times, with career totals currently standing at 1043 foals, 718 winners and 18 black-type winners.

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SPONSOR SOUGHT FOR TERRAVISTA

Crack sprinter **Terravista (Aus)** (Captain Rio {GB}) will require a financial sponsor if he is to be aimed at The Everest, Australia's new A\$10-million contest which will take place at Randwick in October. The 7-year-old showed he has lost none of his dash when narrowly beating **Spieth (NZ)** (Thorn Park {Aus}) and **Star Turn (Aus)** (Star Witness {Aus}) in the G1 Black Caviar Lightning at Flemington on Saturday and despite the victory, his 10-strong team of owners feel the A\$1.8m required to nominate for The Everest is beyond their reach.

Terravista's trainer Joe Pride is now on the hunt for a suitable sponsor and commented, "I feel I have to have the horse ready for that race. I'm sure we can find a backer."

In the meantime Pride is considering shorter-term options for the gelding. These include the G1 Newmarket H. over 1200m at Flemington on Mar. 11 or the G2 Challenge S. over 1000m at Randwick a week earlier.

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FEBRUARY 2017

TDN WEEKEND

LA CAUVINIÈRE

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Terravista winning the Lightning S. Saturday | Bronwen Healy

AVDULLA STEPS IN FOR DOYLE

With James Doyle currently sidelined with a hand fracture, Brenton Avdulla has come in for the choice mount on **Hartnell (GB)** (Authorized {Ire}) in the G1 Chipping Norton S. at Randwick on Saturday. The Godolphin colt will have to face up to the unenviable task of trying to deny **Winx (Aus)** (Street Cry {Ire}) her 15th consecutive success and having been beaten by the mare on five occasions, Avdulla is philosophical over the task Hartnell faces next weekend. "It's a privilege to get the call up," said Avdulla. "Godolphin have been very loyal to me and given me great opportunities over the last few years, but I guess the only way she [Winx] gets beat is probably bad luck or if she has an off day. Hartnell has bigger targets in store. I will just enjoy the ride and see what happens."

For Australia's darling mare its all systems go for Saturday and her trainer Chris Waller issued a positive bulletin over her well-being.

"We weighed Winx and she's put on a couple of kilos since the Apollo," Waller said. "So she is holding her racing weight and that's important. She is fit and our job is to maintain that and keep her going through the preparation and she's as good as she can be."

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Sunday, Sha Tin, Hong Kong

HONG KONG CLASSIC CUP-LR, HK\$10,000,000 (£1,032,384/€1,208,183/A\$1,674,776/US\$1,288,767), Sha Tin, 2-19, NH/SH4yo, 1800mT, 1:46.98, gd/fm.

1--**RAPPER DRAGON (AUS)**, 126, g, 4, by [Street Boss](#)

1st Dam: **Swing Dance (Aus)**, by [Danehill Dancer \(Ire\)](#)

2nd Dam: **Newscaster (Aus)**, by [Marscay \(Aus\)](#)

3rd Dam: **Stormy Dream**, by [Storm Cat](#)

O-Albert Hung; B-E Cojuangco (NSW); T-John Moore; J-Joao Moreira; HK\$5,700,000. Lifetime Record: G1SP-Aus, 15-7-3-0, HK\$18,645,000. *Formerly Street Rapper (Aus). **1/2 to Swing Vote (Aus) (Northern Meteor {Aus}), SP-Aus.

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2--**Pakistan Star (Ger)**, 126, g, 4, [Shamardal](#)--Nina Celebre (Ire), '**TDN Rising Star**' by Peintre Celebre. (€180,000 Ylg '14 ARQAUG; HK\$6,000,000 HRA '16 HKIS). O-Kerm Din; B-Gestut Wittkindshof; T-Tony Cruz; HK\$2,200,000.

3--**Seasons Bloom (Aus)**, 126, g, 4, Captain Sonador (Aus)--Pyramisa's Lass (Aus), by Not a Single Doubt (Aus). (A\$26,000 Wlg '13 MMNWNL). O-Paul & Kathy Lo; B-B M Nolan (Qld); T-Danny Shum; HK\$1,100,000.

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Margins: 1HF, 1HF, HF. Odds: 7-10, 89-10, 89-10.

Also Ran: Eagle Way (Aus), California Whip, My Darling (Aus), Dinozzo (Ire), Rodrico (Aus), Prawn Baba (Aus), Winner's Way (Aus), Beauty Generation (NZ), Western Express (Aus), Super Chic (Ire).

Click for the [HKJC.com chart](#), [sectional timing](#) and [PPs](#). [VIDEO](#).

Rated 114 and some 14 points clear of the second-best Derby contender, Rapper Dragon looked to have his 12 rivals in Sunday's Hong Kong Classic Cup over a barrel, and so it proved. The sleek chestnut raced away to a comfortable victory to become the third horse and second in as many years to complete the Classic Mile-Classic Cup double and will be favored to repeat the dose in the Hong Kong Derby in four weeks' time.

Away in good order from his low draw, Rapper Dragon was gradually eased back into a centerfield position as Winner's Way (Aus) (Starcraft {NZ}) set the pace, as expected, pressed along through a strong opening 600 metres by Beauty Generation (NZ) (Road to Rock {Aus}), the Classic Mile third who was given a more positive ride by Zac Purton this time around. Seasons Bloom, runner-up to Rapper Dragon last time, raced further back in the company of the progressive Dinozzo (Ire) (Lilbourne Lad {Ire}), while 'TDN Rising Star' Pakistan Star was snagged back to the tail by Silvestre de Sousa, in stark contrast to the ride he was given in the Classic Mile.

Winner's Way and Beauty Generation were still going a good gallop entering the final three furlongs, and sensing a move from behind from Hugh Bowman atop Dinozzo, Joao Moreira edged Rapper Dragon out into the three path for a clear shot as the field reached the top of the stretch. While the leaders were beginning to run on empty, Rapper Dragon was just getting warmed up, as he hit the front with a little better than 200 metres to travel and was ridden out to a comfortable score. Pakistan Star, quietly ridden into the lane, peeled out widest and covered his final quarter-mile in a race-fastest :22.08 to finish just ahead of the honest Seasons Bloom, who lost his right-fore plate at the 1200m. [Cont. p8](#)

Listed Hong Kong Classic Cup Cont.

The winner's stablemate, G1 Queensland Derby hero Eagle Way (Aus) (More Than Ready), closed off nicely for fourth in what could be deemed an ideal Derby trial.

"He's a very good horse, I'd said that before, and we had no doubts about him getting the extra 200 metres today, he drew the gun gate (4)," trainer John Moore told the Hong Kong Jockey Club's David Morgan. "There was quite a lot of speed early, which was a big surprise, but he was the top-rated horse."

The Australian conditioner is now in line for a sixth Hong Kong Derby trophy and third in four years.

"We're going into the Derby full of confidence and now we just hope the owner can pull a good draw in the Derby and I think he'd be repeating," Moore offered. "He's definitely the horse to beat. He's going to be joining the elite brigade in Hong Kong."

Rapper Dragon joins Floral Pegasus (Aus) (Fusaichi Pegasus, 2007) and Sun Jewellery (Aus) (Snitzel {Aus}, 2016) as horses to have completed the Mile/Cup double.



Rapper Dragon proves a handy winner of the Classic Cup

HKJC photo

Pedigree Notes...

Much of Rapper Dragon's female family was offered by Eduardo Cojuangco's Gooree Park Stud and performed well at the 2015 Magic Millions National Broodmare and Weanling Sale. The winner's dam was purchased by Michael Wallace for A\$360,000 in foal to Congrats ([catalogue page](#)) and produced a colt by that successful dual-hemisphere stallion in August 2015. He was recently purchased by KS Research for A\$110,000 from the Newgate Farm consignment at the Gold Coast Yearling Sale. Rapper Dragon's half-sister Swing Sensation (Aus) (Northern Meteor {Aus}) fetched A\$330,000 from Rosemont Stud/Blue Sky

Bloodstock, while Swing Vote, sent through the ring on an October cover by Smart Missile (Aus), realized A\$360,000 from Neil Jenkinson Bloodstock. Rapper Dragon's half-sister by Your Song (Aus) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}) was subsequently knocked down to Canning Downs for A\$150,000, while Amanpour (Aus) (Northern Meteor {Aus}), a half-sister to Swing Dance and winner of the G1 Queen of the Turf S., was the second-highest priced lot at the 2015 Broodmare Sale. Then four, she was hammered down to the Rosemont/Blue Sky team for A\$1.5 million. The dam of a weanling colt by Newgate's Deep Field (Aus) (Northern Meteor {Aus}), Swing Dance was most recently bred back to Street Boss.

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AUSTRALIAN-BRED WINNERS

IN HONG KONG:

Nothinglikemore (Aus), g, 3, **Husson (Arg)**--Katisam (Aus), by Lonhro (Aus). Sha Tin, 2-19, Hcp. (A\$207k), 1400mT, 1:21.36. B-S Smith (NSW). *A\$40,000 Ylg '15 INGSYD. [VIDEO](#)

Mega Red (Aus), g, 5, **More Than Ready**--Special Cuvee, by Fasliyev. Sha Tin, 2-19, Hcp. (A\$207k), 1200m (AWT), 1:08.52. B-Southern Breeding Ventures Pty Ltd, Hybrook Pastoral Co (NSW). *Formerly Grand Vintage (Aus). **A\$105,000 Ylg '13 MMGCYS. [VIDEO](#)

IN SINGAPORE:

Aramco (Aus), g, 4, **Magic Albert (Aus)**--Eye For Fun (Aus), by Snitzel (Aus). Kranji, 2-19, Hcp. (A\$73k), 1200mT, 1:09.36. B-Dr I Duckworth (NSW). *Formerly Mawahibb (Aus). **1/2 to Mossfun (Aus) (Mossman {Aus}), G1SW-Aus, A\$2,561,250. ***A\$750,000 Ylg '14 INGEAS. [VIDEO](#)

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Sky is Limitless for Peter Ho's Hong Kong Derby hopeful Trainer Peter Ho Leung believes Limitless is still a long-term proposition, but the Britannia S. winner still booked a place in the BMW Hong Kong Derby with a decisive Class Two win. **Michael Cox, South China Morning Post**