TDN
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IAN WILLIAMS: BRITAIN'S MOST TRAVELED TRAINER

Ian Williams has saddled a winner at every British racecourse
racingfotos.com

By Tom Peacock

Should anyone fancy starting up a new racecourse in Britain, one guarantee is that Ian Williams will have runners there on the opening day.

One of Britain's most successful dual-code trainers is justifiably proud of what he understands to be the unique achievement of saddling a winner at each of the country's Flat and jumps tracks, and it seems to have spawned into a minor obsession.

"I had a feeling, so I sat down with the National Trainers' Federation diary one day and started ticking of the racecourses, and I realised I only had a couple left to go," he explained. "I don't think there's anybody else and I can't think of anybody who has done it going back over the years, more so then when you were either Flat or National Hunt. Not many people would want to travel all ends of the bloody country either, but we're so well-placed to do that, it makes it a little bit easier for us than others."

"The last initially was Thirsk--it's a very nice course but not a great trip for us," he added. "It took a while before eventually everything clicked and Cruise Tothelimit (Ire) won there in 2014.

"Then, of course, they reopened Chelmsford and stuck an all-weather track at Newcastle, it started the game again but we did that too luckily."

Cont. p2

MONARCH SET TO REIGN

Sandown plays host to Friday's G3 bet365 Classic Trial, and the early pointer to Epsom's June 3 G1 Investec Derby contains a trio of contenders by Frankel (GB) among a field of five declarations. The 10-furlong heat is headed by John Gosden trainee **Monarchs Glen (GB)** (Frankel {GB}), who caused a stir when annexing an 11-panel handicap at Kempton on seasonal return on Apr. 12 and will go postward as the likely favourite. "Monarchs Glen won very nicely at Kempton, but he is not in the Derby," said Gosden, who holds the record of seven renewals. "He is strong-headed, but is a lovely horse and Sandown should suit him. For the first run of the year they are full of it, but he has had a run and settled down. He showed a good turn of foot as they passed the junction there and it was a bit of a surprise to us."

Cont. p3

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

TIZNOW COLT TOPS OBS APRIL

M. V. Magnier secured a $2.45-million son of Tiznow at Thursday's OBS Apirl 2yo Sale. **Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.**

Ian Williams: Britain's Most Traveled Trainer cont. from p1

Williams has been at Dominion Stables at Alvechurch near Birmingham, a modern and self-contained premises developed with the businessman Pat Kelly, for the vast majority of his 21 years with a licence. Not a famous training centre but certainly a geographical one, it allows the net to be spread far and wide.

His string of 80 is currently split around 50-50, with some crossover. Even without the likes of the injured Ballyalton (Ire) (Pierre {GB}), who provided a first Cheltenham Festival victory, he will be close to a half-century of winners during the National Hunt campaign and could reach around that figure again if the Flat year goes well.

"Jumping-wise it has been one of our best, numerically as well as prize-money," he said. "There has been a nice uplift in quality and reliability of performance has been good. The horses have been healthy for a couple of years, which has helped enormously. We learned our lesson from a bad series of infections we had five or six years ago, we changed our procedures and our general management--that's certainly been of huge benefit."

If not at Cheltenham, Williams's all-purpose team can deliver some exciting payoffs. **Munsef (GB)** (Zafonic) progressed from a Chester claimer on his stable debut to finishing 12th in the G1 Melbourne Cup just over four months later while sprinter **Sir Maximilian (Ire)** (Royal Applause {GB}) swiped valuable prizes at the 2015 and 2016 Dubai Carnivals.

"It makes for a good business model," said Williams, who was tutored by National Hunt luminaries Jenny Pitman and Martin Pipe as well as Frenchman Francois Doumen, perhaps the ultimate jack of all trades. "My heart is really in the jump racing but we set up pretty good figures on the Flat. We don't aim for speedy 2-year-old types but I think we do well with the 3-year-olds and upwards."

Williams and team with Sir Maximilian after a win at Dundalk in 2014

Racing Post

"Work mornings can be interesting," he noted. "They're pretty much mixed and matched, sometimes they will work with each other, depending on how much pace or stamina we want to do. Levels of work and the amount of work for the jumpers is far more than for the Flat horses but the basics are the same. Healthy, well-fed and well-exercised horses should be capable of doing their job if they're placed in the right races."

A trace of Williams's background betrays what seems to be a methodical approach to his business. His father Billy trained the useful chaser Tom's Little Owl but his son first spent a year studying accountancy ("I found it a little tedious") before managing a William Hill betting shop in Devon.

"It was never my intention to train but I fell into it after working as assistant for Jenny Pitman," he said. "I thought I'd be very privileged to have the chance to train a dozen horses at some stage, but it grew into something bigger. I suppose if had my time again I'd probably be a horse racing accountant, even though I'm not sure there's a lot more money in that than training racehorses. It would probably have been more sensible, but who wants to be sensible."

From Fakenham to Ffos Las and Kelso to Kempton, Williams is sure to continue churning out the winners if the opportunity is there. Chester's May meeting, though, should be the most useful gauge of his smartest Flat crop for 2017.

"**Speedo Boy (Fr)** (Vision D'Etat {Fr}) has done very well, he won the first listed race of the season in France and will probably go for the mile-and-a-quarter Dee S.," he revealed. "**Duke Of Clarence (Ire)** (Verglas {Ire}) is a horse we have for Dr Marwan Koukash and we've been preparing him for the Chester Cup, a race we won a few years ago with Bulwark (Ire) (Montjeu {Ire}). Sir Maximilian ran well this winter in Dubai, even though he wasn't able to win, and it's probably the plan to have him go to Chester for the conditions event that he won last year. He's been great but he's fragile and needs to be looked after."

He continued, "We have some nice handicappers--**Banditry (Ire)** (Iffraaj {GB}) has won three on the Flat and **London Prize (GB)** (Teofilo {Ire}) was looking progressive on the Flat before he went hurdling and there should be no reason why he shouldn't continue to improve.

"Glorious Goodwood winner **Shady McCoy** (English Channel) was well below par on his reappearance but has come back in good form and will step up on his performance I'm sure," Williams added. "There's a lot to look forward to on the Flat."

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Monarch Set to Reign Cont.

Gosden also saddles Frankel's first winner **Cunco (Ire)**, whose busy juvenile campaign concluded with a seventh in the Oct. 30 G1 Criterium de Saint-Cloud last time. "Cunco is a whole lot calmer now," his trainer added. "When we ran him in France he ran really well. I am happy with him, he is a real stayer and a mile-and-a-half will be his trip. He is settling a lot better at home."

John Gosden saddles a pair of Frankels in the Classic Trial | *Racing Post*

The Frankel triumvirate also includes the Oct. 8 G3 Prix de Conde victor **Frankuus (Ire)**, who finished one spot behind Cunco at Saint-Cloud. "He was entered at Epsom [for the Derby Trial] on Wednesday and it was just a toss of the coin which race to go for," revealed trainer Mark Johnston. "He's a big, rangy horse and there hasn't been much change physically. He was not a big yearling, but grew as a 2-year-old and everything has gone to plan over the winter. Although there is speed on the dam's side, he has already won over nine furlongs and looks more like a middle-distance type to me."

Further opposition is provided by David Simcock trainee **Fierce Impact (Jpn)** (Deep Impact {Jpn}), who comes back off a once-out maiden win at Yarmouth in October. "He is a bit of an unknown quantity and won his maiden well last year, but he is a lazy work horse and is a difficult horse to gauge at home," explained Simcock. "He surprised us when he won his maiden and there is no set plan for him. We just want to see where we are with him."

The quintet is completed by **Intern (Ire)** (Rip Van Winkle {Ire}), who has moved to Ralph Beckett since winning a July 14 Leopardstown maiden and running third in Tipperary's Aug. 16 Listed Canford Cliffs S. for David Wachman. "Intern's been in the yard since September and has had a good winter," revealed jockey Fran Berry. "He's training very well and we're pleased with how he's come along. He has shown us plenty and is

APRIL 2017

TDN WEEKEND

HATS OFF
TO THE SYDNEY CARNIVAL'S **NERIDA WINTER**

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working like a horse it's worth having a shot at a Classic trial with. He will enjoy the step up in distance and I'm hopeful of a good show in a fascinating race."

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HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEQ

Tashweeq | *Racing Post*

John Gosden has registered a solitary success in Sandown's G2 bet365 Mile, partying with Handsome Ridge (GB) (Indian Ridge {Ire}) in 1999, and the Newmarket conditioner's skills will be tested to the limit as he brings back **Tashweeq (Ire)** (Big Bad Bob {Ire}) after a near 18-month absence in Friday's open renewal. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum's 2015 Listed Flying Scotsman S. winner ran fourth in that year's G1 Dewhurst, but has not been since suffering injury when sixth in Saint-Cloud's G1 Criterium International at the end of that freshman campaign. "Tashweeq ran in France and got a stress fracture to his shin, and it took a long time to heal as the blood supply there is not readily the same," Gosden explained. "He went back to Shadwell and, rather then push him back for last year, he has had a year off and has benefitted from it. He has come back fine and is in very good order."

The bay's fitness will be fully tested by ring-sharp veteran **Sovereign Debt (Ire)** (Dark Angel {Ire}), who has maintained his consistency since joining Ruth Carr from the recently retired David Nicholls. The 8-year-old grey hit the board for his new yard in Kempton's Apr. 1 Listed Magnolia S. and enjoyed a bumper payday in Lingfield's Apr. 14 All-Weather Championships Mile last time. "He came out of the Lingfield race really well," said Carr. "It is a competitive race, which you expect for a Group 2, but he has every reason to be there and, hopefully, with a big shout. He deserved that win last time, it was a big payday and that box is ticked off so maybe that takes a bit of pressure off."

Charlie Hills's G3 Prix du Pin victor **Jallota (GB)** (Rock of Gibraltar {Ire}) has been resurgent since stepping back out of handicap company last year and returns to action coming off a second in Milan's Sept. 25 G1 Premio Vittorio di Capua and a third in the Oct. 7 G2 Challenge S. at Newmarket. "He had his first holiday ever over the winter, he's come back fresh and his work has been nice," revealed Hills. "We are trying him over a mile first time out and, while there is a question mark over the trip, it is his first time at Sandown [in 40 starts]. I would like to think he will get it and, if he doesn't, there are plenty of nice races over seven furlongs. It would be nice if he got the mile as it gives us more options."

Aidan O'Brien trainee **Cougar Mountain (Ire)** (Fastnet Rock {Aus}) has been on a globetrotting mission since annexing September's G2 Joel S. at Newmarket, for which he carries a three-pound impost here, and running fifth in the G2 Challenge S. back there. He returns to European action off a Feb. 24 conditions second behind Sovereign Debt in Doha and an eighth in Meydan's Mar. 25 G1 Dubai Turf.

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ALL ABOARD

My Dream Boat (Ire) (Lord Shanakill) used last year's G3 Gordon Richards S. as a springboard to success in Royal Ascot's G1 Prince of Wales's S. and, unpenalised for that career high, he attempts to chart a similar course in Friday's latest edition at Sandown. Paul and Clare Rooney's bay has been off the board in three subsequent top-level starts and makes his seasonal debut returning off a five-length fourth to Almanzor (Fr) (Wootton Bassett {GB}) in October's G1 Champion S. back at Ascot. "I'm very happy with him, he has done really well over the winter and has had a great preparation," said trainer Clive Cox. "I am looking forward to getting him back on track and any more rain would be welcome. He starts this season without a penalty, which is great news, and hopefully he can build to the heights he achieved last season. The way he finished in the Champion and Irish Champion gives us encouragement he might get further, so he is entered up with all possible options."

My Dream Boat | *Racing Post*

His chief threat is G3 Rose of Lancaster S. winner **Royal Artillery** (War Front), who hails from the in-form John Gosden yard, entering the fray coming back from a third to Almanzor in August's G2 Prix Guillaume d'Ornano at Deauville. Susan Magnier's colourbearer has enjoyed a recent change of scenery and journeyed from the Newmarket slopes to exercise at Chelmsford's all-weather track last week. "I am happy with him and he has been working with [2015 winner] Western Hymn who goes for the [May 6 G2] Jockey Club S. [at Newmarket]," Gosden explained. "They enjoyed a day out at Chelmsford last week and it sharpened them up going down to that racecourse doing a bit of work. It was just nice bridle work in a pair, but it does them good mentally."

Aidan O'Brien has yet to taste success in this contest and is represented by last term's GI Belmont Derby Invitational winner **Deauville (Ire)** (Galileo {Ire}), who ran seventh in the Meydan's Mar. 25 G1 Dubai Turf last time. Sir Michael Stoute is the contest's winning-most trainer, with a haul of seven, and he sends forth G1 Breeders' Cup Turf fourth **Ulysses (Ire)** (Galileo {Ire}) for the 4-year-old's first start of the season.

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NEW SPONSORS FOR GUINEAS FESTIVAL

Longholes Stud and Spring Lodge have signed on as sponsors for Newmarket's Guineas Festival on May 6 and 7. Longholes, Sheikh Fahad's 220-acre commercial racehorse rehabilitation facility near Newmarket, will put its name to the G3 Longholes Palace House S. for the next five years as well as a six-furlong handicap. Spring Lodge, a 100-acre farm in County Limerick that boards mares and young stock and serves as the base for Qatar Racing's Irish-based horses having breaks from training, will sponsor the first race on 2000 Guineas day, the Spring Lodge S., a nine-furlong handicap.

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EBF DEADLINE ON MAY 1

The deadline to register yearlings to the European Breeders Fund by a stallion not registered to the EBF is on May 1. "Owners and breeders looking to either campaign or sell a horse to Europe should check that it is EBF nominated, as over 80% of 2-year-old maiden races are confined to EBF eligibles," said Kerry Murphy of the EBF. "In addition, your horse will become eligible to compete for a pool of over €5-million available in added prizemoney. This nomination stage largely relates to horses by stallions standing in the U.S., Japan, etc." The nomination fee is $600.

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BRITAIN

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Thursday's Results:

2nd-BEV, £4,500, Cond, 4-27, 2yo, f, 5fT, 1:03.41, g/f. **EMILIA JAMES (GB) (f, 2, Poet's Voice {GB}--Dozy {Ire}, by Exceed And Excel {Aus})**, who ran second in a similar event over this course and distance on debut last time on Apr. 19, was slickest from the gate and gained immediate control of this return. In command throughout, the 4-9 lock sauntered clear on the bridle from the two pole and was pushed out late to easily account for Miss Bar Beach (Ire) (Choisir {Aus}) by four lengths. Half-sister to a yearling filly by Sepoy (Aus), she is a first scorer out of a winning granddaughter of GSP Irish highweight Sandhurst Goddess (Ire) (Sandhurst Prince {Ire}), who is also the granddam of MGSW sire and G1 Nunthorpe S. third Dandy Man (Ire) (Mozart {Ire}), and MGSW G1 Commonwealth Cup and G1 Cheveley Park S. placegetter Anthem Alexander (Ire) (Starspangledbanner {Aus}). Sales history: 24,000gns Wlg '15 TATFOA; €19,000 Ylg '16 BBAGS. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, $5,097. **Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton**.
O-James Property Ltd; B-Red House Stud & Ketton Ashwell Ltd (GB); T-Mark Johnston.

2nd-CHD, £12,500, Mdn, 4-27, 3yo/up, 6f (AWT), 1:12.02, st. **HISTORIC EVENT (IRE) (f, 3, Invincible Spirit {Ire}--Scenica {Arg} {G1SW-Arg}, by Interprete {Arg})**, second on debut over this trip at Wolverhampton on Apr. 8, was backed into 11-10 favouritism and raced in a close-up second early. Committed with a quarter mile remaining, the 120,000gns TATFOA foal veered right but held on to prevail by a half-length from Fair Cop (GB) (Exceed and Excel {Aus}). The G1 Jorge de Atucha-winning dam is a half to the G2 Polla de Potrillos scorer Scenic (Arg) (Handsome Halo {Arg}). She has a 2-year-old filly by Declaration of War, a yearling filly by Animal Kingdom and was bred to Street Sense for 2017. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, $11,463. **Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton**.
O-Godolphin; B-Forenaghts Stud (IRE); T-Saeed bin Suroor.

1/2-sis sells TODAY with Woodford at OBSAPR - Hip 1005

CONDITIONS RESULT:

4th-CHD, £30,000, 4-27, 4yo/up, 6f (AWT), 1:10.00 (NTR), st. **RAUCOUS (GB) (c, 3, Dream Ahead--Shyrl {GB} {GSP-Eng}, by Acclamation {GB})** Lifetime Record: MGSP, 12-3-0-6, $150,138. O-Highclere Thoroughbred Racing (Melbourne); B-Saleh Al Homaizi & Imad Al Sagar (GB); T-William Haggas. *100,000gns Ylg '14 TAOCT.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Rinaria (Ire), f, 3, **Tamayuz (GB)**--Riynaaz (Ire), by Cape Cross (Ire). BEV, 4-27, 8f 100yT, 1:48.45. B-Rathdown Stud Ltd (IRE). *€20,000 Wlg '14 GOFNOV; €55,000 RNA Ylg '15 GOFORB.

FRANCE

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Thursday's Results:

5th-SPR, €22,000, Mdn, 4-27, 3yo, 9fT, 1:52.92, g/s.

WALDFEE (FR) (f, 3, Dansili {GB}--Waldjagd {GB} {GSP-Ger}, by Observatory), sent off the 12-5 second favourite, was steadied in fourth throughout the early stages. Taking aim at the leader Monkey Fire (GB) (Evasive) approaching the furlong pole, the homebred began to gain the upper hand soon after and was pushed out to score by 1 1/2 lengths. Waldjagd, who was second in the G2 Diana-Trial, also has a 2-year-old filly by Motivator (GB) and a yearling colt by Le Havre (Ire). She is a daughter of the G2 Deutsches St Leger and G2 Gerling-Preis-winning European highweight Wurftaube (Ger) (Acatenango {Ger}) who was also runner-up in the G1 Deutschlandpreis. Her three black-type performers other than this dam were headed by the G1 Deutsches Derby hero Waldpark (Ger) (Dubawi {Ire}), while the G2 Falmouth S. runner-up Waldmark (Ger) (Mark of Esteem {Ire}) later produced the G1 St Leger hero Masked Marvel (GB) (Montjeu {Ire}) and also the Andre Fabre-trained Waldlerche (GB) (Monsun {Ger}). She showed ability when successful in the G3 Prix Penelope and is now the dam of 'TDN Rising Star' Waldgeist (GB) (Galileo {Ire}), also from the Fabre battalions who captured last year's G1 Criterium de Saint-Cloud and is a leading player for this year's G1 Epsom Derby. Others to feature in this illustrious German pedigree include the sire Wiesenpfad (Fr) and last year's GI Man o' War S. victor Wake Forest (Ger) (Sir Percy {GB}). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €11,000. **Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton**.

O/B-SCEA Haras de Saint Pair; T-Francois Rohaut.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNER:

Pimpinehorse (Fr), c, 2, **Tin Horse (Ire)**--Pimpinella (Fr), by Highest Honor (Fr). SPR, 4-27, 5 1/2fT, 1:05.45. B-M Pehu (FR). *€20,000 RNA Wlg '15 TATDEC; €15,000 Ylg '16 ARQOCT. **1/2 to Wevanella (Fr) (Gentlewave {Ire}), SW-Fr, $121,173.

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OBSERVATIONS

on the European racing scene

1.50 Sandown, Hcp, £25,000, 3yo, 8f 14yT

ATTY PERSSE (IRE) (Frankel {GB}) makes his debut in the Godolphin blue in this prestigious Esher Cup, having impressed the operation into action when scoring in the Bjorn Nielsen silks over this course and distance in September. Roger Charlton reintroduces the relative of the 1000 Guineas heroine Harayir (Gulch) against some potential improvers including George Strawbridge's Wolverhampton maiden winner **Jupiter Light (GB) (Lonhro {Aus})**, a John Gosden-trained son of Fantasia (GB) (Sadler's Wells).

2.40 Fontainebleau, Mdn, €25,000, 3yo, f, 13fT

FREE (FR) (Mr Sidney) is the sole debutante among 11, representing the Head family's Haras du Quesnay. Criquette Head-Maarek was able to coax a Group 1 win out of her sire half-brothers Fuisse (Fr) and Full of Gold (Fr), but she is obviously judged to be more of a staying type than the former who excelled at a mile.

3.10 Fontainebleau, Mdn, €25,000, 3yo, c/g, 13fT

MAISON D'OR (IRE) (Galileo {Ire}) makes his debut for Susan Magnier, Teo Ah Khing and Mayfair Speculators and the Andre Fabre stable and will be keenly watched, having cost the partnership a cool €450,000 at Deauville in August of 2015. A son of the G2 Cape Verdi and GIII Noble Damsel S. runner-up Thai Haku (Ire) (Oasis Dream {GB}), he is distantly related to Hernando (Fr) so it is no surprise to see him start at an extended trip.

3.20 Doncaster, Mdn, £5,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 6fT

ROUBLES (Speightstown) is only the second foal out of the brilliant Soviet Song (Ire) (Marju {Ire}), trained so skillfully by James Fanshawe for the Elite Racing Club to win five Group 1 races including the Sussex. One of a dozen sprinters in the line-up, the debutante is certain to improve for the experience.

3.55 La Teste de Buch, Mdn, €22,000, 3yo, 1 3/16mT

TROARN (FR) (Wootton Bassett {GB}) bids to build on a promising debut fourth at Chantilly earlier this month for Gerard Augustin-Normand and Antonio Caro and the Jean-Claude Rouget stable. The full-sister to last year's G1 Prix du Jockey Club and G1 English and Irish Champion S. hero Almanzor (Fr) should have little trouble in getting off the mark against 10 rivals if able to repeat that level of form.

4.35 Sandown, Mdn, £10,000, 3yo, f, 10f 7yT
LOVE CONQUERS (JPN) (Deep Impact {Jpn}) is an intriguing debutante for Qatar Racing Limited and Ralph Beckett in the maiden won 10 years ago by the luminary Dar Re Mi (GB) (Singspiel {Ire}). The full-sister to the G1 Tokyo Yushun, or Japanese Derby, winner and sire Deep Brillante (Jpn) meets Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum's 425,000gns TATFOA purchase **Neshmeya (GB) (Lawman {Fr})**, a Charlie Hills-trained daughter of the classy High Heeled (Ire) (High Chaparral {Ire}) who has vital experience under her belt.

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WORLDWIDE NEWS

WINNING DEBUT FOR SPANGLED SISTER

Starspangledbanner and Johnny Murtagh winning the Golden Jubilee at Royal Ascot | *Racing Post*

Mousai (Aus) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}), a half-sister to world champion sprinter and shuttle sire Starspangledbanner (Aus) (Choisir {Aus}), made a winning debut at Racing.com Park on Thursday night for a Coolmore partnership. The 3-year-old filly is trained by the Lindsay Park team of David and Ben Hayes and Tom Dabernig, and was a A$700,000 purchase by Coolmore Australia at the 2015 Inglis Easter yearling sale.

Rider Dwayne Dunn told *Racing.com*, "Her trials had been pretty basic, but I think you can tell why David [Hayes] brought her here tonight--to get on a good surface, and I think she appreciated it. I hadn't seen her at home, but she's a lovely type of horse, and she's strong enough. What I find with this breed is the older they get, the better they get. She's strong enough, but it's a matter of putting it all together now."

"It was a nice debut," added Lindsay Park representative Dara O'Meachair. "Dwayne gave her a lovely run, settling just off the speed. I really liked the way she hit the line the last 100 metres, she looked like she was just holding the runner-up at the furlong, but her last 100 metres she really stretched and put a margin on the runner-up."

Mousai is out of Gold Anthem (Aus) (Made Of Gold) who, in addition to Starspangledbanner, has produced the dam of G1 Thousand Guineas winner Amicus (Aus) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}). It is also the family of highweights Elvstroem (Aus) (Danehill), Haradasun (Aus) (Fusaichi Pegasus) and Highland Reel (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}).

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INGLIS TWEAKS SALE FORMATS

Inglis has released its sale dates for 2018, with alterations to some of its key fixtures. Its flagship Easter Yearling Sale, traditionally staged Tuesday through Thursday, will next year be held Sunday through Tuesday Apr. 8 to 10, immediately following day one of The Championships. This will allow Wednesday to be an inspection day for horses in Session II of the Chairman's Sale, which will take place on Thursday Apr. 12. The Australian Broodmare and Weanling Sale will kick off on Apr. 13, break a day for day two of The Championships, and continue on Apr. 15 and 16.

The Classic yearling sale, which will be the first sale held at Inglis's new Riverside Stables complex Feb. 10 to 13, will expand to four days and will be comprised of two books, Book 1 including about 600 yearlings and Book 2 about 200.

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CLASSY OCTET SET FOR QE II CUP

by Alan Carasso

It will be a case of quality over quantity Sunday at Sha Tin Racecourse, as a high-class field of eight middle-distance gallopers--including the three most recent winners of the race--will face the starter for the G1 Audemars Piguet Queen Elizabeth II Cup (2000m).

Japanese raiders are not without their fair share of success in the QE II, with Eishin Preston (Green Dancer, 2002, 2003) and Rulership (Jpn) (King Kamehameha {Jpn}) having represented the island nation, and if international ratings are to be the barometer, **Neorealism (Jpn)** (Neo Universe {Jpn}) is the one the other seven will have to beat. The 6-year-old, who lowered the colours of none other than Horse of the Year Maurice (Jpn) (Screen Hero {Jpn}) in last year's G2 Sapporo Kinen (2000m), has

one run under his belt this term, a solid success over a strong field in the G2 Nakayama Kinen (1800m) Feb. 26. Trainer Noriyuki Hori, who has secured the services of leading rider Joao Moreira, was pleased enough with his draw in gate six, though there are issues more pressing.

"I think in this race, I just want to make sure my horse is in the best condition and we would prefer good ground," he commented. "I will sit down and talk to Joao about tactics."

Neorealism with Joao Moreiraat trackwork Thursday morning
HKJC photo

Werther (NZ) (Tavistock {NZ}) made it six home-team wins in the last seven renewals with a stunning defeat of 2013 winner Military Attack (Ire) (Oratorio {Ire}) and **Blazing Speed (GB)** (Dylan Thomas {Ire})--the 2015 upsetter--over a rain-affected strip. It has been another wet week in the New Territories, and a Thursday morning gallop, capped by a final 400m in a smart :22.9 has trainer John Moore thinking that the reigning Hong Kong Horse of the Year is primed for his title defence.

"I'm very pleased, we're going in with confidence," said Moore, looking for a sixth QE II since 2007. "[Jockey] Sam [Clipperton] said he was really strong to the line here and very strong through the line. He said the horse wasn't going to pull-up, he was going on, so that's very indicative of what the feedback was at this time last year. We're going in with a very fit horse."

Werther will once again have the services of top Australian jockey Hugh Bowman from gate two.

Designs On Rome (Ire) (Holy Roman Emperor {Ire}) was in his prime three seasons ago, having followed up on his stirring victory over Able Friend (Aus) (Shamardal) in the Hong Kong Derby with a razor-thin defeat of Military Attack in this event. To be sure, at age seven, the gelding's best days are behind, but he makes his fourth straight appearance in the QE II and is reunited with Tommy Berry from the inside barrier.

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"He's got as big a heart as you would ever want in a horse but the age--if he could run third or fourth it would be a very good result. Anything in front of that would be a bonus," Moore acknowledged.

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♢ ♢ ♢

Blue Gum Farm – 2017 Stud Fees

Manhattan Rain (Aus) (Encosta de Lago {Aus})	A$19,750
Turffontein (Aus) (Johannesburg)	A$8,800
War (Aus) (More Than Ready)	A$6,600
Glass Harmonium (Ire) (Verglas {Ire})	A$5,500

2013 Crop Year Report By Earnings

for stallions standing in Europe through Tuesday, Apr.25

Earnings limited to North America/Europe

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	**Galileo (Ire)**	25	32	19	25	7	11	120	75	$3,129,760	$13,074,270
	(1998) by Sadler's Wells FYR: 2003 Crops: 13 Stands: Coolmore Stud Ire (n/a)									*Minding (IRE)*	
2	**Sea the Stars (Ire)**	8	14	6	9	2	4	78	54	$2,270,521	$5,185,500
	(2006) by Cape Cross (Ire) FYR: 2011 Crops: 5 Stands: Gilltown Stud Ire (€125,000)									*Harzand (IRE)*	
3	**Dubawi (Ire)**	15	21	9	13	1	4	94	68	$591,576	$3,797,433
	(2002) by Dubai Millennium (GB) FYR: 2007 Crops: 9 Stands: Dalham Hall Stud Eng (£250,000)									*Zarak (FR)*	
4	**Zoffany (Ire)**	9	13	6	9	1	5	102	59	$560,347	$3,673,967
	(2008) by Dansili (GB) FYR: 2013 Crops: 3 Stands: Coolmore Stud Ire (€35,000)									*Washington DC (IRE)*	
5	**Wootton Bassett (GB)**	2	2	1	2	1	1	18	11	$3,042,729	$3,400,006
	(2008) by Iffraaj (GB) FYR: 2013 Crops: 3 Stands: Haras d'Etreham Fr (€20,000)									*Almanzor (FR)*	
6	**Kodiac (GB)**	7	13	4	8	--	1	128	72	$733,826	$3,368,356
	(2001) by Danehill FYR: 2008 Crops: 8 Stands: Tally-Ho Stud Ire (€50,000)									*Gifted Master (IRE)*	
7	**Dansili (GB)**	8	15	2	8	1	2	76	51	$1,431,220	$3,261,232
	(1996) by Danehill FYR: 2002 Crops: 14 Stands: Banstead Manor Stud Eng (£65,000)									*Queen's Trust (GB)*	
8	**Acclamation (GB)**	5	10	3	7	1	2	117	74	$363,043	$3,063,365
	(1999) by Royal Applause (GB) FYR: 2005 Crops: 11 Stands: Rathbarry Stud Ire (€30,000)									*Marsha (IRE)*	
9	**Le Havre (Ire)**	5	6	2	4	1	2	75	38	$1,139,457	$3,020,358
	(2006) by Noverre FYR: 2011 Crops: 5 Stands: Haras De La Cauviniere Fr (€60,000)									*La Cressonniere (FR)*	
10	**Iffraaj (GB)**	4	7	2	3	1	2	83	50	$1,187,024	$2,898,789
	(2001) by Zafonic FYR: 2008 Crops: 8 Stands: Dalham Hall Stud Eng (£27,500)									*Ribchester (IRE)*	
11	**Dark Angel (Ire)**	8	11	3	8	--	4	96	53	$305,780	$2,726,737
	(2005) by Acclamation (GB) FYR: 2009 Crops: 7 Stands: Yeomanstown Stud Ire (€65,000)									*Birchwood (IRE)*	
12	**Invincible Spirit (Ire)**	2	11	2	6	1	1	83	54	$687,834	$2,579,602
	(1997) by Green Desert FYR: 2004 Crops: 12 Stands: Irish National Stud Ire (€120,000)									*Shalaa (IRE)*	
13	**Showcasing (GB)**	4	9	3	6	1	1	70	39	$884,557	$2,499,749
	(2007) by Oasis Dream (GB) FYR: 2012 Crops: 4 Stands: Whitsbury Manor Stud Eng (£35,000)									*Quiet Reflection (GB)*	
14	**Siyouni (Fr)**	3	7	3	4	--	2	59	42	$344,253	$2,499,564
	(2007) by Pivotal (GB) FYR: 2012 Crops: 4 Stands: Haras de Bonneval Fr (€45,000)									*Volta (FR)*	
15	**Lawman (Fr)**	5	6	3	4	2	3	87	47	$575,396	$2,493,116
	(2004) by Invincible Spirit (Ire) FYR: 2009 Crops: 7 Stands: Ballylinch Stud Ire (€25,000)									*Harbour Law (GB)*	

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Friday, Sandown, Britain, post time: 3.30 p.m.

BET365 MILE-G2, £95,000, 4yo/up, 8f 14yT

SC	PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	6	Cougar Mountain (Ire)	Fastnet Rock (Aus)	Moore	A O'Brien	130
2	7	Gabrial (Ire)	Dark Angel (Ire)	Dettori	Fahey	127
3	1	Jallota (GB)	Rock of Gibraltar (Ire)	Spencer	C Hills	127
4	5	Kool Kompany (Ire)	Jeremy	Dobbs	Hannon	127
5	3	Mitchum Swagger (GB)	Paco Boy (Ire)	Queally	Lanigan	127
6	2	Mondialiste (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)	Tudhope	O'Meara	127
7	4	Opal Tiara (Ire)	Thousand Words (GB)	G Lee	Channon	127
8	8	Sovereign Debt (Ire)	Dark Angel (Ire)	Sullivan	Carr	127
9	9	Tashweeq (Ire)	Big Bad Bob (Ire)	Crowley	Gosden	127
10	10	Dawn of Hope (Ire)	Mastercraftsman (Ire)	Atzeni	Varian	124

Friday, Sandown, Britain, post time: 2.55 p.m.

BET 365 CLASSIC TRIAL-G3, £65,000, 3yo, 10f 7yT

SC	PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	3	Cunco (Ire)	Frankel (GB)	Tart	Gosden	127
2	1	Fierce Impact (Jpn)	Deep Impact (Jpn)	Spencer	Simcock	127
3	5	Frankuus (Ire)	Frankel (GB)	Norton	Johnston	127
4	2	Intern (Ire)	Rip Van Winkle (Ire)	Berry	Beckett	127
5	4	Monarchs Glen (GB)	Frankel (GB)	Dettori	Gosden	127

Friday, Sandown, Britain, post time: 2.20 p.m.

BET365 GORDON RICHARDS S.-G3, £65,000, 4yo/up, 10f 7yT

SC	PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	2	Arthenus (GB)	Dutch Art (GB)	Queally	Fanshawe	126
2	5	Deauville (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)	Moore	A O'Brien	126
3	3	First Sitting (GB)	Dansili (GB)	Bentley	Wall	126
4	4	Muntazah (GB)	Dubawi (Ire)	Crowley	Burrows	126
5	1	My Dream Boat (Ire)	Lord Shanakill	Kirby	Cox	126
6	7	Restorer (GB)	Mastercraftsman (Ire)	Dwyer	Muir	126
7	8	Royal Artillery	War Front	Dettori	Gosden	126
8	6	Ulysses (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)	Atzeni	Stoute	126

TDN Rising Stars

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Sunday, Kyoto, Japan, post time: 3:40 p.m. (2:40 a.m. ET)

THE TENNO SHO (SPRING)-G1, ¥286,000,000 *($2,565,931/£1,990,696/€2,357,683)*, 4yo/up, 3200mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Sciacchetra (Jpn)	Manhattan Cafe (Jpn)	Tanabe	Sumii	128
2	Labrodorite (Jpn)	King Kamehameha (Jpn)	Sakai	Sato	128
3	Kitasan Black (Jpn)	Black Tide (Jpn)	Take	Shimizu	128
4	Spirits Minoru (Jpn)	Deep Sky (Jpn)	Miyuki	Honda	128
5	Fata Morgana (Jpn)	Deep Impact (Jpn)	Hamanaka	Arakawa	128
6	Cheval Grand (Jpn)	Heart's Cry (Jpn)	Fukunaga	Tomomichi	128
7	Albert (Jpn)	Admire Don (Jpn)	Kawada	Hori	128
8	Tamamo Best Play (Jpn)	Fuji Kiseki (Jpn)	Yoshida	Minai	128
9	Dee Majesty (Jpn)	Deep Impact (Jpn)	Ebina	Ninomiya	128
10	Admire Deus (Jpn)	Admire Don (Jpn)	Iwata	Umeda	128
11	Proletariat (Jpn)	Heart's Cry (Jpn)	Sugihara	Kojima	128
12	Gold Actor (Jpn)	Screen Hero (Jpn)	Yokoyama	Nakagawa	128
13	Tosen Basil (Jpn)	Harbinger (GB)	Shii	Fujiwara	128
14	One and Only (Jpn)	Heart's Cry (Jpn)	Wada	Hashiguchi	128
15	Satono Diamond (Jpn)	Deep Impact (Jpn)	Lemaire	Ikee	128
16	Rainbow Line (Jpn)	Stay Gold (Jpn)	Demuro	Asami	128
17	Yamakatsu Raiden (Jpn)	Symboli Kris S	Matsuyama	Ikezoe	128

Sunday, Sha Tin, Hong Kong, post time: 4:35 p.m. (4:35 a.m. EST/9:35 a.m BST/6:35 p.m. AEST)

AUDEMARS PIGUET QUEEN ELIZABETH II CUP-G1, HK$20,000,000 *(£1,994,751/€2,364,014/A$3,442,708/US$2,570,229)*, 3yo/up, 2000mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Designs on Rome (Ire)	Holy Roman Emperor (Ire)	Moore	Berry	126
2	Werther (NZ)	Tavistock (NZ)	Moore	Bowman	126
3	Pakistan Star (Ger)	Shamardal	A Cruz	de Sousa	126
4	Dicton (GB)	Lawman (Fr)	Bietolini	Peslier	126
5	The United States (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)	Hickmott	Prebble	126
6	Neorealism (Jpn)	Neo Universe (Jpn)	Hori	Moreira	126
7	Blazing Speed (GB)	Dylan Thomas (Ire)	A Cruz	Callan	126
8	Secret Weapon (GB)	Choisir (Aus)	Yip	Purton	126

Sunday, Sha Tin, Hong Kong, post time: 3:30 p.m. (3:30 a.m. EST/8:30 a.m BST/5:30 p.m. AEST)

QUEEN MOTHER MEMORIAL CUP H.-G3, HK$3,000,000 *(£299,146/€354,354/A$516,638/US$385,536)*, 3yo/up, 2400mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Happilababy (NZ)	Mastercraftsman (Ire)	Shum	Leung	115
2	Beauty Generation (NZ)	Road to Rock (Aus)	Moore	Purton	133
3	Helene Super Star	War Front	A Cruz	Yeung	115
4	Eagle Way (Aus)	More Than Ready	Moore	Moreira	127
5	Andoyas (Ger)	Lando (Ger)	Hall	Ho	113
6	Dinozzo (Ire)	Lilbourne Lad (Ire)	Size	Schofield	118
7	Gold Mount (GB)	Excellent Art (GB)	A Cruz	de Sousa	122
8	Supreme Profit (Aus)	Encosta de Lago (Aus)	Shum	Chiong	127
9	Helene Charisma (Fr)	Air Chief Marshal (Ire)	Moore	Whyte	124
10	Anticipation (Ire)	Fastnet Rock (Aus)	A Cruz	Rispoli	120
11	Circuit Hassler (NZ)	Shocking (Aus)	A Cruz	Chadwick	113
12	Prawn Baba (Aus)	Duke of Marmalade (Ire)	Size	Teetan	121
13	Basic Trilogy (NZ)	Mastercraftsman (Ire)	Moore	Clipperton	130

TDN
THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS
FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017

TRIO OF MILLION-DOLLAR BABIES SET OBS APRIL ALIGHT

Sales-topping hip 793 | *Tibor Szlavik photo*

by Jessica Martini and Christie DeBernardis

Going into the third session of the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's April Sale of 2-Year-Olds-in-Training Sale, the auction had produced a total of two million-dollar sales in its entire history. That number was doubled within minutes Thursday as a filly by More Than Ready (hip 778) brought an even $1 million from Alessandro Marconi on behalf of a Middle Eastern client and, before the buzz had died down in the sales pavilion, a colt by Tiznow (hip 793) sold for an all-time OBS record $2.45 million to Coolmore's M.V. Magnier. Both youngsters shared the under-tack show's furlong bullet time of :9 3/5. A Union Rags colt (hip 899) provided the exclamation point on the day when selling for $1 million as the fifth-last horse through the ring.

"Certainly the day exceeded our expectations," said OBS Director of Sales Tod Wojciechowski. "There was obviously a lot of talk on the grounds about the Tiznow colt, but he went beyond, probably the consignor's expectations, and ours as well. It was an exciting day, with not just him, but two million-dollar horses along with him."

Cont. p3

ROYAL ASCOT A POSSIBILITY FOR 'PATRIOT'

WinStar Farm's **American Patriot** (War Front), who came running late to post a 10-1 upset in the GI Maker's 46 Mile S. at Keeneland Apr. 14, has been given an entry for the G1 Queen Anne S., the traditional opening race of the Royal Ascot meeting that is scheduled this year for Tuesday, June 20. Trainer Todd Pletcher is reported to be "seriously considering" a start in the one-mile event, famously won by America's Tepin (Bernstein) in 2016. "The horse is in great form and came out of his win at Keeneland really, really well," Pletcher told Ascot officials. "We have been very pleased with the winter and spring he has had and it seems he is in career-best form at the moment. I feel American Patriot has made a step forward this year. He was a bit unlucky last year in the [GI] Secretariat S. and has come on well over the winter. He has matured into a big, strong beautiful horse. He has a nice turn of foot and a great disposition to go along with it, so we feel he is a good candidate to take a look at travelling over to England." **Cont. p12**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

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Tom Peacock catches up with Ian Williams, who has saddled a winner at every British racecourse and has some smart prospects for Chester's May meeting.

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THE BIG HORSE SIRE

$2,450,000

ALL-TIME RECORD AT OBS

Colt made history on Thursday after breezing a co-bullet 9.3

Buyer: John Moynihan, Agent for M. V. Magnier
Consignor: Bobby Dodd, Agent
Breeder: WinStar Farm

"Don't want to have to run against him, he's that good I think."

–John Moynihan

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TODAY in the TDN
THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

Friday, April 28, 2017

Tiny 'dancer.' *An April 19 filly by Medaglia d'Oro out of MGSW Daring Dancer poses for a springtime scene at Sagamore Farm in Reisterstown, MD. She is the second foal out of her dam, who was named 2014's Maryland-bred Champion Three-Year-Old Filly. 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*

DERBY/OAKS UPDATE–THURSDAY 12

Miss Sky Warrior (First Samurai) tuned up for next Friday's GI Kentucky Oaks with a six-furlong breeze Thursday at Churchill.

TODAY'S GRADED STAKES

EST	Race	Click for	TV
9:20a	**Bet365 Gordon Richards S.-G3**, SAN	----------	-----
9:55a	**Bet365 Classic Trial-G3**, SAN	----------	-----
10:30a	**Bet365 Mile-G2**, SAN		
5:30p	**Bewitch S.-GIII**, KEE	TJCIS PPs	TVG

OBS April cont.

The previous OBS record was set at April in 2015 when a filly by Tapit brought $1.9 million. A colt by Broken Vow became the auction's second seven-figure sale when bringing $1.2 million in 2016.

The million-dollar sales are a continuation of the evolution of the April market, which has seen its average and gross explode over much of the last decade.

"As someone told me today, this isn't your father's April sale anymore," Wojciechowski said. "We've seen this evolution of the April sale where consignors are comfortable bringing any type of horse here and buyers are comfortable buying those type of horses here. We have the high-end buyers, we have the mid-range buyers. There is a comfort level there knowing that stock like that is here. Each year, it just keeps building on itself."

Through three of four sessions of the April sale, 521 head have grossed $47,382,700. The cumulative average is $90,946--up 18.2% from a year ago, while the median is up 4.4% to $47,000. With 108 horses reported not sold, the cumulative buy-back rate is 17.3%.

For the session, OBS sold 171 horses for $17,397,500. The average jumped 19.3% to $101,740 and the median rose 3.1% to $50,000. Thursday's buy-back rate was a sparkling 13.2%.

In addition to the strength at the top of the market, this week's April sale has also featured a robust middle market, something which has been lethargic at recent auctions. The strength of the middle market was a trend Wojciechowski saw developing during OBS's record-setting March sale.

"I think there were signs of that in March," he commented. "I think that gets lost a little bit. There actually was some strength for middle-market horses and it's just carried through to April."

Brad Grady, who sold the record-setting Tiznow colt through the Bobby Dodd consignment, agreed there was strength throughout the market.

"I think the top end of the market hasn't softened any," said Grady. "If anything, I think it's gotten stouter with more competition. I've seen more of a middle market for these horses than we've seen in years past, last year especially. Those top-end horses are always going to command the most because the wealthy play in that wheel house."

Bloodstock agent Mike Recio saw plenty of positive trends in the market.

"I think there is depth to the market," Recio said. "I think if you're a middle-market guy you should come. There is so much variety, there is 1200 horses. There are still a lot of good horses left. We're still pounding the pavement."

The OBS April sale concludes Friday with a session beginning at 10:30 a.m. **Cont. p4**

1st Crop 2YO

$260,000

OBS April

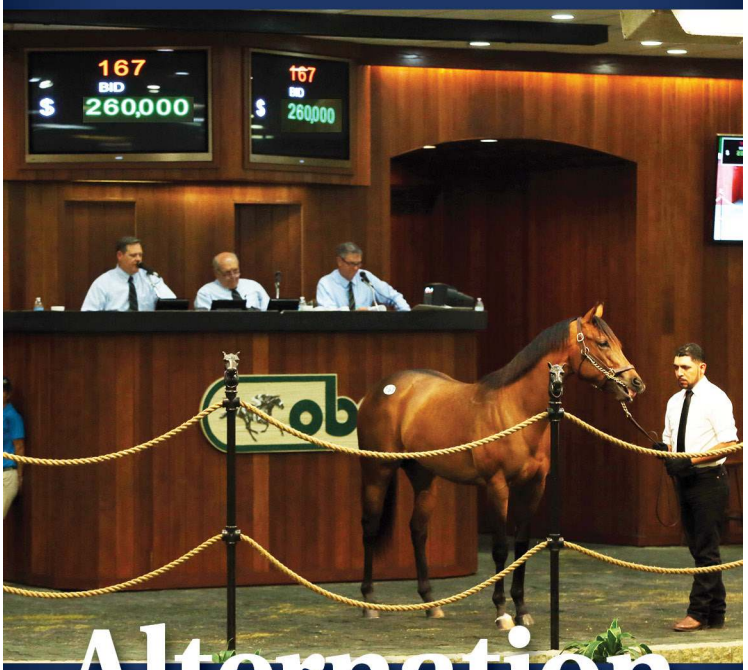
Hip 167 filly

out of Best Practices

1/4 Mile in :20 4/5

Co-Second Fastest work on Day 1

Purchased by: Art Sherman, Agt.
Consigned by: Envision Equine, Agt.
Bred by: Justice Farm & Greg Justice



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OBS APRIL -- Thursday's Top Lots

Hip 793 c Tiznow Moonbow 2,450,000
($125,000 yrl '16 KEESEP)
B-WinStar Farm (KY)
Consigned by Bobby Dodd, Agent V
Purchased by J. F. Moynihan, Agent for M. V. Magnier

778 f More Than Ready Miss Mary Apples 1,000,000
($390,000 yrl '16 KEESEP)
B-KatieRich Farms (KY)
Consigned by Wavertree Stables, Inc.
(Ciaran Dunne), Agent XXXIII
Purchased by Alessandro Marconi/Al Aasfa Racing

Congratulations JSM Equine!
Bought by Dunne & Casse

899 c Union Rags Poco Mas 1,000,000
($60,000 yrl '16 KEESEP)
(ThoroStride walking video)
B-Mount Brilliant Farm (KY)
Consigned by Paul Sharp, Agent VII
Purchased by Red Baron's Barn & Rancho Temescal LLC

616 f Colonel John Joharmony 425,000
($24,000 RNA wlg '15 KEENOV)
B-Gary Chervenell (KY)
Consigned by Stephens Thoroughbreds LLC, Agent VI
Purchased by Cromwell Bloodstock

848 c Into Mischief Oh So Nice 400,000
($11,000 wlg '16 KEESEP)
B-WinStar Farm (KY)
Consigned by Thoroughbred Champions Training Center LLC
Purchased by Frank Fletcher Racing Operations

735 f More Than Ready Mama Nadine 350,000 (PS)
($220,000 yrl '16 KEESEP)
B-WinStar Farm (KY)
Consigned by Niall Brennan Stables, Agent II
Purchased by White Birch Farm, Inc.

Cont. p5

OBS April Thursday Toppers cont.

717 f Medaglia d'Oro Loving Vindication 325,000
($80,000 yrl '16 KEESEP)
B-Anderson Farms Ontario (ON)
Consigned by Eisaman Equine, Agent
Purchased by TM Investments

756 f Maclean's Music Meridian Mama 315,000
($26,000 yrl '16 KEESEP)
B-Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings (KY)
Consigned by Bobby Dodd, Agent X
Purchased by John Terranova, Agent

656 c Kitten's Joy Laca 310,000
($65,000 yrl '16 KEESEP)
B-Scott K & Kathleen E Ramsey & Rebecca R Papadinis (KY)
Consigned by Grassroots Training & Sales LLC, Agent II
Purchased by Bluewater, Agent for Al Shahania Stud

694 c Tapit Lighthouse Bay 300,000
($1,200,000 in utero '14 FTKNOV; $355,000 RNA yrl '16 FTKJUL)
B-SF Racing (KY)
Consigned by de Meric Sales, Agent XL
Purchased by Alex & JoAnn Lieblong

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OBS APRIL SALE

SESSION TOTALS	2017	2016
• Catalogued	302	304
• No. Offered	197	214
• No. Sold	171	164
• RNAs	26	50
• % RNAs	13.2%	23.4%
• No. $400K+	5	3
• High Price	$2,450,000	$1,200,000
• Gross	$17,397,500	$13,987,500
• Average (% change)	$101,740 (19.3%)	$85,290
• Median (% change)	$50,000 (3.1%)	$48,500

CUMULATIVE	2017	2016
• Catalogued	906	912
• No. Offered	630	672
• No. Sold	521	494
• RNAs	109	178
• % RNAs	17.3%	26.5%
• No. $400K+	14	7
• High Price	$2,450,000	$1,200,000
• Gross	$47,382,700	$37,998,500
• Average (% change)	$90,946 (18.2%)	$76,920
• Median (% change)	$47,000 (4.4%)	$45,000

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Grady Over the 'Moon' After Record-Breaking Sale

Texas businessman and pinhooker Brad Grady of Grand Oaks set a new OBS record and new personal best when selling a son of Tiznow for $2.45 million halfway through Thursday's session of the April sale. After a lengthy round of bidding, it was John Moynihan who came out on top on behalf of Coolmore's M.V. Magnier for hip 793, who breezed in a bullet :9 3/5.

"He is a beautiful horse and moved beautifully as well," said Moynihan, who did his bidding on the phone from the OBS office. "He's a great big horse. Any horse that looks like that and can move that fast, we have to take a chance on. I don't want to have to run against him. He's that good I think. We just hope he materializes into what we think he can be."

Hip 793 in full flight during the under-tack preview | *Tibor Szlavik*

Grady was still all smiles outside of consignor and Grand Oaks farm manager Bobby Dodd's Barn 10 shortly after the sale.

"We were expecting that he would bring quite a bit of money, but it's hard to expect anything like that," the 37-year-old remarked.

Bred by WinStar Farm, which stands top sire Tiznow, hip 793 is out of Moonbow (Distorted Humor), a daughter of MSW Storm Beauty (Storm Cat). Brady, who pinhooks about 30 to 40 horses a year, purchased the hulking bay colt for just $125,000 at Keeneland September last term.

"He's a nice horse, big hip, pretty horse," Grady remarked. "He had a lot of leg and looked like he would cover a lot of ground. We didn't know how fast he would be. We knew he would work good and gallop out good, but with that two-turn pedigree, it is hard to get them to go that fast. I've never seen one [built] like that go :9 3/5. **Cont. p7**

OBS April cont.

He continued, "I guess everyone [was surprised] and that is why he brought the money he did. When they are built like that, they aren't supposed to go that fast."

Dodd, who signed the ticket on Grady's behalf at Keeneland, echoed similar sentiments.

"He was just a pretty, strong horse and he had pedigree. We just liked him," the horseman offered. "I think the :9 3/5 was good, but the gallop-out was unbelievable. His fractions were off the charts. I had several people told me he is like the next Arrogate (Unbridled's Song). We'll see how that goes."

Grady scored his first pinhooking success five years ago with Stonestreet's MSW Kauai Katie (Malibu Moon), a $90,000 KEESEP buy turned $490,000 Fasig-Tipton Florida 2-year-old. The Grand Oaks team also had a big score at OBS March this year, selling a Union Rags colt they purchased for $135,000 at Keeneland September to Dennis O'Neill for $950,000 after a :10 flat breeze.

Grady also campaigns GII Louisiana Derby hero and GI Kentucky Derby contender **Girvin** (Tale of Ekati), a $130,000 FTKOCT buy that Grady kept after he missed the 2-year-old sales. Trainer Joe Sharp moved Girvin to Lexington to swim him due to a quarter crack.

"He is swimming, but he is fine," Grady said. "He has had a quarter crack since [winning] the [GII] Risen Star [S. Feb. 25], but he is doing great and is still on track [for the Derby]."

--*@CDeBernardis*

More Than Ready Filly Heads to Europe

Bloodstock agent Alessandro Marconi was extended to an even $1 million to secure a daughter of More Than Ready on behalf of a Middle Eastern client.

Alessandro Marconi
Christie DeBernardis photo

"She is quality all over, she was the only horse in the sale you could say," Marconi said after signing the ticket out back. "She was perfect all over. We couldn't see another horse after watching her. She is so light on the ground. She is really quality all over."

The filly, catalogued as hip 778, is out of 2002 GII Schuylerville runner-up Miss Mary Apples (Clever Trick) and is a half to graded stakes placed Dr. Diamonds Prize (Pure Prize) and multiple stakes winner Miss Red Delicious (Empire Maker). **Cont. p8**

on the way up.

$180,000

Colt at OBS APRIL

Purchased by John Terranova, Agent
on Thursday after breezing **:10 flat**
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OBS April cont.

Shortly after the juvenile went through the sales ring at OBS, Miss Red Delicious' 2-year-old filly Nootka Sound (Lonhro {Aus}) romped to a debut win at Keeneland.

The More Than Ready filly was one of two juveniles to work a furlong in :9 3/5 during Thursday's session of the under-tack preview.

"When we saw her breeze, we were looking at each other like this is something," Marconi said. "We've been here for the whole week, so we've been checking all the horses and all the breezes, but since we saw her out of the box and out on the track, we were sure she was the real deal."

Hip 778 | *Tibor Szlavik*

Of the filly's new owner, Marconi said, "It was for a Middle East client who is also a breeder and trainer. She is the top of the top, so we were expecting to pay that." The filly will head to Europe before a final decision on her future will be made.

"She'll go to England first and then we'll make a plan," Marconi said of plans for the dark bay filly. "I think she can go everywhere because she's so light going over the ground. And she breezed that quickly and so easily and after the breeze, she didn't even look like she had done anything. She was so easy on the ground and so ready for that."

The filly was consigned by Ciaran Dunne's Wavertree Stables on behalf of Joe Minor's JSM Equine, which purchased her for $390,000 at last year's Keeneland September Yearling Sale.

Dunne was quick to praise Minor for the astute pinhooking score.

"All the credit has to go to Joe Minor," Dunne said. "He came to Keeneland and he asked Justin [Casse] and I what was left for the day. When she walked in the back walking ring, he said he wasn't leaving without her. Justin and I would never have paid that for her, but Joe was bound and determined to get her."

Cont. p9

OBS April cont.

Dunne continued, "Olin Gentry's group came in and took a piece with him. It's their first time pinhooking, so it's very exciting for them."

The More Than Ready filly became the third million-dollar sale in the history of the April sale, but Dunne admitted he had some anxious moments prior to the sale.

"We were very confident a week ago, and we might have been three days ago, but we were fairly nervous today," he said. "It's a new face that bought her. We weren't sure that the people that were on her were the people that you would normally expect to buy a $1-million filly. But I guess that's a testament to the market more than anything else that she was able to come up here and do that without the usual faces."

The filly had originally been targeted for the OBS March sale, but an illness in February caused connections to delay her ring appearance.

"We wanted to come to March," Dunne said. "But it doesn't matter where you take one like her, they are going to find her. Bobby [Dodd]'s [$2.45 million] colt was the same thing. The really good horses, you can sell them in the middle of 75 and they'd find them." @JessMartiniTDN

Million-Dollar Union Rags Another 'Sharp' Pinhook

Hip 899 | *ThoroStride/Lucas Marquardt*

In an April sale dotted with big pinhooking scores, a colt by Union Rags (hip 899), purchased by Liz Crow and Paul Sharp for $60,000 as a KEESEP yearling, became the latest home run when selling to trainer Jeff Mullins for $1 million late in Thursday's session. Mullins was bidding on behalf of Red Barons Barn and Rancho Temescal.

"He's just a big, nice colt," offered Mullins, who teamed up with Red Barons Barn to win Keeneland's GII Dixiana Elkhorn S. last Saturday with Itsinthepost (Fr) (American Post {GB}). "He looks like the kind that might get you to the first weekend in May. He breezed nice [:10.1] and was just a nice individual."

Bred in Kentucky by Greg Goodman's Mt. Brilliant Farm, the bay colt is out of the A.P. Indy mare Poco Mas and is a half-brother to Argentinian Group 2 winner and Group 1-placed Carinosa (Tiznow). His second dam is SW and GISP Adel (Strawberry Road {Aus}), who produced Canadian champion Interpol (English Channel).

An ecstatic Crow and Sharp, who consigned the colt, were the first to congratulate Mullins after the hammer fell.

"Paul and I purchased him from Lane's End out of Book 3 at Keeneland September," Crow said. "He was a May foal and had a lot of class to him. He was a really intelligent horse. We thought he would fill into his frame."

GI Belmont S. winner Union Rags' first foals are 3-year-olds this year, including GI Kentucky Derby contender Patch and early GI Kentucky Oaks favorite Paradise Woods, both 'TDN Rising Stars.' The Lane's End stallion was second on the 2016 leading freshman sires list by earnings and first by Grade I winners thanks to the exploits of Grade I-winning fillies Dancing Rags and Union Strike, the latter of which was purchased for $375,000 at last year's OBS April sale. Hip 899 marked the first seven-figure sale for the young sire, who currently stands for $50,000.

"Union Rags was another factor," commented Crow. "We really believed in Union Rags as a sire and thought he would pop, but sometimes people are hesitant to buy from the second crop of a sire like that. Between the Union Rags and the May foal, we thought he would fill out and grow up."

The bloodstock agent continued, "I thought at the time that $60,000 was about what we wanted to pay for the horse. I actually wrote in my catalogue $60,000 was what I wanted to go to and that's exactly what he fell to. He was just classy and intelligent from the start. He was well-conformed and a beautiful colt."

The Union Rags colt was part of a new pinhooking partnership put together by Crow and Sharp.

"Paul and I started a pinhooking venture last year," Crow explained. "We have 11 guys in on the venture and we bought nine horses. We sold two for a profit in March. This was our third horse through the ring. We spent $600,000 total on all of them. So we're ahead of the game right now and we're thrilled about it. We have six more to sell. One sells tomorrow, a Dialed In colt (hip 1145) with Paul, and then we have three in [Fasig-Tiptn] Maryland and two in [OBS] June." --*@CDeBernardis*

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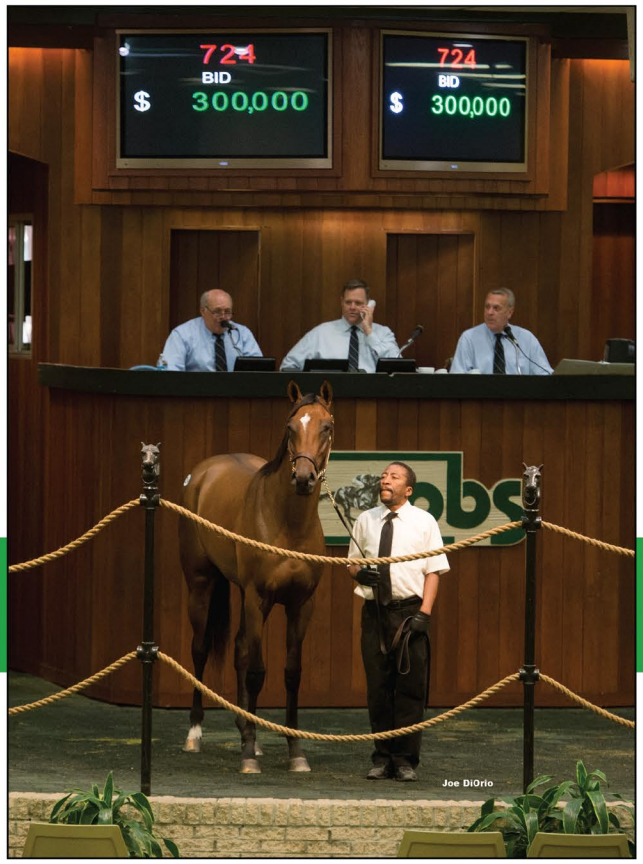

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OBS April 2YO
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Hip 724, filly, out of Lyrique
Consigned by Woodford Thoroughbreds, Agent

Woodford Thoroughbreds thanks Klaravich Stable for their purchase of this fine filly.

87
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Colonel John an Early Highlight

A filly by Colonel John led early returns at the OBS April sale Thursday when selling for $425,000 to Gatewood Bell's Cromwell Bloodstock. Bell had already left town, so Mark Recio handled the bidding.

"Gatewood loved her and obviously she was a standout," Recio said. "She has a pretty good physical and a great work. She's got everything, so we'll see how things shake out."

Out of stakes winner Joharmony (Johar), the bay filly (hip 616) worked a furlong in :10 1/5. Bred by Gary Chervenell, the juvenile RNA'd for $24,000 at the 2015 Keeneland November sale. She was consigned by Stephens Thoroughbreds.

"Colonel Johns have had success on the grass, but she doesn't look like she'll be limited by anything," Recio said of the filly's possible future. "I know it's a Johar mare, but you try the dirt first and see what happens. I'm sure Gatewood will send her to a great trainer and we'll see from there."

Of the filly's final price tag, Recio said, "I swung personally on the Munnings filly (hip 345) yesterday that David Ingordo bought for $425,000 and I thought that was a lot, too. I just think over these last three days, we've seen that the good ones are going for a lot, more than you can imagine." @JessMartiniTDN

Into Mischief Colt Another Score for Mejia

Jaime Mejia's Thoroughbred Champions Training Center added another impressive pinhooking score to its resume when a colt by Into Mischief sold for $400,000 to Frank Fletcher Racing Operations. Mejia purchased the youngster for $11,000 at last year's Keeneland September Yearling Sale.

"I am very happy that the horse is in the best possible hands with Bob Baffert," Mejia said through an interpreter after the sale.

Hip 848 is out of Oh So Nice (Smart Strike), a half-sister to stakes winner Dynamic Cat (Dynaformer), the dam of graded stakes winner Dynamic Holiday (Harlan's Holiday) and multiple graded stakes placed Appealing Cat (Successful Appeal). He worked a quarter-mile :20 3/5.

Asked what he liked about the youngster as a yearling, Mejia said, "I knew he was a champion. I thought we would have to pay a little more to get him."

Mejia, a native of Columbia, added the April foal has matured and filled out since last fall.

"He is a big horse and he has grown up a lot," Mejia said. "The horse didn't have the attitude, the temperament, that he has now. He was an April foal and it helped that he has had the opportunity to grow up."

Of Thursday's final price, Mejia said, "I expected much more. I always expect more. This was the best colt that I've had since I've been here in the United States."

Two years ago, Thoroughbred Champions Training Center equaled a then OBS June record when selling another son of Into Mischief for $575,000. That juvenile, also purchased by Frank Fletcher, was another $11,000 Keeneland September graduate.

Mejia was understandably bullish on OBS. Asked what he thought of the sales venue, he said, "I love it." @JessMartiniTDN

Soldat Filly Out Sells Expectations

A filly from the first crop of Soldat, a son of War Front who scored graded stakes victories on both dirt and turf, surprised everyone, including her own connections, when dropping the hammer at $300,000. Trainer Chad Brown signed the winning ticket on behalf of longtime client Klaravich Stable.

"That was particularly rewarding," said Matt Lyons, Vice President of Woodford Thoroughbreds, which bred and consigned hip 724 and stands her young sire. "That was a homebred filly. We own the stallion, so that was a huge result for us. He stands for $5,000 and his first crop are 2-year-olds, but they've come here and worked really well. Good judges are on them. That was a nice bidding duel between Mark Casse and Chad Brown."

A :10 2/5 breezer, the Florida-bred filly is out of Lyrique (Rock Hard Ten), who John and Susan Sykes' Woodford Thoroughbreds purchased for $25,000 carrying a foal by Artie Schiller at the 2013 Fasig-Tipton February sale. They bred Lyrique back to their stallion Crown of Thorns and the resulting foal, a colt named Unlockthepotential, sold to the Brown and Klaravich team for $220,000 at last year's April sale. **Cont. p11**

OBS April cont.

"The plan all along was to come here," Lyons commented. "Her half-brother by Crown of Thorns sold here for $220,000 last year, so we said we are going to take the sister and try to do the same thing."

The $300,00 price tag on the May 17 foal more than doubled the previous highest price brought by an offspring of Soldat when Hip 111 sold for $120,000 during the opening session of the April sale.

"Obviously people realize how good a runner Soldat was himself on turf and dirt," Lyons remarked. "It looks like the babies are going to be versatile too." --*@CDeBernardis*

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OBS APRIL 2YO SALE - THURSDAY

Hip	Sex	Sire	Dam	Price
606	f	First Dude	Jacqueline Gail	$140,000

B-Steve & Richard Tortora (FL)
Consigned by Omega Farm, Agent
Purchased by Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners & Pelican LLC

This chestnut filly was scooped up for just $10,500 as a weanling here at the 2015 Fall Mixed Sale and Juvenal Diaz's Omega Farm's patience was rewarded when she developed into a $140,000 2-year-old sale Thursday. The Florida-bred, who breezed a furlong in :21 2/5, is out of a dam who is a half-sister to MGSW Supah Blitz (Mecke) and GSW & GISP Boots 'n Jackie (Major Moran).

657 c Paynter — La Concerto — $250,000
B-Roger Long (KY)
Consigned by Price Thoroughbreds LLC, agent
Purchased by James Bashor

Initially acquired for $21,000 by Price Thoroughbreds as a KEESEP yearling, the dark bay hammered for $250,000 Thursday after breezing a furlong in :10 1/5.

670 f Discreet Cat — Laila's Punch — $260,000
B-Stonehaven Steadings (KY)
Consigned by Woodford Thoroughbreds, Agent
Purchased by Marette Farrell, Agent for Ryan Exline

Stonehaven Steadings bred this full-sister to GI Frizette S. third-place finisher Colorful Charades out of a stakes winning Two Punch mare on a $7,500 stud fee and saw her RNA for $95,000 as a Keeneland September yearling. Subsequently sent to Woodford Thoroughbreds to prepare for the 2-year-old sales season, the chestnut breezed a furlong in :10 flat and drew a winning bid of $260,000 Thursday.

751 c Midshipman — Mattie Cakes — $240,000
B-Sue Sanders (KY)
Consigned by Circle D Thoroughbreds
Purchased by Holly & David Wilson

Initially sold for $7,000 as a short yearling at Keeneland January, this colt out of a stakes winning Meadowlake mare was picked up for $36,000 by Circle D Thoroughbreds later last year at Fasig-Tipton October. Circle D saw a nice return on their investment when the chestnut progressed to sell for $240,000 in Ocala Thursday.

778 f More Than Ready — Miss Mary Apples — 1,000,000
B-KatieRich Farms (KY)
Consigned by Wavertree Stables, Inc.
(Ciaran Dunne), Agent XXXIII
Purchased by Alessandro Marconi/Al Aasfa Racing
See story, p7

793 c Tiznow — Moonbow — 2,450,000
B-WinStar Farm (KY)
Consigned by Bobby Dodd, Agent V
Purchased by J. F. Moynihan, Agent for M. V. Magnier
See story, p6

848 c Into Mischief — Oh So Nice — 400,000
B-WinStar Farm (KY)
Consigned by Thoroughbred Champions Training Center LLC
Purchased by Frank Fletcher Racing Operations
See story, p10

899 c Union Rags — Poco Mas — 1,000,000
B-Mount Brilliant Farm (KY)
Consigned by Paul Sharp, Agent VII
Purchased by Red Baron's Barn & Rancho Temescal LLC
See story, p9

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DERBY/OAKS UPDATE--THURSDAY

Intermittent rain showers left the Churchill Downs main track on the wet side, but by the time the GI Kentucky Derby and GI Kentucky Oaks hopefuls emerged in their special window from 8:30 to 8:45, the track had been harrowed and any standing water had seeped into the surface.

• The Kelly Breen-trained Oaks contender **Miss Sky Warrior** (First Samurai) was the only one of the big-race probables to put in a timed breeze Thursday morning, breezing a half-mile in a fairly leisurely :49.20 with Paco Lopez at the controls. Miss Sky Warrior was timed in splits of :12.40, :24.80 and :36.80 with a five-furlong gallop-out time of 1:02.40.

"The work went well," Breen said. "It was just maintenance. We already have our mile and eighth and some of those other guys don't. We have eight days to go. She will walk [Friday]. All we have to do is just stay steady."

The Arlene London homebred was originally penciled in to work during the Derby/Oaks session, but when the clouds began to roll in, Breen called an audible and sent the four-time graded winner to the track about 90 minutes earlier.

"When she got to the seven-eighths pole, I could hear the rain hitting the tents in the turn from the grandstand," Breen said. "Then, when she started her work, the rain stopped."

Since finishing a close fourth on debut to future GISW Yellow Agate (Gemologist), Miss Sky Warrior has put together a five-race winning streak, including a 13-length romp in the GII Gazelle S. at Aqueduct Apr. 8.

• One day after working six furlongs in 1:13, Coffeepot Stables' **Farrell** (Malibu Moon) walked the shedrow for trainer Wayne Catalano, who reported his filly was none the worse for the work. "She cleaned the feed tub … licked it clean," Catalano said. "She is fine this morning."

• In California, '**TDN Rising Star**' **Paradise Woods** (Union Rags) turned in her final serious move ahead of next Friday's GI Kentucky Oaks, clocking a bullet 1:12.40 for six furlongs (XBTV video). She was partnered in her work by regular rider Flavien Prat, and trainer Richard Mandella--yet to win the Oaks--was duly thrilled with what he saw. "Beautiful," is how the conditioner summed up the breeze. "[Thursday] was her serious work. She galloped out [seven furlongs] in [one minute] 25 and change. It looked like a morning gallop. I'm pretty excited. She'll gallop and school at Churchill." Paradise Woods leaves for Kentucky May 1. "She's a young filly who's still learning. She's got speed and will probably be on the lead in the race. We're not going to fight her."

Share this story

American Patriot cont. from p1

Should American Patriot make the trip, he would be the third runner at the meeting for the perennial leading trainer, who sent Bridgetown (Speightstown) and More Than Real (More Than Ready) to unplaced efforts in the G1 King's Stand S. and G1 Coronation S., respectively, in 2011.

"Royal Ascot is unbelievable," Pletcher commented. "We hope to do a little better than we did with our runners before but it was still a great experience. I have been a few times to Royal Ascot when I haven't had runners. It is a fantastic event and we look forward to coming back, hopefully with some success this time."

The Queen Anne has attracted 33 entries, including **Miss Temple City** (Temple City), who could make the trip over for a third straight season, having finished fourth in the G1 Coronation S. two years ago before filling the same spot in the G2 Duke of Cambridge S. last June.

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American Patriot | *Coady photography*

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Presented by KEENELAND

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

BEWITCH S.-GIII, $150,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/2mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Inchargeofme (GB)	High Chaparral (Ire)	Nursery Place	McGaughey III	Prado	118
2	Daring Duchess	Arch	Kenneth L. & Sarah K. Ramsey	Maker	Leparoux	120
3	Dyna's Recoleta	Dynaformer	Charles E. Fipke	Attfield	Lezcano	118
4	Earring	Dansili (GB)	Heider Family Stables LLC, Glen Hill Farm & Hill n Dale Equine Holdings Inc.	Proctor	Geroux	118
5	Quiet Business	Quiet American	Calumet Farm	Arnold, II	Hernandez, Jr.	118
6	Arles (Fr)	Monsun (Ger)	Team Valor International and Green Lantern Stables	Motion	Rosario	118

Breeders: 1-Gary Chervenell, 2-Kennelot Stables LTD., 3-Charles Fipke, 4-Orpendale, Chelston & Wynatt, 5-Calumet Farm, 6-S.A.R.L. Ecurie D

Sunday, Santa Anita Park, post time: 6:30 p.m. EDT

SANTA BARBARA S.-GIII, $100,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/2mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Estrechada (Arg)	Offlee Wild	Rivica Inc.	Puype	Elliott	122
2	Place des Vosges	Pleasantly Perfect	Abbondanza Racing, LLC	Baltas	Nakatani	122
3	Dressed to a T	Square Eddie	Reddam Racing, LLC	Cecil	Prat	122
4	Hiking	First Defence	Highfield Investment Group and Bamford	Callaghan	Blanc	122
5	Responsibleforlove (Ire)	Duke of Marmalade (Ire)	Team Valor International or Mrs. G. A. Rupert	Drysdale	Desormeaux	122
6	Betty Draper	Street Cry (Ire)	DP Racing	Cassidy	Gonzalez	122
7	Mrs. Norris	Bernardini	Godolphin Stable	Harty	Espinoza	122
8	Evo Campo (Ire)	Approve (Ire)	Day, Day or DiPietro	Gallagher	Bejarano	122
9	Laseen (Ire)	Dylan Thomas (Ire)	DP Racing	Cassidy	Smith	122

Breeders: 1-La Esperanza, 2-St. George Farm LLC, 3-Reddam Racing LLC, 4-Juddmonte Farms Inc, 5-Patrick Grogan, 6-Darley, 7-Darley, 8-Richard O'Hara, 9-Stilvi Compania Financiera SA

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CHRB DEBATES SPLIT SANTA ANITA MEETS

By T.D. Thornton

The California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) tends to operate a little more closely to the racetracks it oversees than regulatory bodies do in other states. In fact, the CHRB generally schedules its monthly morning meetings at tracks to coincide with live afternoon racing programs held later the same day, and it is not uncommon for the host track to be on the meeting's agenda to give an overview of its business initiatives.

Madeline Auerbach | *OwnerView*

So when this month's host track, Santa Anita Park, earlier this week announced the cancellation of its Apr. 27 card because of insufficient entries, it established the potential for an uncomfortable (but perhaps necessary) discussion about the horse population and the short- and long-term prospects of field sizes on the southern California circuit.

Surprisingly though, the calling-off of the races only got mentioned peripherally when the CHRB convened at Santa Anita on Thursday. The topic barely surfaced when commissioner Madeline Auerbach followed up a recitation of meet-end statistics and future marketing plans by Santa Anita executives by asking several pointed questions about the way the track split up its Dec. 26-July 4 license into two "meets" even though there was not much of a gap (four days) on the actual calendar.

Auerbach wanted an explanation as to why certain aspects of Santa Anita's operation, like race-entry preferences and jockey and trainer standings, were reset after the winter/spring meet closed Apr. 9, while others, like single-ticket jackpot pari-mutuel carryovers and the track's condition books, were not started anew when racing resumed Apr. 14 for the spring/summer meet.

"I struggle with the way it was handled," Auerbach said. "I've heard everything talked about but the racing side, and my concern is the racing side.

"All of the horses that were entered, for the 'second part' of the meet, went back to a 'zero date.' It was kind of an arbitrary, artificial way to [reset the top jockey and trainer standings]," Auerbach continued. "But what in effect you did to the horsemen, in my view, was not fair to the horsemen. Because you had a lot races that were written based on 3-year-old races [and then] very early on you moved to '3-and-up.' So you had cases where you had 4-year-olds ... coming back that were excluded from a race [and] maybe you had a 3-year-old that maybe ran a couple weeks ago that got in. So it seemed kind of an arbitrary thing to do roll back the dates for the horsemen to enter horses.

She continued, "The other thing that seemed unusual is that you ended a meet in the middle of a condition book. That didn't make any sense. If you really had two [separate] meets going, then the end of the book is the end of the meet, and then you have a new book for the next meet ... it just seemed strange. In some respects it was like a second meet, and in other respects it wasn't ... I think you've confused the horsemen, we've created some unhappiness, and we're struggling in terms of inventory management and getting these horses to run."

Joe Morris, Santa Anita's senior vice president, acknowledged Auerbach's concerns and agreed that the track is going through a figuring-out process. The entire circuit, he said, is still feeling the effects of Hollywood Park's closure in 2013.

"This is the first time since Hollywood's gone that there wasn't more of a break," Morris said. "Technically, it is one license [Dec. 26-July 4], so that's more on the mandatory payout side of it. We just felt it was best to keep that going; [bettors] had invested their money in that carryover, and we just didn't see a reason to do a mandatory payout."

As for the meet standings, Morris said, "We've got 80 years of history here. So part of it on resetting stats for jockeys and trainers was to keep that 80 years of history."

Regarding racing office preferences, Morris said, "On the zero dates with the horsemen, our thought was it gave everybody the same chance. We reset it to zero and everybody comes into the new [meet] with the same chance, and we have been a little short on entries, there's no denying that ... So giving everybody the same chance I don't think is shutting anybody out. The horses that are getting in are running."

Auerbach voiced disagreement, but did not belabor her point: "It did shut people out, but that's something to consider."

Morris continued: "We're discussing all of what you just said internally, because it wasn't as smooth as it could have been. There's no arguing that side of it ... that's something we'll look at. Maybe we'll just run the thing straight through [next year] ... As we kind of re-engineer ourselves here with the way our industry is, we're looking at many things going forward on the racing side."

Horsemen's representatives were encouraged to chime in, but none seemed overly eager to take a strong stand on the splitting of race meets.

Greg Avioli, president and chief executive officer the Thoroughbred Owners of California, said, “We were aware that this was happening, yes. We deferred to their judgment.”

Alan Balch, executive director of the California Thoroughbred Trainers, said, “I agree with what Mr. Avioli said. We deferred to their judgment.” --@thorntontd

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KENTUCKY

Thursday’s Results:

**2nd-KEE, $73,145, Alw,** 4-27, (NW2$X), 4yo/up, 1 1/2mT, 2:32.03, fm.

HUNTER O'RILEY (r, 4, Tiz Wonderful--Oblige, by Bernardini), third in both the Gio Ponti S. and H. Allen Jerkens S. in his final two starts as a 3-year-old, ran on well to be sixth, beaten only two lengths in the GIII W. L. McKnight H. Jan. 28 at Gulfstream. Made the 3-2 favorite dropping into allowance company here, the bay settled last of eight behind splits of :25.17, :49.85, 1:15.42 and 1:41.73. Appearing one-paced on the final turn, the favorite got in gear around the three-sixteenths pole and produced a steady charge to get up by a nose in the final jump over Patrick’s Day (Harlan’s Holiday). The winner’s dam is responsible for a 2-year-old Violence colt named Violence Storm and a yearling colt by Will Take Charge. She was bred to More Than Ready last spring. Sales History: $120,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP; $50,000 2yo '15 EASMAY. Lifetime Record: MSP, 13-3-2-4, $199,460. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

Hunter O'Riley | *Coady Photography*

O-Sean Shay & Michael J. Ryan; B-Mike G. Rutherford (KY); T-James J. Toner.

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8th-KEE, $72,000, Alw, 4-27, (NW1X), 4yo/up, 1 1/8mT, 1:51.15, fm.

MUTAZEN (g, 5, Candy Ride {Arg}--Wynyard, by Mr. Greeley), winless in six starts in Ireland to start his career for trainer Dermot Weld, ran third behind ‘**TDN Rising Star**’ Delta Prince (Street Cry {Ire}) off a 15-month layoff in his Stateside debut Dec. 26 at Gulfstream before graduating next out there Feb. 2. Trying dirt for the first time Mar. 22 in Hallandale, the gelding stumbled at the start and checked in fourth. Made the public’s choice at 2-1 here, the bay established command from his rail draw and dictated terms through tepid splits of :24.48, :50.11 and 1:15.11. Set down for the drive at the top of the lane, he quickly scooted clear and came home a 3 1/2-length victor over second favorite Nessy (Flower Alley). Mutazen is a full-brother to Wynning Ride, SW & MGISP, $345,108, and a half to Ernfold (Stormy Atlantic), GSP, $206,343. His dam is responsible for a juvenile colt by Awesome Again and foaled a Candy Ride (Arg) filly last year before returning to the former sire. Sales History: $500,000 Ylg '13 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 10-2-0-2, $72,383. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

Mutazen | *Coady Photography*

O-Shadwell Stable; B-Liberty Road Stables (KY); T-Kiaran P. McLaughlin.

Hill ‘n’ Dale Foaled, Raised and Sold

6th-KEE, $70,959, Alw, 4-27, (NW1X), 4yo/up, 1 1/8mT, 1:52.06, fm.

MANITOULIN (c, 4, Awesome Again--Soaring Softly {Ch. Grass Mare & MGISW, $1,270,433}, by Kris S.) graduated at sixth asking on the Belmont turf last June, but went winless in his next four outings, including an eighth-place finish in the Exacta Systems Dueling Grounds Derby Sept. 11 at Kentucky Downs. Last seen running third Nov. 26 at Aqueduct, the chestnut was given a 19-5 chance and led early before settling in fourth at the rail through dawdling fractions of :24.17, :50.21 and 1:15.86. Hemmed in at the top of the lane, he was sent through a rail opening inside the three-sixteenths pole and soon kicked clear

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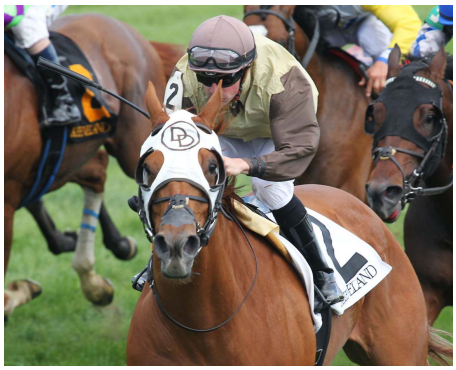

Manitoulin | *Coady Photography*

to score by two lengths. Cite (Blame) completed the exacta. Manitoulin is a half to Much Rejoicing (Distorted Humor), SW, $160,457. His dam, who captured the GI Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf in 1999 en route to Eclipse honors that year, is also a half to GISW Plenty of Grace (Roberto). Lifetime Record: 11-2-2-1, $138,200. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-Darby Dan Farm Racing; B-Phillips Racing Partnership (KY); T-James J. Toner.

IN THE DARBY DAN TRADITION
Kip Elser's KIRKWOOD STABLES

4th-KEE, $68,256, Msw, 4-27, 3yo, f, 1mT, 1:38.71, fm.
EGG ROLL (f, 3, Kitten's Joy--Unzip Me {MGSW, $959,228}, by City Zip) finished with interest to be third at 19-1 debuting on the Gulfstream turf Mar. 25 and was backed to 23-10 to go two better here. Angling over to the rail from the 10-hole to travel in fifth behind splits of :24.34 and :49.33, the chestnut switched out at the top of the lane and kicked on strongly to overhaul the longshot pacesetter just inside the eighth pole before staving off Plein Air (Lonhro {Aus}) for a one-length graduation. The victress is the first foal out of a four-time graded stakes-winning turf sprinter who has a juvenile Into Mischief colt named Zipper Mischief and a yearling colt by Unusual Heat. She was bred to Honor Code last term. Sales History: $170,000 Wlg '14 KEENOV; $225,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-1, $45,420. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-James S. Karp; B-Harris Farms Inc. & Donald Valpredo (KY); T-William I. Mott.

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Sunny Skies (Animal Kingdom) becomes the first North American winner for her freshman sire at Keeneland

Sunny Skies | *Coady Photography*

1st-KEE, $59,133, Msw, 4-27, 2yo, f, 4 1/2f, :52.33, ft.
+SUNNY SKIES (f, 2, Animal Kingdom--Skyscape, by Marquetry), a well-bet first North American starter for her 2011 GI Kentucky Derby-winning sire, shook off an early challenge and dominated a field of juvenile fillies at Keeneland. Coming in off of a quartet of local breezes, capped by a three-furlong bullet from the gate in :35 2/5 (1/13) Apr. 21, the chestnut was bet throughout and broke as the 7-10 chalk. Winning an early scramble for the lead, the homebred was pressed by Mamasita (Denman {Aus}) through a :22.69 quarter. Cutting the corner nicely into the stretch, Sunny Skies blew the race open by the eighth pole and rolled home nine lengths to the good under moderate urging. American Alphabet (Dialed In) was second-best. The victress is a half to Sky Cape (Najran), GSW, $452,208. Her dam foaled a colt by Union Rags last season before being paired with American Pharoah. Sunny Skies becomes the fourth winner--and the first in North America--for her freshman sire (by Leroidesanimaux {Brz}). Sales History: $47,000 RNA Ylg '16 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $36,000. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O/B-Normandy Farm LLC (KY); T-Kenneth G. McPeek.

BELMONT PARK ASTORIA STAKES • $150,000 • JUNE 8 • 2YO NOMINATE NOW

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Nootka Sound | *Coady Photography*

5th-KEE, $56,634, Msw, 4-27, 2yo, f, 4 1/2f, :52.71, ft.
+NOOTKA SOUND (f, 2, Lonhro {Aus}--Miss Red Delicious {MSW, $203,425}, by Empire Maker) broke sharply and rolled to a front-running debut score at Keeneland for trainer Wesley Ward. Showing four local breezes, punctuated by a half-mile gate breeze in :49 1/5 (17/24) Apr. 19, the $100,000 Keeneland September grad was off best of all as the 3-2 second choice and made the point a few strides out of the gate. Tested to her inside by longshot Roman Around (Roman Ruler) through a :22.60 quarter, the dark bay shrugged that foe aside by the top of the stretch and spurted clear by the three-sixteenths marker, coasting home a 5 1/2-length winner over C J S Suzie Byu (Artemis Sunrise). Todd Pletcher trainee Orbolution (Orb) stumbled at the start and finished third as the even-money chalk. The winner, named for the body of water that separates Vancouver Island and Nootka Island in Western Canada, has a yearling half-brother by Yes It's True and a Lemon Drop Kid half-sister foaled Apr. 9. Her dam, who was the first overall and first stakes winner for Empire Maker, is kin to a More Than Ready filly who sold for $1 million at Thursday's session of the OBS April sale after breezing a co-bullet :9 3/5 furlong. She is also a half to the dam of '**TDN Rising Star**' Parlor (Lonhro {Aus}). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $36,000. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**
O-Hat Creek Racing; B-KatieRich Farms (KY); T-Wesley A. Ward.

BELMONT PARK ASTORIA STAKES • $150,000 • JUNE 8 • 2YO NOMINATE NOW

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FLORIDA

Thursday's Results:
5th-GP, $36,000, Msw, 4-27, 3yo/up, f/m, 5fT, :56.00, fm.
+HIDDEN MYSTERY (f, 3, Into Mischief--Worstcasescenario {GSW, $196,253}, by Forbidden Apple) was made a 21-5 proposition in this career bow and broke a half-step slowly from the rail. Settling fourth early on, the bay was checked slightly past a :21.76 quarter, awaited room turning for home and closed strongly once clear in the lane to nail even-money pacesetter Little Christina (Mineshaft) by a nose. The winner's dam, who captured the GII Adirondack S. in 2009, has a juvenile colt by Power Broker, a yearling filly by New Year's Day and foaled a Flashback filly Mar. 31. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $21,600. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**
O/B-Gary & Mary West (KY); T-Jason Servis.

EASTERN U.S.

Frutkoff Memorial Award to Carr:

Getty Images's Rob Carr has been named the recipient of the Jerry Frutkoff Memorial Award, sponsored by Nikon, and will receive his award at the annual Alibi Breakfast at Pimlico Race Course Thursday, May 20.

Rob Carr photo

Carr received his accolade for his head-on photo of 2016 GI Preakness S. winner Exaggerator with all four legs in the air above a sloppy main track.

A Baltimore-based staff photographer for Getty, Carr has been covering horse racing for over 30 years. He also won the Frutkoff Award in 2009.

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INDUSTRY INFO

NTRA Board Approves Three New Directors, Reports on FY2017:

Officials at the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) announced the appointment of three new members to its Board of Directors. The trio include: Bill Mudd, president and chief operating officer of Churchill Downs Inc.; Kip Levin, the CRO of Betfair US/TVG; and Joe Wilson, president and COO of Parx Racing, representing Thoroughbred Racing Associations, which he serves as its president. With the approval of Mudd and Levin, the number of Board members rises to 15 from 13. Wilson succeeds previous TRA President Scott Wells.

Audited financial results for Fiscal Year 2017 were presented and approved, showing net revenues of $5,299, the fifth consecutive year of sustainable results for the organization. A change to the NTRA's fiscal calendar year end from Jan. 31 to Mar. 31 also received Board approval. The move was necessitated by the rescheduling of the National Horseplayers' Championship (NHC) dates from January to February, allowing both of the NTRA marquee events--the Eclipse Awards and the NHC--to fall in the same fiscal year.

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Eclipse Sportswire Named Equestricon Photographer:

International photography agency Eclipse Sportswire has been named the official photographer for the Equestricon 2017, the organization announced Thursday.

Owned by Eclipse Award-winning photographer Scott Serio, Eclipse Sportswire will also be charged with capturing images of more than 120 racing celebrities, industry personalities and speakers who are scheduled to appear.

"Since our inception, we have committed ourselves to being the standard-bearers in photography at major racing events," Serio said. "When we learned about Equestricon and this sweeping effort to bring the industry together and create special moments for fans at all levels of the sport, it was just something we knew that we wanted to be involved with in a very big way."

Added Equestricon co-founder Kathryn Sharp, "We are thrilled to have the talented members of the Eclipse Sportswire team documenting Equestricon and sharing their stories during the convention."

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Second-crop starters to watch: Friday, April 28

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

AMERICAIN (Dynaformer), Calumet Farm, $20K, 69/3/0
6-GG, Msw 1 1/16mT, Larrikin, $3K RNA EAS OCT yrl, 5-1
10-KEE, Msw 1mT, American Sea, 15-1

ASTROLOGY (A.P. Indy), Taylor Made Stallions, $7.5K, 156/28/2
9-BEL, Msw 6f, Leah's Dream, 5-1
7-PEN, Msw 1m, Star That Shines, $60K KEE SEP yrl, 5-2

BIONDETTI (Bernardini), Woodford Thoroughbreds, $4K, 102/18/0
7-WO, Msw 7f, Bet On Mike, $30K OBS APR 2yo, 10-1

CHANNELED (Smart Strike), 6/0/0
10-KEE, Msw 1mT, Big Bad Zin, 8-1

DIALED IN (Mineshaft), Darby Dan Farm, $7.5K, 174/25/5
8-PRM, $65K Golden Circle S., 6f, Reckling, $75K RNA OBS APR 2yo, 3-1

GEMOLOGIST (Tiznow), WinStar Farm, $15K, 205/29/3
3-BEL, Aoc 1m, Mineralogy, $80K EAS MAY 2yo, 9-5

GET STORMY (Stormy Atlantic), Crestwood Farm, $5K, 141/14/1
6-GG, Msw 1 1/16mT, Sahara Storm, $50K OBS APR 2yo, 4-1
5-KEE, Msw 1mT, Get Foxy, 30-1

REDDING COLLIERY (Mineshaft), Red River Farms, $2K, 65/8/0
7-EVD, Alw 1m, Amp'd Up, $75K OBS OPN 2yo, 4-1

SHACKLEFORD (Forestry), Darby Dan Farm, $20K, 208/33/2
8-LS, Msw 6f, Smittys Gunslinger, 15-1

STATELY VICTOR (Ghostzapper), OH, $5K, 18/1/0
10-KEE, Msw 1mT, +Landing Gear, 15-1

STAY THIRSTY (Bernardini), Ashford Stud, $17.5K, 161/38/2
3-BEL, Aoc 1m, Jamminwithbrandon, $100K OBS OPN 2yo, 20-1

THE FACTOR (War Front), Lane's End Farm, $15K, 218/34/5
5-KEE, Msw 1mT, Game Factor, $300K EAS MAY 2yo, 3-1

THREE CHOPT ROAD (Rock Slide), 9/0/0
5-CT, Msw 6 1/2f, Prince of the Road, 7-2
5-CT, Msw 6 1/2f, Prospector Road, 6-1

TO HONOR AND SERVE (Bernardini), Gainesway Farm, $30K, 172/26/1
5-KEE, Msw 1mT, +Seventh Tee, 15-1

UNION RAGS (Dixie Union), Lane's End Farm, $35K, 221/26/4
5-KEE, Msw 1mT, Cat Walk, 20-1

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BREEDERS' EDITION

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

**2nd-GG, $36,482,** (NW2$X)/Opt. Clm ($62,500), 4-27, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f (AWT), 1:10.03, ft.
EMMY AND I (f, 4, Heatseeker {Ire}--Priceless Gem, by Elusive Quality) Lifetime Record: 17-4-3-4, $128,549. O/B-Gene Tenbrink (CA); T-Steven Specht. *$19,000 RNA Ylg '14 BAROCT.

5th-PEN, $30,149, 4-26, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 1m, 1:38.70, ft.
CAUSE HE'S WESTERN (h, 5, Noble Causeway--One Pacific Tower, by Coronado's Quest) Lifetime Record: 16-5-3-1, $88,058. O-Rising Sun Racing Stables, Inc.; B-Erv Woolsey & Ralph Kinder (KY); T-Gregory D. Sacco. *$29,000 RNA 4yo '16 FTKHRA.

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8th-EVD, $27,240, (C)/Opt. Clm ($30,000), 4-26, 4yo/up, 1m, 1:38.84, ft.
WILDCAT WISH (g, 4, Wildcat Heir--Rahy's Wish, by Rahy) Lifetime Record: MSW, 20-6-5-5, $251,055. O-St. George Stable LLC; B-Charles Kent Cantrell & Beth Bayer (FL); T-Efren Loza, Jr. *$35,000 Ylg '14 OBSWIN; $52,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP; $95,000 2yo '15 OBSAPR.

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6th-EVD, $26,600, (NW2X)/Opt. Clm ($20,000), 4-26, 4yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:16.10, ft.
WHENCE (c, 4, Scat Daddy--St. Croix, by Any Given Saturday) Lifetime Record: 14-5-0-1, $95,206. O-Wayne T. Davis; B-Brandywine Farm (Jim & Pam Robinson) (KY); T-Shane Wilson. *$65,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP; $125,000 2yo '15 OBSAPR.

BRED & RAISED by Brandywine Farm (Jim & Pam Robinson)

7th-CT, $24,500, 4-26, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:49.25, my.
WEEKEND LIBERTY (g, 4, Midshipman--Hard to Get, by Not For Love) Lifetime Record: SP, 17-5-4-3, $113,946. O/B-Coleswood Farm, Inc. (WV); T-Jeff C. Runco. *Full to Slip the Cable, MSW, $379,114.

6th-CT, $24,000, 4-26, (NW2LX), 3yo/up, f/m, 4 1/2f, :53.56, my.
WAY AHEAD OF YOU (f, 4, Silver Train--Way Beyond, by Ordway) Lifetime Record: 20-4-6-6, $104,948. O/B/T-Ronney W. Brown (WV).

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

A Justin Sound, g, 3, **Star Guitar**--Sunday's Child (SW, $141,370), by Any Given Saturday. EVD, 4-26, (S), 6 1/2f, 1:18.47. B-Brittlyn Stables, Inc. (LA).

Blue Ridge Mist, f, 4, **Notional**--Alicia N., by Tactical Advantage. CT, 4-26, (S), 6 1/2f, 1:24.12. B-Maurice F Casey III (WV).

UPCOMING MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN STAKES

Date	Race	Track
4/29	GII San Francisco Mile	GG
	GIII Miami Mile S.	GP
5/5	GI Kentucky Oaks	CD
	GI La Troienne S.	CD
	GII Alysheba S.	CD
	GIII Eight Belles S.	CD
	GIII Edgewood S.	CD
	GIII Twin Spires Turf Sprint S.	CD
	GIII Vagrancy H.	BEL
5/6	GI Kentucky Derby	CD
	GI Humana Distaff	CD
	GI Woodford Reserve Turf Classic	CD
	GII American Turf S.	CD
	GII Churchill Distaff Turf Mile	CD
	GII Sheepshead Bay S.	BEL
	GIII Pat Day Mile	CD
	GIII Fort Marcy S.	BEL
	GIII Westchester S.	BEL
	GIII Senorita S.	SA
5/7	GIII Texas Mile S.	LS
	GIII Adoration S.	SA
5/13	GI Man o' War S.	BEL
	GII Ruffian H.	BEL
	GIII Hanshin Cup	AP
	GIII Beaugay S.	BEL
	GIII Peter Pan S.	BEL
	GIII Lazaro Barrera S.	SA
5/19	GII Black-Eyed Susan S.	PIM
	GIII Miss Preakness S.	PIM
	GIII Allaire du Pont Distaff S.	PIM
	GIII Pimlico Special S.	PIM
5/20	GI Preakness S.	PIM
	GII Longines Dixie S.	PIM
	GII Kona Gold S.	SA

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