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AT GULFSTREAM, A BIG DAY OF RACING, A BIGGER DAY AT THE WINDOWS



Florida Derby winner Audible completed a \$9,018 Rainbow 6 Saturday | Leslie Martin

The Week in Review, By Bill Finley

It was the day of the GI Xpressbet.com Florida Derby, plus six other stakes races. But to many at Gulfstream or to those at simulcast outlets or sitting in their living rooms riveted to their computer screens, Saturday's 14th race was not the Florida Derby, but the last leg of the Rainbow 6.

That's not a bad thing.

Great racing and big purses are important, but neither would be possible if people didn't bet on the races, whether it's a Grade I event or a \$16,000 maiden claimer. It's the bettors that drive this game. They are more important than the owners, the trainers, the jockeys, even the Grade I horses. That's because without them, there is no game.

And no one is more in tune with that than Gulfstream's operators, The Stronach Group. They drive people crazy when the horses go into the gate eight minutes after there are zero minutes on the post time clock. The bevy of cheap claiming races on the grass, the ones that always get full fields, are not for the purists. But it's working.

Cont. p3

REVOLUTIONARY FILLY TAKES BIG UPDATE INTO BARRETT'S by Jessica Martini

When hip 59, a filly from the first crop of multiple graded stakes winner Revolutionary, takes to the Del Mar track during Monday's training preview of the Barretts Spring 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale, she'll be taking along a notable update. The youngster, out of Noble Maz (Storm Boot), is a half-sister to recent GII Louisiana Derby winner and 'TDN Rising Star' Noble Indy (Take Charge Indy). She was purchased for \$10,000 last fall at the Keeneland September Yearling Sale by Jose Zulaica.

"It does feel good," Zulaica said of going into the Barretts sale with a half-sister to a recent graded stakes winner. "It's what you look for and sometimes you get lucky."

Cont. p6 (Click here)

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY EXCELLENCE RUNS DEEP IN O'BRIEN FAMILY

In the first of a two-part feature, Chris McGrath talks with Aidan O'Brien about families, both his own and the equine ones he has successfully nurtured.

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Monday, April 2, 2018



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BARRY IRWIN OP/ED

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In regards to proposed federal legislation to install USADA to oversee racing drug policy, Team Valor International's Barry Irwin asks, "What's it gonna be? Big tent or elite circuit?"

AUDIBLE EXCELLENT AFTER FL DERBY

10

Impressive GI Xpressbet.com Florida Derby winner Audible (Into Mischief) exited his fourth-straight victory Saturday in good order as his connections eye next month's GI Kentucky Derby.

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The Week in Review cont. from p1

The Florida Derby was a terrific event and the winner, **Audible** (Into Mischief), has a solid chance to become the 15th winner of the race to go on and win the Kentucky Derby. But I highly doubt the number 15 was even mentioned in the Gulfstream executive offices following the conclusion of Saturday's races. The number that mattered the most was \$49,909,070, Saturday's total handle on the card. It was the largest handle in Gulfstream's history for a non-Breeders' Cup card.

The \$49 million was the result of a perfect storm: a Florida Derby Day card plus a mandatory payout in the Rainbow 6. Nothing generates excitement among bettors quite like when the pool of a jackpot style bet grows and then must be paid out. There was \$4.75 million in the carryover and another \$16.5 million bet into the pool by bettors dreaming of a life-changing win at the windows. That didn't happen, as the payoffs got chalky after the opening leg was won by a horse that paid \$31.60. The payoff was \$9,018, a big win for the small to medium players and a tough hit for the big syndicates that might have pumped tens of thousands into the pool hoping for a parade of long shot winners.

(Shameless plug: I gave out the winning Rainbow 6 on the *Down the Stretch* show on Sirius XM that I co-host with Dave Johnson. Did I play it myself? Of course not).

The \$49-million handle figure represents a 63% increase over the 2017 Florida Derby Day card, which, obviously, has a lot to do with the Rainbow 6. It was also the second \$40 million-plus handle day of the meet. This year's card featuring the GI Pegasus World Cup handled \$41,983,882, when there were 12 races as opposed to 14 Saturday.

Florida Derby Day 2018 is also poised to be the biggest wagering day in the country this year other than the three Triple Crown Days and the two Breeders' Cup Days. The 2018 number narrowly bested the total handle for both the 2017 GI Travers S. and GI Kentucky Oaks cards.

They are still crunching the numbers for the 2018 championship meet, but so far we know that handle at Gulfstream was up 18.7% in January and 4.8% in February. If that were an industry-wide trend, The Stronach Group wouldn't have that much to crow about. But it's not. According to figures provided by The Stronach Group, through the end of February, nationwide handle at tracks not owned by Stronach was down 6.5%. Meanwhile, The Stronach Group tracks were up a combined 16.5%. With the haul Gulfstream took in on Florida Derby Day, the numbers should look even better after March is factored in.

It's not just Gulfstream. Both of Stronach's tracks in California are off to banner starts in 2018. Through February, handle at Santa Anita was up 28.7% and betting had increased 26.3% at Golden Gate.

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Week in Review cont.

That's good news for the industry, as overall handle is up 3.4% through February. But the numbers also represent a shift. The Stronach tracks continue to increase their share of the total amount bet on horse racing and the money is not all new money. Much of it is coming from other tracks. This could grow into a bigger problem for those competing with The Stronach Group or it could serve as a motivational tool. If they can do it, you can, too. Just remember, the customer is king.



West Coast in Dubai | Andrew Watkins/DRC

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Never Too Early for Horse of the Year Talk

When **Gun Runner** (Candy Ride {Arg}) retired following his win in the GI Pegasus World Cup, it was generally assumed that the torch had been passed to **West Coast** (Flatter). Champion 3-year-old of 2017, the only thing standing between West Coast and superstar status had been Gun Runner, who defeated his rival in both the GI Breeders' Cup Classic and the Pegasus World Cup. Following the Pegasus, West Coast rose to the top of the polls and seemed on track for a Horse of the Year title. He still could be, but his defeat in Saturday's G1 Dubai World Cup threw everything wide open. Is West Coast still the best U.S.-based horse in training? He very well could be, but that's not necessarily a title you want to give to a horse who has lost three straight races. There are seven months to go until the Breeders' Cup and a lot can happen. Who is number one? Right now, there isn't one.

No Tease. He Might be a Good Stallion.

Even the most knowledgeable breeding aficionados probably haven't heard of the stallion of **Mr Stark** (Lava Boy), who finished third in a maiden special weight race on the grass Friday at Gulfstream. That's because Lava Boy isn't exactly a stallion, at least in the traditional sense.



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Week in Review cont.

Lava Boy (Pulpit) is the teaser stallion at Arindel Farm in Florida. An unraced half-brother to Lava Man (Slew City Slew), he settled into his new duties at Arindel, where they figured they'd experiment and actually let him breed a mare.

"He is a good-looking horse and very well bred," said farm manager Brian Cohen, who is the son of Arindel's owner Alan Cohen. "We just thought we'd let him do this. We liked [Mr Stark] right from the beginning. I told [trainer] Stan [Gold] to run him in a maiden claimer first out because we couldn't imagine anyone would claim him, but he thought so highly of the horse that he decided we better go in the maiden special."

With Mr Stark running as well as he did, Cohen said Lava Boy will be bred again. Mr Stark is his only living foal.

Mr Stark still has some catching up to do if he is to become the best horse ever by a teaser stallion. That title belongs to Tiberian (Fr) (Tiberius Caesar {Fr}). Tiberius Caesar is a teaser at Haras du Logis and gets to cover one mare each year. Tiberian has won three group stakes and finished seventh in last year's G1 Melbourne Cup.

Conquest The Conqueror

Ernie Semersky might just have pulled the plug on his Conquest Stable a tad too early.

Semersky, who came and went like a comet, spent millions building a huge stable and, less than four years after he started, sold everything he had at the 2016 Keeneland November Sale. Semersky cited personal reasons for his getting out of the game.

Every horse he owned was named Conquest something or other, and more than a few have achieved considerable success since the sale. The latest is **Conquest Big E** (Tapit), who defeated a Kentucky Derby winner in Always Dreaming (Bodemeister) to capture the GII Gulfstream Park Hardacre Mile Saturday at Gulfstream. It was his first graded stakes win.

Conquest Big E was originally purchased by Semersky for \$700,000 at the 2014 Keeneland September sale, but went for just \$110,000 when sold two years later. He was bought at Keeneland November for \$110,000 by Tommy Roberts, who later sold the horse privately to Dan Hurtak and Dennis Punches last fall.

The win in the Gulfstream Mile was a bittersweet story as Punches didn't live to see it happen.

"When [Punches] bought the horse he was 84 and had cancer," trainer Donna Green said. "It was always his dream to own good stakes horses and it was still his dream. That's why he was willing to buy this horse despite his age and his illness. He was not there in person Saturday, but we all know he was there in spirit."



AUDIBLE

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Week in Review cont.

Green said Punches died just before last Christmas.

Conquest Big E was 12-1, but Green said she wasn't the least bit surprised by the win.

"He's very consistent and from the time we got him we knew he had ability," she said. "He's an extremely happy horse right now. When you put ability and mental happiness together, that's the key to having a winning race horse."

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Revolutionary Filly cont. from p1

Zulaica was originally attracted to the filly because of her dam, multiple stakes winning Noble Maz (Storm Boot).

"She came in kind of late in the sale," Zulaica recalled. "She was hip 3339 at Keeneland, but she's out of a stakes mare that had won \$324,000. So that's what made me follow her into the ring. I followed her up to the ring, but I didn't think I was going to buy her that cheap. Revolutionary is a new stallion, so that might have had something to do with the price, but I was surprised with her stakes-winning mare that she didn't bring more. It makes you think, well what's wrong with this. But there was nothing--a straight A scope, everything was all there, she was clean."

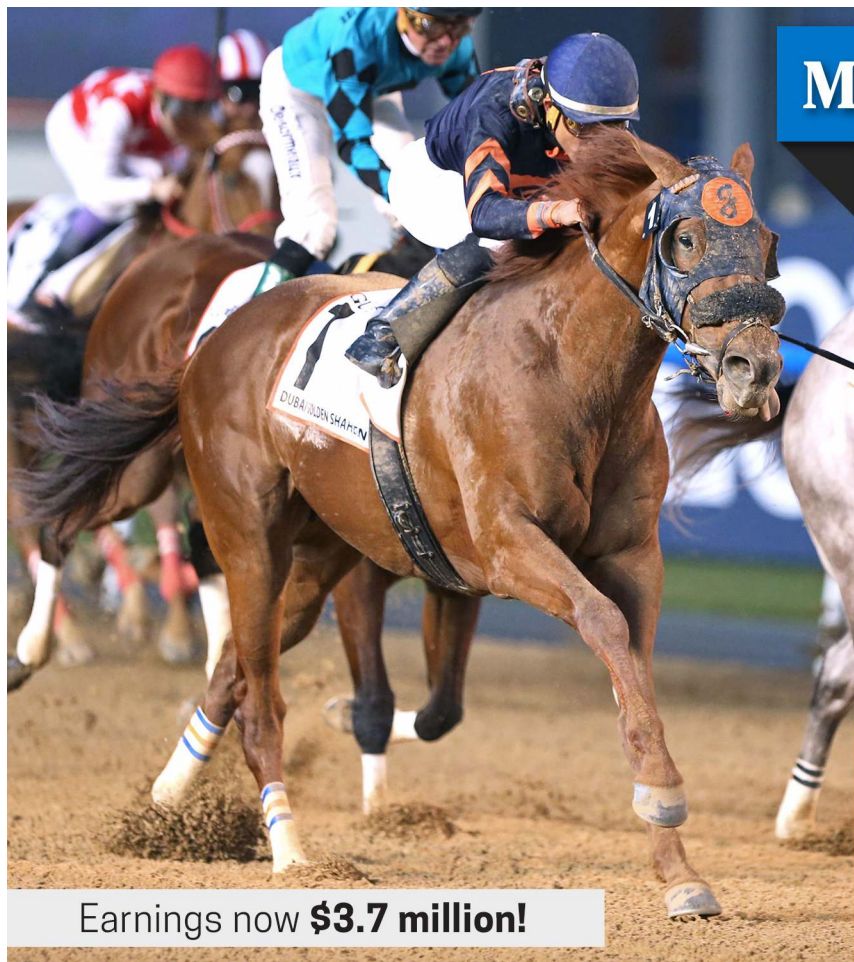


Noble Indy | *Lauren King*

It wasn't until after he acquired the filly that he started to learn about the dark bay's half-brother.

"After the sale, I started doing some research and I found Noble Indy and I found out [Todd] Pletcher was training him," Zulaica said. "So that made me feel better. Then I saw him win his first race and I said, 'Whoa!'"

Cont. p7



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Noble Indy followed up his maiden score with a Rising Star performance in a Jan. 11 allowance. After finishing third in the GII Risen Star S., he was a gritty winner of the Louisiana Derby in just his fourth lifetime start.

"I thought he was done on the turn there for a second," Zulaica said of the Louisiana Derby performance. "Then I couldn't believe he came back. He showed so much heart."

Zulaica purchased seven yearlings at last year's September sale. He paid \$18,000 for a colt by Quality Road (**hip 2606**) who went on to top the Barretts January Mixed Sale when bringing \$120,000. An Animal Kingdom filly (**hip 2692**) he purchased for \$13,000 brought \$54,000 at the January sale. A Street Sense colt (**hip 2785**) acquired for \$13,000 brought \$40,000 and a Kitten's Joy filly (**hip 2953**) purchased for \$12,000 also sold for \$40,000.

Zulaica decided to keep his Revolutionary filly a few extra months with an eye towards the Spring sale.

"I bought seven horses last year," he said. "I had them at Oakmont Ranch with Gary Broad and Scott Hansen his trainer. They broke them for me. I kept asking the riders, 'What do you feel?' The filly was the last one that came in on the truck, so she kind of got left behind. When they started her, the exercise rider said, 'This is the best one.' So I left two, I left a Graydar filly that I have and the other five were sold at Barretts January."

Waiting for the 2-year-old in training sale brings extra risk, according to Zulaica, but also has its rewards if the timing is right.

"Too risky--it's too risky to put them in harder training," Zulaica said of his decision to sell the majority of his yearling purchases in January. "If you don't make it to the 2-year-olds in training sales, you're going to have to race the horse. So I just wanted to clean up and feel the waters. Things are not easy as it is right now, but we did very well. They were very well broken by Oakmont Ranch. And I've been getting a lot of compliments."

He continued, "But I had a Kitten's Joy in January and right after I sold him, his full-brother [Cash Call Kitten] won two races. I sold him for \$40,000 and maybe I would have gotten \$80,000."

The 68-year-old Zulaica, active on the car auction scene, has been involved in horse racing for decades.

"I was born here and I grew up in Mexico, in Tijuana," Zulaica said. "I used to go to the old Caliente racetrack. I started there. At one point I stood Woodland Pines at stud. But in the '70s there was a crunch which caused a big exodus of people going to Arizona and Oregon. And I had to sell all of my horses, so I got out. I came back and I've been playing around the last 20 or 30 years. Now that I'm a little older, I'm going to get into it full time."



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Thursday, May 24th Belmont Race Track	Astoria Trial D • Maiden, Fillies Two-Years-Old Five Furlongs (Turf) ---- Purse \$100,000 (\$50,000 to winner, \$20,000, \$10,000, \$7,500, \$5,000, \$4,000 & \$3,500 to be divided 7th – 10th) Field limited to 10 starters
Thursday, June 7th Belmont Race Track	Astoria Stakes • \$150,000 F,2YO 5 ½ Furlongs
Thursday, April 19th Aqueduct Race Track	Tremont Trial A • Maiden, Two-Year-Olds Four and One-Half Furlongs ---- Purse \$100,000 (\$50,000 to winner, \$20,000, \$10,000, \$7,500, \$5,000, \$4,000 & \$3,500 to be divided 7th – 10th) Field limited to 10 starter
Friday, May 4th Belmont Race Track	Tremont Trial B • Maiden, Two-Year-Olds Five Furlongs ---- Purse \$100,000 (\$50,000 to winner, \$20,000, \$10,000, \$7,500, \$5,000, \$4,000 & \$3,500 to be divided 7th – 10th) Field limited to 10 starters
Thursday, May 17th Belmont Race Track	Tremont Trial C • Maiden, Two-Year-Olds Five Furlongs ---- Purse \$100,000 (\$50,000 to winner, \$20,000, \$10,000, \$7,500, \$5,000, \$4,000 & \$3,500 to be divided 7th – 10th) Field limited to 10 starters
Friday, May 25th Belmont Race Track	Tremont Trial D • Maiden, Two-Year Olds Five Furlongs (Turf) ---- Purse \$100,000 (\$50,000 to winner, \$20,000, \$10,000, \$7,500, \$5,000, \$4,000 & \$3,500 to be divided 7th – 10th) Field limited to 10 starters
Friday, June 8th Belmont Race Track	Tremont Stakes • \$150,000 2YO 5 ½ Furlongs

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Zulaica cont.

Zulaica's main focus is on reselling, but he does maintain a small racing stable.

"I've realized if you're going to run, you better run California-bred horses and stay away from the Kentucky horses," he said. "These rich guys, they pay a lot of money for these horses and it's going to be hard to beat them."



Zulaica & Checkmate's BARJAN-topping Quality Road colt
Barretts Sales Photo

Zulaica credits his years of experience in the car auction arena with helping him at horse sales.

"That's where I get my knowledge of auctions," he explained. "You develop a sixth sense when you get into an auction. And then I have some rules that I use when in doubt to pass and the experience of 45 years in the car business. It's tough when you buy cars or horses at auctions, though. You don't know what you've got until you get them out."

So far, Zulaica's Revolutionary filly has done everything right.

"She does everything, she changes leads, she does everything very easy and very well," he said of the juvenile. "She's very smart, no problems at all. She is one of a kind, not just because she's mine. Her attitude is great and I haven't had any problems with her at all."

The filly will be consigned to the Barretts sale by Adrian Gonzalez's Checkmate Thoroughbreds.

"Adrian is in love with her," Zulaica said with a smile. "I hit Del Mar at 6:30 in the morning and he'd already taken her out. But

he has a smile on his face when it comes to this filly. We sold the highest-priced horse in January and I think this is going to be our gravy."

The training preview for the Barretts Spring Sale will be held at Del Mar Monday beginning at 10 a.m. The sale will be held Wednesday with bidding starting at 2 p.m.

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O p / E D

OP/ED: WHAT'S IT GONNA BE: BIG TENT OR ELITE CIRCUIT? *By Barry Irwin*

Legislation to install USADA to oversee drug policy and enforcement in American racing very well may come to a head by year's end.

If a bill can be enacted into law, the entire sport has a wonderful opportunity to succeed. If not, the game as we have come to know it will likely split into two distinct factions.

Consequently, all of us involved in every aspect of our mini-world of racing and breeding must answer the key question: Do we want a big tent or an elite circuit going forward?

If the bill passes, then it is very possible to include all racing venues under one tent. Everybody under that umbrella will be covered by the same rules and theoretically all compete on a level playing field.

If the bill never sees the light of day, it is highly likely that the next initiative will involve a special set of rules for either elite racing venues or graded races.

Passing a law that includes everybody involves asking all elements of our industry to agree to give up something in favor of the greater good. It means compromise in hopes of a better future for all of us. Americans have become increasingly polarized in politics and it has spilled over into our secular lives as well. So nowadays compromise seems more idealistic than realistic.

Having worked to enlighten my peers about the pervasive nature of illegal performance enhancing drugs through my writings over the last few decades and put forth a good effort on behalf of WHOA to move the legislation forward, I do not think that I am speaking out of school when I say that it has become a difficult challenge.

If the legislation fails to win approval, which I fear may very well be the case, the next logical step for those who want to improve the game is to push to have graded racing subjected to the same policies and rules that now are proposed for all races in America as called for under the proposed racing bill.

Cont. p9

Irwin Op/Ed cont.

This is neither a novel idea nor a hollow threat. Just last week Timeform in a rare editorial asked the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities to stop giving graded status to American racing until drugs were eliminated.

Getting racing venues and jurisdictions on board for this reduced agenda seems quite doable. Peer pressure, appealing to participants' sporting nature, the love of the Thoroughbred--all intangibles--would play very well among those elites that aspire to win graded races.

Those racing men and women who want to cling to the mores and rules of the past and present will find themselves facing formidable opposition to the status quo from a new breed of owner-breeder that wants to elevate the game.

I have no fear that a move to bring all graded racing under the umbrella of an enterprise that would put the horse first would be enacted.

Would it be a fight? Would tempers flare? You betcha. However, the progressive forces would prevail in the end.

But getting back to the original question of big tent vs. elite circuit, would two racing circuits with different rules be the best thing for the overall health and prosperity of the sport of Thoroughbred racing?

I don't think so. I say bigger in this case is better. One of the best things about racing is that any Joe Schmo with a fast horse can beat a hedge fund manager with a purple-pedigreed animal. There is something more egalitarian about this aspect of the game that sets it apart from other sporting ventures.

Aside from my love of the animal itself, this David knocking off Goliath factor is what drove me toward the game, both writing about it and participating in it.

Watching a bunch of horses owned and bred by a bunch of rich people for their own amusement holds very little appeal to me personally. I am certain that I would enjoy the contests, but not the backdrop or the stories behind the horses. I guess that's why yacht racing never appealed to me.

The problem with involving everybody is the same one America faces in its politics at present. Trying to get the so-called "haves" and "have-nots" on the same page is practically impossible. Most racing in America involves average to marginal athletes.

Owners and trainers of the "have-nots" face a difficult time keeping horses sound and think that their horses require medication just in order to get into the starting gate. They also race for much lower purses. Their interest in reining in garden variety drug use is less than the elites, who are more interested in ridding the sport of PEDs.

I am not an elite, but I aspire to race elite horses. I for one am not focused on overages of legal so-called therapeutic medication or the use of Lasix. What concerns me is the use of illegal known and unknown drugs including designer drugs that boost breathing efficiency and buffer lactic acid.

As a businessman and racing man, I want a cleaner sport for the good of the game and all of its participants except those miscreants that are always trying to take an edge. My best hope for this to happen is either through passage of the legislation or an elite private club that strictly controls what goes into the body of a horse. I am for the legislation as a businessman, but I also can live with the private club as a racing man.

Opponents of the legislation, as politicians are wont to do, try to demonize and belittle proponents of bill by employing the same tactics Right Wing politicians use to deride Liberals for their backing of initiatives to protect the environment.

Dividing members of the nationwide Thoroughbred racing industry serves no purpose other than to make the entire enterprise vulnerable to outside forces such as PETA that would like to see racing outlawed altogether.

We are living in a time when regulations are seen by those clinging to the status quo as stifling and counterproductive to business.

I humbly submit to those folks, who would abandon the quickly vanishing opportunity of seeking coverage under the big tent, that they will all be better off under it than out in the wilderness, because once graded racing is held to a higher standard, the remainder of racing will be recognized for exactly what it is.

Want to know what that is? Take a look at racing in the state of Pennsylvania.

So the choice is ours to make.

Will racing change, improve and move forward under one big tent or will the elites break off into private clubs, take the cream off the top and by doing so leave their ex-peers with their derrieres hanging out in the wind and cold?

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AUDIBLE EXCELLENT AFTER FL DERBY



Audible | Coglianesse Photo

Impressive GI Xpressbet.com Florida Derby winner **Audible** (Into Mischief) exited his fourth-straight victory Saturday in good order as his connections eye next month's GI Kentucky Derby.

"Excellent," Pletcher said. "He seemed to come out of it very well. We're always anxious to see how they come out of it, but we could tell back at the barn after the race, it seemed like his energy level was very good, he cooled out quickly and was pretty enthusiastic as he was walking around the barn. We felt pretty confident that he took the race well. You love to see them recover quickly and he certainly did that, so that's an encouraging sign."

Pletcher, who took last year's "Run for the Roses" with Florida Derby winner Always Dreaming (Bodemeister), holds another strong hand for this year's renewal, including GII Louisiana Derby winner **Noble Indy** (Take Charge Indy) and unbeaten GII Rebel S. hero **Magnum Moon** (Malibu Moon), who is expected to contest the Apr. 14 GI Arkansas Derby.

Asked when he might ship to Kentucky from his Palm Beach Downs base, Pletcher said, "I haven't decided for sure. I'd like to have at least one breeze over the Churchill track, possibly two. We'll just kind of play it by ear. Last year I was planning on going three weeks out and, looking at the forecast, it looked like they had a week full of rain so we postponed it a week and that worked out well for Always Dreaming. We'll just see how things are going."

Pletcher also took Saturday's GII Pan American S. with accomplished Argentinian import **Hi Happy (Arg)** (Pure Prize). That runner will likely return in the GI Man o' War S. at Belmont May 12.

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AUDIBLE, INC. SPONSORING FLORIDA DERBY WINNER; DONATING TO TAA

Audiobook company Audible, Inc. announced Saturday its sponsorship of GI Xpressbet.com Florida Derby romper Audible (Into Mischief) and will make a \$15,000 donation in the horse's name to the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance. Audible, Inc. will also highlight a collection of equine-related audiobooks over the next month as Audible prepares to compete in the GI Kentucky Derby May 5. Visit www.audible.com/goaudible for more, including an upcoming Audible-inspired game and other interactive content.

"We are honored to share our name with Audible and thrilled to be a part of his road to the Kentucky Derby," said Audible SVP of Marketing John Harrobin. "Our millions of listeners around the world use our audio service to immerse themselves in memorable stories every day. We know they'll appreciate following the story of this remarkable horse as it unfolds."

Elliott Walden, President and CEO of Audible's co-owner WinStar Farm, added, "It's wonderful to see Audible the media company rooting for Audible in such a big way. By supporting the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance and highlighting equine-related audio titles for millions of listeners to enjoy leading up to the Kentucky Derby, Audible is gearing up our colt's quest to wear the roses on the first Saturday in May."

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NOTABLE APR. 1 WORKERS

- Top Triple Crown contender **Bolt d'Oro** (Medaglia d'Oro) breezed five furlongs Sunday at Santa Anita in preparation for next Saturday's GI Santa Anita Derby. Working alongside stablemate Midnight Harbor (Midnight Lute), he was clocked in 1:01.20 (11/77). Midnight Harbor was credited with a time of 1:01.60. [Click for XBTV video.](#)

"He did everything he needed to do," said private clocker Toby Turrell. "He finished up real well and was under no real pressure at all. He was right on point."

A two-time Grade I winner and Eclipse Award finalist last season, Bolt d'Oro was last seen being promoted to first via the much-talked-about DQ of McKinzie (Street Sense) in the Mar. 10 GII San Felipe S. With McKinzie sidelined due to an injury, Bolt d'Oro could instead take on that one's unbeaten stablemate and fellow 'TDN Rising Star' Justify (Scat Daddy). Hall of Famer Bob Baffert will likely make a decision on Justify, who was previously set to ship for the GI Arkansas Derby, after a breeze Monday.

Cont. p11

Notable Workers cont.

- GII Tampa Bay Derby upsetter and **'TDN Rising Star' Quip** (Distorted Humor) turned in his final published work before next Saturday's GII Toyota Blue Grass S. at Keeneland Sunday. Ridden in the drill by his trainer Rodolphe Brisset, the bay colt worked from the gate with stablemate Potomac (Speightstown). Starting behind that one, he was clocked in splits of :12.60, :25 flat and :47.20 before finishing on even terms with his barnmate. His final time was 1:00.40 (2/15).

"I was happy with it," Brisset said. "We got lucky with the weather having the rain hold off. I had worked him twice on a sealed track at Fair Grounds and was not concerned about having to do that, but you prefer to have the track like it is this morning."

- **Monomoy Girl** (Tapizar), the likely favorite for next Saturday's GI Ashland S., covered four panels Sunday in Lexington in :47.20 (1/44) alongside 4-year-old gelding Compass Zone (Hard Spun). "That was visually impressive," said trainer Brad Cox. "I had her going out in 1:00.03 and then 1:13.40 for three-quarters."

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RAMSEYS, PLETCHER & SAEZ ON TOP AT GP

Todd Pletcher | *Coglianesi Photo*

Owners Ken and Sarah Ramsey took home their sixth consecutive Gulfstream Park Championship Meet title, while Todd Pletcher won leading trainer for an incredible 15th straight time and jockey Luis Saez secured back-to-back titles of his own.

The Ramseys won 17 races at the stand, good for earnings of \$839,710.

Midway through Sunday's final card, Pletcher and his team had saddled 67 winners for earnings of \$3,364,378—included in those totals was a record fifth win in the GI Xpressbet.com Florida Derby with Audible (Into Mischief).

"We've been blessed," Pletcher said. "To sustain a good run like that is a great tribute to the staff. I've always had success at Gulfstream and am happy to keep the streak alive."

Saez broke Hall of Famer Javier Castellano's record win total for Gulfstream's Championship Meet on Saturday, and picked up right where he left off on Sunday with another trip to the winner's circle. Halfway through Sunday's card, he'd piloted 136 winners, good for earnings in excess of \$5.7 million. He also enjoyed two seven-win days during the meet on Jan. 24 and Mar. 29.

"Everything has come together so well," said the 25-year-old Panamanian. "I'm so glad everything went so good. Thank God for the opportunity. I feel very comfortable here. I just tried my best and the horses have run very good for me."

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DUBB, RODRIGUEZ & FRANCO TAKE AQUEDUCT WINTER TITLES

Manny Franco | *Joe Labozzetta Photo*

Owner Michael Dubb, trainer Rudy Rodriguez and jockey Manny Franco took home their respective titles as meet leaders for the Aqueduct winter meet, which concluded Saturday.

Dubb, NYRA's leading owner in six of the last eight years, celebrated 14 victories during the winter meet, good for earnings of \$648,114.

Rodriguez, who trains for Dubb, saddled his 1000th career winner on Friday at the Big A and a total of 38 wins and \$1,631,472 in earnings over the course of the meet. He has now won 11 NYRA meet titles.

"I just thank everyone who has supported me," the 45-year-old former rider said. "My wife and my three beautiful children, we're just very blessed to be here. To be at Aqueduct; this is where I started galloping horses. This is where everything started for me. This is my home."

Aqueduct cont.

Franco, a 23-year-old native of Puerto Rico, was celebrating his first NYRA riding title. He booted home 61 winners at the meet and rode the earners of \$2,837,073. He rode a pair of winners during Saturday's Claiming Championship Series, including the Rodriguez-trained My Won Love (Utopia {Jpn}) in the Videogenic Starter S.

"It means a lot to me and I'd like to thank all the trainers and owners who have given me the opportunity to race good horses, and my agent, who has done a great job," Franco said. "I feel like I've gotten better and I've been riding better horses now, too, so that helps... I never thought I'd be in this position, to win a title in New York. It's always a goal for a rider. I'm blessed. It helps for [confidence], but I won't change anything."

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HARRY "THE HAT" HACEK DIES

Courtesy Santa Anita Park

The racing world mourned the passing of colorful and charismatic jockey agent Harry "The Hat" Hacek Sunday, who died Saturday afternoon in a hospice facility near Hot Springs, Arkansas.

He was believed to be in his early 70s, according to fellow agent and close friend Vic Lipton.

Among riding greats Hacek represented through his career were Steve Cauthen, Eddie Delahoussaye, Kent Desormeaux, Garrett Gomez, Sandy Hawley, Darrel McHargue, Craig Perret, Larry Snyder and Alex Solis.

"And he started most of them from scratch," Lipton said.

Hacek had been in failing health for some time, suffering from diabetes.

"I learned a lot from Harry the Hat when I first started in 1990 at Golden Gate Fields," said agent Jim Pegram, currently representing Tyler Conner. "He took me under his wing, and he was a legend, no question, a total legend... He was the ultimate race tracker, for sure."


Seeing Red? All hyperlinks in the TDN are now in our signature red color.

Lifetime Record: 7-3-2-1, \$134,200. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by [Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-Kirwan Equine Group, Inc. and Hipps, Ed; B-Toni M. Kirwan & Edward Hipps (PA); T-Marcos Zulueta.

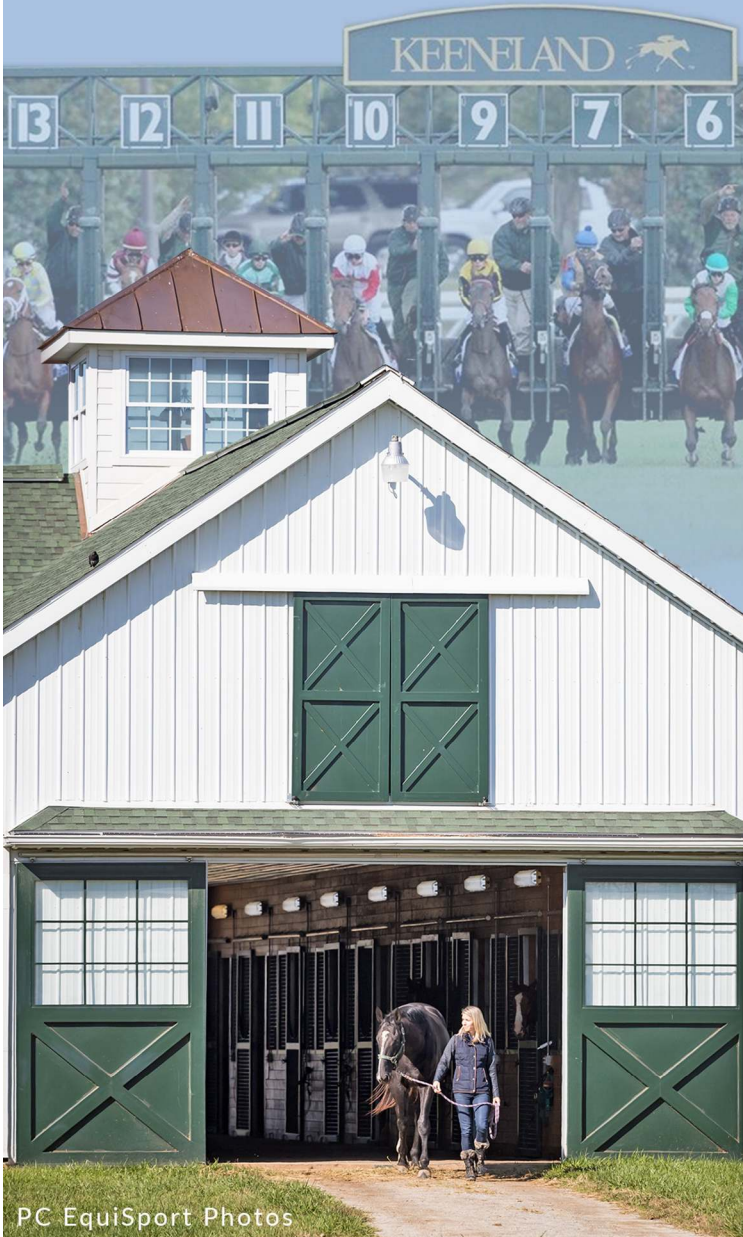
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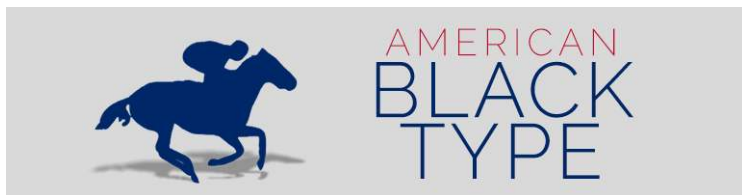
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IN ORDER OF PURSE:

ANIMAL KINGDOM S., \$50,000, TP, 3-31, 3yo, 6 1/2f (AWT), 1:17.03, ft.

1--**HEMP HEMP HURRAY**, 122, c, 3, **Artie Schiller--Druidess**, by **Malibu Moon**. (\$40,000 Wlg '15 KEENOV). O-Kenneth L. & Sarah K. Ramsey; B-Bernard & Karen McCormack (ON); T-Wesley A. Ward; J-Julio A. Garcia. \$30,690. Lifetime Record: GSP, 6-3-1-0, \$153,930.

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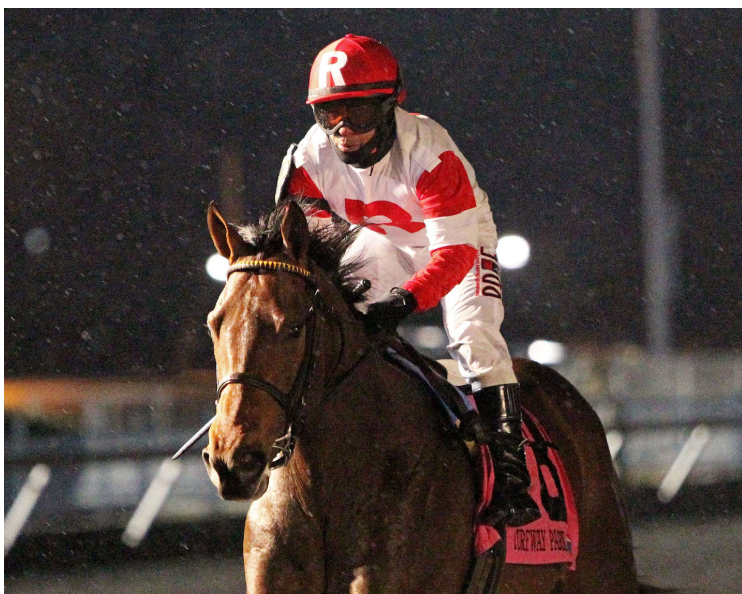
2--**Angaston**, 118, g, 3, **Denman (Aus)**--Marq of Beauty, by Marquetry. (\$30,000 Ylg '16 FTKJUL). O-Twin Magnolia Farm; B-William N Hogan (KY); T-Luis A. Jurado. \$9,900.

3--**O'Malley's March**, 119, g, 3, **Paddy O'Prado--Miki's Melody**, by Aptitude. (\$12,000 Ylg '16 FTKOCT). O-Mast Thoroughbreds LLC; B-Susan M. Forrester (KY); T-Robert M. Gorham. \$4,950.

Margins: 11 3/4, 1HF, 1. Odds: 0.70, 13.00, 33.80.

Also Ran: Ceduna, Batterbatterswing, Smokin Hot Momma.

Scratched: Elgar, The Queens Jules, Jamaican Don.



Hemp Hemp Hurray | *Coady Photo*

Hemp Hemp Hurray was a dominant debut winner on the Belmont grass last July, and cruised home 7 1/4 lengths clear in Monmouth's Tyro S. the following month. He was beaten a neck in second when stretched out the one-turn-mile GII Summer S. at Woodbine, but finished off his juvenile campaign with a last-place finish in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf behind Saturday's G2 UAE Derby romper Mendelssohn (Scat Daddy). Fourth in Santa Anita's Feb. 18 Baffle S. down the hill, the bay sat perched off the pace while wide, swept to the fore leaving the bend and poured it on from there to win stylishly. A daughter of French MGSW and U.S. GSW and granddaughter of a French highweight, the winner's dam has a 2-year-old filly named Weed Be Happy (Data Link) and foaled a Maclean's Music colt this year. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**



IN ORDER OF PURSE:

4th-GP, \$50,400, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$75,000), 4-1, 3yo, 6f, 1:11.09, ft.

KING HUMOR (c, 3, Distorted Humor--Taptam {MSW & GISP, \$575,338}, by Pleasant Tap), a \$50,000 OBS June acquisition, romped first out in gate-to-wire fashion going a sixteenth shorter here Feb. 2, earning a solid 96 Beyer Speed Figure for that effort. Backed down to overwhelming 1-5 favoritism this time, the chestnut had to be ridden along to sit second off of speedy longshot Reed Kan (Kantharos). That foe still seemed to be going the better of the two heading for home, and the whip was out on King Humor while a couple lengths back at the quarter pole. Those who backed Reed Kan were likely counting their money to midstretch, but King Humor finally leveled off late and kicked it in in the waning stages to prevail by a length. King Humor has a 2-year-old half-sister by Super Saver and weanling half-brother by Oxbow. His hard-knocking dam returned to the latter sire last season. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$55,200. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-Heczor Investments Corp.; B-SF Bloodstock LLC (KY); T-Victor Barboza, Jr.



IN ORDER OF PURSE:

10th-GP, \$70,000, Msw, 4-1, 3yo/up, 1m, 1:38.71, ft.

SLOT (g, 3, Candy Ride {Arg}--Ostourah, by Teufflesberg) was third first out at Saratoga last summer behind well-regarded stablemate National Flag (Speightstown) and eventual GSW Engage (Into Mischief), and had settled for second in each of his next four outings, most recently over this strip Feb. 10. He was shedding blinkers for the first time here, and was making his first appearance since being gelded. The 1-2 shot was part of a three-way pace duel early, and found rank outside Crafty Jack (Trajectory) glued to his right flank entering the the stretch. That pair threw it down from there, and made significant contact at least once, with slot digging deeper to prevail by a neck. The winner's dam is a full-sister to GI Breeders' Cup Sprint winner Trinniberg. She has a 2-year-old colt by Speightstown who was a \$100,000 KEENOV weanling and \$80,000 KEESEP RNA, and was most recently bred to Honor Code. Sales history: \$130,000 Ylg '16 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 6-1-4-1, \$97,530. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** O-Harrell Ventures, LLC; B-Serjeant Equine (KY); T-Todd A. Pletcher.



7th-SA, \$55,725, (S), Msw, 4-1, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11.69, ft.

WANDERING PATROL (f, 3, Square Eddie--Roveing Patrol, by Nacheezmo), let go at 7-1 for this unveiling despite an upbeat-looking worktab, moved up after a slightly tardy start to stalk from the pocket behind a fellow Reddam-bred daughter of Square Eddie in Whoa Nessie. Sneaking inside of that tiring paternal sibling at the first sight of daylight in upper stretch, she showed good courage and a nice turn of foot to quickly open up and down cap and gown by 2 1/2 lengths. Loving Lynda (Empire Way), the only other newcomer in the field, completed the exacta. Who Nessie faded to ninth. Wandering Patrol has a 2-year-old full-brother and her dam visited Paul Reddam's prolific sire in each of the subsequent two seasons. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$32,400. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O/B-Reddam Racing, LLC (CA); T-Ben D. A. Cecil.



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First-/second-crop starters to watch: Monday, Apr. 2

Farm and fee represent current information

Done Talking (Broken Vow)

13 foals of racing age/2 winners/0 black-type winners
5-LRL, Aoc 1m, DONE ACTING, 20-1

Flat Out (Flatter), Spendthrift Farm, \$10,000

230 foals of racing age/29 winners/1 black-type winner
5-LRL, Aoc 1m, THREES OVER DEUCES, 1-1
\$30,000 KEE SEP yrl

Freedom Child (Malibu Moon), Country Life Farm, \$3,500

58 foals of racing age/9 winners/1 black-type winner
6-PRX, Msw 6 1/2f, LA VALE, 4-1
\$1,100 EAS JAN yrl
8-LRL, Aoc 1m, NICO BREE N TEEJ, 7-2
\$9,000 EAS OCT yrl

Take Charge Indy (A.P. Indy), Kor, \$20,000

202 foals of racing age/37 winners/5 black-type winners
5-LRL, Aoc 1m, TAKEDOWN, 3-1
\$120,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$65,000 F '17 KEE NOV

Violence (Medaglia d'Oro), Hill 'n' Dale Farms, \$15,000

248 foals of racing age/43 winners/5 black-type winners
5-LRL, Aoc 1m, NINETYEIGHTOCTANE, 6-1
\$90,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$120,000 RNA FTF MAR 2yo; \$20,000 EAS MAY 2yo



ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

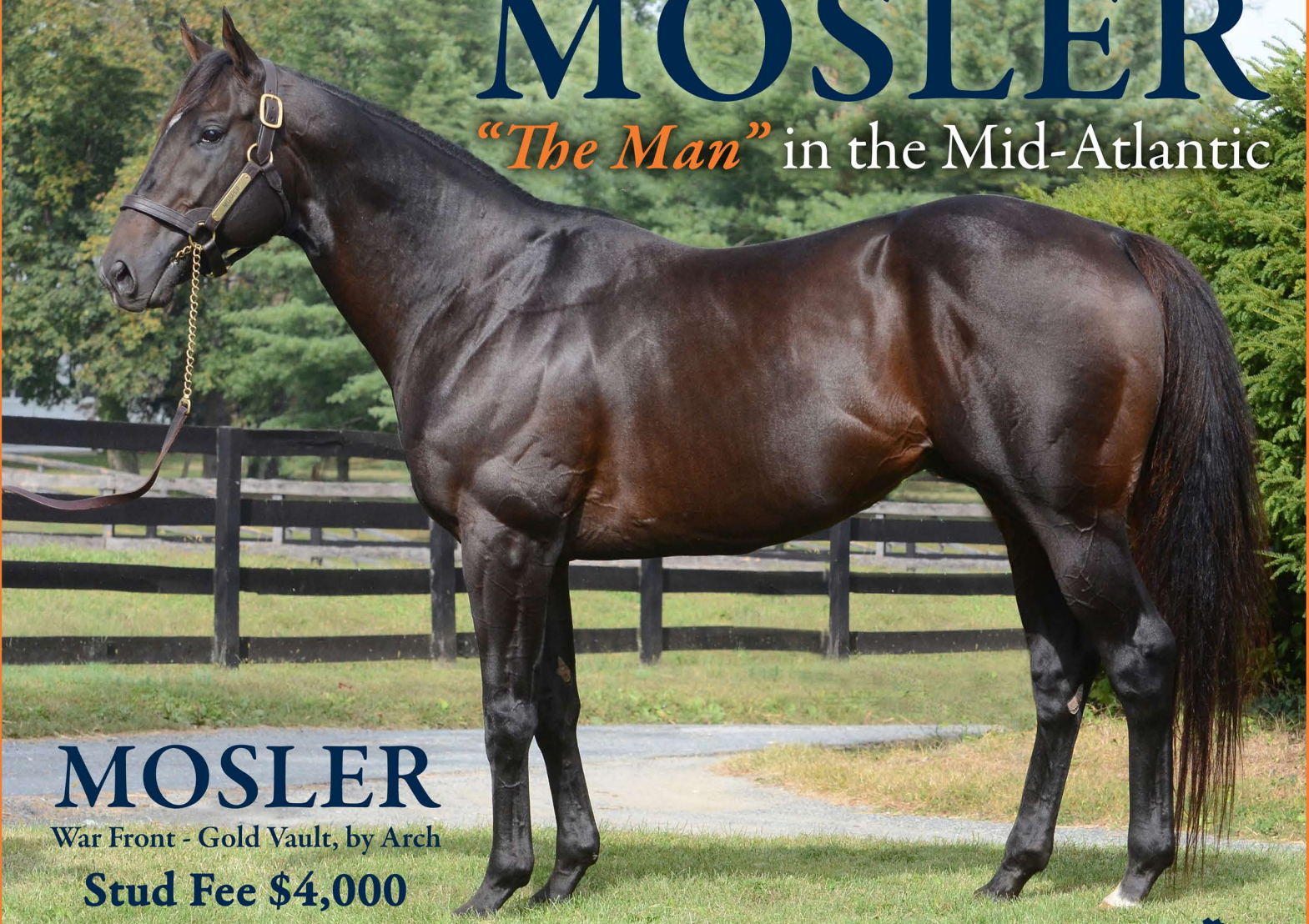
1st-SA, \$70,522, (NW2\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$62,500), 4-1, 4yo/up, 6 1/2ft, 1:13.08, fm.

ANATOLIAN HEAT (g, 5, Unusual Heat--Anatolian Queen, by Woodman)

Lifetime Record: 18-4-3-2, \$228,838.
O/B-Anatolia Inc (CA); T-Peter Miller.

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War Front - Gold Vault, by Arch

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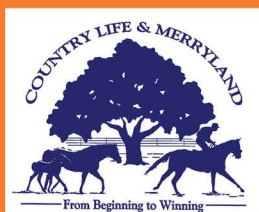
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6th-SA, \$69,475, (NW2\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$62,500), 4-1, 4yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2fT, 1:12.46, fm.

SHY CARMELITA (m, 5, Grazen--Malley Girl {SW, \$100,810}, by Malek {Chi}) Lifetime Record: 14-4-2-2, \$222,257. O-Nicholas B. Alexander; B-Nick Alexander (CA); T-Philip D'Amato. *Full to Grazenette (Grazen), MSP, \$202,585.

6th-GP, \$53,900, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$25,000), 4-1, 4yo/up, f/m, 1mT, 1:34.27, fm.

O. K. KAY (f, 4, English Channel--My Secret Brook, by Montbrook) Lifetime Record: 12-3-4-1, \$125,460.

O/B-George Vires (FL). T-Jane Cibelli. *1/2 to Dark Thunder (Trippi), SW, \$194,170.

Raised and Broke by Craig Wheeler

7th-CT, \$29,000, (S), 3-31, 3yo/up, 7f, 1:27.06, ft.

NORTH ATLANTIC (g, 5, Ghostzapper--Capricha, by Pleasant Colony) Lifetime Record: 24-9-5-6, \$270,240.

O-Coleswood Farm, Inc.; B-Coleswood Farm, Inc. (WV); T-Jeff C. Runco. *Full to Navigate (Ghostzapper), SP, \$157,859.

3rd-CT, \$24,000, 3-31, (NW2LX), 3yo, f, 4 1/2f, :53.56, ft.

MATTYICE (f, 3, Street Magician--Otherwise Perfect, by Lemon Drop Kid) Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$28,200.

O-Shuler Stables LLC; B-Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Quin Bowman, Rebecca Davis & Larry Johnson (MD); T-Donald W. Shuler. *1/2 to I Stand Alone (Dance With Ravens), SW, \$229,231.

6th-CT, \$24,000, 3-31, (NW2LX), 3yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:21.15, ft.

CASHTON PEAK (g, 5, Peak Dancer--Bella Uno, by Even the Score) Lifetime Record: 26-4-4-5, \$101,622. O-David E.

Winpigler, Sr.; B-David E Winpigler (WV); T-Ronney W. Brown.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Mr. Silver Express, g, 3, Attila's Storm--Silver Expression (MSW, \$337,939), by Silver Season. SUN, 4-1, (S), 5 1/2f, 1:05.16. B-Hector DeSantis & JW Wolslager Jr. (NM).

Mayo's Bid, c, 3, Stroll--Math Class, by Eddington. TP, 3-31, 1m (AWT), 1:39.39. B-Ramona Holt Thomson (KY).

La Jaquesita, m, 5, Everyday Heroes--Smoochen Squaw, by Commanchero. SUN, 4-1, (S), 5 1/2f, 1:04.62. B-Leonel Caro (NM).



ARTIE SCHILLER, Hemp Hemp Hurray, c, 3, o/o Druidess, by Malibu Moon. Animal Kingdom S., 3-31, Turfway Park

ATTILA'S STORM, Mr. Silver Express, g, 3, o/o Silver Expression, by Silver Season. MSW, 4-1, Sunland Park

CANDY RIDE (ARG), Slot, g, 3, o/o Ostourah, by Teufflesberg. MSW, 4-1, Gulfstream Park

DISTORTED HUMOR, King Humor, c, 3, o/o Taptam, by Pleasant Tap. OCL, 4-1, Gulfstream Park

EVERYDAY HEROES, La Jaquesita, m, 5, o/o Smoochen Squaw, by Commanchero. MSW, 4-1, Sunland Park

GHOSTZAPPER, North Atlantic, g, 5, o/o Capricha, by Pleasant Colony. ALW, 3-31, Charles Town

GRAZEN, Shy Carmelita, m, 5, o/o Malley Girl, by Malek (Chi). AOC, 4-1, Santa Anita

PEAK DANCER, Cashton Peak, g, 5, o/o Bella Uno, by Even the Score. ALW, 3-31, Charles Town

SQUARE EDDIE, Wandering Patrol, f, 3, o/o Roveing Patrol, by Nacheezmo. MSW, 4-1, Santa Anita

STREET MAGICIAN, Mattyice, f, 3, o/o Otherwise Perfect, by Lemon Drop Kid. ALW, 3-31, Charles Town

STROLL, Mayo's Bid, c, 3, o/o Math Class, by Eddington. MSW, 3-31, Turfway Park

UNUSUAL HEAT, Anatolian Heat, g, 5, o/o Anatolian Queen, by Woodman. AOC, 4-1, Santa Anita

UPCOMING GRADED STAKES

Date	Race	Track
4/6	GIII Distaff H.	AQU
	GIII Transylvania S.	KEE
4/7	GI Central Bank Ashland S.	KEE
	GI Madison S.	KEE
	GI Carter H.	AQU
	GII Toyota Blue Grass S.	KEE
	GII Shakertown S.	KEE
4/8	GII Wood Memorial S.	AQU
	GII Gazelle S.	AQU
	GIII Commonwealth S.	KEE
4/8	GIII Beaumont S.	KEE
4/13	GI Makers 46 Mile	KEE
	GI Apple Blossom H.	OP
	GIII Fantasy S.	OP
4/14	GI Coolmore Jenny Wiley S.	KEE
	GIII Ben Ali S.	KEE
	GIII Stonestreet Lexington S.	KEE
	GI Arkansas Derby	OP
	GII Oaklawn H.	OP
4/14	GIzi Count Fleet Sprint H.	OP
	GIII Commonwealth S.	KEE

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EXCELLENCE RUNS DEEP IN O'BRIEN FAMILY



The O'Brien family (l to r) Donnacha, Sarah, Aidan, Ana, Joseph and Ann Marie | racingfotos.com

By Chris McGrath

Fathers and sons, stallions and foals: the cycles as perennial as the mystery. "People or horses, it's the same," says Aidan O'Brien. "All those little things that go into it. Is it nature or nurture? The whole thing's mad, really, if you think about it long enough."

But that's just what he is doing, sipping a coffee as the quiet of afternoon settles with the drizzle upon the yard outside. The horses are at rest, absorbing those increased mental and physical challenges by which—with the onset of another spring, however sluggish this year—O'Brien annually begins to unravel their innate potential.

Think about it he does, deeply. Every day, after all, he controls the environment for some the most precious pedigrees on the planet. Every day, above all with the young horses, he asks questions that can change the amber lights of their internal, genetic traffic either red or green.

"And you're right in the middle of that, at the moment," he explains. "You have to be very careful. You can lose a horse very quick—by not pushing enough, or pushing too much. Some of them, mentally, need to be pushed. Because if you don't push them, they'll get bold; and if they get bold, they become ungenueine."

"So some of them you have to push a little bit, to keep on top of them; and some of them, you have to back off."

Almost invariably, of course, the lights turn green: one crossroads cleared after another, his charges thriving and thriving, passing landmarks in such a blur that nowadays people barely stop to think about what they represent.

It took something beyond even the giddy standards he has made routine during his tenure at Ballydoyle, now into its third decade, to renew a due sense of wonder in 2017: 28 Group or Grade 1 winners, surpassing the world record of 25 set by the late Bobby Frankel. Yet if many of these winners extended the hegemony of his employers' champion stallion, Galileo, the real sire of the year at Ballydoyle was perhaps O'Brien himself.

His son Joseph never received due credit during his time as stable jockey. If he won a Derby, or a riding title, then it was because he had access to the conveyor belt of stars trained by his father for Coolmore.

Cont. p2

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

REVOLUTIONARY FILLY TAKES BIG UPDATE INTO BARRETT'S

Jessica Martini profiles Jose Zulaica, who's offering a half-sister to GII Louisiana Derby winner Noble Indy this week at Barretts.

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Excellence Runs Deep In O'Brien Family cont. from p1

Yet to those who could bring both detachment and expertise to their judgement, Joseph was arguably as good a horseman as they had seen since his father's namesake and predecessor at Ballydoyle, Vincent O'Brien, was legging up Lester Piggott.

As a still "longer" fellow, Joseph's physique meant he burned as briefly as he did brightly in the saddle. As a fledgling trainer, however, he has maintained a seamless excellence. His Melbourne Cup success last November with Rekindling (GB) (High Chaparral {Ire}) was a seismic moment. Here was a 3-year-old colt who had won the Ballysax S. on Apr. 8, and had since soaked up a series of gruelling races, cutting down the Ballydoyle runner in the final strides. Still only 24, Joseph now finds himself coolly presiding over one of the biggest operations in the country.

"He's very busy and has a great team with him," O'Brien says. "He lives and breathes it, and every year that goes by will be good for him. He will never be afraid to ask, about the smallest thing, and will always take what you say very strong--but he'll make his own mind up then. When we went to Melbourne, for instance, he didn't think what we were doing would suit his horse and did something totally

different. He's very natural; never did anything else, or thought about anything else. From when he was very small he'd be looking in the face of horses more than he was a human being."

So who, again, can say where nature ends and nurture starts? In whatever ratio, their upbringing is equally evident in Joseph's siblings. Unfortunately Donnacha, not yet 20 himself, faces a still tougher battle with weight than Joseph. As such, it would be gratifying to see his own talent rewarded on the big stage for such time as he can maintain a role riding at 9st.

But the dynasty founded by O'Brien and his wife, Annemarie, herself a champion horsewoman, is incidental to those he is cultivating professionally. And that, entering a new turf season, is the top item on the Ballydoyle agenda.

HE WILL NEVER BE AFRAID TO ASK,
ABOUT THE SMALLEST THING, AND
WILL ALWAYS TAKE WHAT YOU SAY
VERY STRONG, BUT HE'LL MAKE UP HIS
OWN MIND THEN.

Aidan O'Brien on son Joseph O'Brien

For with Montjeu long dead and Galileo entering the evening of his career, O'Brien is gaining new stimulation from twin imperatives tracing to their sire Sadler's Wells. One is to help his grandsons establish their own eligibility, as heirs, now that they are at stud themselves; and the other is to help John Magnier and his partners identify the most fertile outcross for all the outstanding mares they have assembled at Coolmore from the same bloodline.

In that context, perhaps the two most significant members of the Classic crop at Ballydoyle are Saxon Warrior (Jpn) and September (Ire), both by the Japanese phenomenon Deep Impact (Jpn) out of Group 1 winners trained by O'Brien. Saxon Warrior is out of the Galileo mare Maybe (Ire), who was a top-class juvenile; while September is out of Peeping Fawn, who

did not run at two but won four Group 1 prizes in eight weeks during her only summer on the track. And she is also by the stallion whose own success gave the farm a contemporary foil to Sadler's Wells, in Danehill.

"The sample has been very small," O'Brien says of the few Deep Impacts he has handled to date. "And this year we have a big horse and a small filly. It's going to be very interesting. We love it when the lads do all those

strange things and bring in different stock, because you get a feel very quick for character and physique, the way they take their work, the way they move."

"Deep Impact is a horse that came from this part of the world, in that the Nagles bred his dam [Wind In Her Hair (Ire) (Alzao)]. They're natural horses; I suppose what makes them a little bit different is that Deep Impact won over a mile and seven. 'JM' is very pro, at the moment anyway, and nobody thinks about it more than he does. The broodmare band is getting bigger and stronger all the time, and it's very interesting listening to him about all that [i.e. outcross options]."

Cont. p3

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"Nobody understands it like he does, because he's brought it all along; and nobody has the knowledge of pedigrees he has. And he's trying stuff all the time: looking at stuff, pulling back from stuff, going into stuff. I'd presume it's like feeling your way through a fog, touching here and touching there, feeling this and feeling that, tweaking this and tweaking that; listening to me and listening to you. He gets all the information and it's very interesting what he picks up on, what he decides the horses need."

WE LOVE IT WHEN THE LADS DO ALL
 THOSE STRANGE THINGS AND BRING IN
 DIFFERENT STOCK, BECAUSE YOU GET
 A FEEL VERY QUICK FOR CHARACTER
 AND PHYSIQUE, THE WAY THEY TAKE
 THEIR WORK, THE WAY THEY MOVE.

Aidan O'Brien

Saxon Warrior, favourite for the G1 Qipco 2000 Guineas after narrowly preserving his unbeaten record in the G1 Racing Post Trophy, has evidently developed into a formidable physical specimen; whereas September has the kind of nimble build that would compound her appeal as an Epsom filly. After winning at Royal Ascot, she resumed her progress when restored to a faster surface in the G1 Fillies' Mile at Newmarket and the G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies' Turf at Del Mar, flying late on both occasions.



Classic hope Saxon Warrior | Racing Post photo

O'Brien cont.

"September is an unusual one, really," O'Brien says. "Her dam was a big powerful mare, but she's not very big. What she does have is a big attitude, a big personality, and she's a good mover. We're just dawdling with her really, at the moment, but we're obviously thinking of the [Qipco 1000] Guineas to kick her off."

The outcross that was really beginning to hum for Coolmore, of course, was Scat Daddy (Johannesburg)—rendering his abrupt loss at just 11 all the more tragic. The quest for an heir to the Ashford stallion has a corresponding urgency. No Nay Never (Scat Daddy), who is about to have his first runners, has now been joined at Coolmore by Caravaggio (Scat Daddy), while O'Brien will be hoping that he could yet find another star among their sire's final crop.

**SCAT DADDY HAS BEEN A MASSIVE
INFLUENCE FOR SPEED, AND WE THINK
THE NO NAY NEVERS ARE
VERY LIKE SCATS.**

Aidan O'Brien

"We have four of them going very nice at the moment," he says. "They look like they could be group horses but, listen, they're half-speeding. Scat Daddy has been a massive influence for speed, and we think the No Nay Nevers are very like Scats. They probably might be lower movers. Scats can bend their knee a little bit but these are lower-actioned. Which is a good thing. And they're showing plenty of pace."

O'Brien is also now savouring the chance to work with sons of Declaration Of War (War Front), who so nearly crowned Coolmore's commitment to his sire, as another outcross, when beaten a nose and a head in the 2013 GI Breeders' Cup Classic on his dirt debut.

"War Fronts are naturally very quick horses, very like the Danzigs we had early on," he says. "Declaration Of War is getting hardy horses, I think they'll stay better than some War Fronts and they'll do very well from two to three."

The second half of this interview will appear in Tuesday's *TDN*.

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'TWO TIMES' LOOKS FOR REPEAT

Having signalled his advance into the miling ranks with success in Saint-Cloud's G3 Prix Edmond Blanc 12 months ago, **Jimmy Two Times (Fr)** (Kendargent {Fr}) returns to the same race on Monday in a bid to make up for lost time. Ruled out for the season after his subsequent win in the same track's G2 Prix du Muguet on May day, the Godolphin acquisition is one of the year's more unexposed types at this trip. "Jimmy Two Times has some very good form, but is obviously coming off a very long layoff," the operation's Lisa-Jane Graffard commented. "He had some minor surgery in December and is in excellent form at home. Andre Fabre is very happy with the horse. The ground should be fine for him and this race looks a good starting point. Hopefully, it can be a springboard for the rest of the season."

Freddy Head supplies a progressive Wertheimer filly in **Enlighted (Ire)** (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), who signed off in 2017 with a career-best success in the Listed Prix Coronation over this course and distance in September, while Jean-Claude Seroul's **Marie D'Argent (Fr)** (Kendargent {Fr}) is another intriguing sort facing her biggest test yet. Unbeaten in four starts, she switches back to turf following her first black-type win in the Listed Prix Saonois over this trip on Cagnes-Sur-Mer's Polytrack on Feb. 17.

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Jimmy Two Times | *Scoop Dyga*

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OBSERVATIONS

on the European racing scene

2.05 Saint-Cloud, Mdn, €30,000, 3yo, f, 12fT

Alain and Gerard Wertheimer's homebred **TIBERIAS (FR)** (**Galileo {Ire}**) is a daughter of 2005 G2 Prix Sandringham third Stormina (Gulch) and is thus kin to 2012 G1 Prix Marcel Boussac and 2013 G1 Prix Saint-Alary heroine Silasol (Ire) (Monsun {Ger}). Hitherto untested opposition to the Andre Fabre-trained debutante includes Ilse Smits' **Pollara (Ire)** (**Camelot {GB}**), herself a half-sister to the aforementioned Stormina; and Ecurie Normandie Pur Sang's **Allotria (Fr)** (**Soldier Hollow {GB}**), who is a half-sister to 2016 G2 Criterium de Maisons-Laffitte and G3 Prix Eclipse victor Sans Equivoque (Ger) (Stormy River {Fr}).

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BRITAIN



CONDITIONS RESULT:

3rd-SOU, £6,000, 4-1, 3yo, 7f 14y (AWT), 1:28.47, st.

MAJOR PEIRSON (IRE) (g, 3, **Society Rock {Ire}**-**Snowtime {Ire}**, by **Galileo {Ire}**) Lifetime Record: 6-2-0-0, \$13,939. O-Mrs C C Regalado-Gonzalez & Jo Hughes; B-Mrs C. Regalado-Gonzalez (IRE); T-Jo Hughes. *5,000gns RNA Wlg '15 TATFOA; €7,500 RNA Ylg '16 TIRSEP.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNER:

Mr Buttons (Ire), c, 2, **Elzaam (Aus)**--Clann Force (GB), by Kyllachy (GB). SOU, 4-1, 4f 214y (AWT), :59.47. B-Mrs L. Anderson & Miss S. Sands (IRE). *21,000gns Wlg '16 TATFOA.

WORLDWIDE NEWS

FIRST GROUP 1 FOR HEART'S CRY COLT

Suave Richard (Jpn) (Heart's Cry {Jpn}) was a key player in last year's Japanese Classics, but came through with his first Group 1 win in Sunday's G1 Osaka Hai. Suave Richard raced off the fence with just one in the field of 16 behind rounding the bend for the first time, while the year-old dual Group 1 winner **Satono Diamond (Jpn)** (Deep Impact {Jpn}) sat four lengths off the lead on the rail and last year's G1 Japan Cup winner **Cheval Grand (Jpn)** (Heart's Cry {Jpn}) traveled midpack.

Suddenly commencing a bold move midway down the backstretch, Suave Richard circled the entire field in just under three furlongs and was a little under a length the best turning for home. The white-faced bay held his advantage under mostly hand riding from Mirco Demuro and found the wire three-quarters of a length the better of a fast-finishing **Persian Knight (Jpn)** (Harbinger {GB}), the winner of last year's G1 Mile Championship, with last year's G1 Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas) winner **Al Ain (Jpn)** (Deep Impact {Jpn}) sticking on for third after following Suave Richard into the stretch.

"Since the pace was very slow, I decided to make an early bid," said Demuro. "He responded so well, I had absolutely no doubts in him and he stretched beautifully. He didn't change legs in the [right-handed] Arima Kinen, but today he did which is a promising factor--something to look forward to from now on."

Suave Richard was sixth, beaten three lengths, behind Al Ain in the Satsuki Sho last year before running Rey de Oro (Jpn) (King Kamehameha {Jpn}) to three-quarters of a length when second in the G1 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby). He won the G2 Copa Republica Argentina over 2500 metres before finishing 1 3/4 lengths adrift of Kitanas Black (Jpn) (Black Tide {Jpn}) in fourth in the G1 Arima Kinen on Dec. 24. He is now two-for-two this year, having taken the G2 Kinko Sho on Mar. 11.



Suave Richard | JRA photo

Pedigree Notes...

Suave Richard's second dam is the GII Sorrento S. winner Career Collection (General Meeting). His dam Pirramimma (Unbridled's Song), sent to Japan as a yearling, was unsuccessful on the track herself but has produced the Group 3-placed Bandwagon (Jpn) (White Muzzle {GB}) in addition to Suave Richard. Pirramimma's most recently recorded produce is a 2-year-old colt by Orfevre (Jpn).

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Sunday, Hanshin, Japan

OSAKA HAI-G1, ¥232,860,000, Hanshin, 4-1, 4yo/up, 2000mT, 1:58.20, fm.

1--**SUAVE RICHARD (JPN)**, 126, c, 4, by Heart's Cry (Jpn)

1st Dam: Pirramimma, by Unbridled's Song

2nd Dam: Career Collection, by General Meeting

3rd Dam: River of Stars, by Riverman

1ST GROUP 1 WIN. (¥155,000,000 wnlg '14 JRHAJUL) O-NICKS

Inc; B-Northern Farm; T-Yasushi Shono; J-Mirco Demuro;

¥123,402,000. Lifetime Record: 10-5-3-0. *1/2 to Bandwagon

(Jpn) (White Muzzle {GB}), GSP-Jpn, \$644,557. **Werk Nick**

Rating: C+. **Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.**

2--**Persian Knight (Jpn)**, 126, c, 3, Harbinger (GB)--Orient Charm

(Jpn), by Sunday Silence. O-G1 Racing; B-Oiwake Farm;

¥48,972,000.

3--**Al Ain (Jpn)**, 126, c, 4, Deep Impact (Jpn)--Dubai Majesty, by

Essence of Dubai. O-Sunday Racing; B-Northern Farm; B-Okada

Farm; ¥30,486,000.

Margins: 3/4, HF, 1HF. Odds: 2.50, 16.20, 2.60.

Also Ran: Yamakatsu Ace (Jpn), Mikki Swallow (Jpn), Danburite

(Jpn), Satono Diamond (Jpn), Triomphe (Jpn), Smart Layer (Jpn),

Maitres d'Art (Jpn), Yamakatsu Raiden (Jpn), Win Bright (Jpn),

Cheval Grand (Jpn), Masahaya Dream (Jpn), Satono Noblesse

(Jpn), Gold Actor (Jpn). **Click for the JRA chart and video or the**

free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree.

ASIA

Sunday's Results:

JBBA ROCKET MAN SPRINT H., S\$200,000 (£108,081/

€123,757/A\$198,574/US\$152,521), Kranji, 4-1, 3yo/up, 1200mT,

1:09.77, yl.

1--**ARAMCO (AUS)**, 111, g, 5, Magic Albert (Aus)--Eye For Fun

(Aus), by Snitzel (Aus). **1ST STAKES WIN.** (A\$750,000 Ylg '14

INGEAS). O-Aramco Stable; B-Dr I Duckworth (NSW); T-Shane

Baertschiger; J-C C Wong; S\$119,000. Lifetime Record:

22-6-4-6, \$356,654. *1/2 to Mossfun (Aus) (Mossman {Aus}),

G1SW-Aus, A\$2,561,250. **Formerly Mawahibb (Aus).

2--**Countofmontecristo (NZ)**, 130, g, 4, Echoes of Heaven (Aus)--

Replicate (NZ), by Towkay (Aus). (NZ\$57,500 2yo '15 NZBRTR).

S\$42,500.

3--**Lim's Samurai (Jpn)**, 110, g, 5, Samurai Heart (Jpn)--Toho

Queen (Jpn), by Mejiro McQueen (Jpn). (¥6,696,000 2yo '15

HOK2YO). S\$21,500.

Margins: 1, NK, 1 1/4. Odds: 9.00, 1.20, 26.00. **VIDEO.**



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AUSTRALIAN-BRED WINNERS

IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Quick Glimpse (Aus), f, 3, **Fastnet Rock (Aus)**--Apercu (Aus)

(G1SW-Aus, A\$414,225), by Encosta de Lago (Aus).

Turffontein, 3-31, Maiden Plate, 1400mT, 1:26.70. O- Mrs M

Slack & Mr M B Javett; B-Estate of the Late EGT Bateman

(NSW); T-Mike de Kock. *A\$130,000 Ylg '16 INGMEL.

Silent Choice (Aus), c, 3, **Redoute's Choice (Aus)**--Silla Regalis

(Aus), by Encosta de Lago (Aus). Kenilworth, 3-31, Maiden

Plate, 1200mT, 1:15.55. O-Messrs H Adams & D Chinsammy;

B-Arrowfield Pastoral Pty Ltd & Planette Thoroughbred; T-Dan

Katz. *A\$100,000 Ylg '16 MMNAT.

IN MACAU:

Mister Kaopu (Aus), g, 5, **Redoute's Choice (Aus)**--Fleeting

Touch, by Touch Gold. Taipa, 4-1, Hcp. (A\$78k), 1200mT,

1:07.9. B-Widden Stud Australia Pty Ltd, Rma Bloodstock Trust

(NSW). *Formerly Intrusion (Aus). **1/2 to Running Tall (Aus)

(Stratum {Aus}), GSW-Aus, \$490,043; full to Sensibility (Aus),

G1SP-Aus, A\$105,810. ***A\$600,000 Ylg '14 INGEAS. **VIDEO**

Monday, Saint-Cloud, France, post time: 3.45 p.m.

PRIX EDMOND BLANC-G3, €80,000, 4yo/up, 8fT

SC	PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	4	Jimmy Two Times (Fr)	Kendargent (Fr)	Barzalona	Fabre	126
2	1	Vilaro (Fr)	Whipper	Benoist	Smaga	126
3	7	Zalamea (Ire)	Lope de Vega (Ire)	Hardouin	Fey	126
4	2	Nice To See You (Fr)	Siyouni (Fr)	Cheminaud	Rob Collet	126
5	8	Stormy Antarctic (GB)	Stormy Atlantic	Soumillon	Walker	126
6	3	Marie d'Argent (Fr)	Kendargent (Fr)	Perret	F Rossi	122
7	6	Dallas Affair (GB)	Soldier Hollow (GB)	Lemaitre	Head	122
8	5	Enlighted (Ire)	Invincible Spirit (Ire)	Guyon	Head	122

**Post times are displayed in local time*



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