THE CASSE BROTHERS AND THEIR DERBY HORSE

If a Derby favorite emerged from the pack this past weekend in the form of the GII Risen Star winner, Gary Barber’s War of Will (War Front), the race did more than propel a new potential superstar to the front of the pack: it also demonstrated the bond and unique working relationship between Mark and Justin Casse. Lucas Marquardt caught up with the brothers at the Casse Training Center in Ocala to talk War of Will, Derby, and how they think their late father, family patriarch Norm Casse, would feel about their partnership.

LM: Justin, you bought War of Will at the Arqana May Breeze-Up Sale. Were you looking for prospects to bring back here?

Justin: I’ve been to the yearling sales six or seven years in a row, as well as the December sale, but this was the first time I had gone over to the Breeze-Up Sale. I went over there to pinhook some horses. This horse stood out on paper and physically for me. So it made it an easy call to call Mr. Barber, who is a big fan of the sire. And I only called him about 30 minutes before the horse went in the ring because initially I thought the horse was going to bring more than we would like to spend. But I had heard that he might fall into the range we were looking for.

Cont. p3

THE "PEDAL DOWN" APPROACH THAT PRODUCED ACCELERATE

by Chris McGrath

On the face of it, the way Mike Abraham came up with an Eclipse champion suggests only the futility of all the agonized judgement that typically consumes him—no less than any other breeder—in making plans and decisions.

After all, he bought the dam of Accelerate (Lookin at Lucky) more or less on a whim, an opportunist $25,000 impulse for a mare he hadn’t even been to see in the back ring. And she was only sent to Lookin At Lucky, for the mating that produced a GI Breeders’ Cup Classic winner, because she was jilted in an engagement with his studmate Scat Daddy.

It’s only when you learn other chapters in Abraham’s story, however, that you realize how apparently random blessings tend only to fall on those who are sufficiently receptive. Which means that they are earned, generically, no less than those that appear to result from the most specific and targeted of strategies. Cont. p7

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

TOWOMEY BREEZES ON WITH CLASSIC INTENTIONS

Paddy Twomey has had success in numerous areas of the business, and he is hoping the momentum of his training operation will continue in 2019.

Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.
Stereo Viewing (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) and Xavier Aizpuru walk in a winter wonderland Wednesday morning at Fair Hill Training Center in Elkton, MD. | Tres Abbott

**TRUE TIMBER TO GODOLPHIN MILE**

GI Cigar Mile runner-up True Timber (Mineshaft) will make his next start in the G1 Godolphin Mile at Meydan.

**TODAY’S GRADED STAKES**

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<td>AmWest PPs</td>
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<td>11:50a</td>
<td>Zabeel Mile-G2, MEY</td>
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"...he is primed for a major uptick with these 3-year-olds and a strong group of 2-year-olds hitting the track this summer. Plus, he has the numbers to keep going with 154, 154 and 127 mares bred the past three seasons."
- Craig Bandoroff,
  TDN's Under the Radar 1/13

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Source: TDN Sire List, 2/20

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The Casse Brothers and Their Derby Horse cont. from p1

LM: What about his breeze over there attracted you to him?

Justin: He had a very good, very quick, turn of foot, and he was an excellent mover. He had one of the top five breezes on time in the sale (video). And when you went to the barn and you looked at him afterwards, he didn't look like the type of horse that would be your typical quick breeze-up horse. He has a lot of scope to him.

LM: Did you think you were buying a turf horse initially, given that pedigree?

Justin: Absolutely. I mean, I think anybody who tells you they're going to France to buy a horse that's going to run on anything other than turf, I don't know if they're being truthful with you. Obviously, we go to Europe looking more for turf horses. Sometimes you'll find an American horse who stands out over there, or shows up over there, with dirt breeding. But no, not in this instance. Gary's a great sportsman and a very willing participant, and a terrific owner to have. And he doesn't take long to make decisions. So it made it very easy for me.

LM: Mark, what was your first impression of War of Will when you got him in the barn?

Mark: From the beginning, he'd walk out of the stall, and you'd watch him train, and say, "Wow." And we've been saying, "Wow," for a long time. And the more he trained, the more I liked him. And I told Gary pretty early on, "I think we have something special."

Cont. p4
The Casse Brothers and Their Derby Horse cont.

LM: I was watching the GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Turf last night. He really ran a fantastic race. I mean, he’s four or five wide around the first turn. Wide around the backstretch ...

Mark: He easily could have won the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Turf. He had a tough post. I think he ran 65 feet farther than the winner, and 90 feet farther than the second horse. And it’s a good thing he didn’t win the Breeders’ Cup, because if he had, I don’t know if I’d ever have run him on the dirt. We were anxious to try him on the dirt, and it was the last week at Churchill, and he had trained there and trained well. And so we said, "Well, yeah, let’s run him back." People said, ‘Oh, well, he ran well in the mud, or in the slop,’ but it was pretty dry. I wasn’t concerned at all that it was just about the mud. He laid off of it, and it was an extremely tough maiden race. And what gave me so much confidence about him was that he ran 10 one-hundredths of a second slower than they ran the Kentucky Jockey Club, which was a good race in itself. It had the second- and third-place finishers from the Breeders’ Cup in it, I believe. And Tyler shut him down the last 100 yards. So it gave me a lot of confidence after that. We went into the Lecomte ...I mean, I don’t usually say a whole lot, but I didn't think that they would beat him.

I’ve said this many times, good horses can win when everything goes their way. Great horses can win when things don’t go their way. Normally when I go into a race, I say, "Well, if things work out, we have a shot to win." With him I just ... I feel like it doesn’t really matter. He can overcome adversity, which is a great feeling.

Cont. p5
**The Casse Brothers and Their Derby Horse cont.**

LM: The last couple races he seems to have made his own trips.

Mark: If they want to go slow early, he'll run, he'll be on the lead. If they want him to run really fast, I think he can sit right behind them. So he's the perfect Derby horse because you can get in so much trouble in the Derby if you get too far back. He usually breaks running. He's pretty quick away from there. So I think that that'll help him down the road.

And I think it's amazing in that he has it all. Here's a horse that has this great pedigree. He's beautiful. When you see him, you'll say 'wow.' And he's got to appeal to both sides. I think as a sire later on, you know, I think you could take him to Europe and do well. And with what he can do here on the dirt, I think he's just the entire package. He amazes me. I've trained maybe 15 War Fronts. He looks like no other War Front I've ever had. Most of the War Fronts I've trained are a little more compact, and don't have the length. This horse is a lot leggier. We spent a lot of time in the paddock for the Risen Star. They got us over there kind of early, so we walked around for 15 minutes. Most trainers only pay attention to their horse. I was watching as he would walk around and people would look at him. I mean, he is an amazing specimen.

LM: Talk a little bit about your professional relationship.

Mark: I'm so busy with training horses that I can't get to all the sales and do everything. And I feel extremely confident in Justin and in what he buys. So it's a good feeling. And I'd be lying if I didn't think about my dad a lot and think, "I know my dad is up there smiling." Because I think it would be really important, I know it was important, for us to work together, so I think we're making him happy as well.

Justin: I was thinking about it last night, and Mark may not remember this, but it was six or seven years ago after I'll Have Another won the Kentucky Derby and I said to Mark, "I want to be Dennis O'Neill to your Doug O'Neill. And he goes, "Well, just find me a Derby horse." It was like, "There you go. Easy."

Mark: I'm not the easiest. Sometimes, I can be a little hard on him, but I'm sure over the years it's made him what he is.

Justin: He taught me what to look for because we had a pinhooking background. We'd have to shop on a budget, and so we learned what we could live with and what we could afford within our means.
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2nd Dam: Dancin Crown, by Danzig
3rd Dam: Crownette, by Seattle Slew

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2019 Fee $25,000

Nominate Mare | Stakes

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TDN’s Online Stallion Directory

Search basic information on all stallions, and follow links back to TDN signature products. Sponsored stallions offer: racing, conformation, and progeny photos; stallion commercials and videos, race replays, eNicks, on-page stallion details of TDN research tools products like Progeny PPs, Sales PPs, Stakes-Winning Pedigrees, the Black-Type Library, Sales Statistics, Sire list rankings, quotes from connections, recent stallion news, sales & racing entries, and more.

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The Casse Brothers and Their Derby Horse cont.

Justin: And we invested so much of our own money, and still do. And so a lot of what I see in a horse, I know Mark would like. And then to add to that, I started traveling around the world and I started noticing what certain people would look for and what type of horse might suit a certain type of a program. And so I owe a lot to Mark in that regard because he helped me get the foundation that made me who I am as far as a judge of horses.

Mark: What's nice is now, like I said, I don't feel like I have to be there. Justin knows what I like, and he's learned that I'm not going to sugarcoat it. But I think we make a really good team. And I think we're just kind of getting started.

LM: How much of your style of horse, or what you're looking for, is from what your dad liked in horses?

Mark: Actually, really none. I loved my dad dearly. He was a pedigree guy. I'm a little different than the average trainer. I learned pedigrees first. The physique is more trial and error. I tell everybody that I do my own studies. I've been studying for 40 years so I know what's been successful for me and what hasn't. I can pretty well tell you when I look at a pedigree what the horse should look like and what's been successful with that. And that just comes from doing it for a very, very long time. We have to protect our owners. And Justin will hear me say that many, many times. I have lots of owners who will run things by me and I'll say, "No, no, no." Because it's our job to protect them. Because if we don't do well, if we don't do a good job, they're not going to continue to do it. I worked for Mr. (Harry) Mangurian many years ago, and I had the utmost respect for him. He would always tell me, "It doesn't matter how much money you have, you don't like losing it." And I've never forgotten that.
Mike Abraham cont. from p1

So both in buying the mare, and in choosing a best man when the groom proved to be unavailable, Abraham showed the same spacious imagination that governed his turf career from the outset. Just hear what happened when he spelled the very first horse he ever owned, a Cal-bred filly he had claimed with a partner, on a farm near Albuquerque.

“Being my first horse I wanted to go up there and visit her about three times a week,” Abraham said. “But then I found out the guy who had the farm was in a little over his head. To make a long story short, I ended up buying a horse farm with one horse. And I then thought it my obligation to fill it up with other horses. So, I did. I learned the hard way that you don’t do that. But I had a bunch of horses. At one time I think I had like 300 mares up there. It was crazy. I was going broke every month just trying to pay my feed bill.”

If that was the outcome of a chance encounter at a Quarter Horse fair meet—with an old sports coach, who infected him with the horseracing bug—then little wonder if Abraham proved so responsive to fate when Issues (Awesome Again) was led into the ring at the 2011 Keeneland November Sale. Here was a stakes-placed winner of four out of eight starts, from a terrific broodmare sire-line, in foal to the promising young sire Scat Daddy, and she was barely able to get a drizzle of interest as she stood up there on the dais.

“I had paged through the mares the night before,” Abraham recalled. “I liked Awesome Again mares and she was relatively young. But I had probably 40 pages turned back as possibilities. I didn’t even go and look at her in the back, she wasn’t really on my mind at all, but luckily I was there when she came in. I could have gone to eat or something. As it was, when I saw what she was bringing, well, I was certainly willing to go some more.”

First foals hitting the mark!

“A very nice foal out of a stakes-producing mare. He’s got all the scope and substance any breeder would love to get in a foal. We’re very excited about Cupid and we’re breeding back to him this year.”

Julio Rada, Bloodstock Advisor for Los Samanes Polo and Racing, on the colt out of Miss Prado

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ike Abraham cont.

He continued, "Maybe not a whole lot more, but I was tickled to death to get her for that, for sure. For whatever reason there are always a bunch of them, later in that sale, that start falling through the cracks. I was just in the right place at the right time."

Between that fateful day and his first, immoderate experiment in New Mexico, there had plainly been much trial and error as Abraham evolved the smarts required to make his new passion viable. As he got the numbers back to a manageable level on that first farm, he was fortunate to be introduced by his veterinarian to Carl Nafzger. They still have a strong rapport, and Nafzger trained winners for him at Keeneland and Arlington—albeit for a long time subsequently Abraham defected to Quarter Horses.

In fact, his very first one was Sparkling Moolah, who created a big buzz in California as an undefeated 2-year-old in 1980. Again, though, it was breeding that intrigued him most. And by the time he renewed a Thoroughbred stable, a decade or so ago, he knew what he was about.

The fact was that he had initially gone onto the turf with an urban upbringing and precious little in the way of an inherited disposition. True, his father did briefly race a couple of Quarter Horses in Oklahoma. More significantly, however, he passed on the kind of knack necessary to fund such an adventure, Abraham having followed him into oil, gas and above all real estate.

"My dad did a lot of different things," he said. "He was an entrepreneur of sorts. He made tons of money and lost tons of money. He was a real gambler, so maybe I got that from him. All the way through, I made my own mistakes and pretty much worked my way out of those mistakes, because I really didn't listen to anybody. I figured: 'I got myself in this mess so I'm going to get myself out.' One time I traded about 150 mares for a building in El Paso. One building, and really wasn't much of one, but that was a good way of getting a bunch of mares off the feed bill. I did a lot of reading, educating myself. And tried to go to as good a quality as I could afford. And in the end it worked out very well." Cont. p9
Mike Abraham cont.
Because it’s not as though Abraham’s success with Issues was a flash in the pan.

“Yeah, we’ve had several good stories buying mares,” he acknowledged. “I bought a Storm Cat mare called One Stormy Mama for $23,000 and have sold over $1 million in babies out of her. They weren’t all real sound, but they run. She had one called Thunder Moccasin (A.P. Warrior), who was an undefeated graded stakes winner. Another one was Funfair, a More Than Ready mare. She was a stakes winner, but we bought her for $19,000. I bred her to Malibu Moon, everybody told me I was crazy, but we sold the yearling for $250,000. And then I sold her for $350,000, because when he died it really made a premium on a mare in foal to Scat Daddy.’’

Certainly Abraham made the most of the windfall that was Issues. The foal she was carrying at the time of her purchase turned out to be Daddy D T (Scat Daddy), who himself repaid 10 times their joint cost when sold as a yearling for $250,000. (Importantly, he had been spotted by the Ingordo/Hronis team, who subsequently came back for Accelerate.) Daddy D T’s older full-brother Amarish, meanwhile, upgraded the page through a first graded stakes podium.

“And it just went up from there,” Abraham said. “Daddy D T placed in the [GI] Breeders’ Cup [Juvenile Turf]. But when I booked her back to Scat Daddy, we got there and there was a problem that day. We’d known there might be, though, so I’d done some nicking homework. And I chose Lookin at Lucky. The nick looked good, the fit looked good, and I liked that horse a lot. She was late anyway, and I didn’t want to wait for Scat Daddy to end up with a June baby.”

Cont. p10
RAINTREE STARLET shown winning the $100K Dixie Belle S. going 6 furlongs on the dirt Saturday at Oaklawn

GET STORMY
A LEADING 4TH CROP SIRE
BY CUMULATIVE GRADED STAKES WINNERS

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<td>Shackleford</td>
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<td>Creative Cause</td>
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"Get Stormy is a 3-time Grade 1 winner with earnings of $1.6 million. His first 2-crops rank him number 3 among North American F2014 sires (first foals 2014), with a 1.52 A Runner Index, including 7 A Runners in his first two crops, four of them being Graded Stakes Winners. He’s becoming as good a sire as he was a racehorse."

BILL OPPENHEIM

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CRESTWOOD FARM
Mike Abraham cont.

As it was, she delivered a chestnut colt May 10. Abraham lives in Las Vegas and only saw him on sporadic visits to Kentucky.

“He never looked a real late foal,” Abraham recalled of Accelerate. “And he grew up well, matured well, always seemed a good-natured colt. But nothing you would remember as just outstanding. I don’t remember of any setbacks or anything. He just developed into a nice colt and I was very happy with the $380,000 we got for him.”

Abraham sensibly gave himself the chance of cashing in, offering Issues at Fasig-Tipton’s Fall Sale in 2014 just after Daddy D T had run third at the Breeders’ Cup. But the bidding stalled at $450,000 and luckily he held onto her.

“I was really thinking more than that, and I'd had second thoughts even about bringing her,” he remembered. “At the time I think it was probably going to take $750,000. I think Coolmore was the underbidder. But I wasn't going to sell her for that—even though you could say $450,000 was a lot of money already for a mare I paid $25,000 for. But it worked out.”

Issues is expecting a Curlin foal this spring, having missed out last year in what appears to have been fairly exasperating circumstances. Nor had it been especially plain sailing in the meantime, the two Bernardini sons she sent up to consecutive September Sales having both had one or two hold-ups. The second, in fact, didn’t meet his reserve, as a late foal with immaturity issues, and Abraham will give him time and race him in his own stable.

Abraham still retains a foot in the Quarter Horse camp, with a farm in New Mexico, though he is now standing his first Thoroughbred stallion in [GI] Breeders’ Cup Sprint runner-up Laugh Track, a half-brother to Commissioner (A.P. Indy) by Distorted Humor, at Double LL Farms in the same state. As a freshman last year, he had half a dozen winners from 16 starters.

“And I had a real nice bunch of mares bred to him the second year,” Abraham noted. “I own 25% of a Quarter Horse stallion called First Moonflash. He'd be in the top three or four in the world right now. But I do have probably 20, 25 Thoroughbred mares out there also, and about the same in Kentucky.” Cont. p11
Mike Abraham cont.

That crossover qualifies Abraham as an informed witness to the remarkable transferability to Thoroughbreds of Quarter Horse lore, as practiced by the likes of D. Wayne Lukas and Bob Baffert.

“Basically, those guys are all real horsemen,” Abraham said. “I think that’s the key. They know what a good horse looks like and they know how to train one. And they’ve been in it a long time, mostly they started very young. I don’t know that they train them any differently. Baffert, for sure, is demanding in works. Those guys would pick out big Thoroughbreds that look like Quarter Horses. If you look at Justify (Scat Daddy), he’s like a giant Quarter Horse. Big hip, good bone.”

Abraham’s other great passion is art. Again, there are no half measures. The man who bought a whole farm for a single claimed horse is also the man who has assembled the world’s largest LeRoy Nieman collection.

“I haven’t been doing it that long, but I’ve bought a bunch,” he said. “I’ve sold a few just because I don’t even have a place to put them, but I’m working on a deal to maybe get them displayed in a big venue. As a kid I remember watching him drawing the Olympics, drawing horse races: he was always a sports artist and was at all the big events.

“I was in Vegas one day walking by an art gallery and saw one of his paintings. Right away I said, ‘Wow.’ So I went in there and ended up buying it. And again, you learn by trial and error. I paid a fortune because you know, I went in and paid the store price. And so I started educating myself, ended up buying a lot privately or at auctions. But it’s a lot of fun, something to blow off steam and a little different from the horses. They don’t eat, and they don’t die, so it’s pretty good!”

Abraham only met Nieman once, when he was sketching a big basketball game at the University of New Mexico. He introduced himself and said: “You know, I have 50 of your originals.” And Nieman looked at him and replied, “You have a good eye.”

“That cracked me up,” recalled Abraham. “He was quite a guy. He lived a good life. Playboy hired him and he went all around the world and painted everybody. I’ve got Frank Sinatra, Mickey Mantle. Some I wouldn’t part with for anything.”

And now Abraham has an equine masterpiece to his credit, too—one eligible to leave a lasting legacy in his new role at Lane’s End. Accelerate couldn’t quite round off his career as hoped in the G1 Pegasus World Cup deluge, but Abraham will always have the memory of that Breeders’ Cup Classic. He wasn’t actually there, instead watching in his hotel room in Lexington prior to the November sales.

“I didn’t want to go over there and jinx the horse,” he explained. “I’ve only seen him run once, when he broke his maiden, and so I thought, ‘You know what? I’m just going to stay away and wish everybody a lot of luck.’ And it turned out good. I’m surprised that they didn’t call the bomb squad or something. I was screaming and hollering, they might have thought somebody was getting killed. It’s been a ride. Hopefully there’ll be more, but yeah, we’ve had a lot of fun.”
TRUE TIMBER TO GODOLPHIN MILE

Calumet Farm’s True Timber (Mineshaft) will be pointed to the G1 Godolphin Mile Mar. 30 at Meydan. Runner-up in the GI Cigar Mile, the bay was last seen finishing seventh in the GI Pegasus World Cup Invitational S. last month.

“We are planning to run him in the Godolphin Mile and he’s doing really well,” trainer Kiaran McLaughlin confirmed. “He’s training great and we will breeze him weekly before we ship in. He’ll be based at Meydan with the rest of the American horses.

He continued, “He came out of the Pegasus in good shape. He’s probably better at a mile and I’m happy to try him back at one there. He’s a very nice horse and other than the Pegasus, he has been running really well. He was very wide the other day and that really hurt his chances.”

Calumet will also be represented by Bravazo (Awesome Again), trained by McLaughlin’s mentor D. Wayne Lukas, in the G1 Dubai World Cup.

LONE STAR PARK RACING CLUB SEEKS MEMBERS

The Lone Star Park Racing Club is accepting members for the 2019 season which runs Apr. 18 through July 21. The minimal investment is $500 and 150 shares will be sold. Membership can be purchased online by clicking here.

In addition to being part owner in a racehorse, membership perks include free admission for club members and a guest for the season, a parking pass, barn tours, e-mail updates and more.

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TAX WEBINAR

Thursday, February 21 – 1-2 p.m. EST at NTRA.com

Dean Dorton, one of the largest CPA firms based in Kentucky, is teaming with the NTRA to host a webinar on February 21 focusing on key federal tax reform items for horse and farm owners.

Click HERE for more information.

Dean Dorton’s Director of Tax Services, Jen Shah, is the firm’s equine team leader. Shah will provide her expertise during the webinar.
OUTSTANDING GROOM & MEDIA FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR SOVEREIGN AWARDS

Amanda Erwin has been chosen as the 2018 Outstanding Groom Award winner for the 2018 Sovereign Awards. She has worked for trainer Mike Keogh for over 17 years and rubbed the likes of Canadian champions Wando and Woodcarver.

The finalists have also been decided for the media awards. In the writing category, the top three are Dave Briggs for “Horse of the Year Pink Lloyd: A Hero for Our Times,” Chris Lomon for “Born the Beat the Odds,” and Hayley Morrison for “Hail to the War Horses.” In the digital audio/visual and broadcast category, the finalists are Horse Racing Alberta for “Canadian Derby Homegrown Heroes,” Horse Racing Radio Network for “159th Queen’s Plate,” and Woodbine Entertainment Group for “Ricoh Woodbine Mile.” The top three in the photography category are Santino Di Paola for “Into the turn,” Hayley Morrison for “Kingsport: A Class Act,” and John Watkins for “Show Me the Money.”

CASAS TO AUCTION JUSTIFY HALTER

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) will auction Triple Crown winner Justify’s halter at their annual fundraising event Bourbon and the Bayou. The Mardi Gras-themed event will be held Mar. 1 at the Carrick House in Lexington, Kentucky.

“Individuals interested in the halter or any of the other amazing products we have can bid on the items online without attending the event and from any location. The wonderful part is all of the proceeds from the auction and event go directly to provide advocacy for child abuse and neglect victims right here in our own community,” said Melynda Milburn Jamison, Executive Director of CASA of Lexington.

RAILBIRD FESTIVAL COMING TO KEENELAND

AC Entertainment will host Railbird Festival at Keeneland Aug. 10-11. Musical acts will be announced at a later date, but will include rock, Americana, folk, bluegrass and mare. Bourbon, craft beer and local food will also be part of the event.

“With all of our festivals, we aspire to create an experience that stands apart from others—that is a true celebration of place, of the richness and uniqueness of a community,” said Ashley Capps, president of AC Entertainment. “That, for us, is at the heart of any truly great festival experience. What a place this is, and what a team to collaborate with. This iconic setting at Keeneland in a city like Lexington, Kentucky, and these visionary leaders who make it all work, from bourbon to horses to bluegrass and everything in between. We couldn’t be more excited for this new venture.”

Railbird will also give back to the community by partnering with local nonprofit organizations Central Music Academy, Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, Fayette Alliance and Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance. Each nonprofit will receive monetary support from the festival, and will have a presence on-site during the event.

Click here for more information.

GOTHAM CHALLENGE RETURNS

The Gotham Challenge returns as part of the 2019 NYRA Handicapping Challenge series. The live-money challenge, with a $500 entry fee, of which $250 will be allocated to the prize pool and $250 for each player’s live bankroll, will see contestans compete on races from Aqueduct, Gulfstream Park, and Tampa Bay Downs.

For the first time in a NYRA Handicapping Challenge, entrants will be able to register and compete online in the Gotham Challenge via NYRA Bets. In order to enter and play online, contestants must be registered NYRA Bets account holders. New NYRA Bets members are currently eligible to receive a bet $200 get $200 bonus.

In addition to prize money and live-money winnings, the Gotham Challenge provides horseplayers the opportunity to qualify for a seat to the two-day 2019 Belmont Stakes Challenge June 7-8 or one of two seats to the National Horseplayers Championship in February 2020.

Registration for the Gotham Challenge is available now through Thursday, March 7 at 5 p.m. For more information, click here.

IN OTHER NEWS...

A Daily Roundup of Racing Articles in Non-Industry Media

Baltimore Mayor Blasts Pimlico Owners, Who Say They Want to Move Preakness to Laurel “Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh is blasting the owners of the Pimlico Race Course after the company urged construction of a “super track” for horse racing in Laurel, not Baltimore.” Luke Broadwater, The Baltimore Sun

Utah Lawmaker Pushing Bill to Legalize Betting on Horse Races “Gambling may be illegal in Utah, but a lawmaker is pushing a bill that could legalize betting on horse races.” Katie McKellar, Deseret News
**Saturday, Santa Anita, post time: 7:00 p.m. EST**

**BUENA VISTA S.-GII**, $200,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 1mT

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<tr>
<th>PP</th>
<th>HORSE</th>
<th>SIRE</th>
<th>OWNER</th>
<th>TRAINER</th>
<th>JOCKEY</th>
<th>WT</th>
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<td>Slam Dunk Racing, Turf Stable II LLC &amp; Michael Nentwig</td>
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<td>Champs Elysees (GB)</td>
<td>Sheep Pond Partners and All Pro Racing LLC</td>
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<td>All Schlaich Stables, Hollendorfer, Gatto Racing &amp; G. Todaro</td>
<td>Hollendorfer</td>
<td>Prat</td>
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<td>Roncelli Family Trust</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-Eurowest Bloodstock, 2-Ron Clarkson, 3-Rabbah Bloodstock Limited, 4-Michael J. Moran, 5-Glen Hill Farm, 6-Lordship Stud, 7-Woodlawn Breeding Inc, 8-Haras D'Haspel, 9-Mikhail Yanakov, 10-Roncelli Family Trust

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**Saturday, Gulfstream, post time: 4:58 p.m. EST**

**HAL'S HOPE S.-GIII**, $100,000, 4yo/up, 1m

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<td>Lookin At Lucky</td>
<td>West Point Thoroughbreds, Reeves Thoroughbred Racing, Eric Young &amp; R. A. Hill Stable</td>
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<td>Saez</td>
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<td>Wild Shot</td>
<td>Trappe Shot</td>
<td>Calumet Farm</td>
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<td>Melin, David, Eilman, Leon and Plesa, Laurie</td>
<td>Plesa, Jr.</td>
<td>Lopez</td>
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<td>Speightstown</td>
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<td>Daniel McConnell</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-Charles Fipke, 2-Jacks or Better Farm Inc., 3-Christine Hayden, 4-Calumet Farm, 5-WinStar Farm, LLC, 6-Philip Matthews & Karen Matthews, 7-WinStar Farm, LLC, 8-R. Otto Stables, Inc., 9-Daniel W. McConnell Sr.
### 2019 Leading YTD Third-Crop Sires By Winners

For stallions standing in North America through Tuesday, Feb. 19

_Earnings and Black-type represents North American & European figures & stud fees are for 2019_

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<th>BTW</th>
<th>BTH</th>
<th>GSW</th>
<th>GSH</th>
<th>G1SW</th>
<th>G1SH</th>
<th>Starters</th>
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For all TDN Sire lists—including individual crop-year reports—visit [www.thetdn.com/tdn-sire-stats/](http://www.thetdn.com/tdn-sire-stats/)
Stakes-Placed

Forever d’Oro

MEDAGLIA D’ORO – LEMONS FOREVER, BY LEMON DROP KID

New For Indiana

Brilliant pedigree – by “Sire of Sires” MEDAGLIA D’ORO ($200,000 Stud Fee) out of Broodmare of the Year and Grade 1 Kentucky Oaks winner LEMONS FOREVER [G1], dam of Eclipse Champion FOREVER UNBRIDLED [G1] ($3,186,880) and UNBRIDLED FOREVER [G1] ($805,257).

Stakes-Placed at Saratoga and Belmont Park Maiden Special Winner.

Stands first season in 2019.

2019 Fee: $2,000 LIVE FOAL
Owner: Charles Fipke

Hidden Springs Farm
4725 Hwy 150 NE, Palmyra, IN 47164
Inquiries to ROBIN and DALE BERRYHILL
p. 502.873.8757 / c. 812.705.1844
drberryhill@aol.com

Payable when foal stands and nurses. Photo by Adam Coglianese
IN ORDER OF PURSE:

8th-Gulfstream, $43,560, (S), Msw, 2-20, 3yo, f, 1mT, 1:35.99, fm.

**BEAUTIFUL LOVER (f, 3, Arch--American Skipper, by Quiet American)**, the most expensive progeny to sell from her sire’s final crop when hammering for $475,000 off of a :10 2/5 breeze at OBS April, made a big middle move in her course-and-distance debut Jan. 12 before settling for fourth. Pounded down to 1-2 here, the dark bay traveled in a pocketed fourth past splits of :23.76 and :47.83. Saving ground on the far turn, she tipped three wide approaching the lane, swooped to the lead a furlong out and drew clear to a sharp 4 1/2-length graduation. La Chauffeur (Cairo Prince) completed the exacta. The winner is a half to Zivo (True Direction), GSW & GISP, $1,017,300. Her dam has a juvenile Turbo Compressor filly and was bred to Social Inclusion last spring. Sales History: $475,000 2yo ’18 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, $27,520.  

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

O-Paul P. Pompa, Jr. & Gary Tolchin; B-Thomas Coleman (FL); T-Chad C. Brown.

3rd-Gulfstream, $43,210, Msw, 2-20, 4yo/up, f/m, 5fT, :56.54, fm.

**CUCCIDATI (f, 4, Street Cry {Ire}--Sugarcraft, by Bernardini)** finished third debuting on the Belmont dirt in May of 2017 and was sixth over the turf there a month later. Unseen since, the bay was backed to 11-5 favoritism here and broke alertly to dictate terms through a :21.71 quarter. Shaking loose after straightening for home, the chalk flattened out a bit in the final sixteenth, but still had enough to hold off Stylishly (Speightstown) by three-quarters of a length. The victress, named after an Italian Christmas cookie, has a juvenile half-brother by Discreet Cat. Her dam, out of GSW Sugar Shake (Awesome Again), was bred to Distorted Humor last term. Sales History: $150,000 Ylg ’16 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-1, $36,175.  

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

O-Waterville Lake Stable; B-Godolphin LLC (KY); T-Christophe Clement.

8th-Tampa Bay Downs, $20,000, Msw, 2-20, 3yo, f, 1 1/16mT, 1:43.02, fm.

**PEP (f, 3, City Zip--My Rachel {GSP, $138,285}, by Horse Chestnut {SAf})**, overlooked at 13-1 in this promising-looking field that included Triple Crown champion Justify (Scat Daddy)’s half-sister Egyptian Storm (Pioneerof the Nile), was reined in to run second-last behind a :23.95 quarter. Moving up a spot past a :48.59 half, the chestnut rallied into contention at the top of the lane, dove through a narrow rail opening at the sixteenth pole and edged away to a 1 1/4-length upset. Chancetheracer (Quality Road) was second, while Egyptian Storm finished a non-factor fifth. The winner is a half to Orbolution (Orb), SW & GSP, $145,800. Her dam, a half to GSW turfer Jack Milton (War Front), is responsible for a juvenile Declaration of War filly and a yearling colt by Honor Code. She was bred to War Front last season. Sales History: $125,000 Ylg ’17 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $11,800.  

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

O-Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners; B-Hinkle Farms (KY); T-Todd A. Pletcher.

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**Beautiful Lover | Lauren King**
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Fast Graded SW 2YO by Indian Charlie.

$5,000 S&N
Indian Charlie – Ten Halos, by Marquetry
FIRST-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

All On the Lion (Lion Cavern)
3 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
5-Turfway, Msw 6 1/2f, PEPPER THEM GIRL, 50-1

Mucho Macho Man (Macho Uno), Adena Springs, $15,000
122 foals of racing age/13 winners/2 black-type winners
8-Oaklawn, Aoc 6f, MUCHA MEZQUINA, 6-1

Tritap (Tapit), Heritage Stallions, $2,500
42 foals of racing age/11 winners/1 black-type winner
6-Laurel, Aoc 1 1/16m, TRIFOR GOLD, 8-1

Well Spelled (Spellbinder), Godstone Farm, $1,500
24 foals of racing age/2 winners/1 black-type winner
4-Penn National, Msw 6f, EL PISTOLERO, 10-1

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:
8th-Sunland, $26,410, 2-19, (NW1X), 4yo/up, 1m, 1:37.11, ft.
FIVE STAR KIP (g, 5, Five Star Prospect--Lookingfortheagold, by Kipling) Lifetime Record: 14-3-5-0, $59,553. O-Edward F. Wilson; B-Ron Bybee (OK); T-Lillian N. Silva.

3rd-Mahoning Valley, $24,000, 2-20, (NW3L), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11.34, ft.
GOOD LUCK JUSTICE (g, 5, Mizzen Mast--Girl Glitter, by Glitterman) Lifetime Record: 24-3-4-3, $67,851. O/T-Fernando Silva; B-Justice Farm & Greg Justice (KY). *$20,000 RNA Ylg '15 KEES; $21,000 2yo '16 OBSOPN.

6th-Tampa Bay Downs, $20,000, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm ($16,000), 2-20, 4yo/up, 1m 40y, 1:41.57, ft.
THE BEST CANDY (c, 4, Candy Ride {Arg}--Best Mom {MSP, $142,124}, by Chester House) Lifetime Record: 21-5-1-0, $103,753. O-Thoroughbred Champions Training Center LLC; B-Jon Marshall (PA); T-Jaime Mejia. *$11,000 Ylg '16 KEES; $30,000 RNA 2yo '17 OBSAPR.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:
Cowtown Home, f, 3, Cowtown Cat--Pyrivatele (SW, $142,627), by Evansville Slew. Mahoning Valley, 2-20, (S), 5f, 1:08.30. B-Steve Palinkas (OH).

Grand Strategy, g, 3, Trappe Shot--Music Thunder, by Distorted Humor. Mahoning Valley, 2-20, (S), 6f, 1:12.32. B-Peter Sheppell & K. C. Garret Farm (OH). *$22,000 Ylg '17 FTKOCT.

TODAY’S FEATURED VIDEO REPLAYS

Beautiful Lover (Arch), the most expensive progeny from her late sire’s final crop, graduates sharply at Gulfstream

TDN CRITERIA

The races covered in the TDN are as follows:

- Stakes: purses of $50,000/up
- Allowance Races: purses of $20,000/up
- Optional Claiming Races: purses of $20,000/up
- Maiden Special Weight Races: purses of $18,000/up
- Maiden Claiming Races: purses of $18,000/up & a minimum claiming price of $40,000

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ARCH, Beautiful Lover, f, 3, o/o American Skipper, by Quiet American. MSW, 2-20, Gulfstream
CANDY RIDE (ARG), The Best Candy, c, 4, o/o Best Mom, by Chester House. AOC, 2-20, Tampa Bay
CITY ZIP, Pep, f, 3, o/o My Rachel, by Horse Chestnut (Saf). MSW, 2-20, Tampa Bay
COWTOWN CAT, Cowtown Home, f, 3, o/o Pyriteville, by Evansville Slew. MSW, 2-20, Mahoning Valley
FIVE STAR PROSPECT, Five Star Kip, g, 5, o/o Lookingforthe Gold, by Kipling. ALW, 2-19, Sunland
MIZZEN MAST, Good Luck Justice, g, 5, o/o Girl Glitter, by Glitterman. ALW, 2-20, Mahoning Valley
STREET CRY (IRE), Cuccidati, f, 4, o/o Sugarcraft, by Bernardini. MSW, 2-20, Gulfstream
TRAPPE SHOT, Grand Strategy, g, 3, o/o Music Thunder, by Distorted Humor. MSW, 2-20, Mahoning Valley
TWENTYEIGHTTWELVE, Just Betty, m, 5, o/o Authentress, by Authenticate. MSW, 2-20, Sam Houston
TWOMEY BREEZES ON WITH CLASSIC INTENTIONS

By Amy Lynam

The evolution of Paddy Twomey reached a new milestone this winter when he welcomed 32 juveniles to his Athassel House Stables outside Golden in County Tipperary. The one-time breeder, pinhooker and breeze-up consignor took out a training licence in 2012 and has forged an excellent record of maiden winners from limited numbers. To illustrate his success, he ran 10 horses in 2018: seven of those won and another finished second on both starts. To illustrate the calibre of those winners, two of them hold Classic entries.

As well as training maiden winners, Twomey has created a reputation for selling them, something which has sometimes reduced the stable’s ammunition, and which the Bandon native was keen to remedy. "I suppose I know plenty of people in the business and I let it be known that this year I wanted to train in a more public fashion," reveals Twomey. "I think that maybe there was a misconception that I was training for myself only."

Twomey asked and they answered. His 60 stables are now busier than ever before. Along with a bumper bunch of 2-year-olds, the yard has a strong hand for this year’s 3-year-old contests, including the Classics.

GOLD CUP WINNER BIG ORANGE RETIRED

Big Orange (GB) (Duke of Marmalade {Ire}–Miss Brown To You {Ire}, by Fasliyev), winner of the G1 Gold Cup at Royal Ascot in 2017, has been retired from racing at age eight after aggravating a suspensory ligament injury that left him on the sidelines most of last year.

Racing as a homebred for Bill and Tim Gredley and trained by Michael Bell, Big Orange reeled off his first two pattern-race wins at four in the G2 Princess of Wales’s S. at Newmarket and the G2 Goodwood Cup. He made his first overseas trip later that season when fifth, beaten 2 1/2 lengths, in the G1 Melbourne Cup. He repeated in the Princess of Wales’s and Goodwood Cup the following summer but his career-best came the following June when he denied the defending Gold Cup winner Order of St George (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) in a stirring front-running performance. Big Orange made just one start last year, finishing down the field in Meydan’s G2 Dubai Gold Cup before his injury was discovered, and the bay had been warming up for a return at Bell’s Newmarket yard.

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

THE CASSE BROTHERS AND THEIR DERBY HORSE

Lucas Marquardt caught up with Mark Casse and his brother Justin to talk MGSW War of Will (War Front), the Kentucky Derby and their late father Norman and what he would thinks of his sons’ accomplishments. Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.
Paddy Twomey talks to members of the All About Sunday partnership at a recent owners’ morning | Amy Lynam

Twomey Breezes On With Classic Intentions cont. from p1

Decrypt (GB) (Dark Angel {Ire}) is a prime example of the precocious form of Twomey’s stable, having finished second on debut at The Curragh on Irish Guineas weekend, with the winner Indigo Balance (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) going on to win at listed level and finish fourth in the G1 Phoenix S. Successful on his next start in June, Decrypt had Lady Kaya (Ire) (Dandy Man {Ire}) behind him in third. The latter subsequently won her maiden by 10 lengths before taking second in the G1 Moyglare Stud S.

Decrypt, unlike many of the stable’s maiden winners, subsequently remained in his trainer’s ownership but has been unseen since June. Twomey explains, "He's a horse that I didn't run back after that, because he was growing and developing. He's in a good place at the moment and we're very happy with him, and we're hopeful of a good season ahead."

The trainer, however, is not tempted to try to make up for lost time. He says, "He's rated 96 now, but I'd rather not start him in a stakes race. We'll maybe start him off in a conditions race and go from there. He has a Guineas entry, because we think he's talented, but we'll see what happens."

In the past, Twomey has himself owned the vast majority of his horses, though this was by default, rather than design. He says, "The reason that they ran in my own colours was because I didn't have any owners to start with, and it was going to be hard to promote myself as a trainer if I'd never trained before. I wasn't afraid to back my own judgement and I was happy to buy horses to race myself."

His first purchases were a little different to what he has become known for training, as he acknowledges. "When I decided to start training, I began by buying some inexpensive store horses with the view to running them in bumpers."
Twomey Breezes On With Classic Intentions cont.

“We finished first and second at the Punchestown Festival with the first bunch and we enjoyed it, but I quickly changed focus to the Flat, because that's where my interest lies.”

U.S. owner Martin Schwartz is no stranger to buying European maiden winners, and he showed faith in Paddy Twomey when keeping Foxtrot Liv (GB) (Foxwedge {Aus}) in his care after purchasing the chestnut following her maiden success. An impressive winner of a seven-furlong maiden at The Curragh, she went on to finish second at listed and Group 3 level on her next two starts, and looks open to further progression this season.

Schwartz shares Twomey's ambitions, as the trainer explains, "Martin Schwartz has left her with me with the plan of running her in a Guineas Trial in the spring, as she has an Irish Guineas entry, as well as a German Guineas entry. I'd imagine Martin would like to go to Royal Ascot with her, if everything fell into place. I imagine that she'll go to Chad Brown later in her career."

And Twomey believes that we may not yet have seen the best of his 3-year-old string. "I have some nice unraced 3-year-olds, a few of which also have Guineas entries and we're not in the habit of making those kind of entries for no reason. Two of those entries are for nice Kodiac (GB) fillies and I'd be hoping that they'd start off in maidens in April, if everything goes according to plan."

The addition of an owner of Schwartz's calibre is significant at Athassel, as Twomey relates, "Martin is a good man and he has been great to train for, and we're delighted that he's kept the filly with us."

Twomey also relishes the opportunity to build on his horses' maiden successes, something he hasn't always been able to do in the past. "Selling is an important part of the business; I wouldn't still be doing it if I hadn't sold the horses I have," he says. "It is bittersweet watching them run for someone else, however; I'd rather train them on in their careers. I'd like to take horses all the way through their career and watch them fulfill their potential."

He continues, "I had to sell them in order to fund the operation and keep the show on the road, but starting off, I was also trying to show that I could train. They were the 'shop window', not only for themselves, but also for their trainer."

They have demonstrated Twomey's expert handling of young horses in particular, and so, it comes as no surprise that this is something he enjoys, as he admits, "I get a kick out of picking out a young horse, and I get a kick out of producing a young horse. I love training young horses; it's a balancing act--you have to do enough, but not too much. I enjoy figuring out each individual."
Twomey Breezes On With Classic Intentions cont.

It is therefore unsurprising that pre-training helped Twomey to fund his Athassel operation in the early days, though he now has just one client: William Haggas. He says, "When I started out, William was very good to me and offered to send me a few horses a long time ago. At vital stages along the way, he's had horses here and I'll be ever grateful to him for that. He's the only person I pre-train for. It's not really something I'd like to do more of, but I'll pre-train for William as long as he wants me to."

Another previously important source of funds for the Athassel operation was consigning at breeze-up sales, though this was never a long-term plan, according to Twomey.

"I only started to breeze horses about 12 years ago because I bought this farm and I wanted to earn money. It wasn't something I really wanted to do, but rather that I ended up doing, as a necessity.

"I enjoyed the horses riding out and to be honest, I missed them in the summer when they had gone. I didn't get any great satisfaction from getting a horse to gallop two furlongs in a fast time."

Whether it be buying to race or resell, Twomey has consistently shown he has a terrific eye for a horse, and he particularly appreciates the freedom that buying to race brings. He explains, "I've found that there's a difference between buying to resell and buying to race, because when I was pinhooking, I had to be very sire-driven. The market wanted a fashionable stallion but in what I'm doing now, I have more freedom to buy horses that I like physically, from a female family that I like. I prefer solid, proven stallions, who have slipped off the radar a little bit, but who have shown that they can get some good horses."
Twomey Breezes On With Classic Intentions cont.

Horses to have passed through Twomey's yard include 65,000gns yearling Catalyst (Ire) (Makfi (GB)), whom he trained to win her maiden and subsequently sold for 375,000gns. Last April, he trained Expected (Ire) (Intikhab) (since renamed King Print) to win his debut by 21 lengths, with the €34,000 yearling later sold to Hong Kong for a presumably sizeable profit.

Twomey was born to trade. He says, "My family have a commercial ethos; they're traders, shopkeepers and whatnot. My Dad died in 2004 but he had been an auctioneer by profession, and kept horses as a hobby, as well as racing the odd one. My Dad was very interested in horses, and then I turned it into a career."

California acted as a catalyst, and four years later Twomey bought his current base. The 100-acre farm has undergone a transformation since then, as the trainer reveals.

"We have about 60 stables here, along with a grass gallop, woodchip gallop and a sand canter. Even though I wasn't training many horses, I was preparing the place for the day that I hopefully would end up training more. We started with a blank canvas."

Some elements of the operation have remained the same, though.

"Most of the people working for me have been with me all the way through pre-training and yearlings in the past," Twomey said. "I have eight or nine very good riders and I have three or four very good lads in the yard, so at the minute, I'm very lucky to have a very good team."

It is very noticeable the emphasis Twomey puts on the word 'we' during our conversation, and he is keen to outline the importance of jockey Billy Lee. "Billy rode my first winner in 2012," explains Twomey. "He comes in twice a week and is a big part of the operation; we're on the same frequency. I have great respect for him, he's a very good rider and I think if he was a foot shorter and a stone lighter, he'd be champion jockey."

It would appear that Lee has as much faith in Twomey. The latter adds, "He's been with me all the way through and when David Wachman finished training, Billy decided to start coming in here and I was taken aback, to be honest, as there wasn't a lot going on here at the time; I didn't think a man like him would come to me."

As the saying goes, build it and they will come.

Twomey's first success in the horse world came in partnership with his late father, Sean, with whom he bred G1 Prix Morny victor Tagula (Ire) (Taufan). "I started buying cattle when I was eight and after selling a few, I bought Tagula's mother when I was 13. I was a 13-year-old with a mare that I didn't know what to do with but, luckily, Liam Cashman gave me a foal share for Taufan. I'll always be very grateful to him for that."

Twomey later bred dual Group 1 winner Serious Attitude (Ire) (Mtoto GB), whose son Stiffelio (Jpn) (Stay Gold Jpn) gained his second Group 3 victory last weekend.

Twomey hasn't taken the traditional path that many follow towards becoming a trainer, as he admits.

"I've actually never worked for a trainer in England or Ireland, but in 2002, I spent three weeks with Laura de Seroux. Alex Hassinger was her assistant at the time and while I was there, they had the likes of Astra (Theatrical {Ire}) and Azeri (Jade Hunter). They were based at San Luis Rey Downs and I rode the pony. I always thought I'd like to be a trainer and after enjoying those three weeks immensely, I was sure I wanted to train."

Gold Cup Winner Big Orange Retired cont. from p1

"He'd only been trotting and was due to be re-scanned on Monday, but we brought it forward before he started cantering and there's a tiny bit of heat on the leg and the warning was there," said Bell. "It was a no-brainer really, given it had flared up just through trotting.

"He's sound, he's gone back to Stetchworth [Park Stud] and the Gredleys will make a decision on what he will do in retirement, but he's got a home whatever happens. It just depends how active he is in retirement."
Gold Cup Winner Big Orange Retired cont.

“He does like being involved and likes a routine, but Bill and Tim are horsemen through and through and will find something he is happy doing.”

Paying tribute to Big Orange’s racecourse performances, Bell added, “The Gold Cup at Ascot is right up there with my favourite days, full stop—it was just a fantastic horse race. I’ve been very lucky to be the guy that trained him. He gave his all, the Gredleys loved him and we’ve loved training him. He’ll leave a big hole to fill, but you feel very lucky to have these horses.”

O-Mr C. J. Murfitt; B-Pantile Stud (GB); T-Rae Guest.

Tuesday Night’s Results:
6th-Wolverhampton, £4,500, Novice, 2-19, 3yo/up, f/m, 9f 104y (AWT), 2:01.38, st.
ELISHEBA (IRE) (f, 3, Australia {GB}--Laugh Out Loud {GB} {GSW-Fr, SW & G1SP-Eng, SP-US, $217,207}, by Clodovil {Ire}), who blew the start when fifth on debut at Kempton Feb. 2, was again tardy from the gates but quickly made up ground to race keenly behind the leading trio. Wearing down Dawn Crusade (Ire) (Dawn Approach {Ire}) with 150 yards remaining, the 2-1 second favourite asserted to score by a length. The winner is the second foal out of the talented Laugh Out Loud, whose conquests included the G2 Prix de Sandringham and who was also third in the G1 Sun Chariot S. Her first foal was last year’s GII San Marcos S. and G3 Gallinule S. scorer Platinum Warrior (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), GSW-US & Ire, $208,290, while her 2017 full-sister to that smart performer starred at last year’s Tattersalls October Book 1 Sale when selling for 700,000gns to Stroud Coleman Bloodstock. A half-sister to the dual listed winner Suzi’s Decision (GB) (Act One {GB}), Laugh Out Loud also has a yearling filly by Dubawi (Ire) to come. Sales history: 200,000gns Ylg ’17 TAOC. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, $3,762. Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

O-Angus Dundee Distillers Plc; B-Triermore Stud (IRE); T-John Gosden.

7th-Wolverhampton, £4,500, Novice, 2-19, 3yo/up, f/m, 7f 36y (AWT), 1:28.81, st.
NABEYLA (GB) (f, 3, New Approach {IRE}--Feedyah {GSP-UAE} by Street Cry {Ire}), the first foal out of the G3 UAE Oaks runner-up, was made the 7-4 favourite and gave instant indication as to why when dashing to a prominent position in second. Cutting loose from the two-furlong pole, the homebred hit the线 strong to register a commanding six-length success from Soul Searching (GB) (Iffraaj {GB}). The dam, whose 2-year-old colt is also by New Approach (Ire), is a daughter of the similarly headstrong Red Dune (Ire) (Red Ransom) who was twice listed-placed and produced the Listed Washington Singer S. runner-up Red Mist (GB) (Frankel {GB}). Red Dune, who was bought for €1.05million at the 2006 Goffs Million Sale, is from the esteemed Ballymacoll dynasty of Islington (Ire) (Sadler’s Wells) and her full-brother Greek Dance (Ire). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $3,762. Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

O-Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum; B-Godolphin (GB); T-Roger Varian.
ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

American Graffiti (Fr), c, 3, Pivotal (GB)--Adventure Seeker (Fr) (SW & GSP-Fr, $155,312), by Bering (GB). Newcastle, 2-20, 10f 42y (AWT), 2:12.26. B-Dayton Investments Limited (FR).

*€68,000 Wlg ‘16 GOFNOV; €320,000 Ylg ‘17 GOFOR. **1/2 to Andrea Mantegna (Giant’s Causeway), GSP-Aus, $209,453.

**FRANCE**

Wednesday’s Result:

2nd-Cagnes-sur-Mer, €23,000, Mdn, 2-20, 3yo, 2150mT, 2:24.09, sf.

STYLEDARGENT (FR) (c, 3, Style Vendome (Fr)--Feriadargent (Fr), by Kendargent (Fr)), a 7-2 shot, was notably lacking in know-how from the outset but was able to easily work his way up to fourth after a slow break. In front and in the clear from two out, the homebred showed a willing attitude despite obvious greenness to prevail by a short neck from the strong-finishing Thiago (Fr) (Kendargent (Fr)). The dam, whose 2017 filly and 2018 colts are by Haras de Colleville resident Galiway (GB), with the former being named Galaxiway (Fr), is a daughter of the G3 Prix de Sandringham winner Lunafairy (Always Fair). A half to some smart performers headed by the GII Del Mar Invitational H. scorer and GL Oak Tree Invitational S. and GI Breeders’ Cup Turf-placed Luazur (Fr) (Bikala (Ire)), she was also responsible for the G3 Prix du Palais-Royal winner Lunasalt (Ire) (Salse). Her family features the redoubtable Linamix (Fr) (Mendez (Fr}) as well as a clutch of classy performers in Australia, South Africa and Hong Kong such as the G1 Chairman’s Sprint Prize hero Lucky Bubbles (Aus) (Sebring (Aus)). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €11,500. Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

O-Guy Pariente; B-Guy Pariente Holding (FR); T-Jean-Pierre Gauvin.

CONDITIONS RESULT:

3rd-Cagnes-sur-Mer, €35,000, 2-20, 3yo, 6 1/2f (AWT), 1:16.80, st.

POWER BEST (IRE) (c, 3, Power (GB)--Kathy Best (Ire), by King’s Best) Lifetime Record: 9-4-1-0, €53,110. O-Millennium Horses SRL & A & G Botti; B-Aidan Sexton (IRE); T-A & G Botti. *€9,500 RNA Ylg ‘17 GOFFEB.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNER:

The Chosen One (Fr), c, 3, Cacique (Ire)--Istriane (Ire), by Slickly (Fr). Cagnes-sur-Mer, 2-20, 8f (AWT), 1:36.50. B-Famille Rothschild (FR). *€42,000 Ylg ‘17 AROCT; €58,000 2yo ‘18 GORMAY.

**IN HONG KONG:**

Speed Vision (GB), g, 4, Helmet (AUS)--Sunburnt (GB), by Haafhd (GB). Happy Valley, 2-21, Hcp. (£135k/€155k), 1200mT, 1:08.68. B-Whatton Manor Stud. *Final time established a new Class 3 record and missed the track record by 0.16 seconds. **€32,000 Ylg ‘16 GOFAUG. VIDEO

Arcada (Ire), g, 5, Rip Van Winkle (Ire)--Applause (Ire), by Danehill Dancer (Ire). Happy Valley, 2-21, Hcp. (£135k/€155k), 1650mT, 1:39.04. B-Patrick Anthony Byrne. *30,000gns Ylg ‘15 TATOCT. **GSP-Ire & Eng. VIDEO

**IN AUSTRALIA:**

Latin Beat (Ire), g, 5, Galileo (Ire)--Breeze Hill (Ire), by Danehill. Sandown (Hillside), 2-21, Hcp. (£27k/€32k), 1800m, 1:52.67. B-Lynch Bages.

**WORLDWIDE NEWS**

**ZABEEL MILE, OAKS LEAD MEYDAN CARD**

By Heather Anderson

Nine horses contest the G2 Zabeel Mile at Meydan on Thursday, with Jan. 24 G2 Al Fahidi Fort bridesmaid and stakes winner Mythical Magic (Ire) (Iffraaj {GB}) one of three in the race for Godolphin and trainer Charlie Appleby, who also sends out group winner and Group 1-placed Wootton (Fr) (Wootton Bassett {GB}) and stakes winner First Contact (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}).

Mike de Kock is double-handed as South African champion and multiple Group 1 winner Marinaresco (SAF) (Silvano (Ger)) looks to rebound after a ninth in the Al Fahidi Fort and stablemate Janoobi (SAF) (Silvano (Ger)), who won the 2018 edition of the Zabeel Mile before a third in the G1 Jebel Hatta on Dubai World Cup night, backs up on seven days’ rest after a disengaged sixth in the G3 Firebreak S.

Australian Group 1 winner Comin’ Through (Aus) (Fastnet Rock (Aus)) was two better than Marinaresco in the Al Fahidi Fort, although a bit one-paced in the latter stages and stands his ground for trainer Chris Waller. G3 Diomed S. hero Century Dream (Ire) (Cape Cross (Ire)) exits the Oct. 20 G1 Queen Elizabeth II S. with a third and Thursday marks his first race at Meydan.
Meydan Preview cont.

Classic glory is on the line in Thursday’s G3 UAE Oaks conducted over 1900 metres. Most of the field from the Jan. 31 Listed UAE 1000 Guineas returns, among them the 9 3/4-length blowout victress Silva (Ire) (Kodiac {GB}) from the barn of Pia Brandt for owner Zalim Bifov. A narrow winner in her third career appearance over the Deauville all-weather on Dec. 14, the 1000 Guineas was her maiden voyage over traditional dirt. Second that day was Godolphin’s Divine Image (Scat Daddy), who went one better than Satish Seemar’s three-start maiden Lady Parma (Exchange Rate).

“The distance is no problem for her,” Brandt said of Silva, who drew gate 10 of 12. “We have to live with the draw, unfortunately. You have to be a little quick to get a good position before the bend.

“She’s a very backwards filly, mentally, and she doesn’t give everything. She does what you tell her to do and we never really ask her to do as much as a race. She is immature in her head, but with time, she will improve.”

The first of the day’s three group races, the 2000-metre G3 Dubai Millennium sees six entrants from Godolphin. Split evenly between Saeed bin Suroor and Charlie Appleby, the sextet is led by bin Suroor’s multiple Group 1-placed Racing History (Ire) (Pivotal {GB}), a winner of the 2015 G3 Winter Hill S. who was runner-up in the G3 Singspiel S. on Jan. 3 and ran third in the Jan. 24 G2 Al Rashidiya. Oasis Charm (GB) (Oasis Dream {GB}) is looking for his fourth victory on the bounce for Appleby and, despite the almost nine-month absence, duly landed a course-and-distance handicap on Jan. 31, going one better than bin Suroor’s Team Talk (GB) (Teofilo {Ire}).

Fellow stakes winner and group-placed Spotify (Fr) (Redoute’s Choice {Aus}) saluted in a 2400-metre turf handicap locally on Jan. 24.

ALMOND EYE ON TRACK FOR DUBAI

Japanese champion Almond Eye (Jpn) (Lord Kanaloa (Jpn)) is on track for the $6-million G1 Dubai Turf on Mar. 30 and will return to Miho Training Centre to resume serious training later this week.

The 4-year-old swept Japan’s fillies’ Triple Crown last year before besting elders when last seen in the G1 Japan Cup on Nov. 25. Rather than taking in the G1 Dubai Sheema Classic, which is over the same 2400 metre distance as the Japan Cup and was won by Gentildonna (Jpn) (Deep Impact {Jpn}) in 2014, Almond Eye will drop down in trip for the 1800 metre Dubai Turf. She has won Group 1s twice over 2400 metres as well as 2000 and 1600 metres.

“When I saw her last week on the farm, she looked good,” Trainer Sakae Kunieda said. “She has definitely grown a bit and she will probably grow some more, too, I think.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Zarak (Dubawi) was tabbed as a “TDN Rising Star”

Visit the TDN Rising Stars section on our website!
GROUP ENTRIES

Thursday, Meydan, Dubai, post time: 8.50 p.m.

**ZABEEL MILE SPONSORED BY AL TAYER MOTORS-G2, $250,000, NH4yo/up & SH3yo/up, 1600mT**

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Thursday, Meydan, Dubai, post time: 8.15 p.m.

**UAE OAKS SPONSORED BY RANGE ROVER-G3, $250,000, NH/SH3yo, f, 1900m**

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Thursday, Meydan, Dubai, post time: 7.40 p.m.

**DUBAI MILLENNIUM S. SPONSORED BY JAGUAR-G3, $200,000, NH4yo/up & SH 3yo/up, 2000mT**

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*All post times are local time.*
ESSAOUIRA AND HER PROGENY

by Vicky Leonard

TDN AusNZ sat down with Jason Walsh from Darley to discuss the produce record of prized broodmare Essaouira. Already the dam of G1-winning sprinter Astern, her dual Group 1-winning daughter Alizee and Golden Slipper favourite son Tassort both line up this weekend.

It takes a rare broodmare gem to produce an Australian Group 1 winner, with only 73 achieving this honour at the highest level each year. Yet, above all others, there are the occasional diamonds that shine brighter than the rest, producing quality racehorse after quality racehorse.

In recent years, Champion Australian Broodmare awards have gone to Listen Here (Elusive Quality {USA}), dam of full brothers by Northern Meteor in G1-winner Shooting to Win and G2-winner Deep Field; Helsinge (Desert Sun {GB}), dam of superstar Black Caviar (Bel Esprit) and G1-winner All Too Hard (Casino Prince); and in the last two years, Vegas Showgirl (NZ) (Al Akbar), dam of the incomparable Winx (Street Cry {USA}) and stakeswinner and ‘TDN Rising Star’ El Divino (Snitzel).

However, Darley's prized mare Essaouira (Exceed and Excel), with three black-type horses and another star on the horizon, could soon set a new standard.

Essaouira’s progeny include a Group 1 winning son already at stud (Astern), a dual Group 1-winning daughter who is lining up on Saturday for her third win at the top level (Alizee), a stakes placed gelding (Mogador), and a 2-year-old who currently holds favouritism for the Golden Slipper (Tassort).

Essaouira is a daughter of Champion Darley stallion Exceed and Excel (Danehill {USA}) and talented juvenile Alizes (NZ) (Rory's Jester), who was a winner of her first three starts at two, including the G2 Magic Night S. when ridden by Darren Beadman. Alizes’ third dam is Champion 2-year-old and 3-year-old filly Triscay (NZ), winner of five Group 1 races including the G1 Australian Guineas against the boys. Essaouira was Alizes' first foal, of nine to date.

Held in high regard...

Darley's Jason Walsh, as Bloodstock Manager, has kept a watchful eye on Essaouira and her progeny since she showed an abundance of talent as a filly in training with Lee and Anthony Freedman.

"I first saw Essaouira when she was still racing. She was a medium-sized, plain-enough filly. Not perfect in front, but very strong and fast," Walsh described. "The Freedmans held her in high regard."

Essaouira was dominant on debut when winning by six lengths over 1000m at Moonee Valley as a February 2-year-old. She then had a gear malfunction in her second start, the Listed Chairman's S. at Caulfield (won by Headway), and put on a bucking display before finishing sixth.

"After the incident at her second start Essaouira battled with a hamstring strain, then had an infection in her throat, so was retired. She only had two starts, but the team thought she had genuine ability," said Walsh.
**Back to Woodlands...**

Essaouira headed back to Darley to be mated to Champion sire Lonhro. The resultant filly was described by Walsh as "very similar to mum, a strong, neat little filly."

Named Marrakesh, the filly entered training with Lee and Anthony Freedman, winning three races and collecting around $80,000 in prizemoney across 19 starts. Marrakesh retired in 2016 and has since produced a yearling filly by Medaglia d'Oro, who is a three-parts brother to Astern, and is currently in foal to I Am Invincible.

Essaouira's second foal, a colt named Mogador also by Lonhro, was a different type to her first.

"He was typical of Lonhro's good stock: strong, mid-sized and with a particularly good attitude," Walsh said.

Trained by John O'Shea at Crown Lodge, Mogador showed early ability. He ran second to Exosphere (Lonhro) in a strong Kembla Grange 2-year-old maiden in mid-February, with Takedown (Stratum) rounding out the placings. His next start was fourth in the G2 Skyline S., won by Exosphere, before he completed the season with a win at Warwick Farm.

Returning at three to run second in the Listed Blue Sapphire S., Mogador lined up in the G1 Coolmore Stud S. finishing a commendable fifth in the race won by Japonisme. He finished his career without another win, but had shown enough talent to collect almost $300,000 in prizemoney and gained valuable black-type for his dam's pedigree page.

**Astern is born...**

The third foal produced by Essaouira was a Medaglia d'Oro colt born in late September. He was described by Walsh as a "special individual".

"While Astern was fairly typical of the 'good Medaglia d'Oros as a type, Essaouira imparted her power into the mating. He was a quality medium-sized individual with plenty of scope and real presence. Not as big as the sire can sometimes throw," Walsh said. "He walked with a swagger when introduced to saddle that made him stand out."

Trained by John O'Shea, Astern's abundant ability was clear early to the Godolphin team, dominating his first trial and delivering the same dose in his first start at Randwick as a November 2-year-old.

"He has been a magnificent specimen the whole way along and we just hoped that he would run as well as he looks," O'Shea said at the time, adding that Astern had been identified as their best juvenile.

Returning in autumn with a win in the G2 Silver Slipper S., Astern finished 11th in the G1 Golden Slipper won by Capitalist (Written Tycoon). He more than made amends at the top level, however, when taking out the G1 Golden Rose S. impressively as a spring 3-year-old. He was retired the following spring to a full book of mares on the Darley stallion roster. His oldest progeny are currently foals.

"One of the greatest traits of Astern was his robust character," said Walsh. "He could have a hard, tough run but the next day would have his head out over the box with his ears pricked waiting for the next challenge."

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He walked with a swagger when introduced to the saddle that made him stand out. --Jason Walsh about Astern

**Powerful Alizee well managed...**

The fourth foal produced by Essaouira was a big filly by Sepoy. Walsh describes: "Alizee is physically built in the mould of her grandmother Alizes. She is a big, plain mare with a huge amount of depth and power. You would never say she is an oil painting, but she has a motor like few others."

Alizee's path to racetrack glory wasn't a smooth one, with careful management required by the Darley team at Woodlands to correct a challenging front near leg.

"Thankfully it has not posed an issue in training," Walsh said. "Full credit to the Woodlands team who managed her beautifully. Alizee is a good example of how every person plays an important role in the success of the Godolphin stable."

Walsh also mentioned how the sympathetic way horses are treated at Crown Lodge helped Alizee develop into the mare she is today. Cont. p3
Essaouira cont.

"John O'Shea held her in very high regard from the outset and knew she had stakes ability. She just missed qualifying for the Slipper and was thus set for the Percy Sykes. Now, as a 4-year-old mare, we are really seeing the benefits of that approach with her full potential exposed."

Alizee is regarded one of the most valuable mares currently in training. After placing in the G3 Magic Night S. at two, she won the G2 Tea Rose S. and G1 Flight S. as a spring 3-year-old. In autumn she won the G2 ATC Light Fingers S. on the way to beating older females in the G1 Queen of the Turf S. during The Championships.

Alizee lines up this Saturday in the G1 Futurity S. Autumn plans are likely to include a start in the inaugural All Star Mile at Flemington.

The young ones...

Essaouira’s next foal is a 3-year-old filly by Animal Kingdom (USA) (Leroidesanimaux {Brz}) called Leopard.

"Leopard is as big as Alizee, but with more quality. She remains in the racing program currently spelling in the Hunter Valley," Walsh said.

Her current 2-year-old son, however, needs no introduction. A striking, dark bay son of Brazen Beau, Tassort burst on the scene with a 5.5-length trial win at Rosehill last November. He repeated that margin when winning on debut in November, assuming Golden Slipper favouritism after defeating a small but classy field, in a speedy 1:03.88. He lines up this Saturday in the G2 Silver Slipper S. Cont. p4
"Bold," was the single word used by Walsh to describe Tassort as a foal. "He was given one the highest grades of the foaling season and is probably the best looking foal out of Essaouira. He has presence, attitude and substance.

He continued, "Early on he showed the team his professionalism by taking each step of the racing preparation in his stride. He has the attitude of a proper colt--that's an attribute held by all the best horses to have come through Godolphin."

A consistent breeder...

Another tick on Essaouira's report card is her uninterrupted breeding record.

Her current yearling is a Medaglia d'Oro filly named Tangier. Walsh describes the sister to Astern as 'different again.'

"Essaouira's stock could never be described as consistent, as she tends to take different traits from each stallion," Walsh said.

"The yearling filly has good scope typical of the Medaglia stock, but is more light and refined at this stage than Astern. She has been broken-in at Kelvinside and is currently completing her first week at Crown Lodge in Sydney.

"Her current colt foal is another full to Astern, and probably the most like him of all her progeny. He has plenty of substance and looks a strong, sharp type," Walsh added.

Essaouira is currently in foal to Sepoy on a mid-November last service date, to produce a full relation to Alizee.

"The success of Essaouira and her progeny typifies what His Highness Sheikh Mohammed and the Godolphin team strive for."

Walsh concluded when asked what a mare like this means.

"A homebred mare with progeny by Darley stallions born, raised, broken-in and trained within the team, then retired back to the stallion barn and broodmare paddock is a very special achievement for our team.

"Essaouira and her progeny continue to touch all Godolphin sites and the whole team is heavily invested in achieving her success for Sheikh Mohammed."

IN HONG KONG:

Champion's Way (Aus), g, 3, Hinchinbrook (Aus)--Greta's Yarn (Aus), by Redoute's Choice (Aus). Happy Valley, 2-21, Hcp. (A$163k), 1200mT, 1:09.28. B-G Bunt (NSW). *A$150,000 Ylg ‘17 INGFEB. *Won by 2 1/4 lengths as the $1.40 favourite to take his record to two-from-two. VIDEO

Little Bird (Aus), g, 5, Starcraft (NZ)--Libor Lady (MSW-US, $368,515), by Exchange Rate. Happy Valley, 2-21, Hcp. (A$245k), 1000mT, :56.73. B-M A W Birchall (SA). *A$280,000 Ylg ’15 MMGCYS. VIDEO

IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Powered Beauty (Aus), g, 4, Fastnet Rock (Aus)--Imperial Beauty (Hwt. 3yo Filly-Eur at 5-6.5f, G1SW-Fr, MSW & G1SP-Eng, $297,312), by Imperial Ballet (Ire). Turffontein, 2-21, Hcp., 1800mT, 1:53.5. O-Messrs D B van Laun, Andre Fouche & Mrs H Kuhn; B-Goldendale (NSW); T-Weiho Marwing. *1/2 to Ipswich (Ire) (Danehill Dancer {Ire}), MGSP-Fr, $105,126. **A$280,000 Ylg ’16 MMGCYS.

Manhattan Cocktail (Aus), g, 4, Manhattan Rain (Aus)--Forward Thinking (Aus), by Charge Forward (Aus). Turffontein, 2-21, Hcp. 1400mT, 1:26.18. O-Messrs D B van Laun, Andre Fouche & Mrs H Kuhn; B-Arrowfield Pastoral Pty Ltd & Planette Thoroughbred (NSW); T-Weiho Marwing. *Defeated fellow Australian-bred Baahir (Aus) (Galileo {Ire}) by 2 1/4 lengths as the $3.95 favourite. **A$90,000 Ylg ’16 MGJUN.