



CAPETOWN NOIR DOMINATES GUINEAS

Capetown Noir (SAf) (Western Winter) cruised to an easy victory in Saturday's G1 Cape Premier Yearling Sales Guineas in Kenilworth. The black colt progressed through the ranks to run second, beaten a pixel, in the G2 Selangor Cup over course and distance last time Dec. 2, and he continued his rapid rise with an impressive



Dean Kannemeyer and Capetown Noir
Liesl King

performance to provide a fifth Guineas crown for trainer Dean Kannemeyer and jockey Karl Neisius with his fourth. **Black Toga (SAf)** (Black Minnaloushe) grabbed the early lead and set quick splits, while Capetown Noir settled on the rail three back. Committed earlier than usual here, he surged clear passing the quarter-mile marker and kept on strongly under mild coaxing inside the closing panel to score by daylight. Winning owner Lady Christine Laidlaw had a momentous day, celebrating her husband's 70th birthday, their 25th wedding anniversary and her second Guineas victory in four years. Capetown Noir will now point to the G1 Cape Derby or the G1 J&B Met, both back here Feb. 2.

Saturday, Kenilworth, South Africa

CAPE PREMIER YEARLING SALES GUINEAS-G1, R1,000,000, Kenilworth, 12-22, 3yo, 1mT, 1:37.15, gd. 1--

CAPETOWN NOIR (SAf), 126, c, 3, by Western Winter

1st Dam: Akinfeet (SAf), by Fort Wood

2nd Dam: Dance Every Dance (SAf), by Northern Guest

3rd Dam: Jingle Janna (SAf), by Jungle Cove

O-Lady Christine Laidlaw; B-Lammerskraal Stud

(Nom: M L P Rattray); T-Dean Kannemeyer; J-Karl

Neisius; R625,000. Lifetime Record: 6-4-2-0,

R821,950. **Werk Nick Rating: A + +**. [Click for the](#)

[eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.](#)

2--**Chave de Oura (SAf)**, 128, c, 3, Jet Master (SAf)--

Wonderful World (SAf), by Complete Warrior. O-K A

Haug; B-Gary Player Stud (Pty) Ltd; T-Dennis Drier;

R200,000.

3--**Black Toga (SAf)**, 128, c, 3, Black Minnaloushe--

Bridget's Academy (Aus), by Royal Academy. O-M J

& Mrs I Jooste; B-Klawervlei Stud; T-Vaughan

Marshall; R100,000.

Margins: 3 1/4, 1 1/4, HF. Odds: 4-5, 33-1, 15-2.

Also Ran: King of Pain (SAf), Sanshaawes (SAf), Love

Struck (SAf), Epic Tale (SAf), Paterfamilias (SAf),

Unencumbered (SAf), Tevez (SAf), Act Fast (SAf).

Scratched: The Hangman (SAf). [Click for the free](#)

[brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree.](#)

SHADOW OF A CHANCE

Today's G1 Arima Kinen at Nakayama in Japan features a plethora of talented locals, as well as a few options for good value. One horse that fits the latter profile is **Dark Shadow (Jpn)** (Dance in the Dark {Jpn}), who may not have yet reached the stature of race favorites **Gold Ship (Jpn)** (Stay Gold {Jpn}), **Trailblazer (Jpn)** (Zenno Rob Roy {Jpn}), and **Rulership (Jpn)** (King Kamehameha {Jpn}), but is a legitimate threat on recent form to capture his first Group 1 victory. A two-time graded stakes winner in his native land last year, Dark Shadow closed out his 4-year-old campaign by finishing second in the G1 Tenno Sho Autumn S. at Tokyo. In his first start of 2012, the Tomokazu Iizuka colorbearer finished two lengths in second behind Trailblazer in the G2 Kyoto Kinen Feb. 12 before venturing overseas for the



Dark Shadow
JRA Photo

G1 Dubai Duty Free at Meydan in Dubai Mar. 31. He failed to factor that day, finishing ninth, but a short vacation, followed by a few promising efforts have his connections expressing confidence about their chances in their country's biggest race.

Cont. p4

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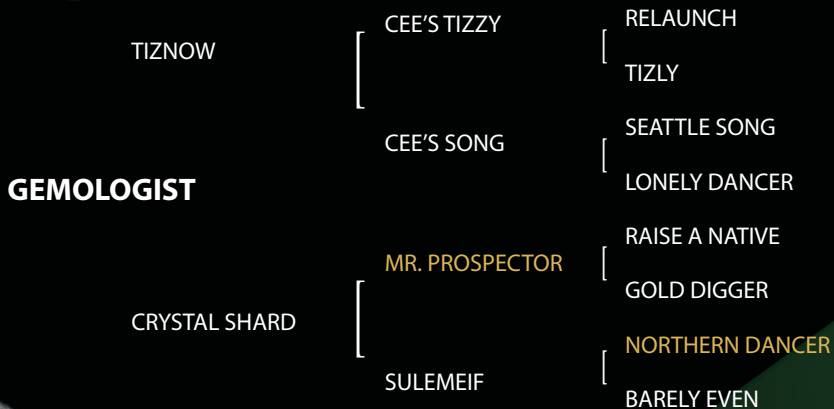
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In This Issue

March return for Fort Larned

Trainer Ian Wilkes is taking his time with GI Breeders' Cup Classic winner Fort Larned (E Dubai). The Whitham homebred will likely make his 2013 debut in the Mar. 9 GII Gulfstream Park H.



Fort Larned
A Coglianese

Paynter Returning to Baffert

After battling through life-threatening illnesses, GI Haskell Invitational winner Paynter (Awesome Again) will ship back to the Southern California barn of Bob Baffert next week.

Page 3

AI a Positive for Standardbred Industry

In the wake of Wednesday's ruling upholding the ban on AI in Australia, Kelsey Riley looks at the impact AI has had on the Standardbred industry in the U.S.



Standardbred Mare & Foal at Perretti Farms
Perretti.com

Coverage begins page 5

Op/Ed

Denali's Craig Bandoroff provides some year-end thoughts as 2012 winds down.

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TDN

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Presents Today's Graded Stakes

EST 1:25a	Race Arima Kinen-G1, Nakayama	Click for TVG pps	TV TVG
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JAPANESE RESULTS

Sunday, Hanshin, Japan

RADIO NIKKEI HAI NISAI S.-G3, ¥61,450,000,

Hanshin, 12-22, 2yo, 2000mT, 2:05.40, gd.

1--**@EPIPHANEA (JPN)**, 121, c, 2, by **Symboli Kris S.**
 1st Dam: **Cesario (Jpn)** (Ch. 3yo Filly-Jpn & G1SW-Jpn & US, \$2,578,631), by **Special Week (Jpn)**
 2nd Dam: **Kirov Premiere (GB)**, by **Sadler's Wells**
 3rd Dam: **Querida (Ire)**, by **Habitat**

O-Carrot Farm; B-Northern Farm; T-Katsuhiko Sumii; J-Yuichi Fukunaga; ¥32,315,000. Lifetime Record: 3-3-0-0. **Werk Nick Rating: A + + + *Triple Plus***.

Click for the [eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree](#).

2--**Bad Boy (Jpn)**, 121, c, 2, **Manhattan Cafe (Jpn)**--**Miski**, by **Miswaki**. O-Hiroshi Hatasa; B-Tomita Farm; ¥13,090,000.

3--**Kizuna (Jpn)**, 121, c, 2, **Deep Impact (Jpn)**--**Catequil**, by **Storm Cat**. O-Shinji Maeda; B-North Hills; ¥8,045,000.

Margins: 1/2, Neck, 1 1/2; Odds: 0.90, 21.00, 1.90

RACETRACK ROUND-UP

PAYNTER SET TO RETURN TO BAFFERT BARN

Paynter (Awesome Again), who has battled colitis and laminitis since winning the GI Haskell Invitational at Monmouth Park in August, has been cleared to leave the New Bolton Center and return to the Southern California barn of trainer Bob Baffert. Owner Ahmed Zayat confirmed via twitter Saturday night that the 3-year-old will ship from New Jersey to California Dec. 29. "My family and I are extremely excited and proud of our warrior," Zayat said. "We have made plans to personally travel to California to be the first to welcome our special colt back to his old home and make sure that he is settled safely and happily."

MARCH RETURN LIKELY FOR FORT LARNED

Fort Larned (E Dubai), unraced since winning the GI Breeders' Cup Classic, has been enjoying some time off, but trainer Ian Wilkes is planning on a spring return for the Janis Whitham homebred. "We're not in a big rush, but the race I've earmarked for Fort Larned is the [Mar. 9] GII Gulfstream Park H.," said Wilkes. Fort Larned, who won the GIII Skip Away S. over the Gulfstream oval last winter, is currently in light training at Palm Meadows. "There is plenty of time for workouts," Wilkes said. "He looks good and is doing very well, I'm very happy with him."

ACTION ANDY DRILLS FOR MR. PROSPECTOR

Action Andy (Gators n Bears), aiming for a fourth straight stakes victory in Saturday's GIII Mr. Prospector S. at Gulfstream Park, worked four furlongs in :49 2/5 yesterday at Tampa Bay Downs. "He's a good horse doing great right now," said trainer Carlos Garcia. "We're going to do things a little different than when we brought him down there last year and he didn't run very well. Instead of shipping down the day before, we'll come several days ahead to let him settle in. John Velazquez is going to ride him."



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BLACK-TYPE PREVIEWS

Shadow of a Chance (cont. from p1)

Second in the G2 Sapporo Kinen in his return to the races Aug. 19, Dark Shadow was a close-up fourth in the Tenno Sho Autumn Oct. 28, and was most recently fourth, beaten 2 1/4 lengths, in the G1 Japan Cup Nov. 25, behind, arguably, the three best horses in training in Japan: Gentildonna (Jpn) (Deep Impact {Jpn}), Orfevre (Jpn) (Stay Gold {Jpn}), and Rulership. Trainer Noriyuki Hori indicated that his charge is plenty fit for today's challenge.

"For his last two starts, we worked him hard on a Wednesday, trying to get his weight down," Hori said. "But this time he was ready to go last week. The big concern for us last time [in the Japan Cup] was the distance, but we know now he can handle it. He traveled at the back and we had to make our move early, but he was still accelerating in the straight. We got a lot out of his last race."

Dark Shadow gets the services of top international rider Ryan Moore for the Arima Kinen.

"He seems like he's in pretty good condition," Moore noted. "I could tell right away that he's got a lot of quality, that he's a very good horse. I'm really pleased with where he's at. You never know how a race will turn out, but I'm in this to win it. Hopefully I can deliver a Christmas gift to all the fans."

Sunday, Nakayama, Japan

ARIMA KINEN-G1, ¥416,000,000 (\$4,937,057), 3yo/up, 2500mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	TRAINER	JOCKEY	ML
1	Rose Kingdom (Jpn)	King Kmhamaha (Jpn)	Hshiguchi	Iwata	70-1
2	Eishin Flash (Jpn)	King's Best	Fujiwara	Demuro	5-1
3	Sky Dignity (Jpn)	Brian's Time	Tmomichi	Soumillon	12-1
4	Earnestly (Jpn)	Grass Wonder	Sasaki	Fukunga	60-1
5	Never Bouchon (Jpn)	Marvelous Sunday (Jpn)	Ito	Tanaka	99-1
6	Ocean Blue (Jpn)	Stay Gold (Jpn)	Ikee	Lemaire	20-1
7	Daiwa Falcon (Jpn)	Jungle Pocket (Jpn)	Uehara	Kitamura	30-1
8	Trailblazer (Jpn)	Zenno Rob Roy (Jpn)	Ikee	Take	18-1
9	Rulership (Jpn)	King Kmhamaha (Jpn)	Sumii	Williams	3-1
10	Dark Shadow (Jpn)	Dance in the Dark (Jpn)	Hori	Moore	7-1
11	To the Glory (Jpn)	King Kmhamaha (Jpn)	Ikee	Ebina	40-1
12	Oken Bruce Lee (Jpn)	Jungle Pocket (Jpn)	Otonashi	Tanabe	99-1
13	Gold Ship (Jpn)	Stay Gold (Jpn)	Sugai	Uchida	2-1
14	Beat Black (Jpn)	Miscast (Jpn)	Nakamura	Ishibashi	50-1
15	Nakayama Knight (Jpn)	Stay Gold (Jpn)	Ninomiya	Shibata	15-1
16	Lelouch (Jpn)	Zenno Rob Roy (Jpn)	Fujisawa	Ykoyama	10-1

All carry 126 pounds, except Sky Dignity & Gold Ship, 122.

Wednesday, Auckland, New Zealand

ZABEEL CLASSIC-G1, NZ\$200,000 (\$164,700), 3yo/up, 2000mT

SC	PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
	1	Veyron (NZ)	Thorn Park (Aus)	Norvall	Laing	130
	2	Shootoff (NZ)	Duelled (Aus)	No Rider	Rogersons	130
	3	Shez Sinsational (NZ)	Ekraar	Bosson	Sharrock	126
	4	Lady Kipling (NZ)	Savabeel (Aus)	Cameron	Bkr/Frsmn	126
	5	Jeu de Cartes (NZ)	Stravinsky	Waddell	Bkr/Frsmn	126
	6	Zennista (NZ)	Zno Rb Ry (Jpn)	No Rider	Latta	126
	7	Cassini (Aus)	Reset (Aus)	Du Plessis	Oulaghan	126
	8	Lady Chaparral (NZ)	High Chaparral (Ire)	No Rider	Wood	126
	9	Spinning Dancer (NZ)	Commands (Aus)	Spratt	Wallace	115

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IN OTHER NEWS...

A Daily Roundup of Racing Articles in Other Media

- [Let Georgia voters decide on horse racing, betting](#)
"Should horse racing and pari mutuel betting be allowed in Georgia? There has been talk about that issue in our state for a couple of decades or more, but there has never been enough support for the issue to put it on the ballot and let the people decide." **The Newnan Times-Herald**
- [Post Time: It's a Racing Festivus 2012](#)
"It's that time of year where we dance around the Festivus Pole and discuss Racing's 2012 Feats of Strength and the Airing of Grievances. I'm no Frank Costanza, but I do have some thoughts to share during this joyous time of the year. After downing a delicious Festivus dinner and a few Festivus ales we're ready to unveil this year's Racing Festivus for the rest of us..." **Gene Kershner, The Buffalo News**
- [My Revoked Credentials & The State of Racing Journalism](#)
Following my recent article about the Kentucky Derby, which was critical of horse racing's failure to tackle problems of drugging and animal abuse, Churchill Downs head of communications John Asher tweeted, "So much for future #KYDerby credentials for the writer ..." **Jamie Berk, American Circus Magazine**
- [Licenses secured, racino on track to open in 2014](#)
"Miami Valley Gaming & Racing announced Friday evening that it had completed the purchase of harness racing licenses and other assets from the Lebanon Trotting Club Inc. and Miami Valley Trotting Inc., according to statement from the gaming company." **Dayton Daily News**



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AI A POSITIVE FOR STANDARDBRED INDUSTRY

On Dec. 19, Australian Federal Court Justice Alan Robertson brought a contentious and long-spanning debate to a close when he ruled that the live cover requirement to register Thoroughbreds in that country is not an illegal restraint of trade, thus upholding the ban on artificial insemination for Thoroughbreds intended to race. Small-scale Thoroughbred breeder Bruce McHugh brought his case against the Australian Turf Club more than three years ago, claiming that the ban on AI was an illegal trade restraint, and violated Australia's competition and consumer act. The case garnered international attention, drawing witnesses from France, Ireland, the UK, and Hong Kong during its six-week trial last year.



Standardbred Mare & Foal at Perretti Farms
Perretti.com

And for good reason: a lift of the AI ban in Australia would not only set a precedent for similar practices to be allowed in other countries, but it would also potentially restrict Australia's prospects of international competition, as its AI-conceived Thoroughbreds would not be eligible to compete outside the country.

A number of the world's Thoroughbred breeding officials and organizations breathed a collective sigh of relief at Justice Robertson's ruling. In addition to challenging international standards, the practice of AI could invite a number of negative ramifications, including the narrowing of the gene pool and loss of business for boarding farms that would generally house mares shipped to their regions for covering.

It is important to note, however, that the Thoroughbred is the only major breed in the world that does not allow conception by artificial insemination. Harness racing in the U.S. began allowing AI in the late in 1950s when Hal Jones, a Harness Racing Hall of Famer and manager of Pickwick Farms in Ohio, developed the practice in order to grow the

book size of his popular sire Gene Abbe from the standard 48 mares to 90.

Cont. p6

TOYOTA BLUE GRASS S.
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"That was a number we had never seen before," explained Alan Leavitt, a Harness Racing Hall of Fame breeder and President and General Manager of Walnut Hall Farm in Kentucky. "There was a legal action brought against it by the United States Trotting Association, and they lost. From that time, other farm managers lost no time in taking up artificial insemination."

Leavitt noted that the development of the process has been gradual. In the beginning, mares were still required to ship to the stallion premises to be inseminated artificially. Today, semen is chilled and shipped to breeders, allowing everyone to stay at home.

Bob Marks, the Marketing Director of Perretti Farms, the largest Standardbred breeding farm in New Jersey, said he sees nothing undesirable about AI.

"I don't really see any negatives," Marks said. "It enables you to keep your mares home and simply breed them to the stallion of your choice, which may be totally out of jurisdiction. It's also easier on the stallion. It enables him to breed, from one collection, up to 15 mares, depending on how fertile he is. We can also send the semen all over the world. It seems primitive in this modern age to put a mare and foal on a truck and waste gas and time driving her someplace to get bred, when we have the technology to get the semen from here to there lightning quick."

New York is the only state that still does not allow semen to be shipped outside its borders. Marks said the necessity of sending his mares on long van rides to use New York sires affects his breeding decisions.

"I have a breeding to a New York stallion to use next year, and at first I'd been thinking I'd really like to breed a particular mare," he said. "But then I got thinking, she's 20 years old, she doesn't need to get put on a truck and go four hours up to the mountains of New York just to be bred. I have to actually change my breeding plans to select a younger, more appropriate mare to do that. That's the way we think."

Marks explained that even with transportation of semen permitted for Standardbred breeders, a certain amount of shipping and boarding of mares can be involved. Because quality of semen among stallions will vary, some breeders find it advantageous to house their mares, especially the better ones, nearer to the stallion, so as to make the AI process as quick and efficient as possible. He said boarding farms in New Jersey, even with few stallions in the state, have not been affected by the practice of AI, as far as he can tell. Leavitt, however, noted that he has seen a decrease of Standardbred boarding facilities in Kentucky.

"I've been in Kentucky for 18 years now, and I see all these Thoroughbred farms that live by boarding mares and bringing them to be bred to stallions," he explained. "It's a great economy for the mare owners."

While AI allows Standardbred breeders to ship semen around the globe, it does not eliminate the possibility of the stallions shuttling to the Southern Hemisphere. Perretti's leading U.S. sire Rocknroll Hanover, as well as young sire sensation Somebeachsomewhere, are currently finishing the Southern Hemisphere season at David James's Empire Stallions in Victoria, Australia. **Cont. p7**



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“The Australians seem to want the horse there,” Marks explained. “Some horses get sent down there and do double duty, other horses we simply send the semen, depending on what the supply and demand is, and how fertile the horse may be. Also, if you don’t feel like he’s a good shipper, you might just send the frozen semen. Rocknroll Hanover will breed 150 mares there, and I don’t know if he would breed that many if we just sent his semen.”

Some involved in the Thoroughbred industry have expressed concern that, because AI and shipping of semen would eliminate certain costs and allow for ease of access to any stallion, only the most prolific stallions would be in demand, causing a narrowing of the gene pool that would be a detriment to the breed. In 1992, a genetic analysis performed on the Standardbred breed showed this, in fact, to be the case.

“The woman who did the study, Dr. Judith King, a graduate student at the University of Kentucky, told us that there was a 16 to 17% loss of heterozygosity in the breed, particularly with trotters,” Leavitt explained. “Heterozygosity is the variability factor. She said scientifically that’s a terrible loss, and is heading the breed in totally the wrong direction.”



Alan Leavitt
USTA.com

In 2007, a number of Standardbred breeders approached the USTA, which passed a rule that, beginning in 2009, any stallion entering the stud book would be restricted to covering a maximum of 140 mares. Because of legal considerations, the rule could not be extended to include active stallions that had already been

sold and syndicated.

“A lot of us were not in favor of it, but they did it anyway,” Marks said. “A lot of us felt that the market via supply and demand decided [how many mares a stallion would cover]. In other words, if a horse isn’t any good, guess what? He’s not going to have too many breeding applications. The most important thing is to make intelligent breeding decisions.”

Tom Charters, the President and CEO of the Hambletonian Society, said he hasn’t observed much protest to the limitation.

“When they enacted the rule, there were many horses covering more than 140 mares,” he said. “But I haven’t heard a great outcry where there’s a dozen stallions that people aren’t getting booked to. If you talk to the stallion owners, they’ll tell you it’s a bad thing, but in terms of diversity, it provides more opportunities for more stallions, especially for the state-bred programs. It gives the smaller programs better opportunity to get good horses.”

Charters said that, while he is in agreement that AI contributed to narrowing the Standardbred gene pool, it has also accelerated improvement of the breed.

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“The Standardbred, in my lifetime, has improved by about eight seconds, and that’s 40 lengths,” Charters noted. “[AI] has accelerated the improvement of the breed very much so. So that’s the good part of it, other than the individual benefit to a few stallion owners. I think that the ability of the great stallions to cover so many mares in some ways narrowed the gene pool, but it also accelerated the speed and gait of our horses.”

This is an observation that Marks said he shares.



Bob Marks
Perretti.com

“It seems to me that the Thoroughbred breed probably peaked in the 70s, and pretty well stagnated from there,” he said. “For argument’s sake, you still can’t run a Thoroughbred mile faster than 1:32 1/5, and Dr. Fager did that [in 1968]. At that time, a Standardbred mile may have been 1:52.00. Nowadays, it’s 1:46 or 1:47. In other words, we’ve improved our breed.”

More recently, the USTA implemented another measure that will influence stallion activity. Beginning with foals of 2014, any progeny of a stallion under four years of age will not be eligible for certain stakes throughout the country, unless that stallion was retired due to injury. Once the stallion turns four, his future progeny will be eligible for those races. Marks noted, however, that this new rule makes it difficult for owners to syndicate their stallions at a young age. He also said it could be difficult to determine which injuries would force retirement, leaving grey areas in the system.

Leavitt also noted that the switch to AI and transportation of semen has caused a steady decrease in fertility rates for Standardbreds. Where 90% in foal rates for stallions were once the norm, many stallion managers are now satisfied with 70%.

“The problem is that when you’re shipping chilled semen, once you send it off, you have no control over it once it leaves your farm. Where it winds up frequently is with people that don’t use a vet a great deal and rely on teasing to decide when their mare is ready to be bred.” *Cont. p8*



2013 NYTB



STALLION SEASON AUCTION

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Despite such downfalls, however, Leavitt noted that he still prefers AI to live cover, with safety to both horses and people being an important consideration.

"I would opt for artificial insemination [over live cover] without any second thoughts," he said. "The minute we got away from live cover, we got away from the accidents that occur every day in the breeding shed. We have none of that now."

Charters said that while AI has worked well for the Standardbred industry, he can appreciate the complexities of introducing it for Thoroughbreds.

"With Standardbreds, and I assume with American Quarter Horses and the other breeds that practice it, it's a no-brainer by now, but I can see where it's a complex problem, especially internationally," he said. "With the Thoroughbreds, you have so many signatories among all these stud books that have agreed [against AI], and now to break out of it, does everything become unravelled?" --by Kelsey Riley

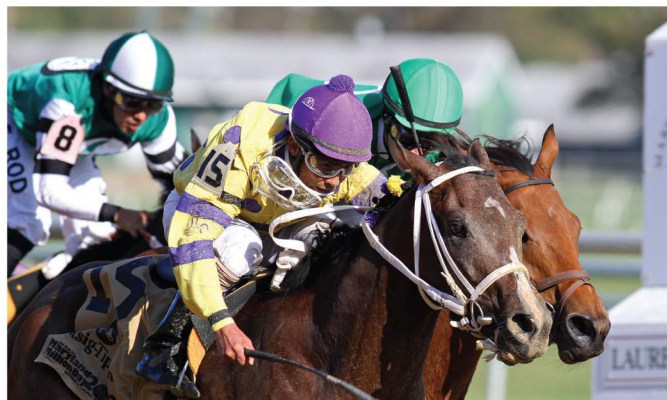
UPCOMING MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN STAKES

Date	Race	Track
Dec. 26	GI La Brea S.	SA
	GI Malibu S.	SA
	GII Sir Beaufort S.	SA
Dec. 29	GIII Mr. Prospector S.	GP
	GIII Daytona	SA
Dec. 30	GII Robert J. Frankel S.	SA
Jan. 1	GIII Old Hat S.	GP
Jan. 5	GII Jerome S.	AQU
	GII San Pasqual S.	SA
	GIII Marshua's River S.	GP
	GIII Sham S.	SA
Jan. 6	GII Monrovia S.	SA
Jan. 12	GII Fort Lauderdale S.	GP
	GII San Fernando S.	SA
Jan. 13	GII San Gabriel S.	SA
	GIII Hal's Hope S.	GP
Jan. 19	GII Palos Verdes S.	SA
	GIII Lecomte S.	FG
	GIII Col. E. R. Bradley H.	FG
Jan. 20	GII La Canada S.	SA
Jan. 21	GII Santa Ynez S.	SA
Jan. 26	GII Forward Gal S.	GP
	GII Santa Monica S.	SA
	GIII Holy Bull S.	GP
	GIII Santa Ysabel S.	SA
	GIII John B. Connolly Turf Cup	LS

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Op/ed

by craig bandoroff

REFLECTIONS AS WE TURN THE PAGE ON 2012

I read with interest Charlotte Weber's letter that appeared in the *TDN* on Dec. 21. That same day I also read the CNN article, "How Racing Became Cool" and an article in the *Wall Street Journal* on hand-held devices and Internet gambling. The combination gave me cause for year-end thoughts as we turn the page on 2012.

There isn't a more constant and loyal supporter of American racing and breeding than Charlotte Weber that comes to my mind. To refer to her as a stalwart of the sport isn't an exaggeration. Her words struck true with me because they remind me of two important takeaways I had during a period of time I spent several years ago exploring ways to revitalize our sport and coalesce our industry. Working with Anthony Manganaro, Duncan Taylor, and Doug Cauthen, I attended several meetings exploring "next steps" for an industry in crisis. Although, as of this writing the project is dead, I had the opportunity to meet several very bright people in the world of sports entertainment and sports law. The takeaways I came away with were this:

1. Our industry needs a strong owners group to represent and assert themselves and take control of their product and the playing field. The present model where the racetracks (movie theaters) and trainers (directors) have more control than the owners (film studios) is backwards and detrimental.

2. We need racetracks that present our sport in a modern fashion that can compete with other major league sports and leisure activities. Fans want an experience that represents value, in attractive, clean, technologically advanced, modern facilities.

Although a handful of racetracks provide a quality experience, many like Calder that Charlotte references, seem to have little interest in promoting our sport or providing their patrons with a quality experience. Further evidence of many racetrack operators and the industry's deficiency is the absence of allocating slot revenue to make capital improvements to the racing areas of their facilities and develop a meaningful marketing plan to promote racing. Perhaps a strong owners group could show the way by attracting investors to own and operate a state of the art race track unlike any we have presently?

TDN TODAY
Headline News..... 9 pages

RAMSEY FARM

Here's the **DIRT** on Kitten's Joy...

POLITICALLYCORRECT burned up the track at Santa Anita on Breeders' Cup Day in the \$100,000 Damascus S. on **DIRT** through fractions of 1:08 flat and 1:20 4/5, 10 lengths faster than the same fractions run in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile.

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The CNN article illustrated that the large ship can change course. England now has attractive and modern facilities offering a pleasant experience for their patrons. Placing the emphasis on the social experience has helped revitalize the sport and attracted a young audience. What reasons are there that, if a similar model was employed here following best practices in places like England, Australia, Hong Kong and Japan, where racing is popular, that we wouldn't see similar results?

If Internet gambling is soon to be with us and patrons can gamble on their hand-held mobile devices as outlined in the *WSJ* article, then a threat like we have never seen may be upon us. The ease of play, convenience and addiction factor make this a competitive force that could be a lethal threat to many gambling entities, not just racing. It puts even greater need for the points outlined above; modern clean facilities enhancing the social experience of a day out.

As we close the book on another year it seems to me that there are "green shoots" out there that provide reasons for hope. Organizations like The Jockey Club, Breeders' Cup, and RMTC are taking the lead on numerous important fronts that have required attention for years. They are committing capital and taking important steps to lead us in several critical areas. They should be applauded for and supported in their efforts.

Let's hope that 2013 can see further progress. We all know the world doesn't stand still and the competition isn't resting.

NJ BETTING LAWSUIT TO CONTINUE

U.S. District Judge Michael Shipp ruled Friday that four professional sports leagues can continue their lawsuit against New Jersey to block sports gambling in the state. The NBA, NHL, NFL and MLB, as well as the NCAA, argued that allowing gambling on their respective sports would be detrimental to fans' perception of the games. The state of New Jersey sought to have the lawsuit dismissed, saying the leagues could not prove gambling would damage their image. U.S Representative Frank Pallone, Jr., who is seeking to overturn a federal law banning sports betting in all states but Nevada, told *Associated Press*, "It is absurd for the professional sports leagues and the NCAA to claim that they will suffer injuries as a result of the legalization of sports betting in New Jersey. That these organizations claim that the sports they represent will somehow have their reputation impacted is naive at best and assumes that illegal gambling is not currently occurring in lieu of legal sports betting. The fact is that the presence of illegal betting and the crime that goes with it has a far greater impact on the legitimacy of sports organization."



Saturday Cancellations
PENN NATIONAL
(Due to high winds, live racing was cancelled after two races).

A # will distinguish first-time stakes-winners, a @ will indicate first-time graded stakes-winners, a ▲ will denote a first-time Grade/Group 1 winner, a + will indicate first-time starters, an (S) will be used for state-bred races.

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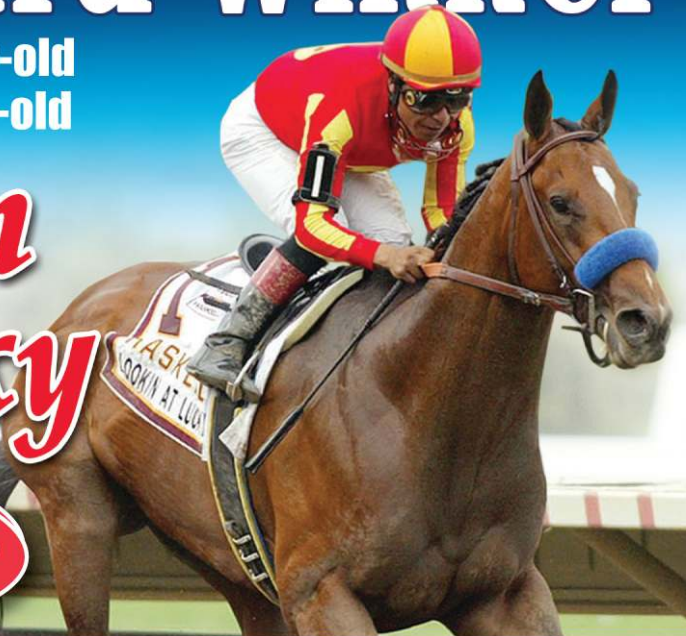
REMINDER:
Due to the Christmas holiday, the TDN office will be closed Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25. There will be NO newsletter for Tues., Dec. 25 or Weds., Dec. 26. All news and results from Dec. 24 and 25 will appear in the Dec. 27 issue. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Eclipse Award winner

2009 Champion 2-year-old
2010 Champion 3-year-old

Lookin At Lucky

First crop weanlings at Keeneland November sold for up to **\$500,000**



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Florida

Yesterday's Results:

EL PRADO S., \$75,000, GPX, 12-22, 3yo/up, 1mT, 1:34 2/5, fm.

1--**NIKKI'S SANDCASTLE**, 121, g, 5, Castledale (Ire)--Sandtina, by Sandpit (Brz). O/B-Richard Sherman (KY); T-David C Kassen; J-Corey J Lanerie. \$45,000. Lifetime Record: GSP, 30-8-9-3, \$384,067.

2--**Kharafa**, 116, c, 3, Kitalpha--Exquisite Cassie, by King of Kings (Ire). O-Lawrence A Durocher Jr. \$15,000.

3--**Salto (Ire)**, 117, c, 4, Pivotal (GB)--Danzigaway, by Danehill. (€160,000 RNA HRA '11 ARQARC). O-Wertheimer & Frere. \$7,500.

Margins: 3/4, 1HF, NK. Odds: 5.00, 17.30, 2.10.

Nikki's Sandcastle returned from a freshening to finish a game second in Hawthorne's Robert F. Cary Memorial H. Oct. 6. He posted a career-best effort in his GII Fayette S. runner-up performance over the Keeneland synthetic Oct. 27 before taking Gulfstream's Claiming Crown Emerald S. Dec. 1. The chestnut broke from the 14th slot here and settled towards the back and off the rail.



Nikki's Sandcastle
Leslie Martin

The Sherman homebred rapidly gained ground entering the turn and swung five wide. He rallied readily down the stretch, took command late and held clear. "We were really serious about scratching because of [the post]," said winning trainer David Kassen. "We had another race down the road in Texas that we're kind of planning for so I said, 'This will be just a good prep for it even if we don't win.' Rather than having to do a lot of training I'd just as soon run him. So it worked out good." [Click for the brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.](#)

2nd-GPX, \$61,100, Alw, NW1SL, 3yo, 1m, 1:37 2/5, ft.

1--**MEGAMOVE**, 118, c, 3, [High Cotton](#)--Miss Sabrina, by Summer Squall. (\$50,000 2yo '11 OBSMAR). O/B-Centaur Farms Inc (FL); T-Ronald B Spatz. Lifetime Record: 17-4-7-2, \$149,890. *1/2 to Megalith (Trippi), SW, \$190,499; full to Speak Logistics, SW, \$202,700.

2--**Yes I'm Awesome**, 118, g, 3, [El Corredor](#)--Discreetly Awesome, by Awesome Again.

3--**Sky Alert**, 120, g, 3, [First Samurai](#)--Staff Nurse, by Arch. (\$30,000 2yo '11 KEEAPR; \$17,000 RNA yrl '10 KEESEP).

Margins: HF, 1HF, 5HF. Odds: 7.50, 1.30, 3.60.

Megamove entered after winning two out of his last four attempts at Calder, including a narrow optional claiming tally in the slop last time Oct. 25. **Cont. p3**

Eclipse Award winner

2010 Champion 2-year-old

Uncle Mo

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2nd-GP cont.

Overlooked a bit in this rare contest eligible to sophomores that have never won a graded sweepstakes, Megamove was sent to the lead from his outside post. Hounded by Yes I'm Awesome through fractions of :23.49 and :46.17, Megamove kept on finding more in the stretch to hold that one safe. **Click for the [brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.](#)**

SYNTHETIC SURFACES IN NORTH AMERICA

Track	All-Weather Surface
Arlington Park	Polytrack
Del Mar	Polytrack
Keeneland	Polytrack
Turfway Park	Polytrack
Woodbine	Polytrack
Hollywood	Cushion Track
Golden Gate	Tapeta Footings
Presque Isle Downs	Tapeta Footings
OBS Training Center	Safetrack

7th-GPX, \$43,500, Alw, Opt. Clm. (\$25,000), NW1\$X, 3yo/up, 1 3/8mT, 2:14 4/5, fm.

AMIRA'S PRINCE (IRE) (c, 3, Teofilo {Ire}--Twice the Ease {GB}, by Green Desert), a maiden winner at The Curragh in March, failed to get his picture taken in five subsequent starts while overseas for trainer David Wachman, capped by a nose defeat in a 12-furlong Gowran Park handicap over yielding going Aug. 21. Purchased privately and transferred to Hall of Famer Bill Mott's barn, the 2-1 choice was in no hurry for most of the way, racing toward the back of the pack. With John Velazquez aboard, the bay began to advance on the backstretch on the far outside, hit the gas with a sweeping move on the final turn, and kicked clear in the stretch to score by 1 1/4 lengths in his U.S. debut. Minister Colin (Smart Strike) was second. Amira's Prince is a half-brother to Hen Night (Ire) (Daneshill Dancer {Ire}), SW & GSP-Ire. Sales history: 150,000gns yrl '10 TATOCT. Lifetime Record: 8-2-2-1, \$72,307.

Click for the [brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.](#)
 O-Wachtel Stable, Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners & Gary Barber. B-Gigginstown House Stud (Ire). T-William I Mott.

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TDN Q&A Visit the [TDN Q&A archive](#) for a series of in-depth one-on-one interviews with interesting figures in the industry.

Eclipse Award winner

2011 Champion Turf Horse

Cape Blanco

Three straight Grade 1 successes in the USA twice defeating GIO PONTI

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8th-GPX, \$42,000, Msw, 2yo, 1 1/16m, 1:45 3/5, ft. NORTHERN LION (c, 2, Lion Heart--Obligation North, by Valley Crossing), a \$625,000 FTFFEB juvenile, reported home third as the 6-5 chalk in his Sept. 26 Woodbine unveiling behind subsequent next-out winner and Display S. third-place finisher Clearly Now (Horse Greeley). He improved one slot to complete the exacta at 9-5 behind the impressive WinStar firster General Election (Harlan's Holiday) at Churchill Downs Nov. 24, and was given a 5-2 chance to make it right while attempting two turns for the first time here. Sent to the front by Patrick Husbands, Northern Lion coasted through early fractions of :24.84 and :49.71, began to shake clear as they straightened for home and came roaring down the lane to graduate by 5 1/2 lengths. O T B Bob (Full Mandate) was second by a neck over Town Extension (Speightstown), who made a sharp middle move while parked wide on the far turn. Northern Lion was produced by a half-sister to millionaire Weigelia (Safely's Mark). Sales history: \$25,000 wlng '10 KEENOV; \$115,000 yrl '11 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-1, \$39,991. [Click for the brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.](#)

O-John C Oxley. B-Reata Thoroughbred Racing (FL). T-Mark E Casse.

Baccari Bloodstock Sales Graduate

3rd-GPX, \$42,000, Msw, 3yo/up, 1 1/16mT, 1:42 1/5, fm.

RODGERSON (g, 3, Flower Alley--Maidstone, by Aptitude) kicked off his career with a pair of third-place finishes on the Gulfstream main track Jan. 21 and Mar. 3. He returned from a break with a runner-up effort going six panels over the Keeneland synthetic Oct. 27 and switched to grass with a second-place finish at Churchill Nov. 18. The 3-1 chance set the pace here, remained in front and finished up well to stay a length ahead of Bernie's Best (Posse). "He was alert breaking from the gate and got to the front nice and easy," said winning jockey Corey Lanerie. "I was able to get away with leisurely fractions, and turning for home, I had a lot of horse for the running." Sales history: \$26,000 2yo '11 FTMMAY. Lifetime Record: 5-1-2-2, \$54,376. [Click for the brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.](#)

O-Donato Lanni & Craig Bernick. B-Dr John R Cummins (KY). T-Thomas F Proctor.

Hip 921 - 1/2 sis selling at KeeJan with TAYLOR MADE



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Eclipse Award winner

2011 Champion 2-year-old

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Eastern U.S.

Yesterday's Results:

THIRTY EIGHT GO GO S., \$104,250, LRL, 12-22, 3yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:38 2/5, ft.

1--**#ONEPOINTTHREEKARATS**, 118, f, 4, **Medaglia d'Oro--Beaties for Real (MSP)**, by **Unreal Zeal**. (\$1,300,000 yrl '09 KEESEP). O-Live Oak Plantation; B-Gilbert G Campbell (FL); T-H Graham Motion; J-Jeremy Rose. \$60,000. Lifetime Record: 10-4-3-1, \$169,989. * 1/2 to Ryan's for Real (Sword Dance {Ire}), GSW, \$333,805; Friel's for Real (Sword Dance {Ire}), GSW, \$674,544; Little Thunder (Sword Dance {Ire}), SW, \$208,842.

2--**Withgreatpleasure**, 124, f, 4, Hold That Tiger--Doubleyourpleasure, by Double Negative. O-David Blethen. \$20,000.

3--**Bold Affair**, 124, f, 4, Two Punch--Hunka Hunka Lori Z, by Colonial Affair. O-Mike Zanella & Charles Reed. \$12,500.

IT PAYS TO BREED MARYLAND-BREDS

Margins: 3HF, 2, 1. Odds: 3.80, 6.70, 0.40.

Onepointthreekarats, a maiden winner over the Churchill Downs grass in May, continues to roll since returning to dirt. The \$1.3-million KEESEP graduate aired in an optional claimer at Delaware Sept. 24, then repeated versus similar going a mile over this course Nov. 3. Making her stakes debut here, the Live Oak colorbearer chased on the outside in fourth, tugged her way to the front on the far turn while racing in hand,

and took off when asked in the stretch to leave little doubt about the outcome. "She's getting special right now," jockey Jeremy Rose commented. "Graham [Motion] and everybody have done a great job and I had a lot of confidence going into the race. Today was her day and she showed it." [Click for the brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.](#)



Jim McCue/MJC

3rd-LRL, \$38,000, Msw, 2yo, f, 5 1/2f, 1:06 1/5, ft. + **RAILTOWN GIRL** (f, 2, **Candy Ride {Arg}**--Harlow Gold, by Orientate), favored at 1-2, was hustled to the front from her inside draw, but was quickly overtaken by Lady Sabelia (Majestic Warrior). Guided to the outside, Railtown Girl re-rallied to challenge for command at the top of the stretch and outkicked that one home to graduate by 2 1/2 lengths. Sales history: \$20,000 yrl '11 KEESEP; \$230,000 2yo '12 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$21,660. [Click for the brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.](#)



O-Cam Allard. B-Cardinal Farm LLC (KY). T-Kiaran P McLaughlin.

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Vincent O'Brien

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André Fabre, BBC, prior to POUR MOI'S last-to-first victory in the Epsom Derby

Pour Moi

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▶ Central U.S.

Yesterday's Results:

BLUSHING K. D. H., \$72,000, FGX, 12-22, 3yo/up, f/m, a1 1/16mT, 1:44, fm.

1--**DAISY DEVINE**, 124, f, 4, Kafwain--Devil's Dispute, by Devil's Bag. (\$5,500 yrl '09 KEESEP). O-James M Miller; B-J Reiley McDonald (KY); T-Andrew McKeever; J-Brian Joseph Hernandez Jr. \$45,000. Lifetime Record: GISW, 16-9-2-1, \$946,281. * 1/2 to Patent Pending (Conquistador Cielo), SW, \$142,880; Bargainwiththdevil (Southern Halo), SW, \$125,933.

EATON SALES SOLD

2--**Forest Uproar**, 116, m, 6, Forest Wildcat--Split the Arrow, by Smart Strike. O-Sam-Son Farms. \$15,000.

Registered Ontario-Bred

3--**Francisca**, 117, f, 3, Mizzen Mast--De Aar, by Gone West. (\$70,000 yrl '10 KEESEP). O-John A Chandler. \$7,500.

Margins: 6, 10 3/4, 3/4. Odds: 0.20, 5.90, 3.60.

After winning Keeneland's GI Jenny Wiley S. in April, Daisy Devine faded to fifth in the GII Churchill Distaff Turf Mile on Derby day. She returned from a hiatus with a game second in Keeneland's

GI First Lady S. Oct. 6 and, most recently, wired the GIII Cardinal H. at Churchill Nov. 10. Heavily favored here, the bay assumed her usual position on the early lead and set a comfortable pace. She distanced herself further entering the final bend and drew clear down the stretch to finish under a hand ride. "That was kind of a paid workout for her," jockey Brian Hernandez Jr. said. "She turned for home, I dropped my hands a little and she knew what time it was. She is all professional." Trainer Andrew McKeever added, "She looks as good as ever. I think the next race is Jan. 19 (Marie G. Krantz Memorial S.) and we'll go from there. The main objective is the (GI) Jenny Wiley at Keeneland (Apr. 14)." **Click for the [brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video](#), sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.**



Daisy Devine on the lead turning for home
Hodges Photography/ Alexander Barkoff

VIDEO REPLAYS

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[Blushing K. D. H.](#) Daisy Devine (Kafwain) posts easy victory.

[Thirty Eight Go Go S.](#) Onepointthreekarats (Medaglia d'Oro) wins third straight; first stakes victory.

[Sugar Bowl S.](#) Tour Guide (Broken Vow) records first stakes win.

[3rd GP \(Msw\)](#) Rodgerson (Flower Alley) goes gate-to-wire to graduate.

[8th GP \(Msw\)](#) Northern Lion (Lion Heart) scores going two turns.

[3rd LRL \(Msw\)](#) Railtown Girl (Candy Ride {Arg}) justifies favoritism for debut win.

[10th FG \(Alw\)](#) "TDN Rising Star" Bind (Pulpit) wins off a lengthy layoff.

[11th FG \(Msw\)](#) Departing (War Front) is a debut winner for Claiborne, Dilschneider.

TELL IT TO THE TDN...

Want to send a "Letter to the Editor" of the *Thoroughbred Daily News*? Our address is 60 Broad St., Red Bank, NJ, 07701; or send a fax to: (732) 747-8955; an e-mail to: editor@thoroughbreddailynews.com; or post in our new Forum section at <http://www.thoroughbreddailynews.com/members/forum/>.



BUDDY DILIBERTO MEMORIAL H., \$73,500, FGX, 12-22, 3yo/up, a1 1/16mT, 1:46 1/5, fm.

1--**STRIKE IMPACT**, 115, g, 8, **Smart Strike--Foret Noire (SW, \$118,163)**, by **Time for a Change**. (\$15,000 yrl '05 FTKOCT; \$12,000 RNA yrl '05 KEESEP).

O-Chester J Miller & Patrick J Dupuy; B-Hermitage Farm LLC (KY); T-Patrick J Dupuy; J-Shaun Bridgmohan. \$45,000. Lifetime Record: MGSP, 69-18-9-11, \$657,393.

2--**Hotep**, 120, h, 5, A.P. Indy--Eye of the Sphynx, by **Smart Strike**. O-Sam-Son Farms. \$15,000.

Registered Ontario-Bred

3--**Dubious Miss**, 116, g, 8, E Dubai--Cryptoclover, by Mountain Cat. O-David P Holloway Racing Inc.

\$7,500.

Margins: 1, NK, NO. Odds: 8.70, 3.90, 3.20.

Strike Impact, third in the GIII Colonel E. R. Bradley H. over this course in January, last topped the tote in Mountaineer's Independence Day S. and had only raced twice since, finishing eighth in the Speaker's Cup there Aug. 4 and sixth in a Churchill optional-claimer Nov. 16. The bay chased in second here, took the lead at the top of the stretch and dug in to get the money.



Strike Impact

Hodges Photography/Lynn Roberts

Click for the brisnet.com chart or

[Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.](#)

LETELLIER MEMORIAL S., \$49,000, FGX, 12-22, 2yo, f, 6f, 1:11 4/5, ft.

1--**#FINDING MORE**, 120, f, 2, by **Trickey Trevor**

1st Dam: **Greenmountain Girl**, by **Green Dancer**

2nd Dam: **Conquering Angel**, by **Conquistador Cielo**

3rd Dam: **Missy Westport**, by **Spotted Line**

(\$4,500 yrl '11 WASSEP). O-Daniel Kenny; B-Mr & Mrs Frederick L Pabst (WA); T-Kellyn Gorder; J-John Jacinto. \$30,000. Lifetime Record: 4-3-0-0, \$78,888. *First stakes winner for sire (by Demaloot Demashoot).

Dan Kenny purchase wins 3rd straight

Washington Bred / WTBOA Sales Graduate!

2--**Irish Lute**, 116, f, 2, **Midnight Lute**--Shaniowa, by Storm Boot. (\$37,000 RNA yrl '11 KEESEP).

O-Donarra Thoroughbreds, LLC. \$10,000.

3--**Brotherhood Singer**, 120, f, 2, Dehere--Birds Nest, by Petionville. (\$22,000 RNA wlng '10 KEENOV;

\$20,000 yrl '11 KEESEP). O-Travis Morgeson V LLC. \$5,000.

Margins: 2 1/4, 3/4, 2. Odds: 8.50, 4.00, 1.00.

Also Ran: My Daughter's Song, Assets of War, Franks Officer Gal, Coastal Sunrise.

Finding More was disqualified from third and placed fifth in her career bow at Presque Isle Aug. 3, then graduated against \$62,500 maiden claimers in wire-to-wire fashion at Woodbine Sept. 8. She made it two straight in a Churchill

optional claimer Oct. 28, and was taking on stakes company for the first time here. The Daniel Kenny colorbearer sat a stalking trip, asserted for the lead from the three path at the top of the stretch, and drew clear to finish under steady urging. "She broke really well and, thank God, this race set up perfect for us, you know," jockey John



Finding More leads the way down the stretch

Hodges Photography/Lynn Roberts

Jacinto said. "And when I saw those in front come back to me I said, 'I'm going to wait a little longer,' and finally when I asked her to go for it she really did." Assistant trainer Evan Downing added, "I think we will see if she can go two turns. The owner remembered the sire, Trickey Trevor, and happened to be in Washington and saw this filly in the sale. She was one or two in the sale and was going to sell right away. He remembered the sire being really fast and thought nobody else would even know who that was. He looked at the filly and she was pretty correct and clean and he bought her for \$4,500. And here we are! It does sound like she has more sprint breeding, but she won going seven-eighths last time so we'll probably try." Click for the brisnet.com chart or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.](#)

SUGAR BOWL S., \$48,500, FGX, 12-22, 2yo, 6f, 1:11 1/5, ft.

1--**#TOUR GUIDE**, 120, c, 2, by **Broken Vow**

1st Dam: **Homefortheholidays**, by **Came Home**

2nd Dam: **Meteor Cap**, by **Capote**

3rd Dam: **Meteor Ally**, by **Alydar**

O/B-Gary & Mary West Stables Inc (KY); T-W Bret Calhoun; J-Brian Joseph Hernandez Jr. \$30,000. Lifetime Record: 5-3-1-0, \$95,050.

2--**Ive Struck a Nerve**, 116, c, 2, Yankee Gentleman--Ranaway, by Cryptoclearance. (\$1,700 wlng '10 KEENOV; \$17,000 yrl '11 OBSAUG; \$82,000 2yo '12 OBSAPR). O-Matthew W Bryan. \$10,000.

3--**Brown Laddie**, 116, c, 2, **Big Brown**--Galway Lass, by Victory Gallop. (\$10,000 yrl '11 KEEJAN; \$175,000 yrl '11 KEESEP). O-Ginger Punch Racing. \$5,000.

Margins: 3HF, 3HF, 1. Odds: 0.30, 3.20, 15.00.

Also Ran: Seeking Payday, Arbitrator, Expect Distinction.

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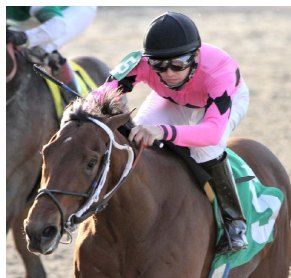
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Sugar Bowl S. cont.

Tour Guide, a debut second at Monmouth July 29, graduated by 2 1/2 lengths next out at that track Sept. 3. The homebred weakened to a distant fifth in Delaware's Dover S. Oct. 6, but came back with an impressive 4 1/2-length victory in a Churchill optional claimer Nov. 24. Tour Guide pressed the pace from off the rail here, asserted for the lead on the bend and surged clear down the stretch.



Tour Guide
Hodges Photography/Lynn Roberts

"He's still growing and developing and he's doing it very slowly," trainer Bret Calhoun said. "He's a very fast horse, for sure, and we'll just have to see if we can harness some of that speed and stretch it out. I do think there's more left in the tank. This horse gets a little bit lost when he's out on the lead." [Click for the brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.](#)

10th-FGX, \$43,160, Alw, NW1X, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10 1/5, ft.

BIND (c, 4, Pulpit--Check, by Unbridled) signaled his ability when winning on debut over this track and trip last February, an effort which garnered him ☆ **"TDN Rising Star"** ☆ status. He strung together a pair of second place efforts--at the Fair Grounds five weeks later and at Churchill Downs in May--thereafter, but had not been seen since. Sent off as the 6-5 favorite to score off the extended layoff here, the homebred broke a step slow, but wasted no time joining the leaders. He established a stalking position on the rail before splitting runners to take the advantage entering the turn. In front by two lengths at the quarter pole, he maintained the lead under moderate urging from Brian Hernandez Jr., crossing the line 2 1/2 lengths to the better of Yonaguska Storm (Yonaguska). "He's a good horse and I'm thrilled that he made it back; he deserves to come back," trainer Al Stall Jr. offered. "His injury wasn't exactly earth-shattering either, you know, things just got a little complicated. He got some screws put in, the head of the screw reacted. Nothing really was terribly wrong but we just removed the screw and gave him some more time. It cost him about eight or nine months." Stall added, "We'll just stay around here and find, most probably, an allowance race here, maybe Oaklawn if we have to, and then see where we're at." The winner is a half to Hakama (First Samurai), GSP, \$134,370. Sales history: \$180,000 RNA yrl '09 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 4-2-2-0, \$68,000. [Click for the brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.](#)

O-Adele B Dilschneider & Claiborne Farm. B-Claiborne Farm (KY). T-Albert M Stall Jr.

11th-FGX, \$39,000, Msw, 2yo, 6f, 1:11 1/5, ft. +DEPARTING (c, 2, War Front--Leave, by Pulpit) signaled his ability when posting a bullet five furlong work in :59 1/5 from the gate over this strip Dec. 3. He was sent off the 4-1 third choice for his career debut. Stalking the leaders on the rail in third early, the homebred maintained that ground saving position into the lane, wore down the front-running Ground Transport (Big Brown) in midstretch and posted a 2 1/4-length victory from that rival. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$23,400. [Click for the brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.](#) O/B-Claiborne Farm & Adele B Dilschneider (KY). T-Albert M Stall Jr.

11th-TPX, \$20,770, Msw, 2yo, 6 1/2f (AWT), 1:19 2/5, ft.
I DO BELIEVE (c, 2, Flashy Bull--Storm Teal, by Storm Bird), fifth in his career bow at Ellis Park Aug. 12, completed the trifecta at Hoosier Oct. 16 and was 12th when stretched to a mile last time out at Churchill Downs Nov. 18. The even-money chalk tracked behind the early leaders, tipped in along the rail entering the bend and quickly took the lead. The gray shifted into gear and powered clear to a 10 1/4-length victory. Colby Tavern (Purge) was second. The winner is a half to Gold Storm (Seeking the Gold), MSW & GSP, \$507,545; and Babe Hall (El Corredor), GSP, \$162,272. Sales history: \$40,000 yrl '11 KEESEP; \$70,000 RNA 2yo '12 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-1, \$17,445. [Click for the brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.](#) O-Tanma Corporation. B-Breton C Jones (KY). T-Michael J Maker.

HRTV Adds Oaklawn Park to Programing Line-Up:
Oaklawn Park will join HRTV's program line-up on an exclusive basis for the 2013 season. The network will air live racing and analysis from the track starting opening day Jan. 11.



2-YEAR-OLDS IN TRAINING SALES -- 2013

<u>Sale</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Under Tack</u>
Barretts March	Mar. 4	Mar. 1
OBS Selected	Mar. 12-13	Mar. 7-8
Fasig-Tipton Florida	Mar. 25	Mar. 22
Fasig-Tipton Texas	Apr. 3	Apr. 1
Keeneland April	Apr. 8	TBA
OBS Spring	Apr. 22-25	Apr. 16-19
Barretts May	May 13	May 10
Fasig-Tipton Midlantic	May 20-21	May 15-16
OBS June 2YOs/HRA	June 18-19	June 14-16

All European post times in the TDN are local time



Western U.S.

Yesterday's Results:

BOLD EGO H., \$50,000, SUN, 12-22, 3yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2f, 1:03 4/5, ft.

1--**HENNESEY SMASH, 120, f, 3, Roll Hennessy Roll--Some Smash, by Rare Brick.** O/B-Barbara M Coleman (NM); T-Todd W Fincher; J-Casey T Lambert. \$30,000. Lifetime Record: 7-6-0-0, \$201,006. * 1/2 to Some Ghost (Ghostly Moves), MSW, \$899,144; Star Smasher (Full Choke), MSW, \$437,992; Smash Dancer (Robyn Dancer), MSW, \$392,953; and Zzzs Ghost (Ghostly Moves), SW, \$116,735.

2--**Pyrite on My Mind, 118, m, 5, Seattle Fitz (Arg)--Frame of Mind, by Green Dancer.** (\$2,000 yrl '08 OBSAUG). O-Gary Butcher. \$11,000.

3--**Alydarla, 117, f, 3, Henny Hughes--Mamboalot, by Kingmambo.** (\$15,000 RNA yrl '10 KEESEP; \$32,000 2yo '11 OBSAPRO. O-Dapple Stable. \$5,000.

Margins: 3/4, 3HF, 3/4. Odds: 3.00, 25.20, 1.10.

Hennessee Smash rolled to five consecutive wins here, adding to her victories in Albuquerque's Chief Narbona



The connections of Hennessee Smash
Coady Photography

S. Aug. 26, a Zia allowance Oct. 2, the New Mexico Classic Cup Championship Filly S. Oct. 28 and another Zia allowance Dec. 3. The homebred chased the pace from the three path in this one, challenged on the bend and cleared in the straight.

Click for the [brisnet.com](http://www.brisnet.com) chart or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.](#)

ROOKIES

First-crop starters to watch: Sunday, December 23

*Sire (Sire's Sire), current farm, 2009 Fee, #foals of racing age/Winners/BlackTypeWnrs * Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)*

EL ROBLAR (War Chant), 12/3/1

10-SUN, Stk, 1m, Lewiston, \$5K RNA ARZ NOV yrl, 6-1

GAFF (Maria's Mon), Journeyman, \$3K, 24/4/0

7-TAM, Aoc, 1mT, Body by Gaff, 15-1

HEATSEEKER (IRE) (Giant's Causeway), Hill N Dale, \$20K, 59/12/1

10-SUN, Stk, 1m, Certification, \$25K RNA EAS MAY 2yo, 4-1

INTO MISCHIEF (Harlan's Holiday), Spendthrift, \$13K, 42/7/3

10-SUN, Stk, 1m, Holiday Mischief, \$25K KEE SEP yrl, 5-1

ROAD RULER (Unbridled's Song), 27/2/0

8-HAW, Msw, 6f, Misty Miranda, 10-1

STUDENT COUNCIL (Kingmambo), Millennium, \$18K, 73/7/1

9-FG, Msw, 6f, +Sheisinittowinit, \$37K RNA KEE NOV wnl, 8-1

Rookies cont.

First/Second-crop starters to watch: Sunday, Dec. 23

*Sire (Sire's Sire), current farm, 2008 Fee, #foals of racing age/Winners/BlackTypeWnrs * Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)*

ANY GIVEN SATURDAY (Distorted Humor), Darley, \$40K, 193/57/6

10-SUN, Stk, 1m, Show Some Magic, \$70K KEE SEP yrl, 3-1

DISCREET CAT (Forestry), Darley, \$30K, 217/78/5

10-SUN, Stk, 1m, Stormdriver, \$40K ARZ NOV yrl, 15-1

MASTER COMMAND (A.P. Indy), Taylor Made, \$15K, 179/57/3

6-PRX, Msw, 6 1/2f, +Evening Show, 4-1

PURIM (Dynaformer), Richland Hills, \$10K, 126/46/2

4-FG, Msw, 6f, +Separation, \$35K RNA FTK JUL yrl, 6-1

WEATHER WARNING (Storm Cat), Windfields, \$5K, 64/21/1

10-SUN, Stk, 1m, Stoneridge Gold, \$15K BRC OCT yrl, 10-1

[brisnet.com](http://www.brisnet.com) PEDIGREES · NICKINGS · RACE RECORDS

Britain

Yesterday's Result:

QUEBEC S.-Listed, £33,000, Lingfield, 12-22, 3yo/up, 1 1/4m (AWT), 2:04.02, stn.

1--**#TRUE TO FORM (IRE), 129, g, 5, by Rock of Gibraltar (Ire)--Truly Yours (Ire), by Barathea (Ire).** (€9,000 yrl '08 GOFMIL; 35,000gns HIT '10 TATHIT). O-Ladyswood Stud; B-Sir E J Loder; T-Martyn Meade; J-David Probert; £18,714. Lifetime Record: 27-10-3-1, £59,605. *Full to Truly Mine, SW & GSP-Ire, \$135,583.

Selected by Angie Loder Bloodstock

2--**Emerald Wilderness (Ire), 129, g, 8, Green Desert--Simla Bibi (GB), by Indian Ridge (Ire).** (90,000gns wnlg '04 TATDEC; 135,000gns yrl '05 TATOCT). O-F J Perry; B-Mrs Joan Murphy; T-Mark Rimmer; £7,095.

3--**Be Perfect, 126, c, 3, Street Cry (Ire)--Binya (Ger), by Royal Solo (Ire).** (£60,000 RNA HIT '12 DONHIT). O-Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum; B-Joseph Allen; T-Marco Botti; £3,551.

Margins: NK, NK, NO. Odds: 10-1, 16-1, 5-2.

Also Ran: Tinshu (Ire), Mawaakef (Ire), Chapter Seven (GB), Solfilia (GB), Shadow Gate (Jpn), Sheila's Buddy (GB), Decent Fella (Ire), Layline (Ire). [Click for the Racing Post chart.](#) [Video, courtesy attheraces.com.](#)

True to Form was off the board in both prior starts in stakes company, running fifth over course and distance in the Feb. 25 Listed Winter Derby Trial S. and the Nov. 17 Listed Churchill S., and lined up for this third try off a handicap second at Kempton Dec. 13. Patiently ridden off a modest pace until urged closer rounding the home turn, he entered the final furlong in sixth and ran on strongly under a drive to prevail in a bunch finish for a career high.



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Asia

XAAR PENSIONED

Darley Japan's 17-year-old sire **Xaar (GB)** (Zafonic--Monroe, by Sir Ivor), who has stood in Japan since 2008, has been retired from stud duties, according to *Racing Post*. Impressive winner of both the G1 Prix de la Salamandre and G1 Dewhurst S. as a juvenile in 1997, the Juddmonte-bred bay, who was acquired by Godolphin during his racing career, retired to Darley's Kildangan Stud in Ireland in 2001. He spent the 2007 covering season at Haras du Logis in Normandy before starting his Japan stint. His progeny include the dual G1 BMW Champions Mile hero Xtension (Ire), and the Group 1 performers Balthazaar's Gift (Ire), The Cheka (Ire) and Wake Up Maggie (Ire). He is also the sire of the 2006 G2 Mehl-Mulhens-Rennen (German 2000 Guineas) victor Royal Power (Ire), and the 2004 G2 Gimcrack S. hero Tony James (Ire).

Middle East

Sunday, Abu Dhabi, UAE

HH THE PRESIDENT CUP-Listed, Dhs185,000 (\$50,363),

NH/SH3yo/up, 1400mT

SC	PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER
1	3	Alazeyab	El Prado (Ire)	O'Neill	Al Raihe
2	2	Energia Dust (Brz)	Amigoni (Ire)	O'Shea	Borges
3	6	Escape Route	Elusive Quality	Mullen	Seemar
4	9	First City (GB)	Diktat (GB)	Ffrench	Al Raihe
5	8	Fityaan (GB)	Haafhd (GB)	Smith	Al Muhairi
6	4	Iguazu Falls	Pivotal (GB)	Ziani	bin Shafya
7	11	Jaasoo (Ire)	Noverre	Doyle	D Slvrtnam
8	1	Marching Time (GB)	Sadler's Wells	Hanagan	Watson
9	7	Montmorency (GB)	Pivotal (GB)	Cosgrave	Seemar
10	10	Moonreach (Ire)	Chineur (Fr)	Monaghan	Seemar
11	5	Garbah (Ire)	Kodiac (GB)	Bentley	al Raihe

All carry 123 pounds, bar Garbah, 119.

BREEDERS' EDITION AMERICA

BLACK-TYPE RESULTS:

BONAPAW S., \$74,250, FGX, 12-22, 3yo/up,

a5 1/2fT, 1:04 3/5, fm.

1--**#CHINA**, 118, h, 5, **Tale of the Cat--Crow Jane (SP, \$113,038)**, by **Indian Charlie**. (\$110,000 yrl '08 KEESEP). O-Black Sheep Racing; B-Totier Creek Farm (KY); T-John Good; J-John Jacinto. \$45,000. Lifetime Record: 18-6-3-4, \$271,072.

2--**Icon Ike**, 117, c, 3, **Yes It's True--Robbie's Gal**, by **Straight Man**. (\$65,000 RNA yrl '10 KEESEP; \$39,500 RNA 2yo '11 FTMMAY). O-Mr & Mrs Fletcher Gray. \$15,000.

3--**Global Power**, 118, c, 4, **Pulpit--Hidden Cat**, by **Storm Cat**. (\$230,000 yrl '09 KEESEP). O-Luch Racing Stables Inc. \$7,500.

Margins: NK, 1 1/4, HF. Odds: 36.10, 5.60, 9.10.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

7th-FGX, \$44,200, Opt. Clm. (\$40,000), NW2X, 3yo/up, f/m, a1mT, 1:40, fm.

AUSUS (f, 3, Invasor {Arg}--El Raabi, by Fusaichi Pegasus) Lifetime Record: 8-3-2-0, \$96,353. O/B-Shadwell Farm LLC (KY). T-Daniel C Peitz.

1st-FGX, \$43,000, NW2X, (S), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11, ft.

SAY SOMETHIN GOOD (f, 4, Good and Tough--Say Somethin Funny, by Placid Fund) Lifetime Record: 16-4-2-5, \$98,161. O/B-Danny M & Donna B Brown (LA). T-Wesley E Hawley.

8th-DED, \$41,000, 12-21, NW1X, (S), 3yo/up, 7 1/2f, 1:33 3/5, ft.

SKIPBERRY WINE (g, 3, Skip Away--My Strawberry Wine, by Excavate) Lifetime Record: 4-2-0-1, \$45,900. O/B-James W Green (LA). T-Keith G Bourgeois. *\$7,000 RNA 2yo '11 OBSJUN.

6th-HAW, \$38,000, 3yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:44, ft.

MISTER MARTI GRAS (g, 5, Belong to Me--Miss Marta {MSP, \$166,674}, by Cure the Blues) Lifetime Record: MGSW, 29-8-7-3, \$798,554. O/B-Lothenbach Stables Inc (KY). T-Chris M Block.

8th-SUN, \$36,500, NW2X, (S), 3yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:02 2/5, ft.

HONSHU CITY (g, 3, Fusaichi Zenon {Jpn}--Esplendida {SP}, by Catillac) Lifetime Record: SW, 12-3-4-1, \$132,873. O-Raymond Simpson. B-Susie Byrd & Patsy C Symons (NM). T-Weston Martin.

3rd-HAW, \$33,000, NW1\$X, (S), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10, ft.

GLOBAL ALLIANCE (g, 3, E Dubai--Pleasant Glory, by Honour and Glory) Lifetime Record: 10-2-4-2, \$78,351. O-Connie Thayer, Susan Fallon & Genevieve Rafael. B-Ben Barnow (IL). T-Mickey A Goldfine. *\$18,000 RNA yrl '10 FTKOCT; \$2,000 2yo '11 OBSJUN.

9th-DED, \$32,000, 12-21, NW2L, 2yo, f, 5f, :59, ft.

ADA MAE (f, 2, Cactus Ridge--Fabulous Performer, by Rare Performer) Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, \$33,600. O/B-Dream Walkin Farms Inc (OK). T-Harlan Davis Boutte.

7th-CTX, \$27,400, 12-21, NW3LX, 3yo/up, 4 1/2f, :51 3/5, ft.

FLATTERING ANDY (g, 3, Flutter--Storming Annie, by Swain {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 8-3-1-4, \$65,010. O/B-James Arrison (KY). T-Crystal G Pickett.

4th-CTX, \$27,000, 12-21, NW3LX, 3yo/up, f/m, 4 1/2f, :52, ft.

WILD GABRIELLA (f, 4, Wildcat Heir--Lara Wants, by Saint Ballado) Lifetime Record: 15-3-6-1, \$89,970. O-Phyllis M Susini LLC. B-Ocala Stud (FL). T-Javier Contreras. *1/2 to Undeniable Queen (Concerto), SP, \$154,007; Concerto's Queen (Concerto), SW-PR, \$111,680.



8th-TPX, \$24,992, Opt. Clm. (\$40,000), NW2\$X, 3yo/up, f/m, 1m (AWT), 1:38 2/5, ft.
BANDI'S GAL (f, 4, **Bandini--Bridal Gal** {SW, \$211,893}, by **Gold Legend**) Lifetime Record: 25-5-3-3, \$87,840. O-BG's Girl LLC. B-Hunt Bros LLC (KY). T-Laura Bealmear.

5th-MNR, \$23,000, 12-21, NW3L, (S), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:13 1/5, my.
BOMBER (g, 3, **Bop--Sweet Cane**, by **Laabity**) Lifetime Record: 9-3-0-3, \$53,660. O/B-Don Cain (WV). T-Ernest M Haynes.

10th-TPX, \$21,932, 12-21, Opt. Clm. (\$50,000), NW1X, 2yo, f, 6f (AWT), 1:14, ft.
NO FREE RIDE (f, 2, **Pure Prize--Fair Warning**, by **Dixie Union**) Lifetime Record: 8-2-0-1, \$32,078. O-Michael M & Paige Hui. B-Kim & Rodney Nardelli (KY). T-Greg Compton. *\$20,000 RNA wlng '10 KEENOV; \$7,500 yrl '11 KEESEP; \$27,000 RNA 2yo '12 KEEAPR.

7th-MNR, \$20,200, 12-21, Opt. Clm. (\$15,000), NW1X, 3yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2f, 1:06 4/5, my.
BORN TO DISCO (f, 4, **Littleexpectations--Guard Dance** {MSW, \$154,303}, by **Fools Dance**) Lifetime Record: 25-10-4-3, \$93,905. O-David A Hix. B-Millennium Farms (KY). T-Penny L Mathias. *1/2 to Born to Dance (Service Stripe), MSW & MGSP, \$577,519; Born to Tango (Service Stripe), SW, \$124,013.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Red Hot Diva, f, 2, **Devon Deputy--Sweet Music** (MSW, \$176,587), by **Melodisk**. CTX, 12-21, (S), 7f, 1:28 3/5. B-Naomi R Long (WV).

Mc's Rockstar, g, 2, **Even the Score--Whata Rock** (MSW, \$205,502), by **Malagra**. DED, 12-21, 6 1/2f, 1:21. B-Robert & Bill McDowell (LA). *\$11,500 yrl '11 LTBSEP.

Ante Up Annie, f, 2, **Majestic Warrior--Always Annie's** (SP), by **Regal Intention**. FGX, 12-22, (S), 1m70y, 1:46 1/5. B-Clear Creek Stud LLC (LA). *\$8,000 RNA yrl '11 LTBSEP. **27th winner for freshman sire (by A.P. Indy).

Last Train, f, 2, **Silver Train--Ptichka**, by **Quiet American**. CTX, 12-21, (S), 7f, 1:29 1/5. B-Michael S Furr (WV). *Won by 5 lengths.

Shiro, g, 3, **Quiet American--Tammany Hall**, by **Clever Trick**. DED, 12-21, 7f, 1:26. B-Heiligbrodt Racing Stable (KY). *\$20,000 RNA wlng '09 KEENOV; \$37,000 2yo '11 FTHRS2. **1/2 to No Reason (Precise End), MSW, \$318,456.

Tor, f, 3, **Rock Slide--Miss Top Copy**, by **King's Nest**. CTX, 12-22, (S), 7f, 1:28 4/5. B-Ronald R Kilbourne (WV).

BREEDERS' EDITION
EUROPE

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

BRITAIN, Lingfield, 12.20, 12-22, £4,500, 2yo, 1m (AWT), 1:36.60, stn.

EL BUEN TURISTA (GB) (c, 2, **Cape Cross** {Ire}--**Summer Sunset** {Ire} {MSP-Ire}, by **Grand Lodge**) Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, £5,573. O-N M Watts; B-Newsells Park Stud; T-Andrew Balding. *40,000gns wnlg '10 TATDEC; 23,000gns yrl '11 TATOCT; 47,000gns RNA '12 TATAPR.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Rene Mathis (Ger), g, 2, **Monsieur Bond (Ire)--Remina** (Ger) (SP-Ger), by **Erminius** (Ger). Wolverhampton, Britain, 12-22, Mdn, 2yo, 5f 216yds (AWT). B-Stall 5-Stars. *£66,000 2yo '12 DONAPR; 12,000gns HIT '12 TATHIT.

Golden Flower (GB), f, 2, **Royal Applause (GB)--Silver Kestrel**, by **Silver Hawk**. Wolverhampton, Britain, 12-22, Mdn, 2yo, 5f 20yds (AWT). B-Whitley Stud. *£40,000 yrl '11 DONAUG; 75,000gns 2yo '12 TATAPR; 28,000gns HIT '12 TATHIT. **Full to Habaayib, SW & MGSP-Eng, \$119,756.



GETTING TO THE TRACK, AND GETTING BACK... WITH A MODEST PROPOSAL

by Mark Cramer

Sometimes, associating two extraneous images leads to a discovery. I recalled that, for Tim Herboth and his wife Tracy (*TDN Blog*, 17 Dec), an integral part of the adventure of visiting tracks around the world was getting there by public transportation, and sometimes even getting lost. Then, I saw the name Bowie on the list of the 86 racetracks attended by Bill Finley.

This association of two isolated points took me back to my teenage years. For a date with a girlfriend, we were to take the special racetrack bus from New York to Bowie, Maryland, during the winter of discontent when no racing was available anywhere northeast of Bowie. It was a thrill to be with a cheery girl on a two-hour bus ride, far away from hometown errands, where parents and school were not intervening.

I already had lots of experience taking the racetrack bus from the Flushing, Queens subway station to Aqueduct. **Cont. p12**



PEDIGREE INSIGHTS...
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There were two separate cultures on those bus rides. On the way to the Big A, it was a lively crowd, brimming with optimism, with good-natured exchanges on who you liked and who you didn't like, resembling the tropical joy of life I would later experience in the Caribbean.



Daumier's 'The second-class carriage.' wikimedia.org

On the way back, there would be a brooding silence, and the one or two people who had won that afternoon would not dare display their joy amidst such commiseration. I felt I was inhabiting a Daumier etching

called "The second-class bus."

Same people round trip, but on the way to the track you were in one country and on the way back in another.

My recollection of the old train to Del Mar is similar. Poet and horseplayer Charles Bukowski took that train. In his poem *On the Train to Del Mar*, he speaks with the dining car bartender:

the bartender sees that / I am feeling good / he smiles a real smile and / asks- / "How's it going?" / how's it going? my heels are down / my shoes cracked / I am wearing my father's pants and he died / ten years ago / I need 8 teeth pulled / my intestine has a partial blockage / I puff on a dime cigar /

"Great," I answer him.

(An example of on-the-way-to-the-track levity.)

My girlfriend and I shared a sense of cozy independence on the way to Bowie, which I wanted to somehow preserve for the way back. I hit the winner in the first race, for a modest profit. Then I changed my plan for the day, radically. With my teenage bankroll I had been used to betting a minimal amount on each race. But this time, I took insurance for the return trip, by deciding to keep the profit and pass all the remaining races. We shared the Thoroughbred spectacle, the peacefulness of the walking ring, the colorful silks, the poetry of horses galloping. We rooted for dead heats.

It was the first time I'd ever passed a race, and I passed eight of them. You could call it "compulsive non-gambling." My compulsion was the deep desire to preserve the same atmosphere for the return bus ride.

So here's my proposal. People are not attending the races these days. They are staying home, betting on line. The weekday Santa Anita grandstand, today a graveyard, used to be thriving. Bukowski would be sitting there, in the last section above Clockers' Corner. Today, that section is closed off.

So why not fill the grandstands again, by reviving the special racetrack buses and, when geographically possible, racetrack trains? Some folks get burned out driving to the track. Who needs the 405 to Hollywood Park or the Foothill Freeway to Santa Anita? Even in Maryland, where it was a pretty 26.2-mile drive through rolling farmland from my Gaithersburg home to Laurel, I eventually burned out from the frequent drive.

On the bus or the train, you can read the *Racing Form*, do some handicapping. So it's time gained, not lost. The special racetrack buses I am proposing could take the freeway, making turn-offs at strategic stops, at park-and-rides, at senior housing



Mickey's Dining Car: a perfect stop for the racetrack bus. Mickeysdiningcar.com

complexes, at Metro stations. In LA the designated bus could begin at its Spanish-style Union Station; in DC, also at its own classic Union Station; in Saint Paul, Minnesota, at Mickey's Diner: all great places for a late breakfast. Then relax with the pps all the way to Santa Anita, Laurel, Canterbury.

Or you could have less practical more historic pick-up places: Three-Mile Island for Penn National, John Brown's statue at Harper's Ferry for Charles Town, Haymarket Square in Chicago for Arlington.

So let's bring people back to the only place in the world where everyone gets the same odds, where one can remain oblivious to natural and man-made catastrophes, and even forget intestinal disorders and upcoming visits to the dentist: the racetrack.

To visit the TDN blog, go to www.thetdn.com/blog.

A # will distinguish first-time stakes-winners, a @ will indicate first-time graded stakes-winners, a + will indicate first-time starters, an (S) will be used for state-bred races, a (C) will be used for maiden-claiming races and an (R) will be used for other restricted races.

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