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MIKE MCCARTHY: AN "OPTIMISTIC REALIST"



Mike McCarthy | Horsephotos

by Daniel Ross

Trainer Mike McCarthy waits in the Santa Anita grandstand opposite the winning post, a pair of binoculars resting on his knees, for recent GI Malibu S. winner, **City of Light** (Quality Road) to work under Malibu-winning jock Drayden Van Dyke. While he's waiting, McCarthy weighs up a question I'd just posed, about how he views the start he's made to his training career, now turning into its fifth year. He carefully measures his words, calls himself "an optimistic realist," then adds, with tongue firmly in cheek, "I'm an optimistic realist with a touch of pessimism."

Minutes later, McCarthy would have every reason to be optimistic about the way his stable standard-bearer worked--a bullet five furlongs in :58:80, which keeps the 4-year-old son of Quality Road firmly on course towards a President's Day appearance in the \$500,000 GIII Razorback H. at Oaklawn Park Feb. 19.

And the colt's sharp form is one of many reasons Todd Pletcher's former assistant should be feeling rather more optimistic than pessimistic about, not only the past four years, but the next chapter of his career--something he'll admit to later on that morning, in his office, horses trained and the mercury spidering upwards, when he says, "We're pleased with what we've done, and we're getting better."

Cont. p3

W. VA COMMISSION IN CROSSHAIRS OVER CLASSIC FIASCO

The Week in Review By T.D. Thornton

It would be an understatement to say that the West Virginia Racing Commission (WVRC) bit off more than it could chew regarding its bizarre recent attempts to kill off the Gil Charles Town Classic.

Not only did top state officials have to intervene last week to force an emergency reversal vote to allow the signature \$1.2-million event at Charles Town Races to go on as scheduled in 2018, but the West Virginia Legislature now appears poised to apply the political equivalent of the Heimlich maneuver to keep the current three-member WVRC from choking any further on its own insular decision making. Even though Senate Bill 393 has attracted practically zero notice in the national racing press, this piece of legislation is remarkable for both its expediency and the common sense it is attempting to impose upon the often-flawed process of how board members get appointed to the racing commission, which in West Virginia (like in many states) is subject to the patronage whims of the governor. **Cont. p5 (click)**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

MUCH BETTER LATE THAN NEVER FOR O'CONNOR

Emma Berry chats with recent ITBA Hall of Fame inductee John O'Connor. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

THE CLASS LEADER.

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SIRES

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2. Union Rags	\$60,000	\$6,623,325
3. Bodemeister	\$40,000	\$6,565,399
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Monday, February 12, 2018



A Wintery Scene from Ballydoyle Stables on Sunday morning. Ireland has been experiencing some unfavorable weather conditions lately but that doesn't stop the dedicated stud and stable staff. | Photo credit: Ana O'Brien

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McCarthy an “Optimistic Realist” cont from p1

Then, like a nervous tick, the realist in him surfaces once again: "Certainly though, we're always hungry to do better. We're always striving for more."

Mind you, that same hunger has been gnawing at him throughout his career. Not that the Ohio-born, California-raised McCarthy, 47, comes from a long racing lineage. His father is in the office furniture business. His poor mother, a homemaker, is "still recovering from raising my brother and I," he says (tongue back in cheek). When he started out in California, he worked as assistant to the likes of Ben Cecil. Then came the 11-plus years as assistant to Pletcher, before, in 2014, McCarthy pitched his own coat of arms at Santa Anita, where he now runs a barn 30-horses strong.

By most benchmarks, the past four years have been on the whole something of a home-run. Each one has brought more winners and more money in the coffers. In 2014, he sent out six winners and bagged \$213,810 in prize money. Last year, those totals had swollen to 27 winners and more than \$1.3 million in the kitty. What's more, the quality of horse standing behind the white, grey and blue McCarthy webbings has steadily been on the improve.

Illuminant was McCarthy's first top-flight winner since striking out on his own. Her 2016 win in the GI Gamely S. at Santa Anita was one of three stakes victories for the Quality Road mare, who sold for \$1.1 million to Shadai Farm at last year's Fasig-Tipton November Sale. If City of Light, who has yet to race farther than seven furlongs, sees out the 1 1/16 miles of the Razorback, he could spend the summer locking horns with the nation's top milers in races like the GI Metropolitan H. and the GII Pat O'Brien H.



City of Light | Horsephotos

"He's a big horse, physically imposing, and just needed time to come together," says McCarthy, about his kid-gloves approach to the colt's early career. "He was a little coarse as a yearling. Wonderful frame. Big hip. Nice shoulder. Plenty of leg. Two years later, he's blossomed into something stunning. I would say he's the best example of his sire from what I've seen."

It's not just City of Light that has McCarthy dreaming big. **Paved**, a 3-year-old filly by--guess who--Quality Road, broke her maiden last month, and McCarthy is eyeing races like the GI Belmont Oaks and the GI Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup. First, however, Paved could take in the GIII El Camino Real Derby against the boys or an allowance back at Santa Anita.

"Both would serve as a nice prep for the [GIII] Providencia S.," he says. "A filly like her certainly has you thinking about these sorts of races."

Before responding to a question, McCarthy chews on it a few seconds then parses the words out deliberately. This habit, however, is understandable given how McCarthy spent more than a decade as assistant to a trainer whose usual offerings to the media have the carefully crafted veneer of a corporate press release.

"I think that what I've taken away is learning by example," he says, of Pletcher. "How do you argue with a trainer who's got like seven Eclipse Awards."

Still, one assumes that when assistants fly solo, they're eager to shake off the feathers of their former employer. Not McCarthy.

"I don't need to shed that tag," he says. "Some people are proud that they went to an Ivy League school. Some people are proud that they're part of a certain organization. I'm very proud that I was able to be a part of something that, for me, set the foundation of what I'm doing today." **Cont. p4**



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ADENA SPRINGS

Mike McCarthy cont.

McCarthy's training regime, he says, is similar to that of Pletcher's, at the heart of which are two essential qualities. One is good organization.

"I think that reflects on the horses," he says. "They're liking what they're doing. They're liking the routine."

The other hues close to obsession.

"To me, the dedication that a Todd Pletcher brings to the game is unparalleled... and we like to spend a lot of time here," he said. "We like the staff that we've built up around us. In turn, I like to think they like doing the job that they do."

When I suggest he has shown thus far a tad more patience with his youngsters than Pletcher (trainer of a couple Eclipse Award winning 2-year-old colts), he doesn't argue, and offers an explanation.

"I just don't have his numbers," says McCarthy. "The horse population here in California isn't quite as robust as it is in the Midwest and along the Eastern Seaboard...So, we're probably a little slower to the party because of that--because there aren't

as many opportunities."

There are elements of the whole training game that his apprenticeship didn't quite prepare him for. One relates to what he coins an "instant gratification" culture, where the internet and social media can put trainers on the back-foot in the dissemination of news.

"There's so much available information out there," he says.

I'm very proud that I was able to be a part of something that, for me, set the foundation of what I'm doing today.

--Mike McCarthy

"Your horse goes out and works 5/8ths of a mile, and through things like XBTV and social media, there are [owners] calling you before you get back to the barn."

Another hard-earned element has been in fine-tuning those skills necessary if a trainer not only wants to maintain his client base, but wants to see it grow and expand--a difficult-to-balance

alchemy of diplomacy and self-aggrandizement.

"I think for any trainer who's going out on their own, who has spent any time in one operation, you become a creature of habit," McCarthy said. "This [training] takes more cultivating of relationships, going out, going to sales, going to the races. It's about managing expectations." **Cont. p5**

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Mike McCarthy cont.

Mind you, "I'm very grateful to the owners who have supported us," he says.

And those owners who have supported him are grateful in return.

"I think he's the complete package," says Aron Wellman, over the telephone the following day. Wellman is president and founder of Eclipse Thoroughbreds, patrons of the stable since the beginning. The two men have known each other for years, even before McCarthy's Pletcher tenure, and Wellman said that his old friend is "just starting to hit his stride" as a trainer.

"I think we've seen the scope of his capabilities in the sense colts, fillies, turf, dirt, short, long--he's developing horses the right way," Wellman says. "He's exhibiting patience. He's giving them opportunities to succeed. The attention to detail, the professional organization and manner in which the barn is run and the horses are cared for, it's second to none."

With a solid footing now beneath him, McCarthy's keeping one eye on the kinds of races "that put you on the map." The Triple Crowns. The Classics. The sorts of contests he routinely figured in when joint-second in command at Team Pletcher.

"For me, those are the races I want to be involved with," he says. "To compete in a Grade I, it's special in itself. But to win a Grade I, it's vindication of what you're showing up for every day. Knowing what you're doing is right. Trusting your opinion."

When you're an optimistic realist, that's the only sort of vindication that counts.

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The Week in Review cont. from p1

A quick recap: In December the WVRC faced what appeared to be a perfunctory agenda item pertaining to the approval of Charles Town's entire 2018 open stakes schedule, the centerpiece of which is the Apr. 21 Classic. Since that race's inception in 2009, Charles Town management has credited the Classic with providing a "halo effect" that boosts the track's national profile. Everyday betting handle has risen by a whopping 65%, and purses paid to West Virginia-breds have essentially doubled. The local Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA) seems to agree that the Classic has value beyond that one big race day, because the HBPA keeps executing annual contracts authorizing up to 8% of the purse account funds to stage the Classic (plus a handful of supporting stakes at lesser values).

But at that meeting, newly appointed (2017) WVRC member Ken Lowe Jr. blocked the commission's approval of the Charles Town stakes, arguing that the \$1.2 million budgeted for the Classic could better serve the horsemen if that sum was spread out over a series of races geared toward local outfits. **Cont. p6**



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Week in Review cont.

Although it did not come up in WVRC public meetings, everyone involved was aware that Lowe and Charles Town have clashed before: In 2011, when Lowe, (who at that time owned horses that raced in the state) was the Charles Town HBPA president, track management barred him for distributing political flyers on the property. In a December interview, Lowe told *TDN* he had challenged that eviction in court and won a judgment that he is legally prohibited from discussing. When asked by *TDN* if he could effectively regulate an entity he had once litigated, Lowe insisted there was no conflict of interest, and he denied that his withholding of approval of the Classic funds was based in any way on a grudge over the incident.



The start of the 2017 Charles Town Classic, won by Imperative
Coady photography

When the WVRC next took up the Classic issue at its Jan. 23 meeting, Lowe proposed a “compromise” that called for the WVRC to approve half of the contracted purse funds for the race if Charles Town management paid for the other half out of its own corporate pocket. Track executives pointed out this arrangement ran contrary to the way any other major race in the country gets funded, and said they would be forced to cancel the race if those conditions were mandated.

The possible killing off of the Classic was widely reported and drew the consternation of West Virginia’s governor, Jim Justice, who immediately vowed that he would seek a way to reverse the vote that was passed by his own two political appointees, Lowe (a real estate developer near Charles Town), and Anthony Figaretti (who owns a West Virginia spaghetti sauce factory and worked on the governor’s transition team). Chairman Jack Rossi, a holdover WVRC appointee from the previous administration, did not vote in favor of the controversial “matching” purse scheme for the Classic. **Cont. p7**

Positive reports!

“I really love the Magician I have. He’s a great moving colt and I have been very impressed with the way he is training”

Mark Casse on the Magician x Proximity colt which cost \$125,000 as a weanling



“We took our Magician filly to the gate for the first time and she surprised me with how much speed she has, she is very quick.”

Wesley Ward on the Magician x Sweet And Lowdown filly



“He’s a lovely colt – strong and early. At the minute he looks like he could be a Royal Ascot type.”

Aidan O'Brien on the Magician x Perfect Step colt which cost \$290,000 as a yearling

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Week in Review cont.

Two weeks later, at a hastily called Feb. 5 meeting at which the reconsideration of the Classic purse funding was the sole item on the agenda, that's exactly what happened--the WVRC reversed course and fully approved the Charles Town stakes schedule for 2018, voting and adjourning without explaining the reasoning for the board's abrupt about-face.

But the story isn't over yet: One legislator, state senator Craig Blair, was so irate over the perceived lack of common sense behind the WVRC's Jan. 23 decision that within 48 hours of that vote, he introduced a bill to expand the commission to five members, requiring that new appointees "by reason of previous training and experience" must now be "classified as capable and experienced in fields of knowledge relevant to racing."

This new bill further stipulates that commission appointees must together fill five specific qualification niches, including one member each who specializes in 1) the Thoroughbred industry; 2) the greyhound industry; 3) the racino/casino industry; 4) tourism, and 5) veterinary matters pertaining to Thoroughbreds. The current WVRC members will be allowed to retain their seats, but in order to be re-appointed after the effective date of the bill, they must demonstrate proven expertise in one of the above categories. In addition, all five board members will have their stipends cut from \$12,000 annually to \$7,200.

On Feb. 6, Blair's bill to retool the WVRC sailed unopposed through the West Virginia Senate, 30-0. It is now awaiting action in the House of Delegates. If there is any national precedent for such swift legislative action on the heels of such an unpopular state racing commission decision, I'm not aware of it.

Blair did not respond last week to several TDN requests for comment about what specifically motivated him to file the bill. But he told the Charleston *Gazette-Mail* that the fiasco that almost derailed the Classic "raised awareness that maybe the racing commission needed someone with expertise. What happened was that the racing commission inserted themselves into an agreement between [Charles Town] and the horsemen. This was a government entity getting involved in a private contract."

West Virginia is not considered to be a major racing state, nor is it known as a politically progressive body. But in this instance, the state's lawmakers are on their way to implementing a sensible statute to keep the WVRC from deteriorating into a patronage dumping ground. Other jurisdictions where barely qualified regulators are parked on racing commissions as the result of political favors should take notice.

Cont. p8

Another Graded Stakes win:
Multiple Gr.2 winner **Om** took his earnings past \$1m with a win in Saturday's **Thunder Road S.-Gr.3 (PICTURED)** and runs next in the **Frank E. Kilroe Mile-Gr.1**

Another Stakes win:
Multiple SW **Chief Cicatriz** is now 7 wins from 9 starts after landing the **Phoenix Gold Cup H.** for the second time on Saturday

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Anonymous Donor Funds Emerald Stakes...

So what was the alternative if the Classic wasn't granted its fully-funded status? Surely no one in West Virginia was expecting some anonymous "angel" to swoop down from out of nowhere and drop six figures worth of donated purse money into the kitty to keep the race going. Those things just don't happen in our industry, right?

Well apparently, they do.



Emerald Downs | Reed & Erin Palmer

According to a Feb. 7 press release issued by Emerald Downs near Seattle, "in an unprecedented development, an anonymous sponsor has donated \$180,000 to be added to the 2018 stakes schedule."

The donation came with the specific request that the money be used to fund a new Emerald stakes race for 3-year-olds, the \$100,000 Getaway S. at 1 1/16 miles, which will be run on the track's closing day of the season, Sept. 23. The remaining \$80,000 will be split up to restore to \$50,000 four stakes previously announced as \$30,000 events for the 2018 season.

Also per the anonymous sponsor's request, a portion of nomination, entry, and starting fees for the Seattle, Auburn, Hastings and Governor's stakes will be donated to four different Thoroughbred aftercare programs, and all of the entry and starting fees to the Getaway S. will be donated to the same charities (Prodigious Fund, Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Farms and Thoroughbred Charities of America).

"This is truly astounding," said Emerald president Phil Ziegler. "This person wishes to remain anonymous, and we certainly plan to honor that request."

Cont. p9

More Selected Yearlings On Derby Trail



FLAMEAWAY

Saratoga Sale yearling grad wins **Sam F. Davis Stakes (G3)** for John C. Oxley.

KANTHAKA

July Sale yearling grad leads Fasig-Tipton exacta in **San Vicente Stakes (G2)** for West Point Thoroughbreds.



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Week in Review cont.

The lump-sum donation certainly ranks in the “out-of-the-ordinary” category considering that it’s earmarked to prop up a racetrack’s existing stakes schedule and not a more traditional charitable cause. If the person who made the donation would like to come forward and offer additional details about the reasoning behind this act of generosity, *TDN* would welcome the explanation and would make it known to readers while respecting the donor’s request not to be identified. Email us at feedback@thetdn.com. --@thorntontd

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FLAMEAWAY DUE BACK FOR DERBY

John Oxley’s **Flameaway** (Scat Daddy), a battling winner of the GIII Sam F. Davis S. Feb. 10, will return to Tampa to contest the \$400,000 GII Lambholm South Tampa Bay Derby Mar. 10, trainer Mark Casse confirmed Sunday.

“I had that conversation with Mr. Oxley this morning, and that is the plan,” Casse told the Tampa press office. Casse conditioned the Oxley-owned Prospective (Malibu Moon) to win the 2012 Tampa Bay Derby.

The \$400,000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga graduate was making his second start of the season Saturday and was returning to the main track off a hard-fought success in the grassy Kitten’s Joy S. at Gulfstream Jan. 6. He stopped the timer in a stakes-record 1:42.44, bettering the time ‘**TDN Rising Star**’ McCracken (Ghostzapper) recorded last year by 0.01 seconds.

Flameaway was not an early Triple Crown nominee, but will be entered at the late closing stage in mid-March, Casse said.



SV photography

Beaten Davis favorite **Catholic Boy** (More Than Ready) was shipped to Bridlewood Farm in Ocala following Saturday’s race and is under consideration for a few different races, but trainer Jonathan Thomas suggested the colt will have just one more prep before the GI Kentucky Derby.

“Catholic Boy replicated his 91 Beyer [Speed Figure] from [winning] the Grade II Remsen [S. in December at Aqueduct] and he’s healthy,” Thomas said. “In retrospect, I might have been a little light on him from a training perspective, but we’re anticipating a long spring. We’ll probably try to have one more prep and, if he’s good enough, he will earn his way into [the Kentucky Derby].”

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‘INDY’ GETS LITMUS TEST IN RISEN STAR

‘**TDN Rising Star**’ **Noble Indy** (Take Charge Indy) worked five furlongs in a best-of-four 1:01 Saturday morning at Palm Beach Downs and a few hours later landed gate two for his graded-stakes debut in the GII Risen Star S. at the Fair Grounds Feb. 17.

A son of the expatriated Take Charge Indy co-owned by WinStar Farm and Repole Stable, the bay is a perfect two-for-two on his young career, having graduated by 8 3/4 lengths at first asking in a seven-furlong Gulfstream maiden Dec. 3 before running down the promising Mississippi (Pioneerof the Nile) in a first-level allowance Jan. 11 to secure his Rising Star.

“We were just looking for a logical prep timing wise,” trainer Todd Pletcher, a two-time winner of the Risen Star, told the Fair Grounds press office by phone. **Cont. p11**

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Noble Indy to Risen Star cont.

“He’s been doing really well and came out of his last race well. There are essentially options every weekend, but we feel like this is a good spot for him.

He continued, “He’s shown a tremendous amount of talent, not only in the mornings, but in both of his races. He’s a horse with a pedigree that suggests he’ll handle longer distances. Right now he’s at that stage of development in his career where it’s time to step up into the graded stakes ranks and see where he fits in the big picture. We think he’s a horse that belongs on the Derby trail and we’re hoping he handles each step up in class and so far he has.”

Pletcher told the Fair Grounds notes team that he has been pleased with the colt’s progress, both physically and mentally.

“The one thing that we’ve been working with him a lot is his behavior around the gate,” Pletcher said. “He had a little bit of history of that before he came to us and it was something that we continue to work on. In his first start, he behaved poorly in the gate, but despite that broke very sharply and he handled it much better in his second start but we continued to work on that. The one thing that I think [jockey] John Velazquez has learned about him by breezing him prior to his last race is that he has a tendency to wait a little bit when he makes the lead

and he kind of did that in his allowance win. I think he’s gotten better about that in his subsequent works and he’ll learn how to polish off his workmate and maintain his focus.”

Pletcher said that Noble Indy ships to Louisiana Feb. 14.

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Noble Indy | Lauren King photo

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AMY'S CHALLENGE ON HONEYBEE PATH

Undefeated **Amy's Challenge** (Artie Schiller) is set to return to the work tab early this week as she prepares to stretch out in trip for the first time in the GIII Honeybee S. at Oaklawn Park Mar. 10.

Owned by Joe Novogratz and trained by McLean Robertson, the dark bay bested the boys in a pair of juvenile appearances, including a tough win in the Shakopee Juvenile S. The \$20,000 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling bargain made it three-for-three in her career with a hard-fought defeat of 'TDN Rising Star' Mia Mischief (Into Mischief) in the six-furlong Dixie Belle S. at the Hot Springs oval Jan. 20.

The Honeybee is the final local prep for the GIII Fantasy S. Apr. 13.

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Amy's Challenge | *Coady photography*

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2018 Kentucky Derby Future Wager – Pool 2

Horse (Sire, ML)	Win Pool (\$)	\$ Odds	Will Pay
Audible (Into Mischief, 50-1)	27,429	9.90	21.80
Avery Island (Street Sense, 20-1)	10,418	27.70	57.40
Bolt d'Oro (Medaglia d'Oro, 10-1)	33,115	8.00	18.00
Catholic Boy (More Than Ready, 20-1)	16,756	16.80	35.60
Combatant (Scat Daddy, 50-1)	4,085	72.30	146.60
Copper Bullet (More Than Ready, 50-1)	6,790	43.10	88.20
Enticed (Medaglia d'Oro, 30-1)	4,733	62.30	126.60
Firenze Fire (Poseidon's Warrior, 30-1)	4,655	63.40	128.80
Free Drop Billy (Union Rags, 20-1)	7,942	36.70	75.40
Good Magic (Curlin, 10-1)	33,220	8.00	18.00
Instilled Regard (Arch, 30-1)	15,596	18.20	38.40
Mask (Tapit, 12-1)	12,692	22.60	47.20
McKinzie (Street Sense, 8-1)	28,863	9.30	20.60
Mendelssohn (Scat Daddy, 30-1)	6,655	44.00	90.00
*Montauk (Medaglia d'Oro, 20-1)	-----	-----	-----
Mourinho (Super Saver, 12-1)	9,328	31.10	64.20
Principe Guilherme (Tapit, 30-1)	9,562	30.30	62.60
Retirement Fund (Eskendereya, 30-1)	4,349	67.90	137.80
Solomini (Curlin, 20-1)	14,806	19.20	40.40
Sporting Chance (Tiznow, 50-1)	8,565	33.90	69.80
Strike Power (Speightstown, 20-1)	7,164	40.80	83.60
Tiz Mischief (Into Mischief, 30-1)	4,135	71.40	144.80
Untamed Domain (Animal Kingdom, 30-1)	7,088	41.20	84.40
Mutuel Field (All Others, 7-2)	<u>85,444</u>	2.50	7.00
Pool Total	363,389		

*Wagering on Montauk was suspended Feb. 9 when he was ruled off the Triple Crown trail.



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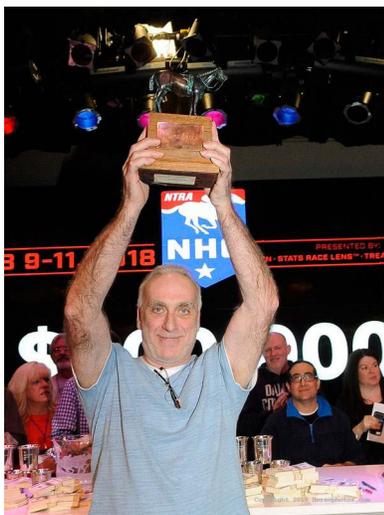
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LITTLEMORE HANGS ON IN NHC 2018

by Lucas Marquardt

On stage in the Treasure Island ballroom, Canadian Chris Littlemore breathed a literal sigh of relief yesterday as War Heroine (Lonhro {Aus}) dug to take the Sweet Life S. at Santa Anita. The longtime leader, Littlemore had watched his advantage steadily dwindle during the final day of the National Horseplayers Championship in Las Vegas. But Littlemore picked War Heroine at 9-2 in the final mandatory race and, in the process, won the near \$3 million NHC in exciting fashion. Littlemore will take home \$800,000 for his efforts, as well as an Eclipse Award as Horseplayer of the Year.

"I didn't like the races that much today, and I got lucky that a lot of chalk came in, and that kept me on top," said Littlemore, who began the day with a commanding \$57 lead over



Chris Littlemore | Lucas Marquardt

second-placed Keith Fenton. "I didn't have a good day today, but I just kept picking away."

After an extended drought in the semi-final round, Littlemore was still on top as the field of 70 was whittled down to 10 at The Final Table. He picked up \$5.60 by selecting the place horse in the first of the seven mandatory races in the final, which helped him regain confidence.

"Any time you score, it changes your mindset," he said. "You feel better about yourself and how you're looking at the races. As the day wore on, I just kept missing, but did have a place score on a 25-1 that nearly won, which would've been huge."

Still, after six final-round races in the book, Littlemore's lead had dropped to \$16.80. Everything came down to the Sweet Life S., where War Heroine was stepping on to the turf for the first time.

"I was fortunate that no big long shots came in to overtake me," he said. "I picked the right horse in the last one, and that got me through." **Cont. p2**



Shakin It Up shown winning the Grade 1 Malibu Stakes in 1:20 2/5

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Littlemore Wins NHC cont.

It wasn't Littlemore's first score at Treasure Island, where the NHC is held annually. He won an NHC consolation tournament a few years back. "That tournament gave me the confidence I could be competitive [at the highest levels], and I'm just lucky here, I guess."

Littlemore became the third Canadian to win the NHC and the second consecutive. Fellow countryman Ray Arsenault won in 2017.

"It's just something in the water up there," Littlemore laughed.

Littlemore is a retired autoworker who lives about 30 miles outside of Toronto.

"I was an autoworker for 31 years, and now I just like to play tournaments and bring my son to hockey," he said. "I'm just a normal guy."

Fenton also came up with War Heroine in the day's finale, helping him to regain second-place honors from Garrett Skiba.'

The final leaderboard stood as such:

1	Chris Littlemore	348.3
2	Keith Fenton	315.1
3	Garrett Skiba	314
4	Tom Noone	287.6
5	Stephanie Schmidt	277.9
6	Scott Carson	267.8
7	Gloria Kahlden	262.5
8	David Watts	260.7
9	John Roe	260.1
10	Daniel Hart	256.1

Paul Matties Jr., the 2016 NHC winner, didn't make it to the semifinals, but came away with a prize nonetheless. The Ballston Spa, NY, resident won the \$50,000 consolation tournament, edging Lawrence Kahlden by the narrowest of margins, 100.8 to 100.6. Matties picked up a check for \$10,000 for the win. Kahlden is the husband of Final Table finalist Gloria Kahlden.

Ladies were well-represented on the NHC Final Table. Despite comprising just 6% of the tournament players, two of the 10 finalists, 20%, made it to the final. Stephanie Schmidt, who qualified from a Del Mar tournament, came to the Final Table in fourth. She concluded in fifth with \$277.90. Gloria Kahlden of St. Petersburg, FL, who has horses in training with Tom Amoss, finished in seventh with \$262.50. Kahlden had a good week in Vegas, and not just at the NHC. She hit for nearly \$44,000 on a Treasure Island slot machine, too. For footage of that tremendous celebration, click here

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxBNKZvpy6Q>).

For the full leaderboard of the NHC, visit www.ntra.com.

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NHC 2018 cont.

OWNER SANDERS GOES 14TH AT NHC

A week ago, Ten Strike Racing's Clay Sanders knew he had at least one entry in the NHC. A second possible entry, meanwhile, was just on the bubble. But a last-minute defection by another player opened the door for Sanders, and that turned out to be a big stroke of luck: it was on that second entry that Sanders advanced into yesterday's semi-final in Las Vegas.

(If you're unfamiliar with the NHC, tournament rules allow for players to qualify for two entries, but no more. So there were 702 entries in 2018, but only 568 individual players.)

Sanders started the day in 39th at \$189.90, but after cashing the 5-1 Could Be (Candy Ride {Arg}) in the first at Gulfstream, jumped all the way to sixth on the leaderboard. With just two races to play, he slipped out of the Top 10 and checked in at 14th. That's a big finish for someone making his second appearance at the NHC. His first came in 2015.

Sanders is a Memphis-based financial analyst who, along with fellow NHC qualifier Marshall Gramm, owns Ten Strike Racing. Ten Strike has been on its own hot streak of late. They own the 3-year-old filly Cheponera (Flat Out), who easily won a Churchill maiden claimer in November, then made the big jump into allowance company and cleared off by 3 1/4 lengths in \$76,000 event at Oaklawn Feb. 2. Cheponera next targets the GIII Honeybee S. at Oaklawn.

Sanders says he became a fan of racing and handicapping growing up in Arkansas.

"People probably don't realize it, but Oaklawn on Saturdays is the place to go," he said. "There are huge crowds on the weekends. So some of my buddies grew up going there, and I'd go with them sometimes. I'm a numbers guy, so I was quickly hooked. When I graduated college, a lot of people were golfing on the weekends, and I'd go to bet the horses."

As his career took off, Clay became involved in horse ownership, too.

"I randomly met Marshall at a banquet," said Sanders. "He's an economist and a professor at Rhodes College, and we had invited him to speak to our group. He mentioned how he does all his research on sports betting and playing horses, and my eyes lit up. It's kind of a lonely sport; there aren't too many people who can speak the language when you're a hardcore handicapper."

The two became friends and would meet up for lunch once a month. "We'd talk and bounce ideas off each other," said Sanders. "We eventually began buying horses together, and now I talk to him 10 times a day. My wife calls him my second wife."

Ten Strike has won owners titles at Monmouth and several at Parx, and is perennially a leading owner at Oaklawn, too. Sanders has also owned pieces of the Grade I winners Dayatthespa (City Zip), Watsdachances (Ire) (Diamond Green {Fr}), Mind Your Biscuits (Posse) and Desert Blanc (GB) (Desert Style {Ire}).

"The whole game is about diversification and having more bullets," said Sanders. "We breed, we own pieces of stallions, we do some pinhooking."

But at the end of the day, Sanders said he and Gramm are handicappers first.

"A lot of people who own horses only handicap on the side," he said. "But we play the races every day. We both just love the science of figuring out who's going to win."

He added of the NHC, "This is basically a horseplayers conference. Even if you don't have a shot at winning, it's so much fun because of the camaraderie. Some of our best friends in horse racing, we've met here."

Ten Strike itself was well-represented at the NHC, with a total of six partners competing.

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Sunday's Results:

11th-GP, \$46,000, Alw (C)/Opt. Clm (\$75,000), 2-11, 4yo/up, 1mT, 1:34.75, fm.

RING WEEKEND (g, 7, Tapit--Free the Magic {MSP}, by Cryptoclearance), winner of the 2015 GI Frank E. Kilroe Mile, was looking for his first victory since taking the GII Seabiscuit H. in November of 2016 in his first start since a third-place effort in the Sept. 30 Baltimore/Washington International Turf Cup S. The tepid 2-1 favorite was unhurried and settled near the back of the field as longshot Hockey School (Hat Trick {Jpn}) was all alone on the lead through fractions of :24.21 and :47.18. The veteran angled out five wide as he began to wind up for his stretch run and rallied stoutly to take charge inside the final furlong en route to a 2 1/4-length victory. Profiteer (War Front) was second. Ring Weekend, a \$310,000 KEESEP yearling, capped a big weekend for West Point Thoroughbreds, which won Saturday's GII San Vicente S. with Kanthaka (Jimmy Creed). "He broke his maiden four years ago during the opening weekend of the Winter Olympics, and four years later we start the Winter Olympics and he's still winning," West Point Thoroughbreds'

Terry Finley said. "He's a beautiful horse." Free the Magic produced a full-sister to Ring Weekend last year and was bred back to Liam's Map. Lifetime Record: GISW, 29-8-5-3, \$1,559,844. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-West Point Thoroughbreds; B-Gainesway Thoroughbreds Ltd. (KY); T-H. Graham Motion.

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was heavily backed and delivered on debut Sunday at Santa Anita, proving best despite a wide trip to win a \$54,000 MdSpWt race for trainer **Bob Baffert** and owner & breeder **Westrock Stables**.

[watch race]



Ring Weekend | Lauren King

5th-GP, \$45,000, Alw (C)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 2-11, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:43.38, ft.

YOU'RE TO BLAME (r, 4, Distorted Humor--Bon Jovi Girl {MSW & GISP, \$518,743}, by Malibu Moon), third in last spring's GIII Bay Shore S. and fourth in the GIII Pat Day Mile, was runner-up to subsequent champion West Coast (Flatter) in the Easy Goer S. June 10 at Belmont. Fourth as the favorite in Saratoga's Curlin S. July 28, the bay completed the exacta in a Sept. 15 optional claimer at Belmont in his final start for owner Woodford Racing LLC and trainer Chad Brown. Hammering for \$440,000 to these connections at Keeneland November, he was a narrow third locally Dec. 26 and was pounded to 11-10 favoritism in this spot. Hustled to the fore from his rail draw, the ridgling showed the way through splits of :24.28, :47.40 and 1:11.64. Shaking off a challenge from eventual runner-up Icatiro (Quality Road) by the furlong grounds, he skipped clear from there to a 4 1/2-length score. The winner's dam, a half to three-time champion Gio Ponti (Tale of the Cat), has a juvenile colt by Pioneerof the Nile and was bred to American Pharoah last spring. Sales History: \$400,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: GSP, 12-3-3-2, \$221,165. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-Bortolazzo Stable LLC; B-Bryant H. Prentice (KY); T-Todd A. Pletcher.



LANE'S END SALES GRADUATE



10th-GP, \$45,000, Alw (NW2X)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 2-11, 4yo/up, 1 1/8mT, 1:48.42, fm.

LUCULLAN (c, 4, Hard Spun--Golden Velvet {MGSW & GISP-US & SP-Fr, \$341,309}, by Seeking the Gold) graduated third out and first time on turf last June at Belmont and progressed steadily in three subsequent grass outings, culminating in a near

graded stakes score when second by a neck at 14-1 in the GIII Hill Prince S. last out at Big Sandy Oct. 7. Made the 13-10 chalk in this 4-year-old debut, the bay broke alertly before dropping back to travel in midpack past splits of :24.16 and :49.09. Patiently handled on the far turn, he swung five wide at the top of the lane, blew past the leaders a furlong from home and kicked clear powerfully to an auspicious three-length triumph. 'TDN Rising Star' Rocketry, also making his 4-year-old bow, won a blanket photo for the place to complete an exacta sweep for Darley resident Hard Spun. The winner is a half to Innovative Idea (Bernardini), GSW, \$229,343. His dam, a half to GISW and sire Sky Mesa (Pulpit) out of MGSW turf Caress (Storm Cat), has an unraced sophomore gelding by Street Cry (Ire) named Roman Road, a juvenile Tapit colt and foaled a filly by Medaglia d'Oro last season. Lifetime Record: GSP, 7-3-2-1, \$242,450. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-Godolphin, LLC; B-Darley (KY); T-Kieran P. McLaughlin.

8th-GP, \$44,000, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$25,000), 2-11, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:43.18, ft.

HEDGE FUND (c, 4, Super Saver--Rosy Humor, by Distorted Humor) graduated over track and trip in his second start last February before running third in the GIII Sunland Derby and a narrow second in the GIII Illinois Derby. He was last seen on the GI Preakness S. undercard crossing the wire fourth in the restricted Sir Barton S. before being disqualified to sixth. The 2-1 favorite in this return was unchallenged on the lead and opened up two lengths on the field entering the backstretch. He continued in hand around the final bend while pressured by a rival at the quarter pole. Hedge Fund put away that challenge before holding off Big Dollar Bill (Midnight Lute) in the final stages for a 1 1/2-length score. Hedge Fund comes from the same bloodline as 2001 European and Eclipse Award Champion 2-year-old and MG1SW Johannesburg (Hennessy). He is a half to Stanford (Malibu Moon), MGSW, \$1,385,510. Their dam has a yearling filly by Flatter and was bred to Orb and Pioneerof the Nile last season. Lifetime Record: MGSP, 6-2-1-1, \$196,560. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-WinStar Farm, China Horse Club International Ltd., SF Racing LLC, Head of Plains; B-WinStar Farm, LLC (KY); T-Todd A. Pletcher.



WINSTAR BRED



7th-GP, \$44,400, Msw, 2-11, 3yo, f, 5fT, :56.62, fm.

REALLY PROUD (f, 3, Kitten's Joy--Pacific Spell, by Langfuhr) had the best finish of her career when second over this course

and trip last time out Jan. 14. The 9-5 favorite pressed the pace down the backstretch, but fell back slightly entering the turn. Tipped out three wide at the top of the lane, the chestnut filly overtook Heidi Ho (Anthony's Cross) in the dying strides to win by 3/4 lengths. Really Proud, who RNA'd for \$390,000 as a KEESEP yearling, is a half-sister to Proud Spell (Proud Citizen, Ch. 3yo Filly, MGISW, \$2,131,610); Proud Pearl (Proud Citizen, GSP); and No Distortion (Distorted Humor, SW, \$215,665). Pacific Spell whose 2017 Cairo Prince foal died, was bred back to that Airdie stallion last year. Champion Proud Spell--now in Japan--is dam of stakes winner Indian Spell (Indian Charlie), who produced stakes winning sophomore Dak Attack (Ghostzapper). Lifetime Record: 5-1-1-1, \$43,650. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O/B-Brereton C. Jones (KY); T-Christophe Clement.

6th-GP, \$43,000, Msw, 2-11, 3yo, 1mT, 1:38.52, fm.
FUNNY DUCK (c, 3, Distorted Humor--Slow Down {SW, \$120,162}, by Seattle Slew) produced back-to-back runner-up performances at Churchill Downs Nov. 25 and locally Jan. 6, the latter a dead-heat behind 'TDN Rising Star' **Hawkish** (Artie Schiller). The 3-2 favorite was content on sitting just a length off the pacesetter Isolated (Candy Ride {Arg}) through slow fractions of :25.07 and :49.98. The \$110,000 OBSMAR juvenile still had work to do 200 yards from home, but rallied to even terms with Isolated inside the sixteenth pole and was a half-length clear at the wire. Preacher Power (Lonhro {Aus}) surged in the final strides to grab second. Funny Duck is a full-brother to Slow Pace, GSW-Fr & SW & MGSP-Aus, \$546,586 and a half to Segway (Giant's Causeway), MGSP, \$190,060. Slow Down is out of GISW and GSW-Fr Corrazona (El Gran Senor) and is a half to MGSW and GISP Olmodavor (A.P. Indy). SF Bloodstock purchased her for \$190,000 at the 2014 Keeneland November sale with the winner in utero. She was bred to Daredevil last season. Sales History: \$120,000 RNA Wlg '15 KEENOV; \$65,000 RNA Ylg '16 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 5-1-2-0, \$44,280. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

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Lucullan (Hard Spun) powers away in the stretch at Gulfstream, making a sharp 4-year-old debut

NEW YORK

Sunday's Results:

REGO PARK S., \$98,000, AQU, 2-11, (S), 3yo, 6f, 1:12.30, sy.

1--**BATTLE STATION, 122, g, 3, by Warrior's Reward**

1st Dam: Uriel, by Unbridled

2nd Dam: Episode, by Kris S.

3rd Dam: Long Legend, by Reviewer

(\$50,000 Wlg '15 KEENOV). O-Kenneth & Sarah Ramsey; B-Lansdowne Thoroughbreds (NY); T-Wesley A. Ward; J-Martin Garcia. \$60,000. Lifetime Record: 6-3-1-0, \$211,334.

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2--**Morning Breez, 118, c, 3, Morning Line--Tico Breeze, by Carson City.** (\$62,000 Wlg '15 FTNMIX; \$65,000 Ylg '16 SARAUG). O-John Caputo & Lady DelPo and The Boys Racing LLC; B-Hart Farm & Rhapsody Farm (NY); T-Carlos F. Martin. \$20,000.

3--**New York Hero, 118, c, 3, Mineshaft--Party Silks, by Touch Gold.** (\$335,000 Ylg '16 SARAUG). O-Lady Sheila Stable, Iris Smith Stable, Dottie Herman & Linda Rice; B-Gerald A. Nielsen (NY); T-Linda Rice. \$10,000.

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Margins: NK, 2 1/4, 8 1/4. Odds: 3.10, 2.45, 3.10.

Also Ran: Stoney Bennett, Analyze Your Luck.

Battle Station, a debut winner over the Saratoga lawn last August, romped home a 9 1/4-length victor of the Sept. 22 Bertram F. Bongard S. over the main track at Belmont in his second career start. A well-beaten eighth after setting the pace in the Oct. 21 Sleepy Hollow S., he concluded his juvenile campaign with a runner-up effort in a Churchill optional claimer Nov. 25 and opened 2018 with a fourth-place finish in the one-mile Damon Runyan S. last time out Jan. 15. Battle Station was hustled out to contest the early pace, splashing through fractions of :22.09 and :45.59. He took a narrow advantage at midstretch, but favored Morning Breez was closing powerfully. The favorite looked to have the measure of Battle Station in deep stretch, but the well-named gelding fought back bravely along the rail to just get up in time.

"It looked like the horse outside me [Morning Breez] was going by me, but then my horse just kept coming and came back and we won," said winning rider Martin Garcia. "I had confidence today. I knew he was not going to give up because I knew he was a fighter, and I knew he was going to come back."

Uriel, who sold for \$17,000 with the winner in utero at the 2014 Keeneland November sale, produced a filly by Amira's Prince (Ire) in 2017 and was bred back to Anthony's Cross. The winner's third dam Long Legend produced Mr. Greeley while

champion Street Sense and MGISW Paradise Woods also trace to her. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).**

4th-AQU, \$65,660, Alw, 2-11, (NW1\$X), 4yo/up, 6f, 1:11.26, sy. TRUE TIMBER (c, 4, Mineshaft--Queen's Wood, by Tiznow), a promising second at 29-1 in last winter's Gill Withers S. at this oval, was fifth in the Gill Gotham S., fourth in the Gill Wood Memorial, third in the Sir Barton S. and fifth in the Gill Dwyer S. in his next four outings. Runner-up when dropped into allowance company Oct. 13 at Belmont, the \$170,000 Keeneland November buy backed up to finish last in the Gill Discovery S. when last seen here Nov. 25. Off at 14-5 back in with allowance company in this spot, the bay stalked the speed from second through a :22.39 quarter before hooking up with a pair of foes to his inside until the eighth pole, at which point he began to edge clear en route to a 2 1/4-length success.

Gorgeous Charli (Speightstown) completed the exacta. The winner's second dam is a half to French MG1SW Seven Springs (Irish River {Fr}), dam of G1SW and sire Distant View (Mr. Prospector), as well as G1 Prix Morny heroine Regal State (Affirmed), dam of 2003 GI Breeders' Cup Classic hero Pleasantly Perfect (Pleasant Colony). His unraced dam has a juvenile Tale of the Cat filly named Wychwood and foaled a colt by Quality Road last season before being bred to Into Mischief. Lifetime Record: MGSP, 11-2-2-2, \$243,400. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).**

O-Calumet Farm; B-Mr. & Mrs. Marc C. Ferrell (KY); T-Kiaran P. McLaughlin.

Training Alum



STONESTREET

KENTUCKY

Saturday Night's Results:

8th-TP, \$20,400, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 2-10, 3yo, 1m (AWT), 1:39.23, ft.

TRUTH BE TOLLED (c, 3, Awesome Again--Pay the Toll, by Repriced), fourth locally over this trip Dec. 21, broke his maiden on the fourth attempt, going wire-to-wire here Jan. 20. An 8-1 shot Saturday, the chestnut went straight to the lead once again and guided the field through an easy first quarter in :25.02. He came under pressure to his outside from Angaston (Denman {Aus}) down the backstretch before pulling away with ease past the furlong marker to score by an impressive 7 3/4 lengths. Angaston held on for second. Truth Be Tolloed is a half to Aint She a Saint (Saintly Look), MSW, \$497,381; Derby Express (Unbridled

Express), MSW, \$355,481; and Needmore Cash (Saintly Look), SW, \$320,316. He hails from the female family of 2011 Horse of the Year and MGISW Havre de Grace (Saint Liam) and MGISW Tonalist (Tapit). Pay the Toll also has a juvenile colt named Toss of Fate (Shanghai Bobby) and was bred to Kantharos last season. Sales History: \$57,000 Ylg '16 KESEEP. Lifetime Record: 5-2-0-0, \$25,019. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).**

O-Greenhill Racing Stables, Inc.; B-Adena Springs & Greenhill Racing Stables Inc. (KY); T-Jeffrey L. Greenhill.

9th-TP, \$14,950, Alw (NW2\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$40,000), 2-10, 4yo/up, 1m (AWT), 1:38.81, ft.

HINTON (c, 4, Candy Ride {Arg}--Barn Cat, by Bluegrass Cat) was victorious in three of his first four starts before running sixth in the Gill Ohio Derby at Thistledown June 24. He finished third off a five-month layoff here last time out Nov. 30. The 2-1 second choice tracked the leader in second through the early going. He struck the front midway around the far turn and was two lengths clear inside the eighth pole before having to hold off favored Lucky Ramsey (Lookin At Lucky) in the final strides for a half-length score. Hinton's third dam, Save My Soul (I'ma Hell Raiser), produced MGISW Stop Traffic (Cure the Blues) and GISW Cross Traffic (Unbridled's Song). Barn Cat, who is a half to MGSW Gouldings Green (Charismatic), also has a juvenile colt named Elvis the Cat (The Factor) and a yearling colt by Mr Speaker. Lifetime Record: 7-4-0-2, \$45,086. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).** O/B-Maccabee Farm (KY); T-Thomas Drury, Jr.

CENTRAL U.S.

Sunday's Results:

7th-OP, \$76,000, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$62,500), 2-11, 3yo, 6f, 1:13.55, sy.

FASCILITATOR (c, 3, The Factor--Fiscal Policy {SW}, by Wildcat Heir) was denied graduation by a neck in both of his first two starts Oct. 7 at Keeneland and Dec. 7 at Fair Grounds before grabbing his first victory there by the same margin last time out Jan. 13. The only Triple Crown nominee in the field, the 9-5 favorite was last through the first quarter in :22.25. He rallied while four wide around the far turn and continued his closing kick to take the lead in the final stages en route to a battling half-length victory. Infinity Squared (Munnings) held on to second. Fascilitator was a \$90,000 purchase at both Keeneland November as weanling and Keeneland September as a yearling. Fiscal Policy was sold in foal to Sidney's Candy to Nancy and Fred

Mitchell and Martha Buckner's Clarkland Farm for \$80,000 at the 2013 Keeneland November sale. She has a yearling filly by City Zip and visited Maclean's Music last year. Lifetime Record: 4-2-2-0, \$90,800. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC; B-Martha Buckner (KY); T-Steven M. Asmussen.



Saturday Night's Results:

LA BRED PREMIER NIGHT STARLET S., \$120,000, DED, 2-10, (S), 3yo, f, 1m, 1:43.72, sy.

1--**REMEMBER DAISY, 117, f, 3, by Misremembered**

1st Dam: Very Speightstown, by Speightstown

2nd Dam: Very Very, by Royal Academy

3rd Dam: Annual Dance, by Nostalgia

1ST-BLACK TYPE WIN. O/B-Al & Bill Ulwelling (LA); T-Gary M. Scherer; J-Mitchell Murrill. \$72,000. Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-1, \$99,200.

2--**Sarah's Holy Belle**, 117, f, 3, El Corredor--My Holy Belle, by Holy Bull. (\$12,500 RNA Ylg '16 ESLYRL). O/B-Perform Stables Inc. (LA); T-Ricky Courville. \$24,000.

3--**Yes Gorgeous**, 117, f, 3, Mass Media--Isn't She Gorgeous, by Yes It's True. (\$1,700 Ylg '16 ESLMIX). O-Scott Gelner; B-J. Adcock & Montgomery Equine Center (LA); T-Scott Gelner. \$12,000.

Margins: 3HF, HF, 2 3/4. Odds: 2.20, 3.10, 2.00.

Also Ran: Miss Wekati, Anita Bonita, Bionic Butterfly, Stella's Honor. Scratched: Minit to Stardom.

Remember Daisy made her first two starts on the turf at Fair Grounds, breaking her maiden at first asking against state-breds Dec. 26 and was third in an optional claiming event last time out Jan. 14. Racing without blinkers Saturday evening, the second choice in the wagering stalked the dueling leaders along the rail heading into the first turn. Switched to the outside for a clear run three deep on the bend, the February foal seized command 400 yards from home and splashed away to an easy win. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

LA BRED PREMIER NIGHT PRINCE S., \$120,000, DED, 2-10, (S), 3yo, 1m, 1:41.10, sy.

1--**GLADYOUSAWME, 122, c, 3, by Due Date**

1st Dam: Flame Run, by Hard Spun

2nd Dam: Swept Away, by Mystery Storm

3rd Dam: Queen Ambra, by Alhambra

O-Klein Racing; B-Bertram & Richard Klein (LA); T-Brad H. Cox;

J-Roberto Morales. \$72,000. Lifetime Record: 5-4-0-0, 202,800.

2--**Ready Prospector**, 117, g, 3, Custom for Carlos--Vera Belle, by Not For Love. O-Virginia Lazenby Racing Stable LLC; B-Virginia Lazenby (LA); T-Oscar Modica. \$21,600.

3--**Bitsy's Afleet**, 117, g, 3, **Northern Afleet**--Streamin Bitsy, by Ford Every Stream. O/B-Rose C. & Earl Hernandez (LA); T-Sam B. David, Jr. \$12,000.

Margins: 3/4, 1 1/4, 2 1/4. Odds: 4.30, 16.90, 7.40.

Also Ran: Gracida, Greeley Went West, Cajun Creed, Double Star, Pound for Pound, Big Gig, Da' Big Newt. Scratched: Star Anne, Double Down Bob.

Gladysawme started off his career a perfect three-for-three with a win on the turf at Indiana Downs to break his maiden Sept. 27 and scored in the Louisiana Legacy S. two starts later here Nov. 18. His first loss came last time out when seventh in the Louisiana Futurity at Fair Grounds Dec. 31. The chestnut was guided over into the two path and tracked longshot leader through splits of :23.34, :48.62 and 1:11.61. The third choice drew alongside that foe in the final sixteenth and was clear crossing the wire. Flame Run, who is out of MGSW Swept Away, is responsible for a juvenile filly by Dialed In and a yearling filly by Guilt Trip. She was bred to Revolutionary last year. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

12th-DED, \$45,000, (S), Msw, 2-10, 3yo, f, 5f, 1:00.92, sy.

QUEEN OF GYPSIES (f, 3, Warrior's Reward--Gray Cache, by Holy Bull) was purchased at last year's OBS April sale for \$25,000 after breezing a furlong in :10 1/5. Dispatched at 3-1 after drawing in from the also eligibles, the dark bay sprinted to the early lead while three wide down the backstretch. Switched to the inside as noses pointed for home, she kicked clear entering the straight and held off the rallying Miss Billie K (Redding Colliery) to graduate by 3/4 of a length. The winner's third dam produced GISW Secret Hello (Private Account). Gray Cache is a half to GI Toyota Blue Grass S. victor Monba (Maria's Mon). Sales History: \$10,000 RNA Ylg '16 ESLYRL. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$27,000. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-Clark O. Brewster; B-Tyson Henson (LA); T-Steven M. Asmussen.

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Sunday's Results:

SWEET LIFE S., \$83,415, SA, 2-11, 3yo, f, 6 1/2ft, 1:12.86, fm.

1--**WAR HEROINE, 120, f, 3, by Lonhro (Aus)**

1st Dam: **War Tigress (SW, \$171,293), by War Chant**

2nd Dam: **Tigresa, by Tejano**

3rd Dam: **Tiff's Decorated, by Well Decorated**

'**TDN Rising Star**' **1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN.** (\$37,000 Ylg '16 KEESEP). O-Gary Barber; B-Waymore LLC (KY); T-Peter Miller; J-Tyler Baze. \$48,600. Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, \$80,145.

EATON SALES **SOLD**

2--**Ms Bad Behavior, 122, f, 3, Blame--Cumulonimble, by Stormy Atlantic.** (\$75,000 Ylg '16 KEESEP). O-Greg Hall & Sayjay Racing, LLC; B-Ron Clarkson (ON); T-Richard Baltas. \$16,200.

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3--**Out of The Flames (GB), 120, f, 3, Showcasing (GB)--Primo Lady (GB), by Lucky Story.** (30,000gns RNA Wlg '15 TATFOA; 37,000gns Ylg '16 TAOCT; £190,000 2yo '17 GOFBRE). O-Qatar Racing Limited; B-Mr Gary Hodson & Mr Peter Moule (GB); T-Simon Callaghan. \$9,720.

Margins: HF, HF, 5. Odds: 4.60, 2.20, 2.40.

Also Ran: **Finess Bere (Fr), Treasuring (GB), Miss Puddles (Ire), Mraseel (Ire), Atrevida, Theodosia, My Masterpiece, Ismelucky, Holy Diver.**



War Heroine holds off Ms Bad Behavior | Benoit Photo

War Heroine romped by 6 3/4 lengths debuting on the Del Mar main track Nov. 12 to earn 'TDN Rising Star' status and set the pace in the local GII Santa Ynez S. before fading to finish sixth. Made the fourth choice in this turf bow, the dark bay broke well and tracked the speed inside of a longshot from second through a :21.66 quarter.

Continuing to hug the rail on the turn, she poked a head in front passing a :44.12 half and took over once straightening for home. Nearly immediately set upon by favored Ms Bad Behavior, War Heroine dug in gamely through the final furlong to beat back that one's bid by a half-length on the wire. Fractional second choice Out of The Flames was another half-length back in third and was well clear of the remainder.

The victress has a juvenile half-brother by Curlin named Washington Tesoro who sold for \$550,000 to Kenji Ryotokuji as a Keeneland September yearling. Her dam was bred to Liam's Map last spring. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

2nd-SA, \$56,000, (S), Alw (NW1\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 2-11, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:11.40, ft.

KISS OF DAHPESPE (f, 3, Shackleford--Indian Kisses, by Indian Charlie) scored by open lengths when debuting against California-bred \$50,000 maiden claimers Nov. 18 at Del Mar and, after running second in a track-and-trip starter optional claimer Dec. 29, gutted out a nose victory in the same condition Jan. 25. Supported to 9-10 back in with state-breds here, the bay tracked the speed from third through a :22.74 quarter, swept to the lead three deep at the three-sixteenths pole and inched clear for a 1 3/4-length tally. Smiling Tigress (Smiling Tiger) was second-best. The victress's dam foaled a colt by Macho Uno last term before being bred to Coil. Sales History: \$10,000 Ylg '16 BARSEL. Lifetime Record: 4-3-1-0, \$76,200. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-Jerome & Kristina Russell; B-Milt Policzer (CA); T-Gary Sherlock.

3rd-SA, \$54,345, (C), Msw, 2-11, 3yo, 6 1/2f, 1:17.81, ft. **IKE (c, 3, Paynter--Dreamcaster {GB}, by Bernardini)**, the even-money choice, broke from the outside by the six-horse field and contested the pace four wide through an opening quarter in :22.45. He forged to a narrow lead after a half in :45.60 and opened a clear advantage at midstretch. More Honor (More Than Ready) was relentlessly cutting into his lead late only to come up a half-length short of the favorite at the wire. Dreamcaster, a daughter of MGSP Winendynme (Dynaformer), was purchased by Joe and Scott Ford's Westrock Stables for \$250,000 as a weanling at the 2009 Keeneland November sale. She made two starts in the Westrock colors, winning her debut at Del Mar in 2011 for Bob Baffert before finishing seventh in the GI Del Mar Debutante a month later. After aborting her 2017 foal, the mare was bred to Speightster. She also produced a colt by Gemologist in 2016. Ike worked a quarter in a bullet :21 2/5 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sale last May before being withdrawn from the auction. **Click for the Equibase.com chart**

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O/B-Westrock Stables LLC (KY); T-Bob Baffert.

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IN SHARPER FOCUS

FORDS REALLY LIKE IKE *by Jessica Martini*

Trainer Bob Baffert unveiled another promising sophomore Sunday when Joe and Scott Ford’s Westrock Stables’ **Ike** (Paynter) scored a gritty debut win at Santa Anita.

Asked for his expectations going into Sunday’s race, Scott Ford laughed, “We don’t have expectations anymore—we just hope. We were hopeful that he would show himself well. There were a couple of really nice horses in that race, so you never know. And it was 6 1/2 furlongs and he wasn’t in race shape, per se. Bob has just been trying to get him there. He called after and he said, ‘Now, he’s ready.’ Before that, he had said, ‘6 1/2 is a little far.’ But it worked out.”

Joe Ford founded Alltel and Scott was CEO of the telecommunications company until it was sold in 2009. The father/son team are co-founders of the investment firm Westrock Group.

Based in Little Rock, Arkansas, the Fords were initially involved in Quarter Horse racing before transitioning to Thoroughbreds in the mid-2000s. One of their earliest purchases was Ike’s dam Dreamcaster (GB) (Bernardini), who they purchased for \$250,000 at the 2009 Keeneland November sale.

Also trained by Baffert, Dreamcaster was a debut winner at Del Mar in 2011, but was injured after a start in that year’s GI Del Mar Debutante.

“She ran twice and got hurt,” Ford said. “We were really, really excited about her.”

He added with a rueful chuckle, “She’s one of the reasons we no longer have any expectations. We just hope.”

The Westrock broodmare band has been cut back in recent years, but still includes Dreamcaster and graded stakes placed Heykittykittykitty (Tactical Cat).

“At one point a couple of years ago, we’d gotten up to about 12 or 14 [broodmares] and I think at this juncture we have three or four. Sometimes we breed them commercially and sometimes we breed them and keep [the progeny] to race.”

One that looked destined for the sales ring was Ike, who worked a bullet quarter-mile in :21 2/5 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Sale in May.

“My father and I were battling back and forth,” Ford said. “We kept him because you don’t get too many chances with a horse like him. We don’t have expectations, but you don’t get too many along the way that at least have the potential to be a really fun horse. You get a lot of really nice horses, but every now and then you get one [that’s] special. And he’s been special since he was a baby. We couldn’t part with him at the end of the day.”

Westrock Stables has campaigned graded stakes winners Secret Compass, Sky Kingdom, Den’s Legacy, Be Fair and Decelerator, as well as 2010 GI Kentucky Oaks third-place finisher Tidal Pool. In addition to Ike, the stable currently has three horses in training with Ron Moquett at Oaklawn Park and about eight 2-year-olds in Ocala with Ciaran Dunne.

All early signs are positive after Ike’s debut success Sunday.

“I have heard that he came back clean and all looks well,” Ford reported.

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IN SINGAPORE:

Big Wave, g, 3, **Blame**--Hasina, by Empire Maker. Kranji, 2-11, Restricted Maiden (\$63k), 1400mT, 1:24.44. B-Haymarket Farm LLC (KY). *\$20,000 Ylg '16 KEESEP. **VIDEO**

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BREEDERS' EDITION

STAKES RESULTS:

LA BRED PREMIER NIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP S., \$170,000, DED, 2-10, (S), 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:46.49, sy.

1--**MOBILE BAY, 123, h, 6, Lone Star Special--Tranquility Bay, by Out of Place.** O/B-Tigertail Ranch (LA); T-Victor Arceneaux; J-Diego Saenz. \$102,000. Lifetime Record: GSW, 27-12-5-3, \$1,198,440. *1/2 to Galveston Harbor (Belgravia), MSP, \$270,761.

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2--**Underpressure, 116, c, 4, Birdstone--Charming Colleen,** by Charismatic. O-Mallory Greiner; B-James McIngvale (LA); T-Chris Richard. \$34,000.

3--**Social Misfit, 116, g, 9, Porto Foricos--Unfriendly Koo,** by Friendly Lover. O-End Zone Athletics, Inc.; B-Earl & Keith Hernandez (LA); T-Karl Broberg. \$17,000.

Margins: NO, 5HF, 2. Odds: 0.70, 2.50, 13.10.

LA BRED PREMIER NIGHT DISTAFF S., \$145,000, DED, 2-10, (S), 4yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:41.22, sy.

1--**PACIFIC PINK, 116, m, 6, Private Vow--Truly Romantic, by Robyn Dancer.** (\$11,500 Ylg '13 ESLMIX; \$90,000 2yo '14 OBSAPR). O-Keith Plaisance; B-Brandon Adcock (LA); T-Edward J. Johnston; J-Colby J. Hernandez. \$87,000. Lifetime Record: 25-10-6-6, \$609,120. *1/2 to Fearless Leader (Suave Prospect), SW & GSP, \$216,485; & Prospect of Love (Suave Prospect), SW, \$159,960.

ANOTHER STAKES WINNER SELECTED BY NICK J. HINES

2--**Hyper Piper, 118, m, 5, Old Fashioned--Filaree,** by Saros (GB). O/B-Earl & Keith Hernandez & John Duvieilh (LA); T-Sam B. David, Jr. \$29,000.

3--**Mr. Al's Gal, 123, f, 4, Salute the Sarge--Spanish Ice,** by Spanish Steps. (\$1,000 Ylg '15 ESLMIX). O-Brittlyn Stable, Inc.; B-J. Adcock & Neal McFadden (LA); T-Justin Jeansonne. \$14,500.

Margins: 2, 5, 2. Odds: 2.60, 2.20, 1.10.

LA BRED PREMIER NIGHT SPRINT S., \$120,000, DED, 2-10, (S), 4yo/up, 5f, :58.05, sy.

1--**MONTE MAN, 120, g, 5, Custom for Carlos--Sarah's My Angel (SP), by Sutter's Prospect.**

1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN. (\$55,000 Ylg '14 FTKJUL; \$125,000 2yo '15 OBSMAR). O-Ivery Sisters Racing; B-Val C. Murrell (LA); T-Ron Faucheux; J-Gerard Melancon. \$72,000. Lifetime Record: 24-6-4-3, \$226,055. *1/2 to Grand Facile (Zuppardo's Prince), MSW, \$310,660.

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2--**Sea Vow, 116, g, 5, Private Vow--Victory At Sea,** by Hazaam. O-End Zone Athletics, Inc.; B-Ronald Webb (LA); T-Karl Broberg. \$21,600.

3--**Win Lion Win, 120, g, 7, Lion Tamer--Twinwinwin,** by Twining. (\$40,000 Ylg '12 BSCYRL). O-Farm d'Allie Racing Stable; B-Rebecca Farm LLC (LA); T-Allison Ramsay-Banks. \$12,000.

Margins: NK, 2 1/4, 2 3/4. Odds: 1.90, 4.40, 9.20.

LA BRED PREMIER NIGHT MATRON S., \$120,000, DED, 2-10, (S), 4yo/up, f/m, 5f, :58.34, sy.

1--**OURS TO RUN, 118, f, 4, Half Ours--Brown Eyed Baby, by Mineshaft.**

1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN. O-Colonel Thoroughbreds LLC; B-Clifford Grum (LA); T-J. Larry Jones; J-Roberto Morales. \$72,000. Lifetime Record: 12-6-2-1, \$141,792.

2--**My Miss Chiff, 123, f, 4, Into Mischief--Carl's Frosty Girl,** by Pulling Punches. (\$60,000 Wlg '14 OBSOCT; \$110,000 Ylg '15 FTKJUL). O-Town & Country Racing, LLC; B-Steve E Holliday (LA); T-Albert M. Stall, Jr. \$24,000.

SELECT SALES Graduate...Exceeding Expectations

3--**Shamrock Star, 118, f, 4, Star Guitar--Indian Treaty,** by Eugene's Third Son. (\$3,000 Ylg '15 ESLYRL; \$45,000 2yo '16 EQL2YO). O-Carl R. Moore Management LLC; B-Half Moon Stables, LLC (LA); T-W. Bret Calhoun. \$12,000.

Margins: 3/4, 2 1/4, 2. Odds: 4.60, 0.90, 4.30.

LA BRED PREMIER NIGHT GENTLEMAN STARTER S., (NB) \$70,000, DED, 2-10, (S), 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:48.28, sy.

1--**THEORYINTOPRACTICE, 120, g, 4, Into Mischief--Cayman Colada, by Yonaguska.** (\$120,000 Ylg '15 OBSAUG).

O-Courtney Barousse; B-Cypress Bend Farm (LA); T-Corale A. Richards; J-Colby J. Hernandez. \$42,000. Lifetime Record: 17-5-2-1, \$113,377.

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SELECT SALES Graduate...Exceeding Expectations

2--**Harbor Pilot, 120, g, 5, Trappe Shot--Harbor Princess,** by Boston Harbor. (\$82,000 Ylg '14 OBSAUG; \$62,000 RNA 2yo '15 EASMAY). O-Red Rose Racing; B-Curt Leake (LA); T-Scott Gelner. \$12,600.

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3--**Bluegrass Punch, 118, g, 6, Bluegrass Cat--Bronze Abe,** by Two Punch. (\$29,000 Ylg '13 BSCYRL). O-Courtney Barousse; B-Chrislin LLC (LA); T-Karl Broberg. \$7,000.

Margins: 1HF, 2 1/4, 1 1/4. Odds: 6.00, 2.60, 20.30.

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ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

9th-OP, \$76,000, (S), 2-11, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:12.95, sy.
K J'S NOBILITY (g, 4, Primary Suspect--K J's Girl {SW, \$112,213}, by Big Pistol) Lifetime Record: 7-3-0-1, \$89,006. O-M and M Racing; B-Hobeco Racing (AR); T-Robertino Diodoro.

7th-SA, \$69,475, (NW2\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$62,500), 2-11, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/4mT, 2:01.27, fm.

LUCY DE (m, 6, Decarchy--Stormin Lucy, by Native Storm)
 Lifetime Record: SP, 18-4-3-3, \$231,443. O-GGG Stables; B-GGG Stables & Magali Farms, LLC (CA); T-Richard Baltas.

4th-FG, \$40,000, (S), 2-11, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 5 1/2f (off turf), 1:04.97, sy.

BAM BAM BRYAN (g, 4, The Factor--Missy's Advantage {SP}, by Tactical Advantage) Lifetime Record: 4-2-0-0, \$49,368.
 O/B-Georgia Farms Inc (LA); T-Albert M. Stall, Jr. *\$95,000 RNA Ylg '15 KEESEP; \$77,000 RNA Ylg '15 BSCYRL. **1/2 to Good Morning Diva (Lion Heart), MSW & MGSP, \$328,578.

8th-GG, \$36,225, 2-11, (NW1\$X), 4/up, f/m, 6f (AWT), 1:10.31, ft.
CASH PRIZE (f, 4, Pure Prize--Cottonwood Babe, by Benchmark)
 Lifetime Record: SP, 13-3-3-0, \$146,614. O/B-William T. Gray DVM & Jill B. Gray (CA); T-Quinn Howey.

5th-HOU, \$20,500, 2-10, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m (off turf), 1:41.81, sy.

GURLIN (m, 5, Curlin--Glitteration {SP, \$110,811}, by Glitterman) Lifetime Record: 24-4-3-2, \$66,813. O-HDT Allied Management, LLC; B-Kevin Dowd & Michael Donoghue (KY); T-George R. Bryant.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Danny California, c, 3, Afleet Alex--Cinco de Mayo Mio (SP, \$128,326), by El Corredor. AQU, 2-11, (S), 1m, 1:39.62. B-West Point Thoroughbreds & 3C Thoroughbreds (NY).

Augustus Maximus, c, 3, Albertus Maximus--Choctaw Lady, by Cherokee Run. HOU, 2-10, 5 1/2f, 1:06.74. B-Sonny Ellen (TX).

Del Argent, g, 3, Delhomme--Silver Stairs (MSW, \$138,782), by Demidoff. SUN, 2-11, (S), 1m, 1:39.48. B-Allen Farm, Inc. (NM). *\$1,500 Ylg '16 RUIAUG.

Shanghai Tariff, f, 3, Shanghai Bobby--Star White (SP), by Naevus. OP, 2-11, (C), 6f, 1:12.35. B-Rose Hill Farm (KY). *\$100,000 2yo '17 OBSMAR. **1/2 to Starry Pursuit (Van Nistelrooy), SW, \$194,685.

Classy Woman, f, 4, City Place--La Adelita, by Sky Classic. TAM, 2-11, 1 1/8mT, 1:52.14. B-Moises Yanez (FL). *Full to La Tia, GISW, \$1,023,326.

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BETTER LATE THAN NEVER FOR O'CONNOR



John O'Connor | Tattersalls photo

By Emma Berry

It would be boring to be completely perfect, but it seems that the only bad thing many of his colleagues in Irish racing and breeding can say about John O'Connor is that he's a poor timekeeper.

Arriving fashionably late appears to have become a trademark for O'Connor, who was recently inducted into the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association Hall of Fame at the annual ITBA Awards. But one can hardly blame him for this minor flaw when considering the number of meetings his various roles in the sport must compel him to attend.

"Timekeeping isn't one of my strongest points and I wouldn't argue that point with anybody," he laughs after being the subject of some light-hearted leg-pulling in a **beautifully made film** to mark his Hall of Fame entry.

O'Connor is a fitting inductee for 2018, the year which marks the 30th anniversary of his arrival at Ballylinch Stud, initially as stud manager and resident vet, and latterly as managing director. His highly successful association with one of Ireland's foremost breeding establishments, first in the days of the late Dr. Tim Mahony and currently under the ownership of John and Leslie Malone, has shaped his standing in the Irish breeding community as he himself has strived to shape the future of 101-year-old farm which is steeped in Thoroughbred history.

O'Connor's assured stewardship of Ballylinch has placed him in great demand for a number of key roles within the sport he loved from a young age. A former ITBA chairman and current council member, he has also been involved with the HRI Flat Pattern and race programming committees, the Irish Champions Weekend committee, and is currently chairman of the Irish wing of the European Breeders' Fund. He is also a successful breeder in his own right and his experience in all manner of bloodstock roles includes him being the pinhooker of a 3-year-old National Hunt store back in 1975 who would go on to be named Silver Buck (Ire) and win the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

"I have a fairly strong belief that if you can do so then you should put something back into the industry that you make your living from, and that if you can make the industry better for everybody then that's something worthwhile," says O'Connor. "I was very lucky in a sense that although I was running a busy operation I had the support of first the Mahonys and then the Malones, which allowed me to put some of my time back into industry bodies." **Cont. p2**

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

MCCARTHY: AN "OPTIMISTIC REALIST"

Mike McCarthy, who trains GISW **City of Light** (Quality Road) considers himself an "optimistic realist". Daniel Ross has the scoop. **Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.**

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Better Late Than Never for O'Connor Cont. from p1

O'Connor's neighbour and fellow breeder Harry McCalmont endorsed his Hall of Fame nomination, saying, "He put heart and soul into the ITBA and is now chairman of the EBF. When Joe Foley and myself went to him with the idea about Champions Weekend he picked it up and ran with it. He was wholeheartedly behind it and has been a major factor in the success of that weekend."

Other notable names such as John Halley, Willie Mullins, Dermot Weld, Joe Foley and Brian Kavanagh were united in their praise of O'Connor, whose own ethos when it comes to the various committees with which he has been involved is for unification within the industry. He says, "I think we're lucky in Ireland that people generally pull together very well when there are challenges to be faced, and also in the sense that we don't have so many competing interests--the racecourses tend to work together and prize-money is centrally funded to a great extent. I've always found in any of the organisations that I've been involved with that having a united front for the industry is of enormous importance so in all the things I've done I've always tried to make sure that I've listened to everybody and that we've tried to carry the entire industry with us when we were making decisions."

During his 30-year tenure at Ballylinch, O'Connor has been responsible for building up a first-class broodmare band for Tim Mahony, and later embellishing that established herd for the Malones, who bought the farm and its stock from the Mahony family in 2014. His astute judgement is reflected in the roll call of major winners to have been raised in the Kilkenny paddocks. Priory Belle (Ire) (Priolo) became Ballylinch Stud's first Group 1 winner in the Moyglare Stud S., her dam Ingabelle (GB) (Taufan) having been secured for the stud from breeder Tom

Lacy. It's a dynasty which has spawned the multiple Group 2 winner Very Special (Ire) (Lope De Vega {Ire}) and her even smarter half-sister Chriselliam (Ire) (Ifrraaj {GB}), the second of two Breeders' Cup victors bred by Ballylinch after the Turf winner Red Rocks (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), a grandson of G1 Phoenix S. winner Pharaoh's Delight (Ire) (Fairy King).

Other early broodmare purchases by O'Connor have led to Belardo (Ire), a grandson of Majinskaya (Fr) (Marignan), bought by Ballylinch for 190,000gns in 1997. Belardo is of extra note as the first Group 1 winner for Ballylinch sire Lope De Vega (Ire). The appropriately named top-class sprinter Wizz Kid (Ire), by another former resident of the Ballylinch stallion yard, Whipper, is a granddaughter of Lidanna (GB) (Nicholas), who was bought the year after Majinskaya.

The accruing of such bloodlines has enabled Ballylinch Stud to be consistently among the best breeders in Ireland, but the farm also deals with breeders of all sizes through its stallion roster, which currently numbers six, with Dream Ahead (Diktat {GB}) stationed in Normandy. To this end, O'Connor is not immune to the pressure that comes from an increasingly commercial marketplace.

"We shouldn't get confused by headline sales," he says. "It's always important to analyse more deeply how the whole market is evolving and performing. Sometimes we talk about the bottom end of the market like there are no good horses in that sector but that's not necessarily the case. There's a lot of polarisation where some extremely wealthy people want to buy what they perceive to be the top horses in any one sale and that end of the market is extremely strong. Anybody who is lucky enough to have stock that fit into that category can be very optimistic about that." **Cont. p3**

"I have a fairly strong belief that if you can do so then you should put something back into the industry that you make your living from."

-John O'Connor

"Sometimes we talk about the bottom end of the market like there are no good horses in that sector but that's not necessarily the case."

-John O'Connor

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Better Late Than Never for O'Connor Cont.

He continues, "The most popular sires are full and over-full with waiting lists. There are plenty of capable sires further down the list who are not full yet. There's polarisation taking place between the very top horses and, I would say, the rest of the market as opposed to saying the bottom end of the market. The very top end of the market is extremely strong and the rest of the market is much more chancey."

As the son of small breeders and passionate horse-people, there was perhaps little chance that O'Connor would follow any other path but he arrived at stud management via a detour through veterinary practice, and met his wife Angela while they were both studying at the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. He cites fellow vets Kevin Doyle and Jean Plainfossse as early mentors, each of whom gave him opportunities to work abroad in Australia and France. When O'Connor eventually returned to Ireland, it was to become the resident vet at Baroda Stud, then owned by Sean Doyle, whose influence and untimely death steered his protege towards his destiny.



John O'Connor at Ballylinch Stud | Emma Berry

"I worked closely with Sean who was a very enlightened and forward-thinking stud manager at that time and I learned a huge amount about the bloodstock business from him," he recalls. "Sadly he was killed in a riding accident after I'd been at Baroda for a couple of years and I found myself thrust into becoming the resident vet and the manager for his executors, and that's what kind of pushed me into stud management. When Sean's executors sold Baroda, Dermot Weld introduced me to Tim Mahony and I was intrigued by the challenge of building Ballylinch back up again on his behalf. So I came down here and never left." **Cont. p4**

Better Late Than Never for O'Connor Cont.

That longevity has been not only to the stud's benefit but also to a number of current stud managers who cut their teeth at the farm. O'Connor says, "Down the years, one of the things that has made me the most pleased and proud is some of the young people who've worked with me have gone on to do really well running their own studs and I've really encouraged that.

Nick Bell runs Haras de Meautry for the Rothschild family, James Byrne runs Ballygallon for Roy and Belinda Strudwick, Andrew Hughes runs Thistle Bloodstock for Jim

Long, Jonathon Smithers runs Car Colston Hall Stud--they're all people who came through the system here and there are others. It's lovely to see them running their own operations and I'm still in contact with them all."

He is also adamant that there's no replacement for hands-on experience at all levels of the business despite the rise of courses available to youngsters wanting to work in the racing and breeding industry.

"The most important thing is for young people to get their heads round the fact that this is a business where you will only

get ahead by hard work," he says. "They need to get used to the fact that we work long hours--whether it's on the farms or at the sales--and if that's something which doesn't appeal then they won't be successful in this business. They need to be passionate about the game and try to be as well educated as they can be, before then associating with people who will put the time into

teaching them and who will want them to succeed."

Clearly O'Connor himself fulfils this latter requirement and he points to another man in a similar position to himself as one he particularly admires. In fact, it was that man,

Ballyhane Stud owner Joe Foley, who proposed O'Connor's induction to the Hall of Fame.

"I have great regard for Joe because I have huge regard for anybody who can make things happen from a standing start without huge resources," he states. "Joe not only has made a huge success of his own business but he has put a huge amount back into the industry and we've worked together both in the ITBA and the EBF. I don't think he gets the credit he ought to--he's one of the really clear-thinkers in our business."

"It's very important that the Irish industry keeps working closely with the industry in Britain and the European industry."

-John O'Connor

Cont. p5

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Better Late Than Never for O'Connor Cont.

"It's very important that the Irish industry keeps working closely with the industry in Britain and the European industry," he says. "Strength in any industry comes from the cohesion of people involved in it. Equally, I think you can see that where it becomes scattered, or you have internal division, people from outside the industry have opportunities to take pot shots at it and that's why we all need to work together all the time."

In one area recently he has disagreed with Foley, however, and that was in the bestowal of the ITBA honour.

"I was a bit taken aback," he admits. "I did my best to talk them out of it but Joe Foley is an extremely persuasive man and I wasn't able to change his mind. I was trying to put it off as I was kind of thinking it was an award for old people and then it slowly dawned on me with awful realisation that I am one of them myself."

While it's certainly nowhere near the time for O'Connor to be reaching for the pipe and slippers, he can allow himself a moment or two to reflect on working life well lived to date, though, in a manner regularly adopted by Aidan O'Brien, he immediately deflects praise and congratulation to those around him.

He says, "The things that I have achieved have been entirely dependant on the people who work with me. I have excellent teams around me at both Ballylinch and Castlemartin and without that you can't succeed. But the most important person of them all is Angela, who is a huge support to me, and in our own lives raising our family and keeping our own farm on the move. Without her this wouldn't have happened."

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BRITAIN



FROST APPOINTED JCR AMBASSADOR

Jockey Bryony Frost has been appointed the group-wide ambassador for Jockey Club Racecourses, it was announced at Exeter Racecourse on Sunday. Frost, whose career will now be supported by JCR, will work with JCR to promote British racing, including through social media channels, media work, personal appearances and a regular blog. The Grade 1-winning jockey will also wear Jockey Club Racecourses-branded apparel when attending racedays and her new Range Rover Velar has been painted with 'Bryony Frost, supported by Jockey Club Racecourses.' [Cont. p6](#)

ARQANA

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Bryony Frost | Jockey Club Racecourses

Frost Appointed JCR Ambassador Cont.

“This season has already been an amazing one for me and to now be supported by Jockey Club Racecourses is really cool,” said Frost. “As everyone knows, I love talking about our sport and trying to get new people interested in it. Horses and racing have been the biggest part of my life since I was tiny and I know the future of racing is just as important to Jockey Club Racecourses, as it is to me and my family.”

Added Paul Fisher, Jockey Club Racecourses Chief Executive, “We’re thrilled to be welcoming Bryony to The Jockey Club family and very much looking forward to supporting her. We’ve never had a group-wide Jockey Club Racecourses ambassador before. It’s really exciting to think we’ll be working with Bryony to introduce new people to racing, while also helping those who already enjoy the sport understand it better and become even more engaged.”

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FRANCE



Sunday's Results:

PRIX DE LA CALIFORNIE - FONDATION CLAUDE POMPIDOU-Listed, €55,000, CGN, 2-11, 3yo, 8f (AWT), 1:35.82, st.

1--**BARKAA (FR)**, 121, f, 3, by Siyouni (Fr)

1st Dam: **Dentelle (Fr)**, by Apeldoorn (Fr)

2nd Dam: **Dryden (Fr)**, by Shernazar (Ire)

3rd Dam: **Bedford Row (Fr)**, by R. B. Chesne (GB)

1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN. (€66,000 Ylg '16 ARAUG). O-Gerard Augustin-Normand & Jose Bruneau de la Salle; B-Jean-Pierre Colombu (FR); T-Fabrice Vermeulen; J-Cristian Demuro. €27,500. Lifetime Record: 4-3-0-1, €53,650. *1/2 to My Old Husband (Fr) (Gentlewave {Ire}), Ch. 2yo Colt-Svk, MSW-Fr,

SW-Swi & SP-Ity, \$216,685; Danse du Soir (Fr) (Nombre Premier {GB}), MSP-Fr, \$141,193; and Dumnonia (Fr) (Silver Frost {Ire}), Ch. 2yo Filly-Svk, Ch. 3yo Filly-Svk & SP-Ity.

M A B | Purchased by MAB Agency (M-A Berghgracht)

2--**Hastotrike (Ire)**, 125, g, 3, Sir Prancealot (Ire)--Chingford (Ire), by Redback (GB). (€26,000 Ylg '16 GOFFEB; €12,000 RNA Ylg '16 TIRSEP; €11,500 Ylg '16 GOFNOV). O-Christos Theodorakis. €11,000.

3--**Duque (Fr)**, 125, c, 3, Elusive City--Dariena (Fr), by Highest Honor (Fr). O-Maurice Lagasse, Haras d'Etream & Riviera Equine SARL. €8,250.

Margins: 1, 1HF, 2HF. Odds: 5.40, 6.60, 1.00.

Also Ran: Diamond Vendome (Fr), Cead Mile Failte (Fr), Royal Gift (Fr), Aiyana Rose (Fr).

Barkaa, who was successful in synthetic starts going 10 panels at Marseille Pont de Vivaux Nov. 7 and Dec. 12, lost her perfect record when hitting the board over this course and distance last time Jan. 20, but bounced back to register a career high in this sophomores' test. Settled off the pace in sixth through halfway, she was urged closer off the home turn to deliver her challenge approaching the final eighth and kept on well under a late drive to assert superiority.

Barkaa is the second stakes scorer produced by three-time winner Dentelle (Fr) (Apeldoorn {Fr}) and she is a half-sister to Listed Grand Prix de Lyon, Listed Prix Bedel and Listed Grand Prix d'Avenches victor and Slovakian champion juvenile colt My Old Husband (Fr) (Gentlewave {Ire}). She is also kin to three-time stakes placegetter Danse du Soir (Fr) (Nombre Premier {GB}), the stakes-placed dual Slovakian champion distaffer Dumnonia (Fr) (Silver Frost {Ire}) and a 2-year-old colt by Anodin (Ire). **Click for the Racing Post result. Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

GRAND PRIX DE LA RIVIERA COTE D'AZUR - JACQUES

BOUCHARA-Listed, €60,000, CGN, 2-11, 4yo/up, 10f (AWT), 2:03.66, st.

1--**SPOTIFY (FR)**, 125, c, 4, Redoute's Choice (Aus)--Gwenseb (Fr) (GSW-Fr, \$277,177), by Green Tune.

1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN. O/B-Wertheimer & Frere (FR); T-Christophe Ferland; J-Maxime Guyon. €30,000. Lifetime Record: MGSP-Fr, 6-3-1-1, €127,600. *1/2 to Attendu (Fr) (Acclamation {GB}), MGSW & G1SP-Fr, \$292,686; Impassable (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), MGSW-Fr, \$269,064; and Foreign Tune (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), SW & GSP-Fr, \$161,614.

2--**Syrita (Fr)**, 126, m, 5, Siyouni (Fr)--Garmerita (Fr), by Poliglote (GB). (€42,000 Ylg '14 AROCT). O-Mme Christa Zass. €12,000.

3--**Pump Pump Palace (Fr)**, 125, h, 5, King's Best--Pump Pump Girl (Fr), by Kendor (Fr). O-Benoit Bouret & Jean-Claude Bouret. €9,000.

Listed Grand Prix de la Riviera Cote d'Azur Cont.

Margins: HF, HD, NK. Odds: 0.50, 4.90, 7.50.

Also Ran: Illaunmore, Incantator (Ger), Plutocracy (Ire).

Scratched: Tree of Grace (Fr).

Spotify backed up a pair of early career victories with a third to subsequent dual Classic hero Brametot (Ire) (Rajsaman {Fr}) in Chantilly's Apr. 16 G3 Prix de Fontainebleau before running fourth to that rival in Deauville's May 14 G1 Poule d'Essai des Poulains next time. Second in Maisons-Laffitte's June 28 G3 Prix Daphnis in his penultimate start, he went postward as the odds-on chalk here coming off a narrow score tackling this strip last time Jan. 22. Racing prominently under restraint from flagfall, he was shaken up to challenge with 300 metres remaining and kept on resolutely under a final-furlong drive to earn a career high in game fashion.

Spotify becomes the fourth black-type scorer out of G3 Prix du Bois victress Gwenseb (Fr) (Green Tune) and is thus kin to MGSW G1 Criterium International placegetter Attendu (Fr) (Acclamation {GB}), G2 Prix de Sandringham and G2 Prix Daniel Wildenstein heroine Impassable (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) and Listed Prix Coronation winner and G3 Prix de Lieurey runner-up Foreign Tune (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}). Gwenseb, from a family which features Italian champion and G1 Gran Criterium-winning sire Will Dancer (Fr) (Green Dancer), has also produced the 2-year-old filly Gwendola (GB) (Oasis Dream {GB}) and the yearling colt Thirsty (Ire) (Oasis Dream {GB}). **Click for the Racing Post result. Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

1st-CGN, €19,000, Cond, 2-11, 4yo, 12fT, 2:45.53, sf.

YOUAKEMECRAZY (FR) (g, 4, Youmzain {Ire}--Zitana {Fr}, by Zieten) Lifetime Record: 5-2-0-2, €21,600. O-Patrick Sabban & Francois Rohaut; B-Xavier Givaudan (FR); T-Francois Rohaut. *€6,000 Ylg '15 AROCT.

EUROPEAN-BRED WINNERS

IN UNITED STATES:

Elysea's World (Ire), m, 5, Champs Elysees (GB)--Ideal World (Ire), by Singspiel (Ire). B-Haras D'Haspel (Ire). *1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN. **1ST GRADED STAKES WIN. *€25,000 Ylg '14 AR14.**


Purchased by Oceanic Bloodstock (Michel Zerolo)


ANOTHER LEGEND BRED IN IRELAND 

IN UAE:

Tadween (Ire), g, 4, Tagula (Ire)--Stained Glass (GB), by Dansili (GB). Abu Dhabi, 2-11, Hcp. (AED90K), 1600mT, 1:36.29. B-Donal White (Ire). *€25,000 Wlg '14 GOFNOV; £90,000 Ylg '15 DNPAUG; 20,000gns HRA '17 TATJUL.

IN SINGAPORE:

Marvel Hero (GB), g, 4, Royal Applause (GB)--Zahrtee (Ire), by Alhaarth (Ire). Kranji, 2-11, Hcp. (£24k/€27k), 1600mT, 1:36.57. B-D A Bloodstock. *2,000gns Ylg '15 TATOC3; €10,000 2yo '16 GORMAY. **VIDEO**

WORLDWIDE NEWS

BIG GAINS AT INGLIS CONTINUE



Lot 316, Sunday's sale topper | Inglis

After the close of the second of four days of selling during the Inglis Classic Yearling Sale, 296 lots have cumulatively grossed A\$30,391,500, over A\$2.5 million above last year's gross at this point. The clearance rate is a positive 90% over the first two days, with an average of A\$102,657 (+36%) and a median of A\$80,000 (+45.5%). A colt by sire of the moment I Am Invincible (Aus) topped proceedings at A\$400,000 and was purchased by Hong Kong's Sun Bloodstock.

During just Sunday's session, 191 yearlings found new homes from 215 offered, good for a clearance rate of 89%. The gross was A\$16,729,000, while the average increased by 31.4% to A\$87,586 and the median rose even more, gaining 40% to A\$70,000.



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INGLIS CLASSIC YEARLING SALE DAY 2

SESSION TOTALS	2018	2017
• Catalogued	240	300
• No. Offered	215	284
• No. Sold	191	260
• RNAs	24	24
• % RNAs	11.2%	8.5%
• High Price	A\$400,000	A\$310,000
• Gross	A\$16,729,000	A\$17,331,000
• Average (% change)	A\$87,586 (+31.4%)	A\$66,658
• Median (% change)	A\$70,000 (+40%)	A\$50,000
CUMULATIVE TOTALS	2018	2017
• Catalogued	360	450
• No. Offered	328	424
• No. Sold	296	383
• RNAs	32	41
• % RNAs	10%	13%
• High Price	A\$480,000	A\$400,000
• Gross	A\$30,391,500	A\$27,848,000
• Average (% change)	A\$102,657 (+36%)	A\$75,469
• Median (% change)	A\$80,000 (+45.5%)	A\$55,000

Big Gains at Inglis Cont.

Yarraman Park’s I Am Invincible is now responsible for four of the five top-priced lots after two days of trade, including Sunday’s topper, a colt out of the winning Chickasaw (NZ) (Flying Spur {Aus}). He leads by aggregate, A\$2,505,000 for 9 sold, as well as by average, which stands at A\$278,333. **Lot 316**, offered by Yarraman, currently the leading vendor with an aggregate of A\$1,922,500 for 10 sold, is from the family of MG1SW Malaguerra (Aus) (Magnus {Aus}).

“We are very happy as vendors with the whole sale,” Yarraman’s Harry Mitchell said. “It’s been going very well. The buyers are here, the market’s good and we’ve got stallions people like which doesn’t hurt either. The Chickasaw colt, he’s a lovely horse who we knew would sell well because he’s a great type.”

Trainer Tony McEvoy has been busy during the first two days of the Classic Yearling Sale, snapping up a wide range of lots, eight in total and seven on Sunday alone, from A\$40,000 to A\$340,000 for a net of A\$1,360,000. Leading the way among the octet is **lot 130**, a filly by Zoustar (Aus) from the draft of Rosemont Stud.



Lot 130 | Inglis

“Why wouldn’t I be here for that reason?” McEvoy said, with an eye toward winning the A\$2-million Inglis Millennium on the all new A\$4-million Inglis Race Day scheduled to begin the Saturday afternoon prior to the Classic Yearling Sale night session in 2019. “It’s a fantastic initiative and I want to be the inaugural winning trainer. The Zoustar filly, she’s got class, a great head and eye and she’s feisty, which I love.”

The filly is the second foal out of the winning Special Favour (Aus) (General Nediym {Aus}), while her second dam is MGSW and MG1SP My Tusker (NZ) (Volksraad {GB}), a half-sister to MGSP Platinum Passion (Aus) (Redoute’s Choice {Aus}), already responsible for listed hero Tribal Wisdom (Aus) (Makfi {GB}). McEvoy is already familiar with this family, having purchased a son of Fastnet Rock (Aus) out of My Tusker (**lot 123**) for A\$175,000 out of the 2018 Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale last month. Fourth dam is champion Horlicks (NZ) (Three Legs {GB}), who produced champion Australian stayer Brew (NZ) (Sir Tristram {Ire}) and New Zealand champion female stayer Bubble (NZ) (Sir Tristram {Ire}).

Lot 193, the third dearest lot on the day, once again went the way of McEvoy, as he paid A\$300,000 for the Lucas Bloodstock offering. Previously purchased for A\$180,000 out of the Inglis Chairman’s Sale last April from the Newhaven Park draft, the son of Newgate Farm’s Deep Field (Aus) is out of a sister to Group 3 hero Exceedingly Good (Aus) (Exceed And Excel {Aus}), as well as Better Be The One (Aus) (More Than Ready), a MSW in Singapore.

“The Deep Field colt, he had a swagger about him, he looked a real athletic horse,” said McEvoy.

Another colt by Deep Field, Milburn Creek’s **lot 157**, sold for A\$220,000 to Bruce Perry Bloodstock. **Cont. p9**

Big Gains at Inglis Cont.

He is a son of four-time winner Tahnee Topaz (Aus) (Lonhro {Aus}), a half-sister to three SP runners. One of the trio, Tahnee Tango (Aus) (Grand Lodge), has produced Group 3 winner Worthy Cause (Aus) (Choisir {Aus}).

Young sire Pierro (Aus) also enjoyed a decent session, with Sweetbriar Equine shelling out A\$260,000 for lot 127, a colt out of G3 Glenlogan Park S. heroine Sookie (Aus) (Casino Prince {Aus}). The Newgate Farm-consigned colt's third dam is Australian champion juvenile filly Victory Vein (Aus) (Mr Henrysee).

The third day of the Inglis Classic Yearling Sale Book 1 will be held on Monday, beginning at 11 a.m. local time, with lots 361-600 going through the ring. For the complete results, go to www.inglis.co.au.

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SESSION TOPPERS

INGLIS CLASSIC YEARLING SALE DAY 2

Lot	Sex	Sire	Dam	Price (A\$)
316	c	I Am Invincible (Aus)	Chickasaw (NZ) <i>B-Pedrille Thoroughbreds (NSW)</i> Consigned by Yarraman Park Stud Purchased by Sun Bloodstock Pty Ltd	400,000
130	f	Zoustar (Aus)	Special Favour (Aus) <i>B-Rosemont Stud (Vic)</i> Consigned by Rosemont Stud Purchased by McEvoy Mitchell Racing Pty Ltd	340,000
193	c	Deep Field (Aus)	Uncommon (Aus) (A\$180,000 Wlg '17 INGCHS) <i>B-Mr M McBride (NSW)</i> Consigned by Lucas Bloodstock Purchased by McEvoy Mitchell Racing Pty Ltd/Blue Sky Bloodstock (FBAA)	300,000
127	c	Pierro (Aus)	Sookie (Aus) <i>B-Mr G & Mrs D Kolivos (NSW)</i> Consigned by Newgate Farm Purchased by Sweetbriar Equine	260,000
157	c	Deep Field (Aus)	Tahnee Topaz (Aus) <i>B-Mr IV Millard (SA)</i> Consigned by Milburn Creek Purchased by Bruce Perry Bloodstock	220,000

HKJC ALLOCATES FUNDS TO ACCIDENT VICTIMS

Officials at the Hong Kong Jockey Club announced Sunday that it has established a relief fund in an amount 'not less' than HK\$10 million to support those affected by a Saturday rollover bus accident that claimed the lives of 19 and injured more than 60 others. The bus had departed Sha Tin Racecourse en route to Tai Po.

"The Hong Kong Jockey Club extends its deepest and heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the deceased and sympathies to those affected passengers in the bus incident [Sunday]," the Club said in a statement. "In cooperation and coordination with the Hong Kong SAR Government's efforts to consolidate the relief funds, the Club has established a special relief fund...for the provision of immediate support. Each family of the deceased passengers as well as those in critical condition or seriously injured will receive an ex gratia payment of HK\$200,000. Other hospitalized passengers in a stable condition will receive HK\$100,000 each. The Club will work closely with the Social Welfare Department to confirm the status of each of the affected passengers as well as the transfer of the ex gratia payment via the Government's channel as soon as possible."

South China *Morning Post* reported that the driver of the bus was observed to be "throwing a tantrum" after being criticized by some of the passengers for being late.

"He was late for 10 minutes," a passenger told *SCMP*. "He was grumpy because some people criticised him for being late. He then started to drive the bus like he was flying a plane."

Another passenger told the *Post*, "He was driving very fast, extremely fast, even if he was driving down a slope."

SCMP reported that the driver was arrested for dangerous driving causing death and dangerous driving causing grievous bodily harm. He was detained for questioning by police.

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Sunday, Kyoto, Japan

KYOTO KINEN-G2, ¥119,500,000

(US\$1,098,428/£794,384/€896,448), Kyoto, 2-11, 4yo/up, 2200mT, 2:16.30, sf.

1--**CLINCHER (JPN)**, 121, c, 4, by **Deep Sky (Jpn)**

1st Dam: The Fates (Jpn), by **Brian's Time**

2nd Dam: Miss Shagra, by **Danzig**

3rd Dam: Dusty Dollar (GB), by **Kris (GB)**

1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN. 1ST GROUP WIN. O-Koji Maeda;

B- Hirayama Farm (Jpn); T-Hiroshi Miyamoto; J-Yusuke Fujioka; ¥62,700,000. Lifetime Record: G1SP-Jpn, 8-3-1-0. *1/2 to Wakino Brave (Jpn) (Meiner Love), GSP-Jpn, \$1,760,162. **Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.** Werk Nick Rating: A++.

G2 Kyoto Kinen Cont.

2--**Al Ain (Jpn)**, 126, c, 4, by Deep Impact (Jpn)--Dubai Majesty, by Essence of Dubai. O-Sunday Racing; B-Northern Farm (Jpn); ¥25,200,000.

3--**Rey de Oro (Jpn)**, 126, c, 4, by King Kamehameha (Jpn)--La Dorada (Jpn), by Symboli Kris S. O-Carrot Farm; B-Northern Farm (Jpn); ¥16,100,000.

Margins: 1, NK, NO; Odds: 9.50, 5.60, 0.60.

Also Ran: Mozu Katchan (Jpn), Kento O (Jpn), Deirdre (Jpn), Mikki Rocket (Jpn), Crocosmia (Jpn), Action Star (Jpn), Primera Azul (Jpn).

Click for the [Racing Post chart](#) or the [free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree](#). [JRA Video](#).

Sunday, Tokyo, Japan

KYODO NEWS SERVICE HAI-G3, ¥ 72,650,000

(US\$667,334/£482,806/€544,556), Tokyo, 2-11, 3yo, 1800mT, 1:47.40, fm.

1--**OKEN MOON (JPN)**, 123, c, 3, **Oken Bruce Lee (Jpn)**

1st Dam: Moon Phase (Jpn) (SP-Jpn, \$431,437),

by Helissio (Fr)

2nd Dam: After the Sun, by Storm Bird

3rd Dam: Encorelle (Fr), by Arctic Tern

1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN. 1ST GROUP WIN. O-Akira Fukui;

B-Northern Farm (Jpn); T-Sakae Kunieda; J-Hiroshi Kitamura;

¥38,455,000. Lifetime Record: 4-3-0-0. **Werk Nick Rating: C.**

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

2--**Satono Saltus (Jpn)**, 123, c, 3, Deep Impact (Jpn)--Island Fashion, by Pétionville. (¥88,000,000 Wlg '15 JRHAJUL).

O-Satomi Horse Company; B-Northern Farm (Jpn);

¥15,130,000.

3--**Aim and End (Jpn)**, 123, c, 3, Eishin Flash (Jpn)--Listen (Ire), by Sunday Silence. O-Carrot Farm; B-Oiwake Farm (Jpn);

¥9,565,000.

Margins: 3/4, 1 1/4, NO; Odds: 12.60, 5.30, 131.90.

Also Ran: Go For The Summit (Jpn), Kafuji Vanguard (Jpn), Blason D'Amour (Jpn), Grail (Jpn), Cosmo Ignas (Jpn), American World, Stay Foolish (Jpn), Toccata (Jpn), Ryuno Yukina (Jpn).

Click for the [Racing Post chart](#) or the [free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree](#). [JRA Video](#).

MIDDLE EAST**PEOPLE'S CHOICE FINALISTS ANNOUNCED**

The four finalists for the People's Choice Award, a fan-voted accolade recognising the most compelling 2017 moment in horseracing, were announced by the Dubai Racing Club on Sunday. The award will be presented at the HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Horseracing Excellence Awards ceremony scheduled for the evening of Mar. 29, two nights before the Dubai World Cup card. The finalists are: jockey Christophe Soumillon's win tally of 306 European victories, breaking the European winners record (300); champion Lady Eli (First Defense)'s amazing comeback from laminitis; Arrogate (Unbridled's Song)'s last-to first victory in the 2017 G1 Dubai World Cup; and trainer Aidan O'Brien breaking the international record of 25 Group 1 wins in a year with 28 by year's end.

Please click [here](#) to vote, which will end on Meydan Racecourse's Super Saturday on Mar. 10.

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AUSTRALIAN-BRED WINNERS**IN SOUTH KOREA:**

Silver Wolf (Aus), m, 5, **Oratorio (Ire)**--Ready For More (Aus) (SP-Aus), by More Than Ready. Seoul, 2-11, Donga Ilbo Cup (NB) (A\$295k), 1800m. B-Mr S Casey, Jamie Hylan, Graeme Brewer (SA). *Ch. Older Mare & SW-Kor. **A\$23,000 Ylg '13 INGAUG; A\$40,000 Ylg '14 MMGCYS. **VIDEO**

IN SINGAPORE:

Stunning Cat (Aus), g, 3, **Smart Missile (Aus)**--Fornini (Aus), by Stravinsky. Kranji, 2-11, Hcp. (A\$57k), 1200m (AWT), 1:13.20. B-Torryburn Stud (NSW). *Formerly South of France (Aus). **A\$130,000 Ylg '16 INGEAS. **VIDEO**

Gran Torino (Aus), g, 4, **Bel Esprit (Aus)**--Final Act, by Came Home. Kranji, 2-11, Hcp. (A\$76k), 1000m (AWT), :59.58. B-Real Time Investments Pty Ltd (SA). *Formerly Eastwood (Aus). **VIDEO**

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