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PEDIGREE INSIGHTS: CODE OF HONOR



Code of Honor after winning the Fountain of Youth | *Lauren King*
 by Andrew Caulfield

As we are all being encouraged to recycle as much as possible nowadays, perhaps you will forgive me for re-using a promotional piece I was asked to write for Lane's End Farm in late-2014, after Frankel's younger brother Noble Mission had been added to the stud's illustrious stallion team.

"When Will Farish announced that Noble Mission has been recruited to join the stallion roster at Lane's End," I wrote, "he made the point that 'many of the world's best stallions are in Europe and we feel the need to revert to the days of importing top-class European horses to stand in America. We're confident he can add to the long list of influential stallions like Nasrullah, Roberto, Nureyev, Lyphard, Kingmambo, etc., to become a successful stallion here.'

I added that Lane's End's owner could also have mentioned numerous other top-notch European turf performers which made a sizeable contribution to American bloodstock, such as Giant's Causeway, El Prado, Storm Bird, Blushing Groom, Riverman, Alleged and Caro.

Noble Mission has already started to repay Farish for his boldness, with Farish's homebred colt Code of Honor defeating sons of Tapit and Candy Ride to land the GII Fountain of Youth S. The owner's satisfaction must be made all the greater by the fact that Code of Honor's dam Reunited is a homebred daughter of the former Lane's End resident Dixie Union, himself a son of another Lane's End stalwart in Dixieland Band. **Cont. p3**

HONEYBEE NEXT FOR MOTION EMOTION

by *Jessica Martini*

When **Motion Emotion** (Take Charge Indy) drew away to an effortless 6 3/4-length allowance victory Feb. 17 at Oaklawn Park ([video](#)), owner Mark DeDomenico fielded plenty of interest in his promising filly, but the bay sophomore will still be carrying DeDomenico's colors when she heads postward in Saturday's GIII Honeybee S. in Hot Springs.

"There were quite a few people over to visit her looking for private purchases," trainer Tom Van Berg said Tuesday. "Dr. Mark had a deal in place and then at the last moment, I think he watched the replay again, and decided he wanted to keep her. So we changed course and we're staying with her. We are going to point for the Honeybee this coming Saturday. Hopefully she'll repay that decision."

Cont. p5

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

BRIDGING THE GAP: DE BURGH'S GLOBAL VIEW

Hubie de Burgh discusses a busy and far-reaching career in the bloodstock world. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

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Wednesday, March 6, 2019



A week-old colt by Violence and out of Lindy (War Front) makes friends with Jan Vandebos Naify and Dandy. Owned by RanJan Racing, the colt was foaled on February 10 at Lane's End Farm. [Click here](#) to share your 2019 foal photos with the TDN. Please include sire, dam, owner, and photographer's name. | Alys Emson

PROVEN STRATEGIES: HIDDEN GEM

6

In the latest installment of our tax advice series, Len Green breaks down a hidden gem in the 2018 Tax Act.

DE LUCA NAMED COLONIAL RACING SECRETARY

9

Allison De Luca, who has worked as the Tampa Bay Downs racing secretary since 2006, is taking the same position for the revival of Colonial Downs this summer.



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Code of Honor's future looks all the more rosy in view of the fact that his Fountain of Youth success was gained nearly three months before his actual third birthday, which is on May 23, 19 days after the GI Kentucky Derby. Trainer Shug McGaughey nominated the GI Florida Derby as his preferred target on the road to Churchill Downs.

It is worth pointing out that only seven colts have managed to complete the Fountain of Youth-Florida Derby double since 1990, but they include the champion 2-year-old Fly So Free, the Kentucky Derby and GI Belmont S. winner Thunder Gulch, those excellent stallions Scat Daddy and Quality Road and the Kentucky Derby winner Orb. In other words, Code of Honor's future will look very bright if he manages to land the Florida Derby. Another Fountain of Youth winner was Union Rags, the Dixie Union colt who landed the Belmont S. after finishing third in the Florida Derby.



Noble Mission | Lee Thomas

I find it interesting that McGaughey felt it necessary with Code of Honor "to get into him," training him "a little harder and more frequent." Noble Mission, of course, is a son of the great Galileo. When Chris McGrath interviewed Aidan O'Brien about the stallion who has been the source of so much of the Irishman's success, he was told that "Galileos never question anything they are asked" and they are usually sound enough to cope with a tough campaign.

Noble Mission fit this description. After a single juvenile start, he raced a further 20 times over the next three seasons, with 15 of his races being group events. However, his career wasn't as straightforward or predictable as that might suggest.

As a youngster, he was considered to be more forward and precocious than his year-older brother, but, whereas Frankel proved himself a champion at two, Noble Mission was held up by sore shins. **Cont. p4**

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And, whereas Frankel was campaigned at up to a mile as a 3-year-old, Noble Mission was initially considered a Derby candidate, even though he ran out an easy winner of a maiden race over a mile on his reappearance at three.

Noble Mission was never to tackle a distance shorter than a mile and a quarter during the rest of his career and for a while he had his connections scratching their heads in puzzlement. When tried over a mile and a quarter he often gave the impression that he needed further, but when upped to a mile and a half, he sometimes looked as though he didn't quite stay.

His comparatively disappointing 4-year-old season coincided with the terminal illness of his trainer, Sir Henry Cecil, and Noble Mission was often steadied at the start in the hope that he would relax better. His new handler, Lady Cecil, eventually came to the conclusion that he would be better suited by more positive tactics and the 5-year-old Noble Mission was transformed. Ridden in front, he won five of his last six starts, his only setback coming when he was forced wide from a high draw on a trip to Germany.

His victories included Group 1 successes in Ireland, France and England and he followed in Frankel's footsteps in winning the G1 Qipco Champion S. on what proved to be his final appearance. His courage was very apparent at Ascot, when he held on most gamely to defeat Al Kazeem after a prolonged battle. Timeform summarised Noble Mission's performance on its website as "one of the gamest displays of recent years, a 140 performance if guts were quantifiable." The time was also very fast, given the conditions, and Noble Mission and Al Kazeem recorded the two fastest Timeform timefigures of 2014.

The sectional times for the race didn't escape the notice of Lady Cecil, who reported to Juddmonte that Noble Mission's sectional times at Ascot bore favorable comparison to the Queen Elizabeth II S., run over a mile on the same card.

"I think the prospect of running him over a mile in Group 1 company would be very exciting," she suggested. "So much of his improvement has been down to the style of running and I believe these assertive tactics would prove equally effective over the shorter distances. He has such a high cruising speed--not dissimilar to Frankel--that he could draw the sting from other milers."

This suggestion was never tried, as Noble Mission was sold to Lane's End, to start his career at a fee of \$25,000. In addition to Code of Honor's exploits on dirt, several other members of Noble Mission's first crop, such as Creationist, Spanish Mission, Humanitarian and Buffalo River, have displayed plenty of potential on Britain's all-weather tracks, while others have won on turf, both in the U.S. and Europe.

Cont. p5





NOBLE MISSION (GB)

THE NEXT GREAT EUROPEAN IMPORT

CODE OF HONOR WINS FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH S. (G2)

Earning a 95 Beyer and the #2 spot on the Kentucky Derby trail making Noble Mission a leader of second-crop sires by GSW joining the ranks of Cairo Prince, Cross Traffic, etc.





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He will probably need an injection of dirt ability from his mares if he is to sire more main-track performers such as Code of Honor. This colt's dam Reunited raced exclusively on dirt and his second dam Tivli gained six of her seven wins on dirt. Both mares were stakes winners over sprint distances, and Reunited was good enough to win five of her eight starts as a 3-year-old, including the GIII Thoroughbred Club of America S. over six furlongs.

This raises the question of whether a mile and a quarter will ultimately suit Code of Honor. I will be surprised if it doesn't, as Noble Mission's Group 1 wins were gained at up to a mile and a half and the colt's broodmare sire, the versatile Dixie Union, stayed at least a mile and an eighth, as he showed in defeating Captain Steve, Milwaukee Brew and More Than Ready in the GI Haskell Invitational H.

Dixie Union had to be euthanized at the comparatively young age of 13, because of a deteriorating neurological problem. His comparatively early demise looks even more unfortunate now that his sons and daughters are doing well at stud. Two of his sons have sired Grade I winners, with Union Rags making such a bright start at Lane's End that his fee has risen from \$35,000 to \$60,000.

Code of Honor will be bidding to become the sixth Grade I winner produced by a daughter of Dixie Union, following the 2-year-old Breeders' Cup winners New Year's Day and Caledonia Road, the high-class filly Salty, the GI Met Mile winner Mor Spirit and the Del Mar Futurity winner Klimt. Three of these are by Lane's End's Quality Road.

Incidentally, anyone who tries to assess Noble Mission later this year will need to remember that he was sidelined by colic for part of his second season, so he has only 39 2-year-olds. However, he has around 80 live foals in his third crop, so has enough ammunition in his bid to justify Lane's End's belief that he can become "the next great European import."

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Motion Emotion to Honeybee cont. from p1



Motion Emotion | Coady Photography

Motion Emotion, a \$55,000 Keeneland September Yearling purchase, began her career with DeDomenico's west coast trainer Mike Puhich. Facing the boys, she finished fourth going 5 1/2 furlongs at Emerald Downs Sept. 9.

"Mike is a firm believer that a race equals two or three works," Van Berg said. "And he didn't really have her tightened down. He told us he was going to give her a start so we'd get two or three works into her and give her experience. She ran a decent race, but it wasn't lights out and it was against the boys, so it kind of worked out to plan."

Motion Emotion joined Van Berg's barn at Churchill Downs and made her second start over a sloppy strip in Louisville Nov. 1 where things decidedly did not go to plan.

"About four strides out of the gate, her back end went totally out from beneath her and she slipped," Van Berg recalled of that ninth-place effort. "The starter at Churchill told me, 'Tom, it was so violent and so quick, I can't believe she didn't go down. I thought she might have broken down because her legs went out from under her at such an awkward angle.'"

Cont. p6

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“And then she gathered herself up and the jock, for whatever reason, he went five or six wide around the turn to go head to head with the leader,” Van Berg continued. “She made this massive sweeping move and I thought, ‘I’m going to win by 10 by the way she’s moving.’ And then she got tired. The winner drew off to win by six. If the jock had just sat, we could have run a good second. We weren’t going to beat the winner with the start we had.”

Motion Emotion began her 2019 campaign with a front-running maiden score going six furlongs at Oaklawn Jan. 25. She stretched out to 1 1/16 miles last time out and glided home a never-in-doubt winner.

“I wasn’t surprised that she was as good as she was stretching out, but I didn’t know to what extent she would show that form,” Van Berg said of the Feb. 17 victory. “She had acted a lot like that in the morning where you’d see her do things so easily and so effortlessly and she covered a lot of ground. And she did it with such class and a mind set that showed she was enjoying what she was doing out there all the time. She is just a really neat filly to be around; she has a great mind on her.”

Both of Motion Emotion’s victories to date have been recorded in front-running fashion. Van Berg decided to test his charge’s ability to rate with a four-furlong drill in :50 flat (60/102) at Oaklawn last Saturday.

“It wasn’t the work we were looking for,” Van Berg admitted. “I wanted to set her in behind another pretty nice horse that we had. I didn’t want him to exert too much and take too much out of her, but I wanted to see how she would respond if she had to be behind horses. So he settled in behind and the lead horse kind of did the right fractions and Jon [Court] just kind of eased her up there, never pushed her up a ton and she never really got head to head, but she did it really easily and she came out like it was just a gallop. So hopefully we got enough out of it. She’s definitely fit, so hopefully we don’t need anymore. She came out of it great and she showed she could relax behind horses and can rate if she needs to.”

While there is a forecast for rain in Hot Springs Saturday, Van Berg said he isn’t too worried about an off track.

“She’s trained great on the off track and she’s worked good on the off track,” Van Berg said. “I think that [Churchill race] was just an isolated incident. Hopefully it was and, if it rains Saturday, we’ll be ok. We’ve nominated her to a couple different places just to keep our options open, but that’s where we are pointing to now. We’ll see what the track looks like on Saturday.”

The first future wager pool for the GI Kentucky Oaks opens Friday and Motion Emotion is listed at 50-1 on the morning line.

“I’d put money on her,” Van Berg said with a laugh. “I have faith in her. She’s a nice little filly. I don’t think at this point

we’re a Bellafina or one of those top ones, but I think we’re right in the next tier. If she takes another step forward, there is no telling how good she can be. She has the mind for it and she has the body for it. Everything she has done, it seems like she is that type of filly. Time will tell. Hopefully she’ll be able to keep on going towards the Oaks. That would be nice. It’s a long time between now and then. A lot of things could happen.”

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PROVEN STRATEGIES: THE 2018 TAX ACT'S HIDDEN GEM THAT MAY SAVE YOU MONEY

“Proven Strategies” is a new regular series in the TDN, presented by Keeneland. It is written by Len Green of The Green Group and DJ Stables, who won the 2018 GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies with Jaywalk (Cross Traffic).

Does Your Horse Business Income Qualify for the Special 20% Deduction?

When Congress announced a tax cut for C Corporations under the 2017 Tax Act, other business owners such as sole proprietors, shareholders of S Corporations, members of Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) and partners in partnerships all demanded tax relief as well.

Congress listened and enacted the new and complicated Qualified Business Income (QBI) deduction, also known as the IRC §199A deduction.

Great news: If you are eligible, you can claim the new deduction on your 2018 tax return.

Who is Eligible for the Special 20% Deduction?

Individuals, including Schedule C sole proprietors, as well as trusts and estates with qualified business income are eligible for the deduction.

S Corporations, LLCs and partnerships are flow through entities so they report each shareholder's, member's or partner's share of QBI components on Schedule K-1 in order for the individual shareholders, members and partners to be eligible to claim the deduction. **Cont. p7**

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What is QBI?

General Rule: QBI is the net amount of qualified items of income, gain, deduction and loss from any effectively connected U.S. trade or business.

Portfolio items, such as capital gains and losses, certain dividends and interest do not constitute QBI, nor do W-2 wages or guaranteed payments from partnerships.

Exceptions to General Rule

Congress then decided to exclude certain Specified Service Businesses activities.

Specified Service Businesses

Special rules apply to a trade or business involving the performance of services in the fields of health, law, accounting, actuarial science, performing arts, consulting, athletics, financial services, investing and investment management, trading, dealing in certain assets or any trade or business where the principal asset is the reputation or skill of one or more of its employees.

Since veterinarians fall under the Specified Service Businesses rule, the 20% QBI deduction is available in full when taxable income is below the \$315,000/\$157,500 thresholds (with a \$100,000/\$50,000 phase-out above those amounts). Assuming you did qualify, here is how to calculate the deduction.

How Does the QBI Deduction Work?

IRC §199A allows business owners to deduct up to 20% of business income, subject to these limitations:

- a. The deduction cannot exceed 20% of a taxpayer's taxable income exclusive of capital gains.
- b. Income from Specified Service Businesses qualifies only if the owner's taxable income is less than \$315,000 for a married couple or \$157,500 for all other taxpayers (then subject to a phase-out over the next \$100,000/\$50,000).
- c. For Non-Specified Service Businesses, if an owner's taxable income exceeds the \$315,000/\$157,000 thresholds, then the QBI deduction is the lesser of 20% of QBI or the greater of (i) 50% of W-2 wages paid or (ii) 25% of W-2 wages plus 2.5% of the original cost of owned property.

Now the Good News

Under the Specified Service Businesses rule, the reputation or skill of an owner or employee could "taint" the business.

Cont. p8

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However, since the Tax Law was issued, favorable IRS regulations have been issued limiting this language only to an individual who endorses a product, licenses its image or receives appearance fees.

As a result, we feel these individuals are now eligible to qualify for the 20% exclusion:

- Horse Trainers
- Pinhookers
- Farm Owners
- Jockeys
- Farmers

Here are a few examples to further assist you in the calculations if you now qualify:

a. Just as a picture is worth a thousand words, examples can illustrate the rules of the new QBI deduction.

As an example, suppose a married farm owner has \$100,000 of qualified business income in 2018, along with the \$50,000 of long-term capital gains and \$25,000 of deductions, so that taxable income is \$125,000. The QBI deduction is limited to the lesser of \$25,000 (20% of \$125,000) or \$15,000 (20% of \$75,000, the excess of taxable income of \$125,000 over capital gains of \$50,000).

b. In another example, suppose a high-income member of a horse-related LLC has pass-through business income of \$600,000. The LLC pays no W-2 wages, yet the taxpayer's share of the unadjusted basis of depreciable assets is \$8 million. The taxpayer is eligible for a QBI deduction of \$120,000, which is less than \$200,000 (2.5% of \$8 million).

c. In the right set of circumstances, generally when the taxpayer's taxable income is above the \$315,000/\$157,000 thresholds, aggregation of businesses may be beneficial, as the combining of W-2 wages and/or the inclusion of the unadjusted basis of assets from another business may serve to boost the QBI deduction calculation.

Certain ownership and similarity of characteristics need to be satisfied in order to make the aggregation election.

d. When a taxpayer owns several businesses or receives many K-1s from pass-through entities, one or more with positive QBI and one or more with negative QBI, the income and losses need to be integrated, such that the losses will serve to reduce the income, and, as a result, reduce the corresponding QBI

deduction.

Further, in the event such netting gives rise to an overall negative QBI, there will be no QBI deduction for the current year and the net negative QBI will carry forward to the next year's QBI calculation.

Summary

As you can observe, these new QBI rules are far from tax simplification.

We are available to guide you through the QBI maze and help you determine your eligibility and amount of deduction.

This deduction is available for the 2018 tax year.

Please take advantage of our one-hour free consultation for readers of this column.

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SO... WHO'S THE LEADING FIRST-CROP SIRE OF 2019?

It's always among the key questions on everyone's mind as 2-year-olds begin racing when Keeneland opens in April and the first-year sires have their first chance to show off their progeny. In this ongoing series, we have sought the opinion of several top judges as to who will be on top of the podium when 2019 is in the books.

Nick de Meric, de Meric Thoroughbred Sales COMPETITIVE EDGE

"I have to qualify any insights I give you by first saying any opinions are going to be based on horses we have in our care and the young sires whose progeny we have in our care. That may not cover the whole spectrum. And with some of the freshmen sires, I might only have one, so it's hard to make many predictions off such a small supply. There's also a precocity component to your question. You get a list of horses that people love right now and that doesn't necessarily mean they'll be around three, four years from now running in the (GI) Breeders' Cup Classic.

"But to cut to the chase and answer your question, I'm going to go out on a limb and say **Competitive Edge**. I really like the filly I have by him a lot. She looks precocious and she's tough. She's actually a bit of a witch. But she's just a great moving, competitive filly and the harder we lean on her the better she likes it. She's outworking horses that cost a lot more than she did. I'm really liking her at the moment. Everything she's doing, she's going in the right direction. **Cont. p9**



Competitive Edge, at Coolmore | *Coolmore photo*

"I love my **Constitution** filly and I have a **Commissioner** colt that I like. I have two **Bayern** colts that look very solid. But when it comes to precocity and early speed and horses that should have an affinity for 2-year-old racing I'm going to go with Competitive Edge. I've also heard other people mention the Competitive Edges that they have on their places and how much they like them. That means they are attracting quite a bit of attention and that underscores the confidence I have in this one filly I have been talking about."

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DE LUCA NAMED COLONIAL DOWNS RACING SECRETARY

by T.D. Thornton

Allison De Luca will be the Colonial Downs racing secretary for the upcoming 15-date summer meet. After six years of closure, the Virginia track will reopen under new ownership in 2019, staging an Aug. 8-Sept. 7 season.

De Luca has worked as the Tampa Bay Downs racing secretary since 2006. Prior to that she was the assistant racing secretary at Churchill Downs from 1996 to 2006. She has also served as the Keeneland Race Course stakes coordinator and has worked as an official for the Breeders' Cup.

When De Luca was hired in 1987 for a five-year stint as the racing secretary at now-defunct Sportsman's Park in Illinois, she was reported to be the first woman in the country to be named racing secretary at a commercial track.

A graduate of the Race Track Industry Program at the University of Arizona, De Luca has been involved in the horse racing industry in official capacities at racing jurisdictions in Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey and Pennsylvania since 1978.

"I am looking forward to being part of Virginia racing at Colonial Downs and the efforts to bring competitive horse racing back to the commonwealth," De Luca said in a Colonial press release. "This will be an exciting endeavor as we attract preeminent races to New Kent, including the Virginia Derby, the pinnacle of Virginia horse racing."

Purse levels and a stakes schedule are pending, but Colonial has already targeted Aug. 31 as the return date for the Virginia Derby, which was previously a Grade II stakes.

Colonial's 600-unit historic horse racing operation, which will fuel purses, is on schedule to go live at the refurbished venue in mid-April. The 1,000-stall stable area opens July 25.

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MADAKET STABLES BUYS INTO TIKHVIN FLEW, COMEDIAN

Sol Kumin's Madaket Stables has purchased a minority interest in 3-year-old colts Comedian (Into Mischief) and Tikhvin Flew (Street Sense). They will both run under the ownership of Bloom Racing Stable and Madaket Stables, carrying the Bloom Racing Stable silks. Tikhvin Flew is scheduled to run in Saturday's GIII Gotham S. at Aqueduct, while Comedian broke his maiden last out going a mile Feb. 18 at Oaklawn. Both colts are trained by Steve Asmussen. Madaket and Bloom had previously partnered on MGIW Midnight Bloom (Midnight Lute).

"Sol and I have been very lucky together in the past and we are extremely excited about where both of these talented colts will take us," said Bloom Racing Stables Managing Partner Jeffrey Bloom.

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TDN CRITERIA

The races covered in the TDN are as follows:

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

2019 Kentucky Derby Future Wager Pool 3
March 8-10

#	Horse	ML
1	Anothertwistafate (Scat Daddy)	50-1
2	Bourbon War (Tapit)	12-1
3	Code of Honor (Noble Mission {GB})	8-1
4	Country House (Lookin at Lucky)	50-1
5	Dream Maker (Tapit)	50-1
6	Galilean (Uncle Mo)	50-1
7	Game Winner (Candy Ride {Arg})	5-1
8	Gunmetal Gray (Exchange Rate)	30-1
9	Harvey Wallbanger (Congrats)	30-1
10	Hidden Scroll (Hard Spun)	12-1
11	Improbable (City Zip)	8-1
12	Instagrاند (Into Mischief)	10-1
13	Intrepid Heart (Tapit)	50-1
14	Mind Control (Stay Thirsty)	30-1
15	Mucho Gusto (Mucho Macho Man)	20-1
16	Roadster (Quality Road)	15-1
17	Signalman (General Quarters)	30-1
18	Spinoff (Hard Spun)	50-1
19	Tax (Arch)	30-1
20	Vekoma (Candy Ride {Arg})	20-1
21	War of Will (War Front)	10-1
22	Well Defined (With Distinction)	50-1
23	Win Win Win (Hat Trick {Jpn})	50-1
24	All Other 3YOs	4-1

2019 Kentucky Oaks Future Wager Pool 1
March 8-10

#	Horse	ML
1	Bellafina (Quality Road)	5-1
2	Brill (Medaglia d'Oro)	30-1
3	Champagne Anyone (Street Sense)	20-1
4	Chasing Yesterday (Tapit)	8-1
5	Dunbar Road (Quality Road)	20-1
6	Enaya Alrabb (Uncle Mo)	15-1
7	Eres Tu (Malibu Moon)	30-1
8	Feedback (Violence)	20-1
9	Graceful Princess (Tapit)	50-1
10	Jaywalk (Cross Walk)	8-1
11	Jeltrin (Tapizar)	15-1
12	Liora (Candy Ride {Arg})	15-1
13	Marathon Queen (Super Saver)	50-1
14	Mother Mother (Pioneerof the Nile)	10-1
15	Motion Emotion (Take Charge Indy)	50-1
16	Orra Moor (Orb)	50-1
17	Point of Honor (Curlin)	30-1
18	Power Gal (Jpn) (Empire Maker)	50-1
19	Queen of Beas (Flatter)	50-1
20	Restless Rider (Distorted Humor)	8-1
21	Serengeti Empress (Alternation)	10-1
22	Tasting the Stars (Bodemeister)	50-1
23	Violencia (Violence)	50-1
24	All other 3YO fillies	8-1

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2019 Leading Dirt Sires of 3yos

for stallions standing in North America through Monday, Mar. 4

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

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	Into Mischief <i>(2005) by Harlan's Holiday Crops: 8</i>	--	2	--	1	--	--	52	11	64,000	638,086
										Comedian	
2	Super Saver <i>(2007) by Maria's Mon Crops: 6</i>	1	3	1	2	--	--	30	8	301,000	552,001
										Super Steed	
3	Paynter <i>(2009) by Awesome Again Crops: 3</i>	1	1	--	--	--	--	46	15	94,000	472,715
										Needs Supervision	
4	Tapit <i>(2001) by Pulpit Crops: 12</i>	--	4	--	3	--	--	28	6	101,600	464,486
										Bourbon War	
5	Curlin <i>(2004) by Smart Strike Crops: 8</i>	2	3	--	--	--	--	35	8	63,480	463,493
										Global Campaign	
6	Candy Ride (Arg) <i>(1999) by Ride the Rails Crops: 12</i>	1	3	1	3	--	--	22	7	120,000	438,209
										Sparky Ville	
7	Congrats <i>(2000) by A.P. Indy Crops: 10</i>	1	1	1	1	--	--	36	10	208,320	436,812
										Harvey Wallbanger	
8	Cairo Prince <i>(2011) by Pioneerof the Nile Crops: 2</i>	2	3	--	--	--	--	32	8	96,600	423,337
										Oncewewerebrothers	
9	Violence <i>(2010) by Medaglia d'Oro Crops: 3</i>	2	4	1	2	--	--	36	8	89,280	419,662
										Feedback	
10	Trappe Shot <i>(2007) by Tapit Crops: 5</i>	1	2	--	1	--	--	29	9	96,600	417,095
										Captain Von Trapp	
11	Quality Road <i>(2006) by Elusive Quality Crops: 6</i>	1	2	1	1	--	--	21	3	240,000	404,677
										Bellafina	
12	War Front <i>(2002) by Danzig Crops: 10</i>	1	1	1	1	--	--	2	2	360,000	404,000
										War of Will	
13	Munnings <i>(2006) by Speightstown Crops: 6</i>	1	3	--	--	--	--	36	10	45,105	363,303
										Fancy Dress Party	
14	Jimmy Creed <i>(2009) by Distorted Humor Crops: 3</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	17	9	70,300	350,920
										Regal Retort	
15	Hard Spun <i>(2004) by Danzig Crops: 9</i>	--	2	--	1	--	--	37	10	50,600	347,328
										Hidden Scroll	

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BLACK TYPE

IN ORDER OF PURSE:

MARDI GRAS S., \$74,250, Fair Grounds, 3-5, 4yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2fT, 1:04.21, gd.

1--**STUDENT BODY**, 117, m, 5, Colonel John--Stormy Antics, by Stormy Atlantic. (\$19,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP). **1ST BLACK TYPE WIN.** O-Gary Broad; B-C. Kidder, N. Cole, J. K. & Linda Griggs (KY); T-Chrisopher Davis; J-Miguel Mena. \$45,000. Lifetime Record: 9-5-0-0, \$158,556.

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FELD FAMILY FIND

2--**La Dame Blanche**, 118, f, 4, Point of Entry--Adjudication, by Giant's Causeway. O-Ralph Ebert & Patrick Waresk; B-Ralph Ebert & Glendalough LLC (KY); T-Ian R. Wilkes. \$15,000.

3--**Excessivespending**, 123, m, 5, Shackleford--Excessing, by In Excess (Ire). (\$35,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP; \$65,000 2yo '16 EASMAY). O-Joey Keith Davis; B-BMWZ Stables (KY); T-Chris A. Hartman. \$7,500.

 **Hidden Brook Foaled, Raised & Sold** 

Woodford Trained

Margins: HF, NK, HF. Odds: 11.40, 4.40, 4.00.

Also Ran: She's All Skeet, Contributing, Golden Days, Miss Southern Miss, Oxford Comma. Scratched: Sanity, Orecchiette.

Student Body, fifth in the 2017 GII Prioress S., made only two 2018 starts, winning an optional claimer at Arlington Park Sept. 20 and finishing last after taking a bad step in the Nov. 4 Dream Supreme S. at Churchill Downs. She was a front-running winner in an optional claimer at Fair Grounds Feb. 10 last time out. Making her first turf appearance, the bay mare zipped out to the early lead and was in charge through fractions of :22.57 and :46.55. She was briefly headed by La Dame Blanche at midstretch, but battled back resolutely for a first stakes victory.

Cont. p2



Student Body | Hodges Photography

Student Body's half-sister by Congrats sold for \$20,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October Yearling Sale. Stormy Antics, a half-sister to the dam of champion juvenile filly Folklore (Tiznow) and to the dam of graded stakes winner Tizahit (Tiznow), produced a filly by Tiznow this year. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**



IN ORDER OF PURSE:

5th-Fair Grounds, \$49,000, Alw (C)/Opt. Clm (\$80,000), 3-5, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:44.55, ft.

EXCLAMATION POINT (c, 4, Concord Point--Sambuca Classica, by Cat Thief), a half-brother to champion juvenile Classic Empire (Pioneerof the Nile, MGISW, \$2,520,220), opened his career with three straight wins at Oaklawn and Keeneland last spring. Sidelined for 10 months, he resurfaced with a fourth-place effort over a sloppy Oaklawn oval Feb. 10. The 5-2 shot set the early tempo through an opening quarter in :25.19 and was joined by Mighty Manfred (Afleet Alex) down the backstretch. Those two exchanged blows through a half in :49.68 and three-quarters in 1:14.11. Exclamation Point looked to get the better of his grudging foe in deep stretch and just held off the late rush of Hawaakom (Jazil) to win by a head. Mighty Manfred was a neck back in third. It was another half-length back to favored Tenfold (Curlin). Last year's GII Jim Dandy S. winner, making his first start since finishing seventh in the GI Travers S., stalked the pacesetters throughout and was outkicked late while racing on the wrong lead. In addition to Classic Empire, Exclamation Point is also a half-brother to Anytime Magic (Fusaichi Pegasus, SW, \$202,945) and Uptown Twirl (Twirling Candy, SW, \$170,714). Uptown Twirl sold to Three Chimneys Farm for \$1.075 million as a 3-year-old at the 2016 Keeneland November sale and produced a colt by Pioneerof the Nile last year before being bred back to that sire. Sambuca Classica also produced a colt by Pioneerof the Nile last year. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** Lifetime Record: 5-4-0-0, \$172,600.

O-Steven & Brandi Nicholson & Flurry Racing Stables LLC;
B-Steven Nicholson & Brandi Nicholson (KY); T-Brad H. Cox.

7th-Fair Grounds, \$49,000, Alw (C)/Opt. Clm (\$80,000), 3-5, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10.60, ft.

SALT BAE (f, 4, Paynter--Agatha, by Distorted Humor), a debut winner over this track last January, was second behind 'TDN Rising Star' Mia Mischief (Into Mischief) in the Mar. 24 Purple Mountain S. at Oaklawn and fourth behind that foe in the GII Eight Belles S. May 4. She was coming off a front-running 1 1/2-length over track and trip Feb. 2. The 6-5 favorite pulled her way to the early lead and raced keenly through fractions of :23.01 and :46.22. She drew clear down the lane and was under wraps as Divine Queen (Divine Park) came running late to miss the winner one length on the wire. Salt Bae was a \$100,000 KEEJAN yearling. The unraced Agatha, in foal to Liam's Map, sold for \$45,000 at the 2017 Keeneland November sale. The mare, a half-sister to G1 Prix de l'Abbaye and G1 July Cup winner Agnes World (Danzig) and from the family of Grade I winners Tourist (Tiznow), Librettist (Danzig) and Dubai Destination (Kingmambo), produced a Liam's Map filly in 2018 and was bred back to Astern (Aus). Her Candy Ride (Arg) colt sold for \$700,000 to St. Elias and Repole Stable at last year's Keeneland September Yearling Sale. **Click for [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** Lifetime Record: SP, 15-4-4-0, \$178,465. O-Naveed Chowhan; B-Fred W. Hertrich III & John D. Fielding (KY); T-Bernard S. Flint.



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2nd-Sunland, \$20,500, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$8,000), 3-5, 3yo/up, 5f, :55.45, ft.

SECULAR NATION (c, 4, Distorted Humor--Adrina, by A.P. Indy) opened his career with a 7 1/2-length romp in the Duke City Sprint S. at Albuquerque Downs last June and was second in that track's Charles Taylor Derby July 21. He returned from six months on the sidelines to finish behind Runaway Ghost (Ghostzapper) in that GIII Sunland Derby winner's return to the races in the Feb. 2 Ft. Bliss S. The 1-10 favorite chased the pacesetter through an opening quarter in :21.06, took the lead into the stretch and bravely outbattled Southern Mojo (Hold Me Back) to the wire to win by a neck. Secular Nation was a \$50,000 KEESEP yearling. His half-sister by Union Rags sold for \$20,000 at last year's Keeneland September Yearling Sale and his now 3-year-old half-sister by Curlin brought \$110,000 at that auction in 2017. Adrina, a daughter of multiple graded stakes winner Ready's Gal (More Than Ready), is a half-sister to graded winner Machen (Distorted Humor). She was bred to The Factor last year. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** Lifetime Record: SP, 4-2-2-0, \$71,300.

O-J Kirk & Judy Robison; B-Courtlandt Farm (KY); T-Henry Dominguez.



IN ORDER OF PURSE:

9th-Fair Grounds, \$43,000, Msw, 3-5, 3yo, 6f, 1:11.21, ft.

R ONE (c, 3, Candy Ride {Arg}--Solitary Life, by Grand Slam) was well beaten in three starts at Churchill Downs last fall, going to the sidelines after a 12th-place finish over 6 1/2 furlongs in Louisville Nov. 25. The 7-1 shot tracked the pace, took over with a four-wide move turning for home and held off Flatout Winner (Flat Out) to win by a half-length. A \$70,000 KEEJAN yearling, R One RNA'd for \$135,000 as a KEESEP yearling before selling for \$260,000 after working a furlong in :10 1/5 at last year's OBS April sale. Solitary Life, in foal to Violence, sold for \$50,000 at the 2017 Keeneland November sale. The mare, a half-sister to South African champion Overarching (Arch) and to graded stakes winner Temeraine (Arch), as well as to the dam of multiple graded stakes winner Cambodia (War Front), produced a filly by Violence in 2018 and was bred back to Flashback.

Solitary Life's Blame filly brought \$90,000 at last year's Keeneland September Yearling Sale and was a \$35,000 Keeneland November weanling. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-0, \$30,229.

O-Sh Rashid bin Humaid Al Nuaimi; B-Michael Niall (KY);

T-Steven M. Asmussen.



SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Atreides (Medaglia d'Oro), Hill 'n' Dale Farms, \$6,500
102 foals of racing age/13 winners/2 black-type winners
1-Mahoning Valley, Msw 1m, ITSALLABOUTMEMEME, 2-1

Guilt Trip (Pulpit), Red River Farms, \$2,500
67 foals of racing age/7 winners/1 black-type winner
4-Sam Houston Race, Msw 1m, GOBLER, 15-1
\$3,000 ESL MIX yrl

Mucho Macho Man (Macho Uno), Adena Springs, \$15,000
122 foals of racing age/13 winners/2 black-type winners
4-Sam Houston Race, Msw 1m, DAK DA MAN, 8-5

Tidal Volume (Tapit), Poplar Creek Horse Center, \$3,000
47 foals of racing age/3 winners/0 black-type winners
8-Mahoning Valley, Msw 6f, CITY VOLUME, 10-1

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IN JAPAN:

Fossamagna, c, 3, **War Front**--River Belle (GB) (GSW & GISP-US, GSW-Eng, \$289,613), by Lahib. Nakayama, 3-2, Alw (\$123k), 1600mT. Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, \$177,679. O-Kazumi Yoshida; B-Lofts Hall Stud (KY); T-Kazuo Fujisawa. *1/2 to Strathnaver (GB) (Oasis Dream {GB}), GSW & GISP-US, \$463,070; and Siyaadah (GB) (Shamardal), SW-UAE, \$236,922. **\$275,000 RNA Ylg '17 KEESEP; \$725,000 2yo '18 OBSAPR.

VIDEO



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IN JAPAN:

Madras Check, f, 3, **Malibu Moon**--Gloat, by Mr. Greeley. Nakayama, 3-3, Alw (\$123k), 1800m. Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-0, \$163,214 O-Kazuko Yoshida; B-Christine Katherine Hayden (ON); T-Makoto Saito. *\$285,000 Ylg '17 FTSAUG; \$500,000 2yo '18 FTFMAR.



TODAY'S FEATURED VIDEO REPLAYS

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Exclamation Point (Concord Point) back to the winner's circle on Mardi Gras day in the Big Easy.



ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

3rd-Fair Grounds, \$48,240, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 3-5, 3yo, f, 1m 70y, 1:44.69, ft.

FUGITIVE LADY (f, 3, Guilt Trip--Soiled Dove, by Thunder Gulch) Lifetime Record: 6-2-0-1, \$62,620. O/T-Joe McKellar; B-Leonard Warf & Joe McKellar (LA). *\$2,000 RNA Ylg '17 ESLYRL.

4th-Fair Grounds, \$46,000, (S), (C)/Opt. Clm (\$35,000), 3-5, 4yo/up, 5 1/2ft, 1:04.27, yl.

WIN LION WIN (g, 8, Lion Tamer--Twinwinwin, by Twining) Lifetime Record: MSP, 41-9-5-9, \$326,432. O-Farm d'Allie Racing Stable; B-Rebecca Farm LLC (LA); T-Allison Ramsay-Banks. *\$40,000 Ylg '12 BSCYRL. **Full to Heavy on the Themister, MSW, \$725,350.

6th-Fair Grounds, \$42,000, 3-5, (C), 4/up, 1 1/8mT, 1:51.95, gd. **TAKE THAT FOR DATA (g, 4, Pioneerof the Nile--Forty Love {MSP}, by Forty Niner)** Lifetime Record: 7-2-1-1, \$66,624. O-Ten Strike Racing & Monomoy Stables, LLC; B-Randal Family Trust (KY); T-Brad H. Cox. *\$190,000 RNA Ylg '16 KEESEP; \$135,000 Ylg '16 FTKOCT. **1/2 to Bear Character (Dixie Union), MSW & MGSP, \$265,868; Forty Tales (Tale of the Cat), MGSW, \$666,789.



3rd-Mahoning Valley, \$32,700, (S), 3-5, (NW2X), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:12.15, ft.

LITTLE BLAKER (g, 4, Regal Ransom--Sweet Jody, by Value Plus) Lifetime Record: 21-5-3-4, \$110,321. O-Tommy Jones Jr.; B-Raimonde Farms LTD & Michael Rone (OH); T-David Wolochuk. *\$3,200 RNA Ylg '16 KEEJAN.

5th-Mahoning Valley, \$25,000, (NW3X)/Opt. Clm (\$25,000), 3-5, 3yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:05.06, ft.

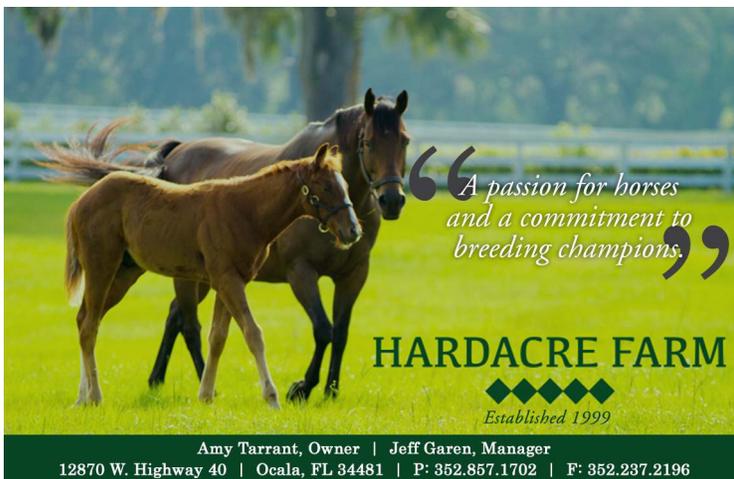
ANECHOIC (g, 5, Mineshaft--Perfectly Quiet {SP, \$113,081}, by Quiet American) Lifetime Record: 15-10-0-0, \$109,070. O-Ron Paolucci Racing, LLC; B-J. S. McDonald (KY); T-Jeffrey A. Radosevich. *\$55,000 RNA Ylg '15 KEEJAN; \$32,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP. **1/2 to Silent Moon (Malibu Moon), MSP, \$156,670.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Ms. Maxima, m, 6, **Albertus Maximus**--Holy Akadya, by Holy Bull. Mahoning Valley, 3-5, (S), 1m, 1:43.86. B-Jac Tomasello (OH).



- ALBERTUS MAXIMUS**, Ms. Maxima, m, 6, o/o Holy Akadya, by Holy Bull. MSW, 3-5, Mahoning Valley
- CANDY RIDE (ARG)**, R One, c, 3, o/o Solitary Life, by Grand Slam. MSW, 3-5, Fair Grounds
- COLONEL JOHN**, Student Body, m, 5, o/o Stormy Antics, by Stormy Atlantic. Mardi Gras S., 3-5, Fair Grounds
- CONCORD POINT**, Exclamation Point, c, 4, o/o Sambuca Classica, by Cat Thief. AOC, 3-5, Fair Grounds
- DISTORTED HUMOR**, Secular Nation, c, 4, o/o Adrina, by A.P. Indy. AOC, 3-5, Sunland
- GUILT TRIP**, Fugitive Lady, f, 3, o/o Soiled Dove, by Thunder Gulch. AOC, 3-5, Fair Grounds
- LION TAMER**, Win Lion Win, g, 8, o/o Twinwinwin, by Twining. AOC, 3-5, Fair Grounds
- MINESHAFT**, Anechoic, g, 5, o/o Perfectly Quiet, by Quiet American. AOC, 3-5, Mahoning Valley
- PAYNTER**, Salt Bae, f, 4, o/o Agatha, by Distorted Humor. AOC, 3-5, Fair Grounds
- PIONEER OF THE NILE**, Take That for Data, g, 4, o/o Forty Love, by Forty Niner. ALW, 3-5, Fair Grounds
- REGAL RANSOM**, Little Blaker, g, 4, o/o Sweet Jody, by Value Plus. ALW, 3-5, Mahoning Valley



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BRIDGING THE GAP: DE BURGH'S GLOBAL VIEW



Hubie de Burgh, Will Johnson and Laragh de Burgh
at Goffs | Alayna Cullen

By Kelsey Riley

If you're still in any way doubting just how global the Thoroughbred business really is, take a look at Hubie de Burgh's calendar thus far in 2019.

After a week on the Gold Coast of Australia buying yearlings for local syndicators Darby Racing, the Irish-based agent jetted over to New Zealand for the Karaka yearling sales buying for Sheikh Hamdan and Darby Racing, and then on to Sydney for Inglis's Classic yearling sale. In between, there were stock inspections in the Hunter Valley. A week after returning home to Ireland with sales receipts for 19 yearlings, and with the internal clocks barely having had time to reset, de Burgh had bounced over to England to check in on some clients. That's where I at last connected with him by phone, over a crackling connection as he raced between stud farms in the back country.

"You have to have a global mindset to financially survive," de Burgh reasoned. "I personally spent five months of last year away from my office and already six weeks of this year in Australia. The result of this meant that between Will Johnson and myself, my company de Burgh Equine brokered deals in 13 different countries around the world in 2018. **Cont. p2**

CRAVEN CATALOGUE RELEASED

Tattersalls has released the catalogue for its Craven Breeze Up Sale on Apr. 16 and 17, with 147 juveniles set to breeze on the Rowley Mile on Apr. 15 before being offered at Park Paddocks. This year's graduates will be looking to follow in the footsteps of the 43 stakes winning graduates of the Craven sale since 2016, which includes last year's GI Natalma S. winner La Pelosa (Ire) (Dandy Man {Ire}).

Nineteen juveniles are out of stakes-winning mares, including an Oasis Dream (GB) filly out of E.P. Taylor S. winner Lahaleeb (Ire) (Redback {GB}) (lot 112) and a War Front colt out of Moyglare Stud S. winner Quarter Moon (Ire) (Sadler's Wells) (lot 139), and therefore a half-brother to G1 Pretty Polly S. winner Diamondsandrubies (Ire) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}). There are 23 siblings to stakes winners catalogued, including a Dark Angel (Ire) half-brother to G1 Dewhurst S. winner Intense Focus (Giant's Causeway) (lot 62). **Cont. p6**

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

PEDIGREE INSIGHTS: CODE OF HONOR

Andrew Caulfield analyzes the pedigree of recent GI Fountain of Youth S. winner Code of Honor (Noble Mission{GB}). **Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.**

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BRIDGING THE GAP by Kelsey Riley



De Burgh's Global View cont. from p1

It is very noticeable that in the last 10 years there have been a number of breeders and bloodstock entities investing and trading in all the major markets in the northern and southern

hemispheres at the same time."

If de Burgh was at all worn out from his travels, it didn't show through the enthusiasm in his voice. It wouldn't have hurt either that overnight Time To Reign (Aus) (Time For War {Aus}), a colt he had purchased as a yearling with Darby Racing, had won the G2 Silver Slipper S. in Australia, stamping himself a leading contender for the G1 Golden Slipper on Mar. 23. De Burgh was reflecting on Time To Reign's money-making potential, both in the purses he'd now be aiming for and the way his stud fee had likely shot into the stratosphere in a matter of minutes.



Silver Slipper winner Time To Reign | Bronwen Healy

"The Silver Slipper was a \$250,000 race, and we're going for a \$3.5-million race in a month, the Golden Slipper," de Burgh said of the half-brother to Darby Racing's 2017 Slipper winner She Will Reign (Aus) (Manhattan Rain {Aus}).

De Burgh said the Australian Thoroughbred business is as healthy as ever, and made no bones about the fact that he thinks it's the country's outstanding prizemoney structure that fuels it all.

"When you're racing in Sydney or Melbourne, a standard race on a Saturday is A\$125,000 minimum," he said. "But even if they don't quite make it in the city and you move them out to the country, they're still racing for A\$30,000 out there."

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De Burgh's Global View cont.

"You can put your hand on your heart in Australia and look a guy in the eye and say, 'give me some money to go in on a horse because you have a chance of getting it back again.'"

Genuine love of the sport runs deep Down Under, but it is likely these prizemoney levels are what fuel so many every day Aussies to take a small share of a racehorse. Syndicators in Australia are capped at spending \$500,000 including costs on any one horse, and that in turn has made spending in the middle market quite competitive.

"Darby Racing has to work under the syndication rules, so they're only allowed to buy horses up to a certain value, and that includes all the costs," de Burgh said. "So that's why we're cut off at about A\$400,000. But even if we [could spend more], it was very hard to compete against the likes of China Horse Club, Henry Field, the Maktoums, James Harron and some of these consortiums with American investment at the top level. We're more comfortable when we're trying to buy colts in the \$200,000 to \$350,000 bracket."

De Burgh described syndication as "the lifeblood of Australia."

"It's really interesting because I've now worked with Darby Racing for three years, so I've seen it from the grassroots and how many people follow them on Facebook and social media, and where they get their client base from," he said. "What's really interesting is that I went out last year for their open day and they had 600 people there just to see the horses. Parts of a lot of those horses were sold on that day, but the fact that up to 600 people turned up was quite incredible. And it wasn't held in Sydney, it was held an hour outside of Sydney."

Darby Racing's profile was no doubt boosted by its rags to riches Golden Slipper winner She Will Reign, but de Burgh stressed the importance of the network the company has built up on social media.

"Darby Racing buys a horse in the sales ring, and the moment it's bought, within 30 seconds of signing the buyers' contract, they have that out on their website," the agent said. "You will watch people hitting it, seeing what they've just bought. Registration of interest is shown within a minute of them actually buying the horse. That's because they've built such a big social network structure, and anyone doing that has to start from scratch. They're working with their trainers and the trainers will often take a percentage of the horse as well. Everyone is working together in Australia. They get good credit from the sales companies. You get to the racetrack and the racing clubs are giving you tickets. Everyone is working together to get the product into the fast lane."

While the top races in Europe are generally decided by a handful of superpowers, the prizes are generally spread much further in Australia.

IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

WINNING STREAKS: HOW DOES WINX RATE?

John Berry looks at some of the great winning runs of racing history. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.](#)

De Burgh's Global View cont.

"In Australia, you can watch a group race with 10 runners and they're probably owned by 10 different people, and seven of those are syndicators," de Burgh said. "A lot of the good horses in the last three or four years have been owned by syndicates. The charm of Australian racing is that a guy can walk in and put A\$2,000 in and own 1% of a horse. For example, we bought She Will Reign for \$20,000 as a yearling. Those people who invested in her put in A\$2,500 each. She won over A\$3-million in prizemoney and then we sold her to Japan for considerable millions. Those guys' original A\$20,000 purchased picked them up millions between the prizemoney and what she was sold for."

YOU CAN PUT YOUR HAND ON YOUR
HEART IN AUSTRALIA AND LOOK A GUY
IN THE EYE AND SAY, 'GIVE ME SOME
MONEY TO GO IN ON A HORSE
BECAUSE YOU HAVE A CHANCE OF
GETTING IT BACK AGAIN.'

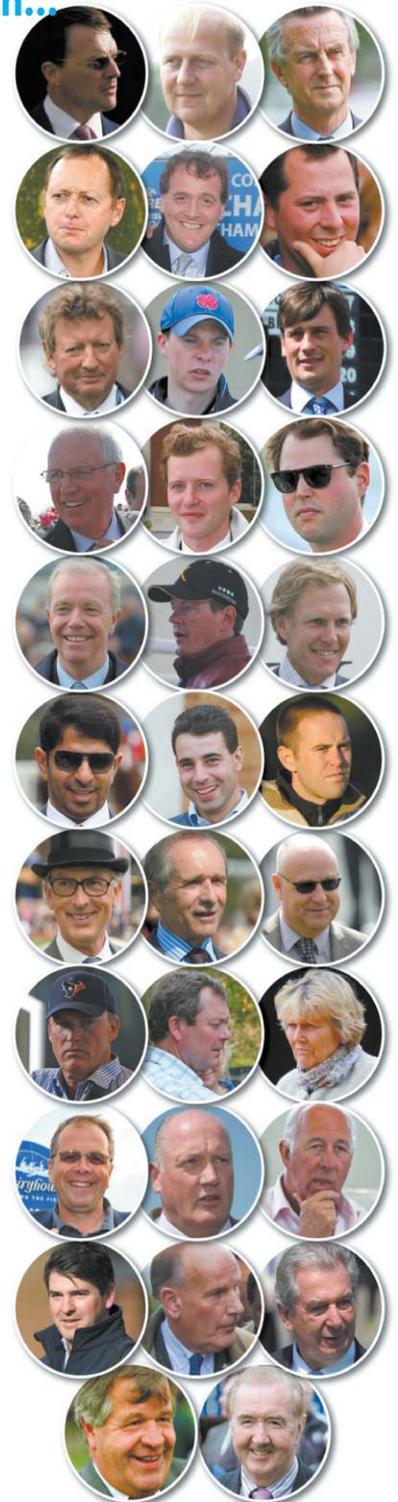
Hubie de Burgh

De Burgh explained that the monopoly of owners in Britain is exacerbated by the fact that many promising young horses are purchased privately and change silks early in their careers. Smaller owners in Britain are much more motivated to trade their horses on because they're less likely to recoup their costs through purses. In Australia, de Burgh noted, it's much harder to seal private deals; small owners would rather hang on to their horses, enjoy the ride and scoop up some big prizemoney pots.

"In Europe you can have a smaller owner with a horse that suddenly wins his maiden or a listed-race really impressively," de Burgh said. "He's either sold to Hong Kong or to one of the big entities, because the prizemoney is so bad. So they trade on. A lot of the time in Australia, when there are 20 guys in a horse, they hang on to it, because if someone is offering A\$1,000,000 and you divide that by 20, that's A\$50,000. That probably doesn't change anyone's lifestyle, and they haven't had to put much money into it and they're getting a lot of fun from it. So a lot of the time they don't sell them down there--they keep racing. We're seeing that in trying to buy horses in Australia to go to Hong Kong.

First 2YO's with...

- A. P. O'Brien x7
- Ed Dunlop x3
- Jim Bolger x2
- Fabrice Chappet x2
- Richard Hannon x2
- Charles Hills x2
- Mark Johnston x2
- Joseph O'Brien x2
- Fozzy Stack x2
- Mick Channon x2
- Henri-Francois Devin x2
- Charlie Fellowes x2
- Karl Burke x2
- Andrew Balding
- Michael Bell
- Saeed bin Suroor
- Marco Botti
- Chad Brown
- Roger Charlton
- Andre Fabre
- Richard Fahey
- John Gosden
- William Haggas
- Jessica Harrington
- Ger Lyons
- Willie McCreery
- Martyn Meade
- Hugo Palmer
- Sir Mark Prescott
- Jean-Claude Rouget
- Sir Michael Stoute
- D. K. Weld
- Pia Brandt
- Nicolas Clement
- Paul Cole
- Yan Durepaire
- James Fanshawe
- Richard Hughes
- Jamie Osborne
- John Quinn
- George Scott
- David Simcock
- Ed Vaughan
- Ed Walker
- Carlos & Yann Lerner



GLENEAGLES

Champion 2YO & brilliant miler by sire of sires GALILEO
Out of a full-sister to multiple Champion sire GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

COOLMORE

De Burgh's Global View cont.

"We're ringing them to offer them what we think the horse is worth, and we're finding out they've been offered double that. At home, the smaller guy's horse will pretty much always sell."

One place in Europe that it isn't easy to find a bargain is at the top of the public sales markets, where competition for the best stock is becoming more and more fierce. De Burgh said this trend is becoming especially pronounced as breeders begin to offer fewer and fewer of their top mares and fillies for sale.

"The problem is no one wants to sell their nice young mares anymore, and so the market is getting full of these 10-year-old mares that have already been exposed," he said. "If we have an order to go and buy a really big mare, we can't get one, because they're all in the hands of keepers and everyone is after the same horses. It's been like that for 20 years, but now it's getting more noticeable. Even some of the people we used to buy off, when you could walk in and buy a couple nice fillies, even they're keeping them now because they can't replace them either. There is no supply because it's so limited."

Another trend that is becoming more pronounced in Europe is the rising fashionability of speed sires. It allows for an interesting juxtaposition with Australia, which has hinged its reputation on sprinters for years. De Burgh reflected that there is nothing wrong with Europeans producing sprinters, but doing so at the expense of preserving the continent's middle-distance and staying lines is dangerous because whereas those types of horses are routinely sold to race on in Australia, America and Hong Kong, there is little overseas market for precocious European sprinters.

"A lot of the owners that are coming in now want a quick return on investment," de Burgh said. "So everybody is trying to breed a sharp horse that will come out the first couple months and race at Royal Ascot if it's good enough. The problem then is that a lot of these horses that are five-furlong sprinters, where do you sell them on to afterwards? America has their own sprinters, they don't need them. Australia are world-class with their sprinters. So what do you do with them? The Middle Eastern countries aren't looking for five-furlong horses.

"We're breeding a horse that is a quick-fix solution in the early part of its career, where in Australia you look at the horses and they look fast, they look like Usain Bolts, they look like speed, speed, speed—but there are a lot of races for them. No one in Australia wants back-end 2-year-olds, but their quick-fix solution to that is they just go to Europe and buy a 10-furlong horse as a 3- or 4-year-old.

"On the other hand, when Australians give the Derby horse a chance, they do get rewarded, like with Dundee for example. He's absolutely flying at the moment.

"So if some guys in Australia would take a chance and start to stand some of these horses, and they started winning a lot of races, I'm sure people would come back and buy them. We go to New Zealand to buy Savabeels; they're later maturing, but

they're very, very good mile to 10-furlong horses. When we were in New Zealand this year we bought a Savabeel for Darby and one for Sheikh Hamdan."

De Burgh said that as long as Europeans continue to breed top-class milers, they will have the product that overseas buyers are looking for. He praised the entities that are keeping these branches alive.

"Australia wants the stayers and America will take the mile to 10-furlong horses, so we've got to stay strong in Europe breeding these kinds of horses, because we're such an export market, and we're the first

place everyone comes to buy horses. This is going to become even more noticeable as the U.S., one of the biggest and most important markets in the world, seems to be laying on more and more turf races.

"Thank goodness for John Magnier and the Maktoums, Prince Khalid and others, because they will put horses to stud that are 10-furlong horses. Someone has to do it," he said. "You look at Europe now and you have a lot of really good milers. You do have the likes of Kodiak and Dark Angel who are really popular because they'll be out early winning a lot of the good 2-year-old races, but you also have some really good milers coming through. As long as people are breeding to get a mile, it's not just going to be cheap speed. Cheap speed is the problem. You have in Europe horses like Lope de Vega, who I think is a very good stallion; you're not using him to get mile and a half horses, you're using him to get mile to 10-furlong horses.



Hubie de Burgh touts Cracksman as a young sire to watch | *Racing Post*

De Burgh’s Global View cont.

“It comes back to again, thank goodness for people like the Maktoums, Prince Khalid Abdullah, Coolmore; they’re actually keeping these horses in Europe. If they were selling overseas all the time we wouldn’t be world leaders at breeding turf horses.”

De Burgh pointed out a few sires he likes at the moment that he considers value for their fee.

“Exceed and Excel is just a proper, Group 1-producing stallion and he’s now turning into a very good broodmare sire. I’d love to have fillies and colts by him,” he said.

“Zoffany started off so well, and then he got a much higher grade of mare and the produce of those are just coming onto the track now. There’s every reason to think he could bounce back and get a whole bunch of group winners and the next thing he’s back up on top again. He had seven stakes-winning 2-year-olds last year. Fashion is a very fickle thing in our business, and I’ve seen stallions go in and out of favour three times in a year.

“Cracksman, I just think was a very good racehorse, and he’s standing at a fraction of the price of his father [£25,000],” he added. “He’s a nice horse who trained on and at that sort of money I think he’s worth taking a chance with.”

In America, de Burgh is high on Kantharos, who made a fast start in Florida before moving to Hill ‘n’ Dale in 2017. His first Kentucky-bred progeny are yearlings this year.

“Kantharos, he got a lot of winners early on and then came up to stand at one of the best stallion-producing farms in America, Hill ‘n’ Dale,” de Burgh said. “He’s getting a much better quality mare, and I think he’ll never be that price [\$15,000] again.”

In a business where intercontinental ties are rapidly increasing, it is important, de Burgh advocates, to operate with a global mindset not only for the good of one’s business, but for the greater good of the industry.

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Buyers will also have a chance to get their hands on first-crop progeny of sires like Gleneagles (Ire), Golden Horn (Ire), Gutaifan (Ire), Hot Streak (Ire), Make Believe (GB), Muhaarar (GB), Night of Thunder (Ire) and Outstrip (GB). Triple Crown winner American Pharoah is among the American-based first-season sires represented.

An entry fee of £1,000 will also make all horses from the Craven sale eligible for the new £15,000 Craven Breeze Up Bonus. Participating owners will receive the bonus if their 2019 Craven Breeze Up purchase wins a class two, three or four 2-year-old maiden or novice race in Britain or an open 2-year-old maiden in Ireland. It is expected there will be more than 300 qualifying races.

“The Craven Breeze Up Sale consistently produces top-class racehorses and GI Natalma S. winner La Pelosa was one of nine group/listed performers to have already come from last year’s sale along with group winner Queen Of Bermuda,” said Tattersalls Chairman Edmond Mahony. “The £15,000 Craven Breeze Up Bonus is an exciting new incentive for buyers and there are six lots who are already qualified for the £25,000 October Book 1 Bonus, which would result in a massive £40,000 in additional prizemoney for a horse winning a qualifying race. The quality catalogue of 147 lots has a strong representation of 2-year-olds by many of the world’s most sought-after sires and the sale looks certain to attract the usual international mix of buyers to Tattersalls.”

[\(Return to story p1\)](#)

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EUROPEAN NEWS

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Craven Catalogue Released cont. from p1

Also catalogued are a Kodiak (GB) half-brother to Trip To Paris (GB) (Champs Elysees {GB}) (lot 107), a Night Of Thunder (Ire) half-sister to dual Grade I winner Wigmore Hall (Ire) (High Chaparral {Ire}) (lot 116) and an Invincible Spirit (Ire) half-brother to the G1 Grand Prix de Paris winner Erupt (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}) (lot 122).



Grade I-winning Craven graduate La Pelosa | Coady

STRONG INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE FOR GUINEAS

The entries for the first two British Classics of the season have been unveiled, with 75 colts engaged in the QIPCO 2000 Guineas on May 4 and 58 fillies in the QIPCO 1000 Guineas a day later.

The list is headed by the champion 2-year-old of 2018, Lord Lloyd-Webber's **Too Darn Hot (GB)** (Dubawi {Ire}), while among a potentially strong overseas challenge is the Andre Fabre-trained **Persian King (Ire)**, who is being aimed at the only race to have eluded his talented sire Kingman (GB) during an eight-race career. The young Juddmonte sire finished second to Night Of Thunder (Ire) in 2014 before going on to win the Irish 2000 Guineas, St James's Palace S., Sussex S. and Prix Jacques le Marois.



Persian King | Scoop Dyga

"Persian King has done well and has had a quiet winter. He had his first canter on the grass this morning and there is no rush with him," said Fabre. "I am a great fan of Newmarket Racecourse and it helps that Persian King got some experience of the Rowley Mile when he won the [G3] Autumn S. there. It was a strong piece of form and he won despite still being green."

He continued, "But getting practice for the QIPCO 2000 Guineas was not the sole purpose for running him in the Autumn S.--it was a good race for him on nice ground--and there is still a chance we could decide to run him in the Poule d'Essai des Poulains instead.

"I would very much like for him to have a prep race before his Classic and that could be in the Prix Djebel but good ground is important for him so if we were to get heavy rain he may have to skip the trials. He won't be coming to England for his prep race as the timing of the British trials is too close to the Classics."

Another international trainer who is a regular visitor to Britain, though more commonly seen at Royal Ascot, is Wesley Ward, who has **The Mackem Bullet (Ire)** entered for the 1000 Guineas. Formerly trained in Britain by Brian Ellison, the daughter of the late Society Rock (Ire) is another with good form at the track having been beaten only a neck by fellow Guineas entrant **Fairyland (Ire)** (Kodiac {GB}) in the G1 Cheveley Park S.

"Bringing over a horse for the Guineas is something that I have always wanted to do and in The Mackem Bullet I think I might have found the right filly. It really helps that she already has plenty of European experience--it would be much more difficult with one who had raced exclusively in America," said Ward.

"The plan is for The Mackem Bullet to run in the [GII] Appalachian S. [at Keeneland on Apr. 7] and after that I will have to consult with her owner, Mr Yoshida, and his American agent, John McCormack, before we decide if we should take a big chance and send her over or keep her here in America."

He added, "She is very, very happy at the moment, she has no issues and seems to be over any of her previous nervous antics. She is a big filly with a nice mind who is eating the bottom out of her feed tub."

European champion 2-year-old filly **Pretty Pollyanna (GB)** (Oasis Dream {GB}) is also among the entries along with fellow Group 1 winners **Iridessa (Ire)** (Ruler Of The World {Ire}) and **Skitter Scatter** (Scat Daddy).

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OBSERVATIONS

on the European racing scene

6.45 Dundalk, Cond, €26,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 7f (AWT)

I CAN FLY (GB) (**Fastnet Rock {Aus}**) steps out five days after her intended seasonal debut in Friday's abandoned Dundalk meeting. Last year's G2 Boomerang S. winner and G1 Queen Elizabeth II S. runner-up faces the same three rivals that she was due to then as she looks for a direct entry into the £150,000 Ladbrokes Fillies and Mares' Championship over this distance and surface at Lingfield on the £1-million All-Weather Championships Finals Day Apr. 19.

7.00 Kempton, Cond, £70,000, 3yo, 8f (AWT)

SPANISH MISSION (**Noble Mission {GB}**) runs in the colours of Team Valor, who owns the colt in partnership with Earle Mack with David Simcock saddling the impressive Chelmsford novice scorer in this "Road To The Kentucky Derby" Conditions S. won last year by Gronkowski (Lonhro {Aus}). Out of a half to the G1 Shoemaker Mile hero Talco (Fr) (Pivotal {GB}), he meets Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum's G2 UAE Derby hopeful **Jahbath (GB)** (**Mukhadram {GB}**), a William Haggas-trained three-times all-weather winner. - Tom Frary

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IRELAND



Wednesday, Dundalk, post time: 7.15 p.m.

BETVICTOR PATTON S.-Listed, €75,000, 3yo, 8f (AWT)

SC	PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER
1	1	Van Beethoven	Scat Daddy	D O'Brien	A O'Brien
2	8	Albuquerque (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)	Heffernan	A O'Brien
3	3	Barys (GB)	Kodiac (GB)	Greatrex	Watson
4	5	Colfer Me (Ire)	Canford Cliffs (Ire)	Foley	J O'Brien
5	6	Manjeer (Ire)	Footstepsinthesand (GB)	Coakley	Oxx
6	4	Numerian (Ire)	Holy Roman Emperor (Ire)	Lordan	J O'Brien
7	2	Playa Del Puente (Ire)	Elzaam (Aus)	Whelan	Halford
8	7	Western Australia (Ire)	Australia (GB)	Moore	A O'Brien

All carry 129 pounds bar Van Beethoven, 134.

Rescheduled from Friday's lost meeting at Dundalk, the Listed Patton S. sees the same field assemble headed by a trio from Ballydoyle. Ryan Moore sides with **Western Australia (Ire)** (Australia {GB}), who was last seen finishing third in the G1 Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster in October and who like all rivals gets five pounds from stablemate **Van Beethoven** (Scat Daddy). He carries his penalty for a win in the G2 Railway S. over six furlongs at The Curragh last June and is also joined by the promising Gowran Park maiden winner **Albuquerque (Ire)** (Galileo {Ire}).



Western Australia | Racing Post

Mick Halford saddles an intriguing course specialist in **Playa Del Puente (Ire)** (Elzaam {Aus}). "Playa Del Puente has done well over the winter and his preparation has been good," his trainer said.

"On the ratings, he has to find a bit with couple of them but he is an improving horse, his confidence is good and we are looking forward to a good run. He was sold to an owner from Hong Kong [Huang Kai Wen] after his first run. The owner was actually here with us this morning to see the horse and we are looking forward to him being at the races tomorrow. This race has been the plan for a while, so we will see how we go and then take it from there." - *Tom Frary*

FRANCE



Tuesday's Results:

2nd-Chantilly, €30,000, Cond, 3-5, 4yo/up, 8f (AWT), 1:38.34, st.

BAYOUN (FR) (g, 6, Kouroun {Fr}--Baenia {Fr}, by Verglas {Ire}), who was last seen finishing runner-up in the Listed Prix Saonais at Cagnes-Sur-Mer Feb. 16, was restrained to race behind the leading trio early. Working his way to the lead with 150 metres remaining, the 6-4 favourite asserted to beat Indycy (Fr) (Rio De La Plata) by a short neck. "He's such a lovely consistent horse who has yet to run a bad race," trainer Thierry Lemer commented. "He had a nice trip and quickened well--we want to run in the mile race at Lingfield [the Apr. 19 All-Weather Championship Mile] which is a nice opportunity to run abroad." The winner is a full-brother to the G3 Prix du Pin scorer Bamiyan (Fr), GSW-Fr, \$265,978, and to a 2-year-old filly named Beauce (Fr). Lifetime Record: SP-Fr, 7-2-0-1, €30,250. **Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-Mme Thierry Lemer & Mme Emilie Lafeu; B-Marie-France De La Chauvelais (FR); T-Thierry Lemer.

5th-Chantilly, €30,000, Cond, 3-5, 4yo/up, 6 1/2f (AWT), 1:17.10, st.

FORZA CAPITANO (FR) (c, 4, Captain Marvelous {Ire}--Fantasia {Ger}, by Monsun {Ger}), who was third on his 3-year-old sign-off in Maisons-Laffitte's G3 Prix de Seine-et-Oise at the end of October, raced in third initially. Gradually getting to Bakoeel Koffie (Ire) (Naaqos {GB}) in the closing stages, the 49-10 shot won that battle in the last 50 metres en route to a half-length success. He is a half-brother to a 2-year-old filly by Stormy River (Fr) named Follow Your Heart (Fr) and a yearling colt by Stormy River (Fr) named Fruehlingsbote (Fr). Lifetime Record: SW & GSP-Fr, 12-4-0-3, €111,320. **Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** O/B-Georg Kern; T-Henri-Alex Pantall.

6th-Chantilly, €30,000, Cond, 3-5, 4yo/up, 9 1/2f (AWT), 1:56.60, st.

TRAI FLUORS (GB) (h, 5, Dansili {GB}--Trois Lunes {Fr} {GSW-Fr}, by Manduro {Ger}), who had the class to be third in the G1 Prix d'Ispahan at ParisLongchamp last May, was reappearing for the first time after winning the Listed Prix Lyphard over this trip on the Polytrack at Deauville in November and tanked along early close to the pace. Taking command with two furlongs to race, the 9-10 favourite was pushed out to comfortably beat Call the Wind (GB) (Frankel {GB}) by 2 1/2 lengths. The latter is Dubai-bound according to trainer Freddy Head. "I'm delighted with the way he has run, as it's not his best trip and he needed it," he said of last year's G1 Prix du Cadran winner. "I'd not been too hard on him in the mornings and he was giving weight away. He hit a flat spot turning for home and then found his best stride and lengthened nicely. He will definitely go for the [G2] Dubai Gold Cup and will ship on March 22." Trois Lunes, the G3 Prix Vanteaux winner who hails from the family of the sires Run and Deliver, Bellypha (Ire) and Bellman (Fr), has a 2-year-old colt by Kendargent (Fr) to come. Sales history: 120,000gns RNA '15 TATOCT. Lifetime Record: GSW & MG1SP-Fr, 14-6-3-1, €323,078. **Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** O/B-SCEA Haras De Saint Pair (FR); T-Andre Fabre.

CONDITIONS RESULT:

3rd-Nantes, €22,000, 3-5, 3yo, 8fT, 1:50.11, vhy.

IT'S ALL A DREAM (FR) (c, 3, Elusive City--Kataragama {GB}, by Hawk Wing) Lifetime Record: 7-2-0-1, €30,250. O-Theresa Marnane; B-Gestut Zur Kuste Ag (FR); T-Matthieu Palussiere. *€35,000 Ylg '17 ARQOCT.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Okarina Dream (Fr), f, 3, George Vancouver--Osceola (Ire), by Layman. Nantes, 3-5, 11fT, 2:35.95. B-Thousand Dreams, F. Buzon & Ecurie Silgezam (FR). *€6,000 Ylg '17 ARQNOV.



EUROPEAN-BRED
WINNERS

IN JAPAN:

Caen Tesoro (Fr), c, 3, Siyouni (Fr)--Pennegale (Ire), by Pennekamp. Nakayama, 3-2, Maiden (£65k/€75k), 1200m. Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-1, \$62,946. O-Kenji Ryotokuji Holdings; B-Dunmore Stud (Ireland) Ltd, Earl Haras De L'Hotellerie; T-Masahiro Takeuchi. *1/2 to Calbuco (Fr) (Kendor {Fr}), MSW-Fr, \$607,120; Lily of the Valley (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), Ch. 3yo Filly-Eur, G1SW-Fr, \$472,347; and Mubtaahij (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}), Hwt. 3yo-UAE at 7-9.5f, GISW-US, GSW & MG1SP-UAE, \$5,780,332. **€180,000 Ylg '17 ARQAUG.

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WINNING STREAKS: HOW DOES WINX RATE?



Winx

By John Berry

It's a bit like having Don Bradman back at the crease: Winx (Street Cry {Ire}) just keeps the first-class score-board ticking over. Her triumph in Saturday's G1 Chipping Norton S. at Randwick has prompted the latest upward revision of her mind-boggling statistics as she is now on a winning streak of 31, while her Group One haul now stands at a world-record 23. Her permanent place in the upper echelons of racing's pantheon is rock-solid. Just where she sits, though, in the ranks of the all-time elite is harder to say. Can we rank her *prima inter pares*?

On the face of it, the simple answer is 'No'. The record of the legendary Hungarian mare Kincsem (Hun) (Cambuscan {GB}) will almost certainly never be under threat. Between her debut at Berlin's Hoppegarten as a two-year-old in June 1876 and her swansong in Budapest as a five-year-old in October 1879, Kincsem contested 54 races and won them all. Her shortest win came over 947m; her longest came over two miles and five furlongs (4022m). She raced in Hungary, Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, France and England. (That is, of course, by the standards of the current atlas, as obviously the map of Europe looked very different in her day, with the Austro-Hungarian empire welding what we now regard as

several different countries into one single jurisdiction).

However, Kincsem was racing in a much less competitive era. The pool of horses against which she raced in eastern Europe was not a deep one. However, it would be wrong to downplay her record, particularly because of her stunning achievement within a few weeks in the summer of 1878 when she won the Goodwood Cup, the Grand Prix de Deauville and the Grosser Preis von Baden, which were at the time just about the most prestigious races in England, France and Germany respectively. And this was, of course, before the development of motorised transport. Merely being a spectator at all three races would have been hard enough.

The nearest we have come to a Kincsem in the modern era has been Black Caviar (Bel Esprit), winner of all her 25 races between April 2009 and April 2013. She, too, showed that she could overcome the rigours of long-distance travel, taking the G1 Diamond Jubilee S. at Royal Ascot in June 2012 on a day when seemingly she had everything stacked against her.

Black Caviar's racing career overlapped that of the mighty Zenyatta (USA) (Street Cry {Ire}) who won her first 19 races prior to losing her unbeaten record on her final appearance when going down by a rapidly-diminishing head to Blame (USA) (Arch {USA}) on her swansong in the G1 Breeders' Cup Classic at Churchill Downs in November 2010. Zenyatta's winning streak matched that of Pepper's Pride (USA) (Desert God {USA}), who compiled a perfect 19-from-19 in the USA between 2005 and '08. That feat, though, has to be viewed in the context of the fact that Pepper's Pride only raced in her home state New Mexico, and only in races restricted to New Mexico-breds. Of unbeaten horses who, like Black Caviar, have competed consistently at the highest level, the records of the Italian champion Ribot (GB) (Tenerani {Ity}) and the peerless Frankel (GB) (Galileo {Ire}) stand out. The former won 16 races from 1954 to '56, while the latter racked up 14 wins between 2010 and '12. Nearco (Ity) (Pharos {GB}) also put together an unblemished 14-from-14 in 1937 and '38, dominating Italy's best races before coming to France on his final outing to win the Grand Prix de Paris with his head in his chest. In Great Britain, Ormonde (GB) (Bendor {GB}) stands tall among 19th century champions in an unbeaten 16-race career; while Eclipse (GB) (Marske {Ire}) was so dominant in the 18th century that his 18-from-18 might well have been 118-from-118 had his connections desired.

The other common denominator between Ribot, Frankel, Nearco, Ormonde and Eclipse, of course, is that they all graduated from supreme racehorse to top-class sire.

Are we right, though, to focus too strongly on an unbeaten record or a lengthy winning streak? Manikato (Manihi) never won more than four consecutive races, but put together a mighty record, winning 29 of his 47 starts including, memorably, five consecutive runnings of the William Reid S. over weight-for-age at Moonee Valley (1979 to '83 inclusive). In one sense, Winx is still three top-level wins short of Manikato's tally. He was racing when the Pattern was inaugurated in 1980 and prestige was handed out far less liberally in those days; and 26 of his victories came in races which have now been granted Group One status. Similarly, Phar Lap (NZ) (Night Raid {GB}), Tulloch (NZ) (Khorassan {GB}) and Kingston Town (Bletchingly) had maximum winning streaks of 14, 12 and 11 respectively in careers which contained 37 wins (from 51 starts), 36 wins (from 53 starts), and 30 wins (from 41 starts).

By modern standards, it is slightly hard to understand how all those horses came to be beaten so many times, but that was merely a consequence of the fact that horses were campaigned much more fearlessly by previous generations. Defeat was not seen in those days as a disaster to be avoided if at all possible. As Arthur 'Bull' Hancock, having already sealed the deal which would see 1970 British Triple Crown hero Nijinsky (Can) (Northern Dancer {Can}) stand at Claiborne, philosophically observed when the champion finally lost his unbeaten record when pipped by Sassafras (Ire) (Sheshoon {Ire}) in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, "We all know that if you run them often enough, they'll get beat eventually."

A similar comment could be made about the mighty Secretariat (USA) (Bold Ruler {USA}) whom many regard as the greatest three-year-old the world has ever seen. His brilliance is shown by the fact that he still holds the race-record for all three legs of the US Triple Crown - yet he had his colours lowered three times during that sublime campaign. The winner of 16 of his 21 races, he never won more than four times consecutively. It was a similar story with Kelso (USA) (Your Host {USA}), US Horse of the Year a staggering five years in a row, 1960 to '64 inclusive. In each of those seasons he landed what was then the United States' most prestigious weight-for-age race, the Jockey Club Gold Cup. Winx has another Cox Plate to win before she matches that achievement. Kelso, though, while winning 39 races, was beaten 24 times, again the consequence of the fearlessness with which he was campaigned during his 63-race career. When Kelso was eventually retired, the feeling among New York racegoers was that "Saturdays won't be the same without Kelso."

The truth is that it is not merely impossible satisfactorily to compare champions from different ages; one cannot even satisfactorily compare champions from the same generation.

Brigadier Gerard (GB) (Queen's Hussar {GB}) and Mill Reef (USA) (Never Bend {USA}) were born in the same year and trained in the same country (and raced against each other once) but nobody could give a definitive answer as to which was the greater racehorse.

Was it a greater achievement to win 54 consecutive races in the 19th century when there were far fewer potential opponents but when the logistics of racing horses were far more taxing, or to win 31 consecutive races in the 21st century when we have technology on our side, but a massive pool of horses against whom any champion must have his/her merit tested? There is no right answer. All one can say is that any lengthy winning streak, particularly when compiled at the highest level, is a remarkable achievement. It speaks volumes not merely for the horse's class, but also for his/her genuineness, the skill of the trainer, the consistent ability of the jockey never to be a 'certainty beaten' and, arguably the most important of all, the toughness of the horse to withstand the rigours of training and racing over an extended period. The thoroughbred is the Formula One car of the horse world: the fastest but also the most fragile. It is not just Winx's supreme ability which makes her the horse of a lifetime, but her soundness, genuineness and durability too.

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