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## BALTIMORE SUES STRONACH GROUP IN ATTEMPT TO BLOCK PREAKNESS MOVE



Justify wins the 2018 Preakness at foggy Pimlico | Horsephotos

by Bill Finley

The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, plus three residents of the Park Heights neighborhood where Pimlico is located, filed suit Tuesday in a Baltimore City court against The Stronach Group (TSG) in order to prevent it from shifting the GI Preakness S. to Laurel. They are also suing the Maryland Economic Development Authority (MEDCO) in an attempt to block it from issuing \$120 million worth of bonds, arguing that the money will only add to Pimlico's plight as it is earmarked solely for improvements to Laurel and the rebuilding of a Bowie training center. The Stronach Group has long made it known that it would prefer to move the Preakness from Pimlico to Laurel.

On Tuesday, TSG released a brief statement in which it said: "These actions are premature and unfounded." Wednesday, TSG shared with the media a copy of a report done by Gonzalez Research and Media Services that showed that among Maryland voters, only 23% favor spending more than \$400 million of taxpayer funds to rebuild Pimlico in Baltimore City. It again released a brief statement, which read: "It's clearly illustrated in this poll that the majority of Marylanders do not support the use of state dollars to rebuild a racetrack at Pimlico." **Cont. p3**

## MID-ATLANTIC HORSEMEN TO CALL FOR PARTIAL BISPHOSPHONATE BAN

by Bill Finley

A meeting among industry stakeholders in the Mid-Atlantic region is scheduled for Thursday and a proposal for a partial ban of the controversial drug Bisphosphonate tops the agenda.

Bisphosphonate has come under increased scrutiny since the rash of breakdowns began at Santa Anita and some are speculating that its use might have been contributing to the problem.

The drug is used to treat degenerative bone diseases, like osteoporosis, in humans. With horses, they're used to treat a similar array of problems, like navicular disease. However, the drug has only been approved for horses that are four or older, the theory being that it is dangerous to use it on a horse until their bones are fully developed. In younger horses, the drug could cause their bones to become more brittle. **Cont. p5**

## IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

### PRENDERGAST: A COLOSSUS OF THE CURRAGH

Amy Lynam chats with long-time Curragh trainer Kevin Prendergast. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)



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**Thursday, March 21, 2019**



A colt by Mohaymen and out of Just Smart (Smart Strike), pictured at 12 hours old, was foaled in Florida at Equine Veterinary Reproduction Specialists of Ocala Mar. 1. The colt is owned by Caperlane Farm (Catherine and Richard Heysek). [Click here](#) to share your 2019 foal photos with the TDN. Please include sire, dam, owner, and photographer's name. | Catherine Perez

**A DIVINE LOVE AFFAIR**

**6**

Freelance writer Dave Brooks tells us the story of Divine Queen, a filly who he cashed several tickets on and later got a chance to hotwalk for trainer Buff Bradley.

**'AND DOWN THE STRETCH THEY...' SUE**

**9**

Legendary announcer Dave Johnson is suing the studios behind 2014 movie "St. Vincent" starring Bill Murray for using his famed "And Down the Stretch They Come!" call. T.D. Thornton has the details.



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**Baltimore Sues Stronach Group cont. from p1**

The statement added, "At the same time, there is great interest in keeping the Preakness in Maryland, a steadfast commitment of The Stronach Group."

The plaintiffs's primary argument is the state law prohibits the Preakness from leaving Pimlico absent a disaster or an emergency and that no such disaster or emergency currently exists. The lawsuit states that TSG could manufacture an emergency at Pimlico by continuing to put little to no money into plant improvements at a track virtually everyone agrees is dilapidated.

"Through the systematic divestment of Pimlico, defendants could indeed manufacture 'an emergency or disaster' to justify transfer of the Preakness to Laurel, as under maintained infrastructure begins to fail and crowds attending Pimlico races and horses racing there are endangered," the lawsuit states.



**The Woodlawn Vase being brought out to the track on Preakness Day | Horsephotos**

So concerned that TSG will do everything within its power to take the Preakness out of Baltimore and close Pimlico, the plaintiffs have asked the court to allow the City to condemn the racetrack and condemn the business that is the Preakness. If the City is successful in doing so it will own not only the track, but the race itself and the trophy, the Woodlawn Vase. The Woodlawn Vase is considered to be among the most valuable trophies in all of sports and worth \$4 million.

Should the City take over the racetrack and become the official owner of the Preakness, it would likely sell both the track and race to an outside company.

"People would be lining up around the block if the track and, particularly the Preakness, were put up for sale," said a source close to the situation.

The Stronach Group took over Pimlico and Laurel in 2011 when it purchased the Maryland Jockey Club. **Cont. p4**



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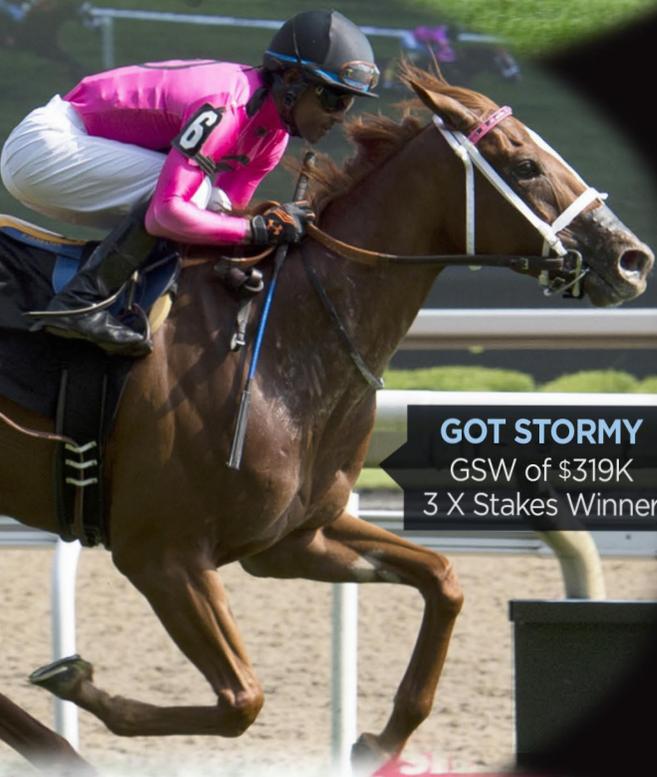
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3 X Stakes Winner

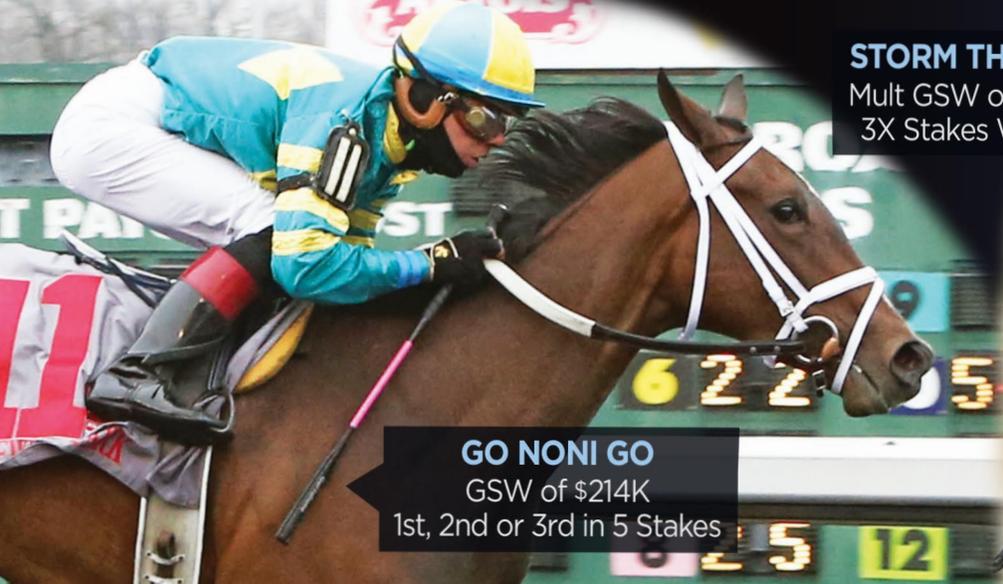
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STORMY ATLANTIC — FOOLISH GAL, BY KIRI'S CLOWN

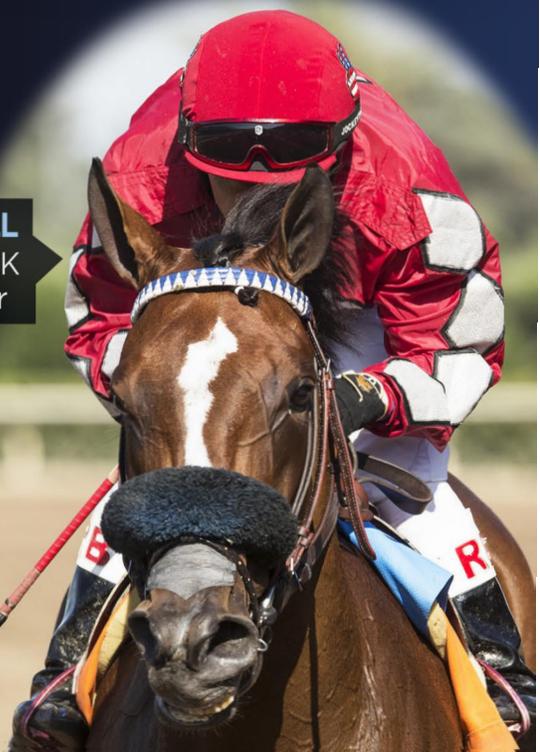
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A few years later, it switched its focus to refurbishing Laurel, with the intention of making it what it has called a “super track.” In a Feb. 18 letter sent to Governor Lawrence Hogan Jr., Maryland State Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. and the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates Michael E. Busch and signed by TSG COO Tim Ritvo, TSG declared its intentions of turning Laurel into a “singular ‘super track’ serving as the premier venue for major racing events.” It argued that its plan would be for the betterment of Maryland racing as a whole.

The rebuilding of Laurel is already well under way. TSG already receives money from the state from slots revenue from Maryland casinos. According to the *Baltimore Sun*, 79% of the \$112 million spent since 2011 has gone toward Laurel. In the meantime, TSG has reduced Pimlico’s annual racing dates to just 12. As recently as 2015, Pimlico raced 37 days.

Legislation is pending in the Maryland General Assembly that would allow (MEDCO) to issue \$120 million in bonds, \$80 million of which would go toward more improvements at Laurel and \$40 million to rebuild Bowie as a training center. None of the money is earmarked for Pimlico. The plaintiffs are seeking a declaration from the court that MEDCO may not issue the bonds.

Earlier efforts to keep the Preakness in Baltimore were made by the Maryland Stadium Authority, which came out with a plan

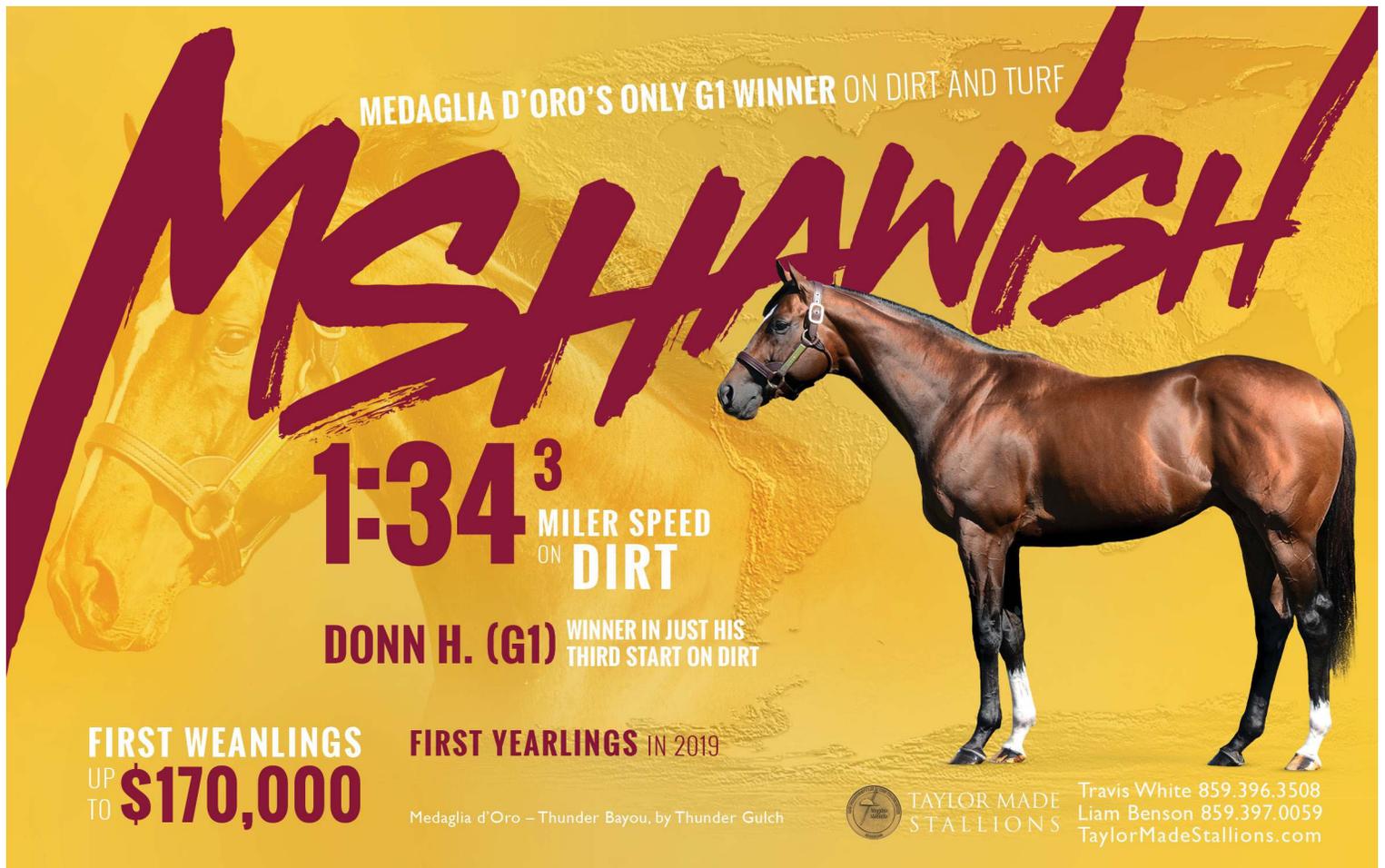
to not only refurbish Pimlico but to create a facility that could be used year-round to host such things as concerts and youth sporting events with additional land used for housing and commercial businesses. The price tag on the project was pegged at \$424 million and no one has yet to say how the plans for a new Pimlico would be paid for.

It doesn’t appear that either side has done much yet in the way of trying to form a compromise. The City is concerned about losing a civic institution and its efforts to rebuild one of Baltimore’s poorest neighborhoods, Park Heights. TSG maintains that there is no need to have two racetracks so close together and that the Maryland horse industry will thrive if Laurel can be turned into a glitzy, state-of-the-art racetrack capable of not only handling the Preakness crowd, but attracting another mega-event in the Breeders’ Cup.

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110 BEYER  
MIDNIGHT STORM  
G1 WINNER

102 BEYER  
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G1 WINNER

95 BEYER  
CAIRO PRINCE  
G2 WINNER



PIONEEROF THE NILE – MY TINA, BY BERTRANDO

"I am breeding 9 mares to Midnight Storm this year vs. 4 last year for only one reason: **all the babies I have seen are dynamite!** Great bone, leggy, and correct. I don't think there is a **better value** among Pioneer's sons."

– Alex Venneri

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**Mid-Atlantic Horsemen to Call for Partial Bisphosphonate Ban**  
*cont. from p1*

“There’s no checks and balances on this,” Mary Scollay, equine medical director of the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission told *Thoroughbred Racing Commentary* in a 2017 story on the drug. “If the risk is as real as we perceive it to be, we can be facing a real problem in terms of racing injuries and racing fractures if we don’t, as a community, come together to decide how to responsibly manage this.”

To date, the use of the drug has not been banned throughout any part of the Thoroughbred industry.

The meeting is an annual get-together of people who race and breed in the Mid-Atlantic region and is supervised by Alan Foreman, the chairman of the Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association who also works closely with several local horsemen’s groups in the Northeast.



Alan Foreman | Horsephotos

“We’re going to be adopting a strategic plan to reduce equine fatalities that we actually began initiating two years ago,” Foreman said. “Many of the reforms have already been

implemented. We are going to move to ask for a ban of this drug [Bisphosphonate] at the meeting and I’d be shocked if it didn’t pass. This is a bad drug and everybody has been talking about it for a long time. We’re going to take action. We’re going to ban it in the Mid-Atlantic and we’re going to go to the RCI to ask that it be banned nationally, and we are going to ask all industry stakeholders to join us in our efforts.”

Foreman said his group does believe the drug should be legal with 4-year-olds and older, since

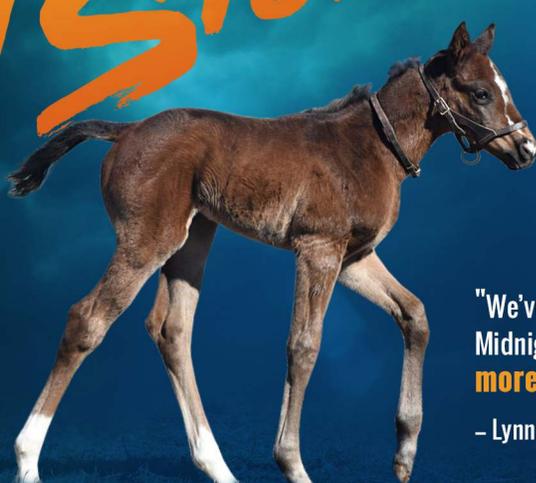
that adheres to FDA requirements.

Whether or not Bisphosphonate played any role in the breakdowns in California remains anyone’s guess.

**Cont. p6**

FIRST FOALS  
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# MIDNIGHT STORM



"We just had a 158-pound Midnight Storm colt. He's strong, big-boned, and athletic. **We'll be breeding back for sure.**"

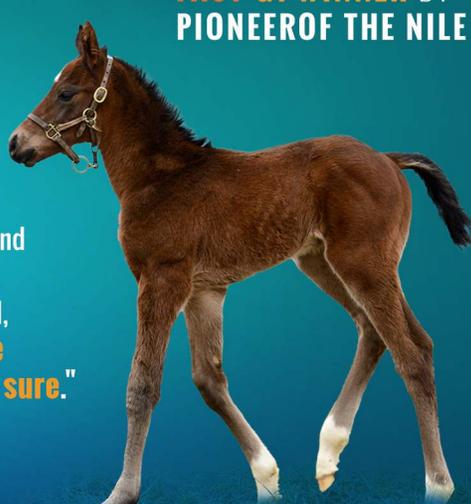
– Bill Casner

"We've had **three really nice foals** by Midnight Storm and are **breeding three more mares** back to him this year."

– Lynn Burleson

Filly o/o All on the Table, bred by Burleson Farm & McKenzie Bloodstock

BRILLIANTLY  
FAST G1 WINNER BY  
PIONEER OF THE NILE



Colt o/o Extra Sharp, bred by Susan Casner



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But many in the industry are convinced that the drug is being misused at the sales, that breeders or consignors are giving it to their horses so that their bones look stronger than they may have otherwise when x-rays are taken to show potential buyers. If that is the case, Bisphosphonate has potential to be a ticking timebomb that could cause the same yearling to have bone problems during its career and potentially lead to a breakdown.

“The goal here, and it needs to happen very quickly, is for this drug to be banned,” said Terry Finley, who heads the West Point Thoroughbreds syndicate. “Every sales company needs to take steps to make sure that no horse that goes through the ring is given this drug and that has to happen immediately. The consignors who are not using this drug should be outraged and vocally and persistently advocate that it be banned immediately.”

Finley is among those that believe Bisphosphonate is also given to some horses after the sales and once their racing careers begin. As dangerous as it may be, the drug could have a performance-enhancing effect.

“I hate to say it, but that’s a very reasonable assumption,” Finley said when asked if he thought the drug might be given by some trainers to horses in training that are younger than four. “I base that on what I have seen and the high-level vets that I have been talking to across the country. It pains me to say that, but I

do believe this has been a factor. This is why it needs to be banned, especially at the upcoming yearling sales.”

Ten of the 22 horses who have broken down at Santa Anita were 3-year-olds. The numbers involving the breakdowns of horses that are four versus horses that are younger are skewed at this time of year because there have yet to be any races run at Santa Anita for 2-year-olds and it’s likely that very few, if any, are working over the track yet.

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## A DIVINE LOVE AFFAIR

by David Brooks

This boy-meets-filly love affair began, from afar, a year ago--she at Tampa Bay Downs, me at The Meadowlands. It culminated recently, face to face, at Fair Grounds in New Orleans as part of a frivolous, same-day down-and-back trip from New Jersey.

The relationship began, as many do, for a shallow reason--not the adolescent or young adult kind of shallow: "I call the one with the blue eyes." Rather, a brand of shallow that wiser, more mature people fall victim to: she broke her maiden at 61-1, and I had her.

Cont. p7

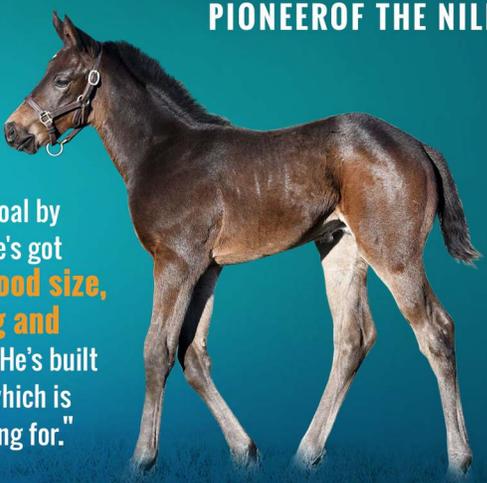
FIRST FOALS  
ARRIVING NOW

# MIDNIGHT STORM

BRILLIANTLY  
FAST G1 WINNER BY  
PIONEER OF THE NILE



Colt o/o Happy to Go, bred by WinStar Farm LLC



Colt o/o Tasunke, bred by Siena Farm LLC

"We really like our foal by Midnight Storm. He's got **great angles, good size,** and is very **strong and athletic** looking. He's built a lot like the sire which is what we were hoping for."

– Ignacio Patino, General Manager of Siena Farm

"Our Midnight Storm colt is a very good foal with **a lot of leg, great bone,** and **substance.** He is a very good mover."

– David Hanley, General Manager of WinStar Farm



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That Saturday in March 2018 found me at The Meadowlands, tending to a portfolio of modest investments. Having done the requisite homework the night before and ready to lose intelligently, I arrived with a bounce in my step. I had spotted something at Tampa that I thought could win and almost certainly would outrun her odds. She was **Divine Queen** (Divine Park), a maiden 3-year-old filly who, as it turned out, was aptly named.



**Divine Queen and Dave Brooks**

My reasoning went like this: in her debut, a \$25,000 maiden claimer, she broke poorly, but did enough running to finish a decent fourth. So she could run and, unlike some, handled the deep Tampa surface. The owner/trainer--the capable Buff Bradley, who had trained Brass Hat, The Player and Groupie Doll, among others--thought enough of her to protect her by running her back in a maiden special weight race. That, plus the natural debut-to-second-start progression might be enough to get her to the winners' circle, or at least create some robust prices in the exotics.

She broke alertly, went to the front, hung on and paid \$125.

Seeing that she was a runner, knowing that a savvy trainer thought highly of her without having some delusional, starry-eyed owner fueling those thoughts, and yes, cashing a nice ticket, I followed her. A next-out sixth in a tough Keeneland allowance didn't dissuade me--again, she kicked in too late to threaten the winner, but again, she showed she was a runner. She then went wire-to-wire in a Churchill allowance and paid \$14. Three races later, as the longest shot on the board in the \$100,000 Dogwood S., she devoured the slop at Churchill and closed on the rail to win by a head and pay \$103. Two months later, she won a salty optional claimer in the slop at Fair Grounds and paid \$17.

*Cont. p8*

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- Property may be new or used; yearlings and new farm equipment are examples of new property, while broodmares and racing prospects are examples of used property
- Bonus depreciation is phased down by 20% per calendar year in taxable years beginning after 2022

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NTRA REPORT FROM CAPITOL HILL



For more information contact Joe Bacigalupo (859) 422-2677 or visit [www.SupportHorseRacing.org](http://www.SupportHorseRacing.org)

I had her each time she won and, other than her debut, each time she lost; at those prices the wins more than covered the losses. But beyond her pari-mutuel productivity, my appreciation for her grew with each race. She always showed up and tried. She was game, and the antithesis of a prima donna, comfortable and willing on or near the lead, coming from behind, between horses or in tight quarters on the rail. Nobody seemed to be on to this filly--more Divine Queen for me. I checked in by email after each breeze, and before and after each race.



Divine Queen | Coady

So with vacation days in the bank and with all-important spousal permission, I planned a week-long trip to Louisiana, with the New Orleans half devoted to mornings at Fair Grounds, hanging out with The Queen, cooling her out and delivering some well-earned carrots and love-slaps on her neck. Buff was apparently impressed enough

by my hot-walking credentials--in the mid-70s, at Belmont, I learned quickly to make a left turn at the end of shed row--and impressed enough with his filly's intelligence and manners to promise me some time on the end of the shank.

The airlines don't offer walk-up fares based on who's in the entry box, so I booked, though with the trip not predicated on her racing. Just getting an audience with Her Majesty would be enough. Then, days after I booked, she was entered to run, a week before my scheduled arrival.

I didn't exactly whine to my wife, but I did point out that I was *this* close to getting to watch *my favorite horse in the whole wide world* race in person.

"Well, you know ...." I started to tell Maureen. "Just go. It's fine," she said.

Cont. p9

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So a week before the trip, I took a trip. I dragged myself out of bed before dawn's first light and went, with only carrots, mints, apples and that day's *Daily Racing Form* as baggage.

It was Mardi Gras, and the track joined in the celebration. Lead ponies wore beads, and people wore jesters' hats with pom poms, colorful shoes with upturned toes, and masks. The most surreal sight of all was the trainer Tom Amoss in full Fat Tuesday Krewe regalia, giving pre-race instructions to his jockey and saddling his filly.

In a competitive field of seven allowance fillies, Divine Queen opened at 11-1...can't they tell by now she can run? She dropped to 5-1, and drifted up to 7 or 8-1. She broke well and raced forwardly, seemed to lose focus leaving the backstretch and dropped back. And then, entering the stretch, she kicked in with a gear I hadn't really seen before, and she... finished second. She was beaten a length by the 6-5, loose-on-the-lead filly, running her eyeballs out and gaining with every stride. At 6 1/2 furlongs, she probably would have won, but the race was carded for six.

She cooled out like a champ--dragging me up and down the shed row--and attacked her feed tub and the carrots. Just as she trains and races forwardly, she cools out and eats forwardly--a pleasure to be around. And just as parents love their kids regardless of school grades or wins and losses on the ballfield, we love our horses, especially those who try. A lifetime mark of 12-4-1-0 and a robust ROI is nice, but getting to watch--and hang with--a truly game horse is something special.

*Dave Brooks is a New Jersey-based freelance writer and nearly lifelong fan of Thoroughbred racing. In the mid-70's, he was a hot walker at Belmont Park.*

[Share this story](#) 

## IN OTHER NEWS...

A Daily Roundup of Racing Articles in Non-Industry Media

### In Baltimore's lawsuit, we get a preview of the endgame for Pimlico and the Preakness

"Many Baltimoreans have compared the prospect of losing the Preakness to the city's loss of the Colts a generation ago. But what we're looking at here isn't a Mayflower-vans-in-the-night situation. No, what Pimlico's owners are doing is more like moving to a new house one carload at a time, and they've been doing it in full public view for nearly a decade."

**Baltimore Sun Editorial Board, *The Baltimore Sun***

## 'AND DOWN THE STRETCH THEY...' SUE

by *T.D. Thornton*

Dave Johnson, the longtime race announcer whose iconic "And down the stretch they come!" signature call has put a stamp of big-race authenticity on nationally-broadcast Triple Crown and other major Thoroughbred races for over 50 years, filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday seeking unspecified damages against the creators of the 2014 film "St. Vincent" for unauthorized use of his trademarked famous phrase.

According to the 56-page lawsuit filed in United States District Court (Southern District of New York), the actor Bill Murray, "playing the role of an alcoholic degenerate gambler," mimicked what is widely considered the sport's best-known stretch call "in a manner essentially identical to Dave Johnson's use of the mark in order to...profit from these associations."

"St. Vincent" grossed \$54.8 million worldwide, according to BoxOfficeMojo.com.

Johnson (who is an occasional contributor to *TDN*) trademarked his signature call in 2012. His suit claims that the filmmakers neither sought his permission to use the line, nor did they respond to a written demand letter to stop using it once Johnson discovered his phrase was in the film.

"The bottom line is Dave Johnson worked his whole life to make a brand," Johnson's attorney, Andrew Mollica, told *TDN* via phone. "And that phrase is his--he owns it, it encapsulates all his being, and it's trademarked.

"Dave Johnson, as long as I've been his attorney, every time we see a violation, we chase it. We protect this mark," Mollica continued. "We have sent cease-and-desist letters to racetracks, to announcers personally, to video game makers. No one else uses this mark."

But Mollica underscored that Johnson's vigilant safeguarding of his trademarked phrase is more of a point of pride to protect something he created rather than a way to make money by seeking damages.

"One hundred percent of the [damages Johnson has previously been awarded], after legal fees, he's given to charities," Mollica said. "This is not a money grab. That's very important to put in the story because Dave would like people to know: He gives it all away to charities."

Murray's utterance, which involves a wheelchair race at the 1:12.29 mark of the movie, "reflects the dark side of horse racing" because of the unsavory nature of the character, the suit contends.

In that context, it also "damages, blurs, tarnishes, and dilutes the mark and the rights and reputation of the mark's creator and owner, Dave Johnson."

*Cont. p10*

The lawsuit further asserts that Johnson “is one of many famous sports broadcasters to trademark a signature phrase,” noting that college basketball announcer Dick Vitale has a trademark for his “Awesome, baby!” exclamation; boxing announcer Michael Buffer has one for his famous “Let’s get ready to rumble!” line, and the late Chicago Cubs radio voice Harry Caray had four trademarks for his signature “Holy Cow!” exclamation.

The civil complaint contends that the influence of “And down the stretch they come!” is well recognized and “synonymous with some of the most historic race calls of the 1980’s and 1990’s and is the signature call of every Triple Crown race Dave Johnson ever announced.”

Defendants in the lawsuit include 10 corporate entities, including The Chernin Group, LLC, and The Weinstein Company, LLC, plus 10 John/Jane Doe individuals whose names were not known at the time of the Mar. 20 filing. The actor who uttered the line, Murray, is not named as a defendant.

The defendants could not be reached for comment prior to deadline for this story.

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**BLINGISMYTHING**, 9, Arch--Dancing General, by General Meeting

Foal born Feb. 27, a colt by Curlin.

Owned by/boarded at Woodford Thoroughbreds.

Will be bred back to Justify.

Accomplishments: GSW & GISP, \$294,830.

**ANYTHINGYOUcando**, 7, Curlin--Glorified, by Honour and Glory

Foal born Feb. 21, a colt by Union Rags.

Owned by/boarded at Woodford Thoroughbreds.

Will be bred back to Ghostzapper.

Accomplishments: SW, \$145,307.

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## 2019 Leading Sires of 3YOS

for stallions standing in North America through Tuesday, March 19

Earnings and Black-type represents worldwide figures & stud fees are for 2019

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	<b>Into Mischief</b> <i>(2005) by Harlan's Holiday Crops: 8</i>	1	5	--	3	--	--	76	20	129,820	1,128,816
										Market King	
2	<b>War Front</b> <i>(2002) by Danzig Crops: 10</i>	2	2	2	2	--	--	19	7	494,000	1,110,642
										Omaha Beach	
3	<b>Tapit</b> <i>(2001) by Pulpit Crops: 12</i>	2	8	1	6	--	--	43	11	210,000	1,041,470
										Tacitus	
4	<b>Candy Ride (Arg)</b> <i>(1999) by Ride the Rails Crops: 12</i>	2	5	2	5	--	--	34	10	150,000	808,049
										Game Winner	
5	<b>Hard Spun</b> <i>(2004) by Danzig Crops: 9</i>	1	5	1	2	--	--	60	13	148,490	782,235
										A Thread of Blue	
6	<b>Scat Daddy</b> <i>(2004) by Johannesburg Crops: 8</i>	3	3	1	1	--	--	37	12	380,000	761,350
										Divine Image	
7	<b>Super Saver</b> <i>(2007) by Maria's Mon Crops: 6</i>	2	4	1	2	--	--	51	13	301,000	718,675
										Super Steed	
8	<b>Cairo Prince</b> <i>(2011) by Pioneerof the Nile Crops: 2</i>	2	3	--	--	--	--	53	14	96,600	708,105
										Oncewewerebrothers	
9	<b>Curlin</b> <i>(2004) by Smart Strike Crops: 8</i>	2	5	--	--	--	--	51	11	63,480	698,431
										Global Campaign	
10	<b>Quality Road</b> <i>(2006) by Elusive Quality Crops: 6</i>	1	3	1	1	--	--	37	11	240,000	685,462
										Bellafina	
11	<b>Uncle Mo</b> <i>(2008) by Indian Charlie Crops: 5</i>	1	3	--	2	--	--	47	10	185,000	681,611
										Galilean	
12	<b>Violence</b> <i>(2010) by Medaglia d'Oro Crops: 3</i>	2	5	1	3	--	--	49	13	110,000	661,893
										Walking Thunder	
13	<b>Paynter</b> <i>(2009) by Awesome Again Crops: 3</i>	1	1	--	--	--	--	60	17	94,000	624,034
										Needs Supervision	
14	<b>Empire Maker</b> <i>(2000) by Unbridled Crops: 13</i>	1	1	--	--	--	--	34	8	75,800	597,596
										Power Gal (JPN)	
15	<b>Congrats</b> <i>(2000) by A.P. Indy Crops: 10</i>	1	1	1	1	--	--	44	14	208,320	588,157
										Harvey Wallbanger	

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**Saturday, Fair Grounds, post time: 6:13 p.m. EDT**

**TWINSPIRES.COM LOUISIANA DERBY S.-GII, \$1,000,000, 3yo, 1 1/8m**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Roiland	Successful Appeal	James & Mary Durlacher	Amoss	Graham	122
2	Lemniscate	Exchange Rate	Susan Moulton & Magdalena Racing	McPeck	Hernandez, Jr.	122
3	Limonite 🌿	Lemon Drop Kid	Winchell Thoroughbreds & Willis Horton Racing	Asmussen	Ortiz	122
4	Sueno 🌿	Atreides	Silverton Hill LLC	Desormeaux	Lanerie	122
5	By My Standards	Goldencents	Allied Racing Stable, LLC	Calhoun	Saez	122
6	War of Will 🌿	War Front	Gary Barber	Casse	Gaffalione	122
7	Mr. Money 🌿	Goldencents	Allied Racing Stable, LLC	Calhoun	Beschizza	122
8	Country House	Lookin At Lucky	Mrs. J. V. Shields, Jr., E. J. M. McFadden, Jr. & LNJ Foxwoods	Mott	Saez	122
9	Bankit	Central Banker	Winchell Thoroughbreds & Willis Horton Racing	Asmussen	Ortiz, Jr.	122
10	Spinoff	Hard Spun	Wertheimer and Frere	Pletcher	Velazquez	122
11	Hog Creek Hustle 🌿	Overanalyze	Something Special Racing, LLC	Foley	Mena	122

**Breeders:** 1-James M. & Mary Durlacher, 2-Milan Kosanovich, 3-Roberto Mesquita, 4-Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings, Inc., 5-Don Ladd, 6-FIaxman Holdings Limited, 7-Spruce Lane Farm, 8-J. V. Shields, Jr., 9-Hidden Brook Farm, LLC & Blue Devil Racing, 10-Wertheimer et Frere, 11-Hargus Sexton, Sandra Sexton & Silver Fern Farm, LLC

**Saturday, Fair Grounds, post time: 4:34 p.m. EDT**

**NEW ORLEANS H.-GII, \$400,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/8m**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Mo Dont No 🌿	Uncle Mo	Ron Paolucci Racing, LLC	Amoss	Murrill	114
2	Lone Sailor 🌿	Majestic Warrior	G M B Racing	Amoss	Graham	117
3	Souper Tapit	Tapit	Live Oak Plantation	Casse	Gaffalione	116
4	Noble Indy 🌿	Take Charge Indy	Repole Stable	Pletcher	Velazquez	115
5	Krewe Chief 🌿	Parading	Three Diamonds Farm	Maker	Lanerie	115
6	Silver Dust 🌿	Tapit	Tom R. Durant	Calhoun	Gilligan	120
7	Noble Commander	Forestry	Agave Racing Stable	D'Amato	Ortiz, Jr.	113
8	Mr. Buff	Friend Or Foe	Broman, Sr., Chester and Mary	Kimmel	Alvarado	118
9	Bandua 🌿	The Factor	Calumet Farm	Sisterson	Beschizza	116
10	Copper Bullet 🌿	More Than Ready	Winchell Thoroughbreds & Willis Horton Racing	Asmussen	Ortiz	117
11	Core Beliefs	Quality Road	Gary Broad	Eurton	Geroux	115

**Breeders:** 1-Beechwood Racing Stable, 2-Alexander - Groves - Matz, LLC., 3-Live Oak Stud, 4-WinStar Farm, LLC, 5-Stone Farm, 6-Don Alberto Corporation, 7-GoldMark Farm, LLC, 8-Chester & Mary R. Broman, 9-Judy Hicks & Kathryn Nikkel, 10-Dell Ridge Farm, LLC, 11-Thomas J. Young

**Saturday, Fair Grounds, post time: 5:44 p.m. EDT**

**TWINSPIRES.COM FAIR GROUNDS OAKS S.-GII, \$400,000, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Speedette	Oxbow	Calumet Farm	Desormeaux	Lanerie	122
2	Serengeti Empress 🌿	Alternation	Joel Politi	Amoss	Graham	122
3	Street Band	Istan	J. Larry & Cindy Jones & Ray Francis	Jones	Doyle	122
4	Sweet Diane 🌿	Will Take Charge	Stallionaire Enterprises LLC	Stidham	Bravo	122
5	Crescentcitypretty	Bernardini	Brittlyn Stable, Inc.	Benoit	Mena	122
6	Eres Tu	Malibu Moon	Seltzer, Edward A. and Anderson, Beverly S.	Asmussen	Ortiz	122
7	Slewgoodtobetrue	Jimmy Creed	Sharon Alesia, Ciaglia Racing, LLC, ERJ Racing, LLC & Burns Racing, LLC	Eurton	Geroux	122
8	Liora 🌿	Candy Ride (Arg)	Coffeepot Stables	Catalano	Hill	122

**Breeders:** 1-Calumet Farm & Merrill & Allene Dana, 2-Tri Eques Bloodstock, LLC, 3-Larry Jones, Cindy Jones & Ray Francis, 4-Eurowest Bloodstock Services, 5-Brittlyn, Inc., 6-Edward A. Seltzer & Beverly Anderson, 7-Jim Brinkley, 8-Dell Ridge Farm, LLC

**Saturday, Fair Grounds, post time: 5:10 p.m. EDT****MUNIZ MEMORIAL H.-GII, \$300,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/8mT**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Hot Springs 🐾	Uncle Mo	Woodford Racing, LLC	Asmussen	Saez	115
2	Divisidero 🐾	Kitten's Joy	Gunpowder Farms LLC & Brereton C. Jones	Ruble	Geroux	118
3	Synchrony	Tapit	Pin Oak Stable	Stidham	Bravo	123
4	Bandua 🐾	The Factor	Calumet Farm	Sisterson	Beschizza	117
5	First Premio 🐾	Pure Prize	Team Valor International	Casse	Velazquez	117
6	Markitoff 🐾	Giant's Causeway	Three Diamonds Farm	Maker	Gaffalione	115
7	Bricks and Mortar 🐾	Giant's Causeway	Klaravich Stables, Inc. & William H. Lawrence	Brown	Ortiz, Jr.	125
8	Inspector Lynley	Lemon Drop Kid	Stuart S. Janney, III & Phipps Stable	McGaughey III	Ortiz	118
9	Final Copy	Malibu Moon	Chiefswood Stables Ltd.	Atfield	Lanerie	115
10	Silver Dust 🐾	Tapit	Tom R. Durant	Calhoun	Gilligan	118

**Breeders:** 1-Bo Hirsch LLC, 2-Hinkle Farms, 3-Pin Oak Stud, LLC, 4-Judy Hicks & Kathryn Nikkel, 5-Ronald G. McPeck, 6-Alpha Delta Stables, LLC, 7-George Strawbridge Jr., 8-Stuart S. Janney, III LLC. & PhippsStable, 9-Chiefswood Stables Limited, 10-Don Alberto Corporation

**Saturday, Gulfstream, post time: 6:10 p.m. EDT****HUTCHESON S.-GIII, \$100,000, 3yo, 6f**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	In the Loop 🐾	Super Saver	Colts Neck Stables LLC	Duarte, Jr.	Toledo	118
2	Federal Case 🐾	Gemologist	Low, Lawana L. and Robert E.	Pletcher	Castellano	118
3	Gladiator King 🐾	Curlin	Thoroughbred Champions Training Center LLC	Mejia	Reyes	122
4	Topper T	Bellamy Road	Barber, Gary, Wachtel Stable and Pantofel Stable	Mott	Jaramillo	122
5	Lutsky 🐾	Yes It's True	Down Neck Stables and Lutsky, Jeffrey	Magner	Juarez	118

**Breeders:** 1-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 2-Kings Way Farm, 3-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 4-Blackoak Farm, 5-Pine Ridge Stables Ltd

**Sunday, Sunland, post time: 7:30 p.m. EDT****SUNLAND PARK DERBY-GIII, \$800,000, 3yo, 1 1/8m**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Mucho Gusto 🐾	Mucho Macho Man	Michael Lund Petersen	Baffert	Talamo	122
2	Anotherwistafate	Scat Daddy	Peter Redekop B. C., Ltd.	Wright	Hernandez	122
3	Hustle Up	Abstraction	Dale F. Taylor Racing, McQueen, B & Kirby, S	Fincher	Lavoilette	122
4	Wicked Indeed	Tapit	Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC	Asmussen	Contreras	122
5	Cutting Humor 🐾	First Samurai	Starlight Racing	Pletcher	Velazquez	122
6	Walker Stalker	Stroll	Gallegos Del Norte Racing	Gonzalez, Jr.	Medellin	122
7	Pasamonte Man 🐾	Strong Mandate	Sam Britt	Marr	Tohill	122
8	Collusionist	Ez Effort	Eli Diamant	Martinez, Jr.	Juarez, Jr.	122
9	Diamond Blitz 🐾	Munnings	Dart, Ron and Gwendolyn L.	Desormeaux	Desormeaux	122
10	Eye Cloud	Point of Entry	Mike Powers	Norris	Enriquez	122

**Breeders:** 1-Teneri Farm Inc. & Bernardo Alvarez Calderon, 2-Pursuit of Success LLC, 3-Brad King & Fincher Todd, 4-Winchell Thoroughbreds, LLC, 5-Dell Hancock & Bernie Sams, 6-Miguel L. Gallegos, 7-Eaton & Thorne, Inc, 8-William Matthews Family Trust, 9-BHMFR, LLC, 10-Steve M. DeMaiolo & Beechwood Racing Stable LLC



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Source: TDN Sire Lists, 3/20

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## THURSDAY'S RACING INSIGHTS:

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Mrs McDougal | Keeneland Photo

### POTN FILLY MAKES TURF DEBUT AT GP

5th-GP, \$50K, Msw, 3yo/up, f, 7 1/2ft, post time: 3:15 p.m. ET

WinStar Stablemates Racing LLC and trainer Rodolphe Brissett unveil **PASSIONOF THE NILE**, a sophomore daughter of the late **Pioneerof the Nile**. A \$300,000 KESEP yearling, Passionof the Nile is out of MSW and GSP dirt sprinter Distorted Passion, making her a half to MGSW and GISP turf router Mrs McDougal (Medaglia d'Oro), who sold for a sale-topping \$1.6 million at last year's Keeneland January sale. Passionof the Nile's stakes-winning second dam is a full-sister to GSW and GISP sprinter Warbling (Unbridled's Song). **TJCIS PPs**

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### IN ORDER OF PURSE:

5th-Gulfstream, \$44,120, Alw (NW1\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$25,000), 3-20, 4yo/up, f/m, 5f (off turf), :58.15, ft.

**VIOLENT TIMES (f, 4, Violence--Make Time, by Empire Maker)** was a convincing debut winner in a productive heat here in December of 2017, but finished far back in two subsequent stakes attempts. She woke up when switched to the Saratoga sod to be second in an allowance last August, and filled the same slot at Belmont in September. Off at 7-5 in this return to both the races and main track, the dark bay broke a half-step slowly, but quickly recovered and rushed up out wide to vie for command. She began to pull away from Knarsdale (Medaglia d'Oro) heading for home, and put 2 1/4 lengths on that foe in the lane. The winner's unraced dam produced a Declaration of War Filly last term. Sales history: \$10,000 Ylg '16 FTKFEB; \$41,000 Ylg '16 FTKJUL. Lifetime Record: 6-2-2-0, \$87,400. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-Thoroughbred Acquisition Group LLC; B-C Biscuit Racing, Island Peak Stables, Squire Thoroughbreds & The Maryland Group (PA); T-Ralph E. Nicks.

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### IN ORDER OF PURSE:

7th-Mahoning Valley, \$29,600, (S), Msw, 3-20, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:15.33, ft.

**ABSORB (f, 3, Orb--Muir Woods {MSW, \$129,904}, by Forest Camp)** was installed the 13-10 chalk off an upbeat tab that included stints at Bridlewood Farm, Gulfstream and Tampa and that was most recently punctuated with a :49 flat local bullet a week out from this unveiling. **Cont. p2**

# Stakes-Placed **Forever d'Oro**

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Photo by Adam Coglianesi



**7th-MVR cont.**

Perched three deep while attending the pace, the dark bay took over on the turn and fended off Maybetheday (Country Day) before running up the score to the tune of eight lengths. Sales history: \$90,000 Ylg '17 FTKJUL. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$17,760. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#).**

O-Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners; B-James A. & Jane N. Fraser (OH); T-Timothy E. Hamm.

**5th-Sam Houston Race, \$20,000, Msw, 3-20, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:12.40, ft.**

**SOULCOMETOWN (f, 3, Speightstown--Soul of Comete, by Perfect Soul {Ire})** showed brief speed before fading to sixth in the Oaklawn mud Feb. 23. Given an 11-10 chance getting some class relief, the homebred traveled comfortably on the front end through splits of :23.41 and :46.95 and dug in to fend off Two Two's Legacy (Bernardini) by a neck. The winner's dam is a half-sister to Munnings (Speightstown). She produced foals by Tale of Ekati in 2017 and 2018 and most recently produced a filly by Java's War this term. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$12,590. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#).**

O/B-Charles Fipke (KY); T-Steven M. Asmussen.

**SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: THURSDAY, MARCH 21**

**Apriority (Grand Slam), Elite Thoroughbreds, \$2,000**  
45 foals of racing age/5 winners/1 black-type winner  
9-Fair Grounds, Alw 5 1/2f, KANTIANA, 8-1  
\$2,200 ESL YRL yrl

**Cairo Prince (Pioneerof the Nile), Airdrie Stud, \$10,000**  
228 foals of racing age/28 winners/4 black-type winners  
7-Oaklawn, Msw 1m, CAIRO CUTIE, 4-1  
\$20,000 KEE JAN yrl; \$40,000 FTK JUL yrl; \$70,000 FTK OCT yrl;  
\$30,000 OBS OPN 2yo

**Goldencents (Into Mischief), Spendthrift Farm, \$15,000**  
256 foals of racing age/37 winners/2 black-type winners  
6-Charles Town, Msw 7f, OUT OF CENTS, 4-1

**Guilt Trip (Pulpit), Red River Farms, \$2,500**  
67 foals of racing age/7 winners/1 black-type winner  
9-Fair Grounds, Alw 5 1/2f, VICTORY TRIP, 20-1  
\$20,000 ESL YRL yrl

**He's Had Enough (Tapit), Woodford Thoroughbreds, \$5,000**  
139 foals of racing age/15 winners/0 black-type winners  
8-Gulfstream, Aoc 6f, HE'S SMOKIN HOT, 7-2  
\$40,000 OBS APR 2yo

**Mark Valeski (Proud Citizen), Airdrie Stud, \$2,500**  
57 foals of racing age/12 winners/1 black-type winner  
7-Oaklawn, Msw 1m, VERCRUYSE, 10-1

**Mr. Besilu (A.P. Indy), Eureka Thoroughbred Farm, \$2,000**  
23 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners  
6-Charles Town, Msw 7f, PROVIDENCE R V F, 12-1  
\$18,000 RNA FTK OCT yrl

**Seville (Ger) (Galileo {Ire}), Heritage Stallions, \$6,000**  
117 foals of racing age/2 winners/1 black-type winner  
4-Penn National, Msw 1m, I LOVE YOU, 10-1

**Sum of the Parts (Speightstown), Red River Farms, \$2,000**  
29 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners  
9-Fair Grounds, Alw 5 1/2f, CHARLIES TICKET, 12-1  
\$2,000 ESL MIX yrl

**Well Spelled (Spellbinder), Godstone Farm, \$1,500**  
24 foals of racing age/3 winners/1 black-type winner  
4-Penn National, Msw 1m, DONTRIDETHECLUTCH, 3-1

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**IN JAPAN:**

**Meiner Just (Jpn)**, h, 7, **Tapit**--Bully Bones (GSW, \$236,206), by Hesabull. Ohi, 3-20, Alw (\$63k), 1600m. B-Hatakeyama Stud Farm. \*\$200,000 in utero '11 KEENOV; ¥18,000,000 fl '12 JRHAJUL.

**ALLOWANCE RESULTS:**

**7th-Fair Grounds, \$45,000**, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$17,500), 3-20, 4yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:42.66, ft.

**MR DARCY (g, 5, Harlan's Holiday--Flourish, by Distorted Humor)** Lifetime Record: 18-3-4-4, \$115,024. O-Two Dimes Stable LLC; B-Juddmonte Farms Inc (KY); T-Angel O. Montano, Sr. \*\$12,000 3yo '17 KEENOV.

**4th-Fair Grounds, \$42,000**, (S), (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$30,000), 3-20, 3yo, 5 1/2ft, 1:05.85, fm.

**GREELEY'S BANKER (g, 3, Greeley's Galaxy--Ms. Banker, by Banker's Gold)** Lifetime Record: 5-2-1-0, \$60,060. O-J. Patrick Lee Racing LLC; B-Gerald L. Averett (LA); T-Howard Alonzo.

**6th-Mahoning Valley, \$32,700**, (S), 3-20, (NW3L), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:44.97, ft.

**HERE COMES JIGS (f, 3, A Giant Valentine--Jiggle, by Strategic Mission)** Lifetime Record: 4-3-0-1, \$59,120. O-Brinley Enterprises LLC; B-Michael L. Rone (OH); T-Penny Rone.

**3rd-Sam Houston Race, \$20,500**, (S), 3-20, (NW1X), 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:13.64, ft.

**ROCKIN ROYALTY (f, 4, Early Flyer--Our Royal Saint, by Royal Academy)** Lifetime Record: 20-3-5-5, \$54,395. O-Darrell W. Bravenec; B-Caroline Dodwell (TX); T-Jaime Castellanos. \*\$2,000 RNA Ylg '16 TTAMIX.

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**7th-Sam Houston Race, \$20,500**, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$15,000), 3-20, 4yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2f, 1:05.38, ft.

**KAI NALU (m, 5, Broken Vow--Fun Filled {SP}, by Distorted Humor)** Lifetime Record: 14-3-1-1, \$40,481. O-Susan Moulton; B-Tim Thornton & Tony Holmes (KY); T-Matt Hebert. \*\$100,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP.

**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

**Accapella Bella**, f, 4, **Scat Daddy**--Shriek (SP), by Street Cry (Ire). Sam Houston Race, 3-20, 5ft, :59.49. B-Eureka Thoroughbred Farm (KY). \*\$25,000 RNA Wlg '15 KEENOV. \*\*1/2 to Paid Up Subscriber (Candy Ride {Arg}), MGSW & MGISP, \$862,850.



**A GIANT VALENTINE**, Here Comes Jigs, f, 3, o/o Jiggle, by Strategic Mission. ALW, 3-20, Mahoning Valley

**BROKEN VOW**, Kai Nalu, m, 5, o/o Fun Filled, by Distorted Humor. AOC, 3-20, Sam Houston

**EARLY FLYER**, Rockin Royalty, f, 4, o/o Our Royal Saint, by Royal Academy. ALW, 3-20, Sam Houston

**GREELEY'S GALAXY**, Greeley's Banker, g, 3, o/o Ms. Banker, by Banker's Gold. AOC, 3-20, Fair Grounds

**HARLAN'S HOLIDAY**, Mr Darcy, g, 5, o/o Flourish, by Distorted Humor. AOC, 3-20, Fair Grounds

**ORB**, Absorb, f, 3, o/o Muir Woods, by Forest Camp. MSW, 3-20, Mahoning Valley

**SCAT DADDY**, Accapella Bella, f, 4, o/o Shriek, by Street Cry (Ire). MSW, 3-20, Sam Houston

**SPEIGHTSTOWN**, Soulcometown, f, 3, o/o Soul of Comete, by Perfect Soul (Ire). MSW, 3-20, Sam Houston

**VIOLENCE**, Violent Times, f, 4, o/o Make Time, by Empire Maker. AOC, 3-20, Gulfstream

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## PRENDERGAST: A COLOSSUS OF THE CURRAGH



Kevin Prendergast after winning the 2016 Irish 2000 Guineas  
*Racingfotos.com*

by Amy Lynam

The vast crowd swarming to congratulate Kevin Prendergast after his G1 Irish 2000 Guineas win with Awtaad (Ire) (Cape Cross {Ire}) was testament to the veteran trainer's popularity. Though popularity is not always a measure of merit, in this case there's no room for doubt.

This wasn't Prendergast's 'first rodeo', as they say. In 1976, he trained Northern Treasure (Ire) (Northfields) to win the Curragh Classic in the colours of his great friend, the late Davy Brennan. Other victories on the trainer's roll of honour include the G1 Irish 1000 Guineas, G1 2000 Guineas, G3 Coventry S., G1 Matron S., G1 Phoenix S. (three times), G1 National S., G1 Moyglare Stud S. (three times), G1 Tattersalls Gold Cup, G2 Pretty Polly S. (twice), G1 Irish Champion Bumper, G1 Irish St. Leger (four times) and G2 Hardwicke S., to list just the highlights.

Several of the above accolades were earned at The Curragh, Prendergast's base and favourite racecourse. When asked what race he would most like to add to his tally, the 86-year-old replies, "the Derby," and he doesn't mean Epsom.

"We've been second or third in a few times but never won it. We wouldn't have had many runners in it," he says of the Irish Classic. "Maybe eight or 10 runners."

Cont. p2

## ARQANA TESTS ARGENTINE WATERS

By Kelsey Riley

Buenos Aires, Argentina—Arqana's inaugural Gran Venta Selecta sale of 91 handpicked Argentinean yearlings takes place on Thursday evening at San Isidro Racecourse, and while all parties involved admit that this pilot project is rather experimental, the signs couldn't have been more positive 24 hours out.

Arqana's Eric Hoyeau and Freddy Powell were among a small international contingent laying their eyes on the yearlings for the first time on Wednesday at Haras Abolengo and Haras Vacacion, the two studs that have teamed up to supply the yearlings for the sale. Powell, who has been instrumental in paving the way for this sale along with Arqana's South American representative and local bloodstock agent Matias Villamil, said, "They were really what we were expecting; top-class. When we were looking at the horses, I said to Eric, 'There are some physicals that I'd love to have in [Arqana's] August [yearling sale].'"

As for his expectations ahead of Thursday evening, Powell admitted it is uncharted territory—for any international sale company. [Cont. p5](#)



Arqana's Eric Hoyeau and Freddy Powell  
at Haras Abolengo | *Kelsey Riley*

## IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

### CITY OF BALTIMORE SUES STRONACH GROUP

The City of Baltimore filed suit Tuesday against The Stronach Group in order to prevent it from shifting the GI Preakness S. to Laurel.

[Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

**Kevin Prendergast Cont. from p1**

Prendergast had his first runner in the Irish Derby in 1964, just his second year of training, but it was in 1973 that he got his first real thrill, as Ragapan (Ire), a son of his father's Irish Derby hero, Ragusa, finished second.

Of his experience at Epsom, meanwhile, he says, "I've only had three or four runners in the Epsom Derby and the closest I got was fifth, twice, and Nebbiolo (GB) was sixth in it. He didn't stay.

"It's very hard to get a horse for Epsom, when you're going to the sales and buying a horse for €25,000 or €30,000. I had a horse who might have won the Epsom Derby in Northern Treasure and after he won the Irish 2000 Guineas, I said to the owner that we should enter him in the Derby, but he said 'No, it's too much money to enter, we'll run him in the Irish Derby'. He finished third, but Epsom would have really suited him."

With Prendergast's obvious love for The Curragh, and his pride in Irish racing, it may be surprising to learn that he was, in fact, born in Caulfield, Australia.

Educated in Ireland, he returned to Australia to work as assistant trainer to Frank Dalton and has great respect for what he learnt there.

He says, "Most of the Australian trainers are very good horsemen, most of them have done apprenticeships and many of the them don't need blacksmiths-they can shoe their own horses."

Prendergast's connection to Australian racing doesn't end there, as both he and his father employed a number of Australian jockeys.

"Des Lake, Ron Hutchinson, Garnie Bougoure, Bill Williamson rode for my father," says Prendergast. "The last fella I had was Rod Griffiths-a very good rider."

The greatest success Griffiths and Prendergast enjoyed

together was in the 1991 Phoenix S. with Bradawn Breever (Ire) (Salmon Leap) who made all and narrowly prevailed in a blanket finish.

Returning to his list of racing favourites, Prendergast says,

"The horse that meant the most to me was Ardross (Ire) (Run The Gantlet). Financially he was very good to us at a time when we needed the money for death duties. He won the Jockey Club Cup, was second in the Gold Cup and was sold later that year."

Ardross isn't a choice lacking in sentimentality, though, as Prendergast took over his training upon the death of his father, the legendary 'Darkie' Prendergast, who also bred the champion stayer at his Meadow Court Stud.

Selling winners is a crucial source of funds to many training operations and it is something Prendergast always keeps in mind, even as early as at the yearling sales.

"I was never in the habit of buying precocious horses," he says. "Mostly, we'd look for a horse that if he wasn't up to standard as a 2-year-old, he'd win a 3-year-old maiden over a mile and a

half, and you'd get him sold to go jumping. That's the way we've worked over the years."

As well as being a top-class trainer, Prendergast is renowned as a shrewd judge of a horse, his stable stars having often been bought at affordable prices. In the past, he worked in tandem with the late Frank Barry of Manister House Stud, a bloodstock agent as well as a close friend.

On their approach, Prendergast says, "We were always a sucker for a good-looking horse, with a good step and usually, if they

didn't have a great pedigree, we might have a chance of buying them. You like to buy horses by stallions who are getting winners, and who have good stallion pedigrees. A lot of horses retire to stud and they don't have stallion pedigrees."



Mouse O'Ryan, Kevin Prendergast & Chris Hayes | *Racing Post*

We were always a sucker for a good-looking horse, with a good step and usually, if they didn't have a great pedigree, we might have a chance of buying them. You like to buy horses by stallions who are getting winners, and who have good stallion pedigrees.

Kevin Prendergast



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### **Kevin Prendergast Cont.**

Among Barry and Prendergast's bargain buys are G1 Vincent O'Brien National S. winner Kingsfort (War Chant), who was bought for €36,000 at the Goffs Sportsman's Sale, G1 Moyglare Stud S. winner Termagant (Ire) (Powerscourt {GB}), bought at the same sale for €34,000, and the Godolphin-bred Coventry S. winner Verglas (Ire) (Highest Honor {Fr}), who cost £26,000IRP at the Goffs Orby Sale. Prendergast is now usually seen with former trainer and good friend Jeremy Harley at the sales, as well as at the races, with Harley always present at the yard on work mornings.

The trainer now finds it even tougher to secure the yearlings that catch his eye in the sales ring, as he explains, "Now, if you see a nice horse, three or four of the breeze-up boys get together and outbid you. It makes it harder for the ordinary trainer to compete. The sort of horse you used to be able to buy for €25,000 to €30,000 is now making €80,000 to €100,000."

This also makes it more difficult on the track. "We notice here in Ireland, that in some of the auction races, you see horses that cost €100,000 running in auction races, which they shouldn't be allowed to do. The scale is too high for auction races to give the ordinary fella a chance. You could be up against a Galileo (Ire) that was bought back for €70,000 or €80,000, which can happen."

Prendergast's eye for a good-looking horse is apparent at the races, with his runners easily spotted in the parade ring, always guaranteed to be donning a snow-white sheepskin nose band, a meticulously plaited mane, their quarter marks gleaming in the sunshine.

"You've got to have good staff," he says. "If you haven't, you can't turn horses out well. I've been very lucky over the years to have had very good staff and most of them are with me a long time. I think it's a general approach, also including the feed and the wellbeing of the horse. The main thing in this country is that you have to keep horses warm." **Cont. p4**



**Madmoon** | *Racing Post*

## **IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY**

FRESHMAN SIRES REPRESENTED IN SLIPPER

Four freshmen sires have a chance of siring a G1 Golden Slipper winner in their first crop. **Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.**



Diana Vacisek & Kevin Prendergast after La Collina won the G1 Keeneland Phoenix S. | *Racing Post*

### Kevin Prendergast Cont.

One of the horses receiving the best care possible at Friarstown Stables is Classic hope **Madhmoon (Ire)** (Dawn Approach {Ire}), who with two rugs and a red lamp, has no danger of catching a chill in the Irish winter. On his current stable star, Prendergast says, "He's doing very well and hopefully we'll be able to get him out at Leopardstown on Apr. 6 in the Guineas Trial, if the ground is not too bad. Then, we'll see if we'll run him in the Irish or English Guineas."

Madhmoon was last seen running out an impressive winner of the G2 KPMG Champions Juveniles S. at Leopardstown during Irish Champions Weekend, an initiative Prendergast very much admires. He says, "Irish Champions Weekend is a great promotion for Irish racing. We're very lucky to have a great track like Leopardstown to stage it on, and it's very well run. Awtaad won the Boomerang Mile there, Madhmoon won the Group 2 last year and La Collina (Ire) won the Matron, so it's been a lucky meeting for us."

He does, however, have one complaint about the Dublin track. "I like Leopardstown, but the only regret I have is that the trainers didn't get together and save the six-furlong sprint track. It was the best six-furlong track in the world and we lost it through incompetence."

Madhmoon has become "very strong and muscular", according to his trainer, and is a laidback individual, a characteristic his family shares.

"I've trained most of the family, including the grandam to win a Group 3, on the last day Sheikh Hamdan was at The Curragh. They're all pretty sensible and very genuine. It's a good, solid family," says Prendergast.

Madhmoon is not the only Friarstown resident whose family Prendergast knows well.

He says, "I have a very nice filly belonging to Luke Barry--a half-sister to La Collina. She's a lovely filly by Zoffany (Ire), though much bigger than her sister. We like her."

He also highlights an unraced Camelot (GB) 3-year-old filly as one to note. Out of Rebelline (Ire) (Robellino), whom he trained to win the G1 Tattersalls Gold Cup, she has been named **Nan Yehi (Ire)**, and holds entries in the Irish Guineas and Irish Oaks.

Madhmoon shares his grandam with Friarstown's Irish 2000 Guineas victor of 2016, Awtaad, whose first crop conceived at Derrinstown Stud are now yearlings.

"I think Awtaad has a very good chance of being a successful sire as he has a very good temperament and is a good-looking horse," muses the trainer. "In my opinion, his best run was his last run, in the Queen Elizabeth II S., and we would have loved to have kept him in training for another year, but Sheikh Hamdan wanted a stallion in Derrinstown. His foals sold very well; they averaged over 62,000gns, which is a very good price for a horse standing at €15,000. Most breeders got a good return. I actually sold a filly myself, out of a mare called Brown Butterfly, and I was happy with the result."

He adds, "I've trained for Sheikh Hamdan for over 30 years and he's been a great supporter. Without him, we probably wouldn't be around. I had a very good friend, Tom Jones, who recommended me to Sheikh Hamdan and it went from there. Tom was his trainer in England at the time."

The loyalty of Kevin Prendergast's staff, as well as his owners, is an excellent reflection on not just his success, but also his likeable nature. Stephen Craine has been with Prendergast for over 30 years; beginning with riding work while still first jockey to Tommy Stack, he later became Friarstown's first jockey and together, he and Kevin enjoyed much success. After retiring from the saddle, Craine remained as part of the team as assistant trainer, which includes breaking all of the stable's yearlings. **Cont. p5**



Awtaad & Kevin Prendergast | *Racing Post*

## Kevin Prendergast Cont.

On his highlights of working with Prendergast, Craine says, "Winning two Legers for him was fantastic, but there have been plenty of thrills even since I stopped riding. Miss Beatrix (Ire) gave me a great high as she was tough to break, but went on to win the Moyglare and the Goffs Million. Awtaad was obviously brilliant to be involved in and we've also been placed in a good few Guineas."

He adds, "I even got a great kick out of working with Kevin before I became first jockey. I was at my own place breaking a half-bred horse and Kevin dropped by, asking me to come round to sit up on an unraced grey colt by Highest Honor. I rode him and was impressed." The horse was, of course, Verglas.

It's not always about the big days, though, as Craine knows. "I'd retired as a jockey but was still riding work when we had Wrong Key (Ire). I weighed about 9st 4lbs at the time, so when I rode her work, and she had the other horses under pressure behind her, I knew she was good. She only cost 4,000gns so we entered her in a median auction race at 8st 4lbs and Gordon 'Flash' Power claimed weight off her. Myself and Kevin had a right few pounds on her and she won by half the track, that was a great day, I really enjoyed that."

Craine, more than anyone, should know what makes Kevin Prendergast a top-class trainer. He says, "Kevin is a brilliant judge of a horse--he just knows how who every horse is and leaves no stone unturned. He might not have seen a horse for just one day and he'd be able to tell if it had lost weight."

The mutual fondness is clear, both in observing Prendergast and Craine together, and when hearing them speak of each other. Craine says, "We have a great laugh together--we're just great pals. He's a genius, he's unreal."

There is no doubt that at least some of Kevin Prendergast's training ability, and natural aptitude with horses comes from his father and when asked what the greatest lesson he learnt from him, his final word on the matter is simply "discipline".

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## Arqana Tests Argentine Waters Cont. from p1

"It's a whole new world," he said. "What is for sure, and what happens anywhere at any in the sale, is that when you have quality stock, things are going pretty well. The horses bring the business, not the other way around. And what we saw today was quality stock."

After doing plenty of legwork in Argentina over the years, and with the urging of Villamil, the team at Arqana began to put the final pieces of the puzzle together to stage a sale in the country last year. Hoyeau said that he and Powell had visited Argentina

at the same stage last year to inspect that season's yearling crop, so they had a good idea of what to expect on Wednesday.

"It truly is a select sale," said Hoyeau. "They're very nice horses--they're all correct, the standard is quite high and the majority of them are very mature."

And with good reason. Abolengo and Vacacion principals Julio Menditeguy and Pablo Zavaleta supplied their best yearlings for the sale with hopes of, in the coming years, building an event that is an international attraction.

And, indeed, it is already partway there. Those inspecting the yearlings on Wednesday included Emmanuel and Laura de Seroux, respectively an international bloodstock agent and a retired Grade I-winning trainer; and agents Dennis Loh, Eoin Sullivan and Justin Vermaak, based respectively in Hong Kong, Malaysia and South Africa.

The yearlings they feasted their eyes on included **hip 2**, a colt from the final crop of leading local sire Roman Ruler who is a full-brother to Imagen de Roma (Arg), winner of last year's G1 Gran Premio Jockey Club, the middle leg of the Argentine Triple Crown, and **hip 3**, an Equal Stripes colt that is a full-brother to two Group 1 winners: Positive Mind (Arg), winner of the Gran Premio Estrellas Juvenile Fillies, and Paulinho (Arg), Argentina's champion 2-year-old and winner of the Gran Premio Estrellas Juvenile. The Estrellas is the Argentine Breeders' Cup.



Lot 78, a filly from the first crop of the well-bred

John F Kennedy | Kelsey Riley

**Hip 6** is out of Que Piensa Cat (Arg) (Easing Along), a Group 1 winner at two who was exported to the U.S. for her broodmare career before later returning to Argentina, and has supplied the listed turf sprint winner Always Thinking (Street Sense). This filly is by Roman Ruler.

Equal Stripes, who stands at Abolengo, is also represented by hips **8** and **9**. [Cont. p6](#)

**Arqana Tests Argentine Waters Cont.**

Hip 8 is a full-sister to Schoolmistress (Arg), winner at two of the G1 Gran Premio Jorge de Atucha (like the G1 Fillies' Mile or G1 Frizette S.) and at three of the G1 Estrellas Distaff. Hip 9 is a full-brother to South African Group 1 winner Bambina Stripes (Arg), while seven Group 1 winners appear under the second and third dams, as well as three stakes winners in the U.S.

Hip 11 is a filly from the first crop of the beautifully bred Group 3 winner John F Kennedy (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), a son of champion 2-year-old filly Rumpelstiltskin (Ire) (Danehill) and a grandson of the great Miesque. The filly's dam Gamuza Fina (Arg) (Equal Stripes {Arg}) was champion 2-year-old filly and the winner of the Estrellas Juvenile Fillies and Jorge de Atucha. Her first foal is a three-time winner. Hip 14 is a filly by Serena's Song's son Grand Reward and is a full-sister to Group 1 winner City Wonder (Arg) and Group 2 winner City Glam (Arg).

The full catalogue can be accessed [here](#) and includes walking videos for each lot. The sale will be streamed live on [argsales.com](#). [\(Return to p1\)](#)

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John Oxx and G1SW Skitter Scatter | *Inpho Photography*

“She was constantly underrated by people last year and kept improving,” said Oxx during the launch. “She improved again when she was stretched out in distance, and it remains to be seen how she will train on. She doesn't require a lot of work and we haven't pressed her hard yet. I hope to have her ready to have her first run in the 1000 Guineas at Newmarket. She's plenty big enough, but the worry is that other horses are going to progress more than her. She has a big heart and a good temperament, which will carry her a long way. In the Moyglare she looked beat at halfway on soft ground, but in the end won easily. Her relaxed style will help her get a mile, and you wouldn't expect her to get any more than that.”

“We have so much to look forward to in the season ahead and it is fitting that we launch today only a stone's throw from The Curragh Racecourse where the finishing touches are being made ahead of their first fixture on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6,” said Horse Racing Ireland CEO Brian Kavanagh. “That day will whet the appetite for the newly-formed three-day Curragh Spring Festival featuring the first Irish Classics of the season later that month. I am delighted that we have been able to increase prizemoney once again for this coming Flat season which looks like being as competitive as ever. I would like to wish all owners, trainers and riders all the very best for the season ahead.”

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**2019 IRISH FLAT SEASON LAUNCHED AT CURRABEG STABLES**

Legendary trainer John Oxx's historic Currabeg Stables played host to the launch of the 2019 Irish Flat season on Wednesday afternoon. Naas kicks the season off in style at 1:30 p.m. on Mar. 24, with the €100,000 Tote Irish Lincolnshire boasting the largest purse of the eight-race card. Also contested Sunday are the €77,500 G3 Lodge Park Stud Irish EBF Park Express S., the €50,000 Naas Racecourse Business Club Madrid H. and the €45,000 Listed Devoy S. The Curragh's two-year redevelopment project will be unveiled on May 6, while the official opening will be the three-day Curragh Spring Festival from May 24-26 featuring the G1 Tattersalls Irish 2000 Guineas, G1 Tattersalls Irish 1000 Guineas and the G1 Tattersalls Gold Cup.

Irish highweight 2-year-old filly **Skitter Scatter** (Scat Daddy), who won the G1 Moyglare Stud S., G2 Debutante S. and G3 Silver Flash S. during her juvenile campaign, is a new addition to Oxx's string for owners Anthony and Mrs. Sonia Rogers. She is a leading fancy for the 1000 Guineas. Oxx and Skitter Scatter's former trainer Patrick Prendergast [joined forces in early January](#).

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## FRANCE

**Wednesday's Results:**

**2nd-La Teste de Buch, €22,000, Mdn, 3-20, 3yo, f, 9fT, 1:54.71, vs.**

**PARAVENT (GB) (f, 3, Oasis Dream {GB}--Paratonnerre {GB}, by Montjeu {Ire})**, a 26-1 shot, raced better than mid-division throughout the early stages. Green on the bends and taking time to warm up in the home straight, the homebred grew in stature as the race unfolded and eventually caught Godolphin's Elegant Light (GB) (Teofilo {Ire}) in the shade of the post to register a short-head verdict. From one of Lady O'Reilly's best families, the bay is the first foal out of a full-sister to the G3 Prix de Lutece winner Pacifique (Ire) and a half to Prudenzia (Ire) (Dansili {GB}). Successful in the Listed Prix de la Seine, she has achieved considerable renown as the dam of Chicquita (Ire), another Montjeu who captured the G1 Irish Oaks and was runner-up in the G1 Prix de Diane and third in the G1 British Champions Fillies & Mares S., and Magic Wand (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) who took last year's G2 Ribblesdale S. and was second in this year's G1 Pegasus World Cup Turf Invitational S. The second dam Platonic (GB) (Zafonic) was an incredibly shrewd purchase from the draft of Luca Cumani's Fittocks Stud at 100,000gns at the 2004 Tattersalls December Mares Sale before the likes of Alexandrova (Ire) (Sadler's Wells) boosted the family. Also connected to the G1 Melbourne Cup hero Rekindling (GB) (High Chaparral {Ire}), Paratonnerre's 2-year-old colt Met Office (Ire) (Dansili {GB}) was bought for €150,000 by Stephen Hillen at Arqana August, while she also has a yearling colt by Fastnet Rock (Aus). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €11,000. **Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O/B-Ecurie Skymarc Farm & Ecurie Des Charmes (GB); T-Francois Rohaut.

**1st-Le Croise-Laroche, €16,000, Mdn, 3-20, 3yo, f, 9fT, 2:00.60, hy.**

**LUDELLA (FR) (f, 3, Rajsaman {Fr}--Salon Musique {Ger}, by Black Sam Bellamy {Ire})**, a 9-2 shot, raced behind the leading trio tucked in against the rail early. Gifted the lead with two furlongs to race, the bay jinked left once into the home straight but was always doing enough to score by two lengths from Ex Nihilo Nihilfit (Fr) (Wootton Bassett {GB}). The dam, who also has a yearling colt by Mount Nelson (GB), is a sibling of four black-type performers headed by the group 1-placed Sarandia (Ger) (Dansili {GB}). Sales history: €8,000 Wlg '16 ARQDEC; €22,000 Ylg '17 ARQOCT. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €8,000.

**Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-John Craig Paterson; B-Mme E Ribard (FR); T-Henri-Francois Devin.

**4th-Le Croise-Laroche, €16,000, Mdn, 3-20, 3yo, c/g, 9fT, 2:00.60, hy.**

**ISIDRO (FR) (g, 3, Lope de Vega {Ire}--Ondoyante {Ire}, by Slickly {Fr})**, sent off the 17-10 favourite, was green early and stumbled on the crossing before settling in second. Taking until the final 50 metres to get to the lead, the homebred stuck to his guns to beat Perviy (Fr) (Iffraaj {GB}) by a neck. The dam, who is a full-sister to the owner-breeders' G1 Grand Prix de Paris, G1 Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud, G1 Grosser Preis von Berlin and G1 Preis von Europa hero Meandre (Fr) (Slickly {Fr}), also has a 2-year-old filly by Siyouni (Fr). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €8,000.

**Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-Baron Edouard De Rothschild; B-Famille Rothschild (FR); T-Henri-Francois Devin.

**CONDITIONS RESULT:**

**6th-La Teste de Buch, €40,000, 3-20, 4yo/up, 10fT, 2:01.45, vs.**

**PATASCOY (FR) (c, 4, Wootton Bassett {GB}--Noble World {Ger}, by Winged Love {Ire})** Lifetime Record: G1SP-Fr, 11-5-3-1, €537,350. O-Roberto Cochetoux Tierno; B-Mme B Moser (FR); T-Xavier Thomas-Demeaulte. \*€40,000 Ylg '16 ARAU2.

**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNER:**

**Thiago (Fr), g, 3, Kendargent (Fr)--Lunaba (Fr), by Anabaa. La Teste de Buch, 3-20, 9fT, 1:54.15. B-S.C.E.A. Des Prairies & Ecurie Celtica (FR). \*€60,000 Ylg '17 ARQAUG.**

## BRITAIN

**AYR FIXTURE REPLACED WITH CHELMSFORD**

The Apr. 1 Ayr fixture will instead be held at Chelmsford City Racecourse, the British Horseracing Authority announced on Wednesday. The card will consist of seven races, with entry and declaration deadlines remaining as normal.

"Following the end of the Flat season at Ayr last October we invested in some new drainage work in the home straight, following which the ground was reinstated and reseeded," said Ayr Racecourse Clerk of the Course Graeme Anderson.

"Unfortunately there has been insufficient growth for the ground to be ready for our scheduled Flat meeting on Apr. 1. We are unable to stage a Flat meeting on the hurdles track due to the close proximity of the Coral Scottish Grand National Festival."

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**IN HONG KONG:**

**Perfect To Play (Ire)**, g, 5, **Born To Sea (Ire)**--Centreofattention (Aus), by Danehill. Happy Valley, 3-20, Hcp. (£89k/€103k), 1650mT, 1:40.11. B-Mrs C Regalado-Gonzalez. \*GSP-Ire. \*\*Formerly Born To Play (Ire). \*\*\*20,000gns Ylg '15 TATOCT; £500,000 HRA '17 GOFLON. **VIDEO**

**Citron Spirit (Ire)**, g, 7, **Invincible Spirit (Ire)**--Citron Presse, by Lemon Drop Kid. Happy Valley, 3-20, Hcp. (£253k/€294k), 1800mT, 1:47.81. B-Mrs E Bifova. \*GSW-Ger & GSP-HK. \*\*€450,000 HRA '14 ARQARC. **VIDEO**

**IN QATAR:**

**Almigdum (Ire)**, c, 4, **Footstepsinthesand (GB)**--Know (Ire), by Excellent Art (GB). Al Rayyan, 3-20, Hcp., 1800m, 1:54.15. B-Alex Frost & Harry Fowler. \*22,000gns Ylg '16 TATIRE. **VIDEO**

**Opera Baron (GB)**, g, 6, **Equiano (Fr)**--Opera Dancer (GB), by Norse Dancer (Ire). Al Rayyan, 3-20, Cond., 1800m, 1:53.35. B-Littleton Stud. \*60,000gns HRA '15 TATOCT. **VIDEO**

## WORLDWIDE NEWS

### CHAMPIONS DAY AT SHA TIN LURES THREE DOZEN TOP-LEVEL WINNERS *by Alan Carasso*

A total of 111 horses--including 38 individual Group 1/Grade I winners from 13 racing jurisdictions across six continents--have been entered at the first closing stage for FWD Champions Day, featuring the G1 FWD QE II Cup (2000m), the G1 FWD Champions Mile and the G1 Chairman's Sprint Prize (1200m) to be contested Sunday, Apr. 28. The three races offer total prize money of HK\$58 million (*US\$7.39 million*).

Reigning Japanese Horse of the Year and G1 Japan Cup victrix **Almond Eye (Jpn)** (Lord Kanaloa {Jpn}) is one of 30 entries from the island nation and could make the QE II her second run of the season, depending on her first-up performance in the G1 Dubai Turf at Meydan Mar. 30. **Deirdre (Jpn)** (Deep Impact {Jpn}), who was a gallant second to **Glorious Forever (GB)** (Archipenko) in last year's G1 Longines Hong Kong Cup over the QE II course and distance, could make the return trip to Sha Tin, while **Lys Gracieux (Jpn)** (Heart's Cry {Ire}), narrowly second to **Exultant (Ire)** (Teofilo {Ire}) in the G1 Longines Hong Kong Vase in

December, could drop back to the 2000m for a potentially mouth-watering rematch.

With at least a temporary easing of travel restrictions to Hong Kong by the Australian government, some 15 nominations were received from the country. Leading 3-year-old colt **The Autumn Sun (Aus)** (Redoute's Choice {Aus}), favoured for Saturday's G1 Rosehill Guineas (2000m), was handed entries for both the QE II and the Champions Mile, while champion Irish trainer Aidan O'Brien has engaged **Magic Wand (Ire)** (Galileo {Ire}), runner-up in the G1 Pegasus World Cup Turf in Florida Jan. 26. The home team is represented by defending champion and '**TDN Rising Star**' **Pakistan Star (Ger)** (Shamardal), 2016 Hong Kong Cup hero **Time Warp (GB)** (Archipenko) and **Furore (NZ)** (Pierro {Aus}) and **Waikuku (Ire)** (Harbour Watch {Ire}), the 1-2 finishers from the BMW Hong Kong Derby Mar. 17. Furore was also entered for the Champions Mile by trainer Frankie Lor, while his stablemate **Dark Dream (Aus)** (All American {Aus}) was also given entries for both the QE II and the Champions Mile.



Almond Eye winning the Japan Cup | Horsephotos

The latter race drew a total of 40 entries, including the current world's joint top-rated horse and reigning Hong Kong Horse of the Year **Beauty Generation (NZ)** (Road to Rock {Aus}), who will look for back-to-back victories in the race. The local contingent for the Mile could also include **Conte (Aus)** (Starcraft {NZ}), runner-up to Beauty Generation in the G1 Stewards Cup in January; the 4-year-old **Mission Tycoon (Aus)** (Written Tycoon {Aus}), upset winner of the Hong Kong Classic Cup this past February; and the progressive **Rise High (Fr)** (Myboycharlie {Ire}). Opposition from overseas could include G1 Yasuda Kinen winner **Mozu Ascot** (Frankel {GB}); treble Australian Group 1-winning filly **Shoals (Aus)** (Fastnet Rock {Aus}); and France's intriguing **Marianafoot (Fr)** (Footstepsinthesand {GB}), victorious in the Irish Thoroughbred Marketing Cup in Qatar when last seen Feb. 22. **Cont. p9**



Beauty Generation | HKJC photo

**Champions Day at Sha Tin Cont.**

Hong Kong horses are extremely difficult to beat on home turf in the Chairman’s Sprint Prize, which has attracted its 2017 & 2018 runner-up **Mr Stunning (Aus)** (Exceed and Excel {Aus}) in addition to G1 winner **Beat The Clock (Aus)** (Hinchinbrook {Aus}) and **Wishful Thinker (Aus)** (I Am Invincible {Aus}), who will get tested for class in the G1 Al Quoz Sprint on Saturday week. The US-based **Imperial Hint** (Imperialism), a dual Grade I-winning sprinter on dirt and headed for the G1 Dubai Golden Shaheen, is also among the nominees, as are the Al Quoz-bound **Viddora (Aus)** (I Am Invincible {Aus}), the Richard Fahey-trained G1 British Champions Sprint winner **Sands of Mali (Fr)** (Panis), Ballydoyle’s **Lost Treasure** (Ire) (War Front) and a rare South American entry in the form of **Holy Legal (Brz)** (Holy Roman Emperor {Ire}), the champion sprinter of 2018 in Uruguay.

“FWD Champions Day is one of the world’s elite race days and the high quality of nominations this year is indicative of that,” said Andrew Harding, Executive Director, Racing, for the Hong Kong Jockey Club. “Last year was the first time that we positioned all three of our spring majors on the same day and the result was a tremendous celebration of world class sport. The broad worldwide spread of entries is an exciting feature of this year’s nominations, with an impressive Japanese contingent and a very welcome and strong group of entries from Australia.”

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U S Navy Flag

**Darley July Cup Winner U S Navy Flag at Coolmore Ireland**



**After the Finish Line, Kingsgate Native**



No Nay Never

**Leading Second Crop Sire No Nay Never**

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## FRESHMEN SIRES REPRESENTED IN SLIPPER



**Cosmic Force** | Bronwen Healy

by Bren O'Brien

It has been nine years since the progeny of a first-season stallion has won Australia's richest and most prestigious 2-year-old race, the Golden Slipper S. But the class of 2019 have a significant chance of breaking that drought with four runners in Saturday's race at Rosehill. Stratum was the last stallion to win the G1 Golden Slipper S. with his first crop thanks to the filly Crystal Lily in 2010, while before that you have to go back to 1994 when Danzero, from the first Australian crop of the legendary Danehill (USA), won the race.

**Rubick, Deep Field, Time For War** and **Sidestep** are all represented in Saturday's 16-horse field via **Yes Yes Yes, Cosmic Force, Time To Reign** and **Kiamichi**, respectively. The upside for those who stand those stallions is clear.

Colm Santry, Coolmore's Nominations & Sales Manager, said the impact for Rubick, who has stood for A\$17,600 in his first four seasons, would be substantial.

"A Golden Slipper winner for any sire is extremely significant, as it is the race every owner and breeder wants to win. For a first-season sire with only 21 runners such as Rubick it carries

even greater significance, especially if it was to come from a quality colt such as Yes Yes Yes," he said.

Coolmore secured a deal for part ownership of the colt ahead of his run on Saturday.

As one of the owners in Cosmic Force, a success by the Deep Field colt on Saturday would be massive for Newgate, which has stood his stallion for A\$22,000 since he served 257 mares in first year. General Manager Bruce Slade said the presence of an in-form Cosmic Force in such a big race was a huge moment for all of those involved with the farm.

"We are going to get down there with a good number of people from the farm which will be really good," he said. "Obviously, a lot of time and effort goes into launching these stallions and getting their foals and raising the stock. I'm just really excited for the whole farm, for the shareholders in the horse, for the breeders that have been supporters, for the buyers and trainers that have backed him, it's an exciting time."

Telemon Thoroughbreds secured Sidestep via an agreement with Darley ahead of last breeding season, with General Manager Joe Heather saying an upset win for Kiamichi would be a huge result not just for the stallion, but for the breeders who have already supported him.

"It would be a fantastic result for us and our clients who supported him, and who have mares in foal to him," he said. "It would also be terrific for the Godolphin team obviously. They've got an incredible string of 2-year olds, and they supported the stallion before we had the opportunity to stand him for them. There will be lots of parties cheering him on should Kiamichi get the job done for him." **Cont. p2**



**Time For War** | TDN AusNZ

### Freshman Sires Represented in Slipper Cont. from p1

Success by Time for War's colt, Time To Reign, the half-brother to 2017 Golden Slipper S. heroine She Will Reign (Manhattan Rain), would be bittersweet for his former home at Kitchwin Hills. The son of Snitzel died of a colic attack after just two seasons at stud.

### Four-Strong Chance at Breaking Drought

Four Slipper runners by first-season sires is the most in over a decade. Three editions of the Slipper this decade have featured no horses in that category, while last year it was three.

Interestingly, the two runners in the 2010 edition, finished first and second, with Crystal Lily beating Decision Time (Foreplay).

Slade believes the strong representation is a reflection of a particularly deep crop of stallions who went to stud in 2015.

"I think it says a lot about the calibre of horses that retired that year. It was such a good quality group of horses. I just remember it being a huge year and really competitive. When those good horses retire, thankfully they get supported with some really nice mares and we have got where we have now," he said.

Another interesting quirk this year is that the two leading first-season sires on prizemoney, Better Than Ready and Brazen Beau, are not represented.

### It's a Yes for Rubick

Rubick is currently third on that list, with five winners, highlighted by his lone stakes-winner Yes Yes Yes.

"From the beginning Yes Yes Yes has shown great potential. He has proven to be an extremely dynamic and tractable colt that has continued to improve from race to race," Santry said.

"Rubick is the most precocious son of Encosta De Lago and Yes Yes Yes was the first winner for his sire. They are both blessed with great natural ability and great minds. Each of them have incredible temperaments which is so important for 2-year-olds to consistently perform at the top level."

Deep Field is fourth, with four individual winners, and Slade said the impact of his first crop has exceeded Newgate's expectations.

"I don't think we could be any happier. If you compare him directly to his own sire Northern Meteor at the same time, I think Deep Field is ahead of him. Northern Meteor had a crunching back end to his autumn and winter, and hopefully Deep Field can be the same," he said. "He's just produced such good quality stock and they are all in the right stables. He's covered 850 mares in his four years at stud and he's had a lot of good commercial support, a lot of good supporters breeding to him and the trainers and buyers have got stuck into his second crop. They've done really well this year." **Cont. p3**



Yes Yes Yes will represent Coolmore Australia's Rubick in the G1 Golden Slipper S. at Rosehill. | Bronwen Healy



Kiamichi | Bronwen Healy

### Following the Field

Through its ownership, Newgate has kept a very close eye on Cosmic Force's development and Slade feels there are strong similarities between sire and son.

"I think No.1 he has a heap of natural speed. I think you have to have speed to pass it on, you can't teach speed," he said. "If you go back and watch Cosmic Force's starts, he jumps half a length clear of the field every time and that allows him to put himself in a position.

"I think all the Deep Fields, from the feedback from the trainers, they possess natural speed, they have got good attitudes and they are good in the feed bin, they are the three key ingredients to horses winning and running at the top level."

Of all of the four first-season sires, Sidestep, was the only one to contest a Golden Slipper himself, having ran second to Overreach (Exceed and Excel) in the 2013 edition. According to Heather, the precocity and speed he showed is evident in the filly Kiamichi, who will be one of six horses in the race for Godolphin.

"He was obviously a very early, precocious and tough two year old himself. He was the first colt home in the Slipper, so I think she possesses similar early speed and scope to what he had himself."

### Punching Above Their Weight

As often is the case with ill-fated sires, Time For War is the one punching above his weight. Deep Field (251), Rubick (214) and Sidestep (134) all got triple figures of mares in the first season, but Time For War had only 74 at a fee of A\$12,100. Of the 52 live foals from 2016, 10 have made their debuts for two winners.

Sidestep has also had 10 runners for two winners, including one stakes winner and Heather expects more success as more numbers hit the track.

"Kiamichi has been the obvious highlight," he said. "She was a Sydney Saturday winner prior to winning the Group 3 on the weekend. He's had another winner from small numbers to the track, so statistically he's doing great. The only thing missing at the moment, is numbers."



#### IN HONG KONG:

**Oriental Elite**, g, 5, **Star Witness**--Bail Out, by Charge Forward. Happy Valley, 3-20, Hcp. (\$165k), 1200mT, 1:09.65. B-Star Witness Bloodstock P/L (ACT). \*\$85,000 Ylg '15 INGEAS.

#### VIDEO

**Speedy King**, g, 5, **Toorak Toff**--County Tale, by Tale of the Cat (USA). Happy Valley, 3-20, Hcp. (\$248k), 1000mT, :56.81. B-Saconi Thoroughbreds (Vic). \*\$7,000 Wlg '14 INJUN; \$17,000 Ylg '15 MGMMAR. **VIDEO**

#### IN SOUTH AFRICA:

**Roy's Novice**, f, 4, **Choisir**--Magical Slice, by Ne Coupez Paz (USA). Greyville, 3-20, Hcp., 1600m (AWT), 1:35.80. O-Roy Moodley; B-Rangal Park Stud (Vic); T-Alyson Wright. \*\$30,000 Ylg '16 MGLJUN.

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