



'I HAD BLACK HAIR UNTIL I MET SEATTLE SLEW'



Bloodstock agent John Williams | *Horsephotos*

by *Chris McGrath*

Possibly they don't know all that much about him, on the Flying Start course, when John Williams comes in and shares a few thoughts about conformation. Snowy-haired guy, mid-seventies, mischievous smile, and a voice--well, if you can talk like that, in tones as warm and seasoned as barn rafters contracting in the glow of a summer dusk, then for once the envy of age for youth is reversed. Because there's a lifetime not just in that voice, but in the words too: a lifetime with great horses, great horsemen. And, with Thoroughbreds, all the youthful enthusiasm and industry in the world is never going to outweigh sheer experience.

Not that anyone is going to surpass Williams, so well preserved inside and out, in terms of enthusiasm. Hear him on the prop he shows the students every year.

"Nashua's shoe!" he exclaims. "When he was 27 years old--and you could bake a pie in it. It's that round. The best horse I ever put a hand on. He was an iron horse. A phenotype. I could not fault him. He wasn't elegant, he was about 16, maybe 16.1 [hands]. But he had something we're not seeing much, anymore, either side of the Atlantic. Timber. He had timber.

Cont. p3

ARE CHALLENGES TO LASIX PHASE-OUT BAKED INTO CURRENT REGULATORY POLICIES? *The Week in Review, by T.D. Thornton*

One of the meatiest bones of contention from last week's Lasix phase-out debate is that representatives from the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (NHBPA), the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (THA), and the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) all told *TDN* they were left out of discussions that led to the multi-track proposal to end Lasix usage in juveniles starting in 2020 and in all stakes races by 2021.

You can easily flip this argument on its head by pointing out that from the perspective of the coalition tracks, it's unlikely that this bold first step for United States medication reform would have ever gotten off the ground had horsemen been asked to actively partner in and shape the proposed phase-out.

Cont. p8

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

PEDIGREE INSIGHTS: SKARDU

Andrew Caulfield looks at the pedigree of G3 Craven S. winner Skardu, in particular the career of his sire Shamardal.

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Monday, April 22, 2019



A colt by Divining Rod and out of Wild for Love (Not For Love) was foaled on March 10 at GreenMount Farm in Reisterstown, MD and is pictured above on March 13. He is owned by Wasabi Ventures Stables, LLC and Greenspring Mares, LLC. [Click here](#) to share your 2019 foal photos with the TDN. Please include sire, dam, owner, and photographer's name. | Housatonic Bloodstock, LLC

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John Williams cont. from p1

"He was just a tree. You couldn't tell where the radius came into the top of his knee and the cannon came out of the bottom. A flat, strong, solid knee. Good angle to his pastern. That perfectly round foot. Wonderful slope to his shoulder, deep girth. Strong back. Wonderful quarters on him. Hind leg that dropped right out of his hip. Beautiful, fluid walk."

Eddie Arcaro once told Williams how Nashua worked "like a pig" just before the Wood Memorial. He was wondering what on earth to say as he approached Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons, standing by the rail with Max Hirsch and John Gaver, when he saw the trainer gesturing violently: go again! So Arcaro worked the horse again. This time Nashua put in a bullet, and three days later he won the Wood.

"Those old, tough trainers," says Williams, shaking his head.

"Hell, these horses ran races between races."

One thing he surely can tell the kids is something Arthur Hancock said to him once: "When you see a turtle on a fence post, you know he had some help."

They are getting unprecedented help, of course, courtesy of Sheikh Mohammed. But when Williams was starting out, in Maryland, he had a priceless grounding of his own. Above all,



Nashua | Keeneland Library

from a trainer named Wilmont D. Haun: Bill Haun, who saw him wasting his talent and energy in a slapdash barn at Pimlico racetrack. It was 1964, the year Horatio Luro brought a Canadian-bred colt, built on rather less imposing lines than Nashua, to win the Preakness.

As the circus moved on, and the Monmouth meet came to an end, Haun invited Williams to switch barns.

"I can't leave this guy," the young man replied. "He's in bed. I can't leave these horses stuck here."

"Well, if you ever change your mind, you come and see me." **Cont. p4**

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John Williams cont.

That did not take long. "And Bill Haun was probably the single most important guy for showing me the proper way to care for a horse," recalls Williams. "A stable mostly of claiming horses, but treated like stakes horses because there's no difference. One day he screamed at me, 'Come in here. Look at this. You think that's a bandage?' 'Yes sir.' He said, 'Look at that pin crooked. There's a flap on that bandage sticking out and she might reach around and grab that. Touch this filly. You cannot do enough for her--because whether you like her or not, she feeds you.' This was a tremendous teacher. Mean S.O.B., but I learned so much."

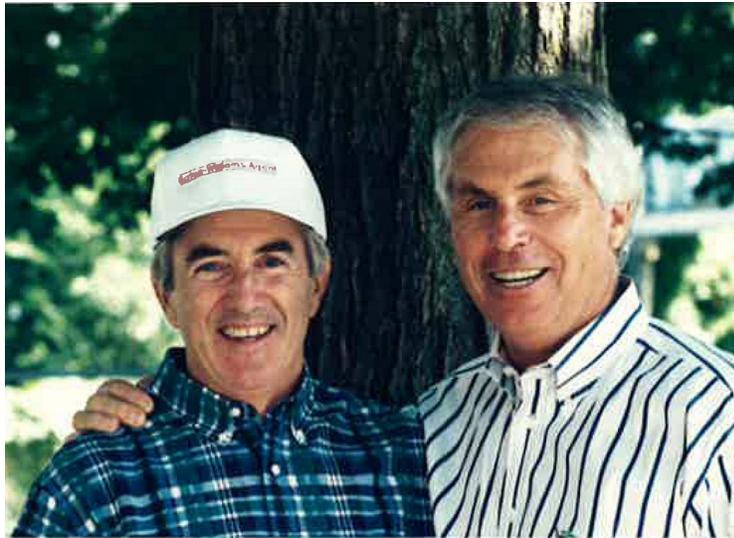
This stuff was straight out of the old school, Haun having started with Ben Jones in Kansas in the 1930s. But already there had been other mentors, of similar stamp, shaping lifelong standards in the young Williams: a

veterinarian named I.W. Frock, for instance; an Irishman named Tom Harraway.

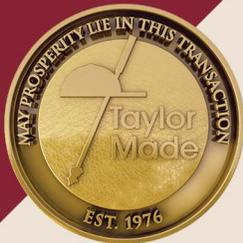
"Unsung heroes, those old horsemen," says Williams. "Their horses had a good life. Imagine telling somebody today to put a cow manure poultice on that tendon, they'd think you're crazy. But those guys showed me that the most important person to a horse is not his trainer, not his owner, but his groom."

That was how he had started out himself, as a horse-crazy kid, mucking out on a local farm; and why he also values his coalface education on the track. Not enough people do that today, he feels--and far too many view the sales ring as the end use of Thoroughbreds, rather than the winning post.

As it was, the flair and industry that caught Haun's eye would ultimately underpin a career that kept Williams ringside for historic developments in the modern business: as manager of Spendthrift, then in the vanguard of a



Williams and Wayne Lukas | Eaton-Williams (Saratoga)



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new era of commercialism, for nearly a decade; subsequently partnering with Lee Eaton in sales preparation at a time when few others, save the Taylor boys, were experimenting in what has become a vast business within the business; and, an exceptional accolade, named Kentucky Farm Manager of the Year for the way he meanwhile ran his own farm.

Williams had left for the University of Maryland when Haun's boss, Edgar Lucas of Helmore, rang to say he had bought a farm in Howard County and would he please manage it. He was 25, and had never held a higher rank than groom.

"I always had a certain, not cockiness, but a certain degree of comfort because of the way I felt being with a horse," Williams says. "Maybe it was blind luck, but that's how I felt. And I had a great quest for knowledge, especially in the veterinary field. I learned by doing. Because we had a wonderful clientele.

"Michael Erlanger. Howell Jackson, fantastic guy in Virginia. Adele Paxson, just a tremendous lady. Jim Ryan, Ryehill Farm. Allaire du Pont. She certainly wasn't interested in sales. She wanted another Kelso. Gosh, she was terrific. After I came to Kentucky, I saw her at Saratoga. And she said in her raspy voice, 'John, we need you back in Maryland-and there are no crab cakes in Kentucky.' Gordon Grayson. Tyson Gilpin, of Fasig-Tipton. Those Maryland breeders, they bred to race, and that's what I was in tune with. And then some of the horses we bred to, back then: Cyane, Nearctic, Quadrangle..."

He stayed 10 years, but every time he brought his glistening little draft to Keeneland, he was told to stop wasting his gifts out there in Maryland. Eventually Williams sat a couple of interviews. The job he really wanted was with Olin Gentry, at Darby Dan, but that went to the Spendthrift manager--and Williams ended up filling his shoes at the Combs farm instead. Suddenly a reputation made on 185 acres in Maryland was to be tested across 3,000 acres of Bluegrass.

"Spendthrift was a blast," says Williams. "Those were heady times. Imagine syndicating back-to-back Triple Crown winners. I never thought we'd see that again. But just think about some of the clients Leslie Combs had. Again, most breeding for racing. Lou and Patrice Wolfson, who had Raise A Native there. Harbor View mostly raced. Aaron Jones. Joe Roebing, his grandfather built the Brooklyn Bridge. He had a wonderful horse called Rainy Lake when I was there. He was gay and they beat him almost to death, this wonderful man. John Morris. Sonny Whitney. Joe Layman. Daniel Wildenstein had Allez France there. Franklin Groves, who developed Northridge Farm. Liz Tippet, what a character. Art Appleton, of Appleton Farm in Florida, great friend of Mr. Combs. John Hanes. Mickey Taylor and Jim Hill. Incredible, wonderful people, and that's just a smattering."

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John Williams cont.

Still more cherished, however, were his own "crew"--especially the Irishmen he hired through Michael Osborne, many graduating from the Irish National Stud. Years before, visiting Nashua, Williams been appalled to see this great horse left to drip-dry in his stall in December while the grooms played cards in a warm room.

"A lot of those people were good, they just needed to be shown what was expected of them now," he says. "And Steve Johnson, an excellent man who became my assistant, had already been hired by Linda Combs as broodmare manager. But I did bring in a lot of wonderful young men and women, and I'm so proud of them. More than I can name. Don Snellings from Virginia. Bill Reightler from Maryland. Peter Taaffe from Ireland. Terrific guy. His father Pat rode the greatest horse Ireland ever produced, Arkle. Ernie Frazier. Joe Williams. Black guy, used to say, 'John Williams. I had a brother named John. He run off. You might be my brother.' Terrific guy, saddle horse man.

"Buster Gordon, rubbed Sham. Bobby Burke, a grand prix rider I had breaking yearlings down at the training center. Clem Brooks, storied groom of Nashua. To this day, the best man I ever saw with a stallion shank in his hands. One of our most important hires was Beach Faulkner, who became the farm blacksmith.

"Rick Nichols, who manages Sheikh Hamdan's farm. And [later, on his own farm] Digby Griffin from Ireland. Don't think I ever had a better employee. Miss him terribly. Because these are lasting friendships too. I'm very lucky because a lot of people say, 'If you work for me, I really can't be your buddy. I can't have a pint with you and still get you to do what I ask.' I was able to do that with this crew."

But that bond was earned. They all knew that Williams could pull a mane better than any of them. One morning a man didn't show for work. His boss worked his whole shift: turned out his stallions, mucked out, bedded, polished the brass, the show halters. The guy slides in around 10, sees Buster Gordon. "Buster, did you cover for me?" "No, I didn't." "Who did?" "John Williams." As Williams himself recalls: "He brought his tail dragging down to that office, his head down. Never did that again."

If he really needs a book for the people, then how about the horses? Bringing over Caro for \$4 million, only to find him infecting mares with a venereal disease. "They were going to shut us down, put a chain on the gate," Williams recalls. "I thought that C.E.M. episode would be the toughest thing we ever had to face. But that was until I met Seattle Slew."

The record \$12 million syndication notoriously lacked libido when he started. Williams finally got him interested in an ancient Count Fleet mare he had brought from Maryland, a retired "old bag of bones." Next time they brought her in, however, Slew proved more interested in the teaser. Other times they'd park the old dame alongside the mare to be covered and pull him over at the critical moment.

"He was so mad that we'd tricked him, when he dismounted you couldn't see his ears--that's how tight he had them pinned," remembers Williams with a laugh. "My hair was black before that year. He just drove us crazy."

Just as well, then, that stallion books remained in the 40s. Williams remembers protesting to Brownell Combs when as many as 60 mares were booked to Raise A Native: "Sixty! Brownell, you're gonna kill him!" But then, as he notes sadly, that's not all that has changed. "Affirmed won 14 Grade Is," he says. "Show me that in the stud book today."

But it's the characters he misses most. "Tom Gentry, the showman of showmen," he muses. "Warner Jones. Harley Clemens. Fun guys to be around. You'd love to see them coming in the barn. Albert Yank, he was

preposterous. California agent. He had this little gnarly guy with him one day. Mr. Combs said, 'Get Intrepid Hero ready for 1 o'clock.' Buster rubbed him, we had him ready. Yank comes up and he's got this little sawed off guy, about 5'3" with an old sweater on. Yank is all over this horse, rubbing his head and patting down his neck. Then he puts his arm around this guy and says, 'Now Earl, Leslie and I are gonna screw you a little bit. But you are going to like it.' It was Earl Scheib, the car paint tycoon."

Nor does Williams still see trainers who know families; who will forgive an offset knee because the mother was the same and could go flat out for six furlongs. Buying racehorses, not "curio pieces".

"Wayne Lukas, a horseman from the bottom of his feet to the top of his well-groomed hair!" Williams exclaims. "He'd say, 'Don't show me that catalog, I can't cinch up a page.' He and Vincent O'Brien were the most discerning people I've ever seen



Williams and Adorned | Barbara Livingston

evaluate an untried yearling. Vincent could look into a horse's eye and see what he was thinking. I'd say, 'Vincent, can I get you anything?' 'No, no, I'll just stand by this tree.' He'd be watching. He'd go down the shed row to look at a horse's bedding, see how he's behaving in his box."

Of course, the very commercialism that has skewed so much of the business towards the ring was in part nourished by Spendthrift. By the time Williams left, when the farm went public in 1984, there were 45 stallions on the roster.

In fairness, Williams himself rode the wave somewhat, by teaming up with Eaton as pioneers of sales preparation; but he also started his own farm, named Ballindaggin for the County Wexford birthplace of his grandfather.



Vincent O'Brien | *Racing Post*

"I promised mom that if I ever had a piece of ground, I'd name it after his little town," he says. "Mom used to say his room smelled like medicine, from the poultices and stuff he made at night. He had written everything down, because nobody in the family cared for the horse. After he died, they threw it all in the furnace. What I'd have given for those.

"The best I ever raised was Flawlessly, by Affirmed out of La Confidence, by Nijinsky II. Won nine Grade Is. A good example of you don't have to be perfect to run. She wasn't very impressive, physically, but so sweet; and had a great mind.

"The great old breeders I paid attention to, like Olin Gentry, depended upon strong female families. Mr. Combs said horses made their own pedigrees; and there was the adage that the hard race mares never produce. But look up Straight Deal, by Hail To Reason. She had 99 starts, and produced three stakes winners, including a Grade I winner; and every one of her six daughters produced at least one stakes winner. If you're young enough and can keep at it, pedigree will out."



©1993 Barbara Livingston

Flawlessly | *Barbara Livingston*

But that calls for something of the patience of the old sportsmen. Today too many horses are expected "to put another piece of chicken on the plate." Yet there are boons to the modern business too: the Breeders' Cup, spread-the-joy partnerships, international competition, veterinary advances, casino funding. And, back where we started, the extraordinary Flying Start program.

Now there, notes Williams, is a real sportsman: Sheikh Mohammed. "His contribution to this game is immeasurable," he says. "I've already said how important Michael Osborne was, getting good horsemen over here. When he passed away, Joe [Osborne] called and asked if I would take his father's place on that board [Flying Start]. What an honor."

He is palpably moved by the reflection. As it happens, the course director Clodagh Kavanagh worked for Eaton Williams when herself learning the ropes. And the esteem of the bloodstock community for the standards set by that partnership can be judged by the dispersals it handled: Warner Jones, for instance, or Sangster-Niarchos. But then it was an enterprise that absolutely complemented what Williams had achieved in upgrading horsemanship around Kentucky's premier stallion barns.

"When I was at Spendthrift, I always thought the sales were a horse show," reasons Williams. "Say my horse is made just like your horse, and similarly bred. But mine has a two-inch bridle path, and yours a seven-inch bridle path. My horse's mane is on the right side of his neck, and fits the thickness of his neck; yours flips on both sides. Mine has dapples and hard flesh. The fetlock hair is cut off of my horse's ankles. He's got proper feet. He has been taught to walk, because I had him on a long line. I'm going to outsell you. We've got the same horse--but I outsell you."

Cont. p8

John Williams cont.

Williams stresses that there were always splendid, hardboot horsemen in Kentucky; but the fact is that there were also guys brought over from tobacco farms. Some of those European migrants, in contrast, represented umpteen generations of horse lore.

"But sales were never my prime mover," says Williams. "I think I knew how to present a horse and I love bringing a good horse out in front of somebody. But I'm a broodmare man, a farm guy. I just feel very fortunate to have had so many people to help me climb that fence post. And the horse--the horse has been such a wonderful conduit to friendship. The horse has really been good to this old boy from Ellicott City, Maryland, I'll tell you. It's been a great ride. I look back over it and, gosh, I'm not just saying it: I really feel blessed."

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Week In Review cont. from p1

The coalition tracks include those owned/operated by the New York Racing Association (NYRA), The Stronach Group (TSG), and Churchill Downs Inc., plus Oaklawn, Del Mar, Keeneland, Lone Star, Remington, Tampa Bay Downs, and Los Alamitos (Thoroughbreds).

Even Eric Hamelback, the NHBPA's chief executive, **acknowledged to TDN on Apr. 17** that his organization runs the risk of being "labeled as obstructionists" by continuing to advocate for the Lasix status quo to remain firmly in place. Hamelback is willing accept that risk, he explained, because "I like to think that we're acting in the horses' best interest and acting alongside with the veterinary leadership community on this issue."

TDN's Apr. 18 coverage of the Lasix phase-out announcement included pro and con comments from 15 different industry stakeholders. Interviews with Ed Martin, the ARCI president, and Alan Foreman, the THA chairman/chief executive, had to be truncated within that article because of space considerations. But their expanded comments (published below) yield key clues about how the practicality of the Lasix proposal might work--or be challenged--based on the regulatory structure that is already in place.

"Why are we not talking about something that's directly linked to potential breakdowns?" Martin asked rhetorically as soon as he picked up the phone to answer a *TDN* query on the Lasix phase-out. "It's a very pertinent issue, because that's the major problem that we have."

"We are always open to anything that's going to help address the breakdown situation. I'm not sure that this will," Martin continued. "But it's certainly a hot issue. It's been a hot issue for more than 15 years, and some people may see an opportunity to achieve something in the current [crisis-driven] environment that they may not have been able to achieve otherwise."

Martin then ticked down a list of possible roadblocks the coalition might encounter on a path to implementation.

"It has to come in the front door. Nobody has proposed a model rule change for us to permit this, so we have not been at the table in these discussions," Martin said. "They're obviously going to have to go to the individual racing commissions, and I am not aware of any of the commissions being involved in this. I know the ARCI has certainly not been involved in any discussions about this."

"So the question is how the tracks wish to implement this policy," Martin said. "[From the regulators' perspective], somebody has to come in the door with an application [to change Lasix policy]. They did that in California, and they did it with the support of the horsemen."

Martin is referring to an agreement between TSG and the Thoroughbred Owners of California to cut the permitted race-day dose of Lasix from 10 ccs to 5 ccs at Santa Anita and Golden Gate Fields. On Mar. 28, the California Horse Racing Board approved that regulation for the balance of those current race meets.



Ed Martin and Alan Foreman | Oaklawn photo

But beyond the broad issue of whether or not other horsemen's groups will support any sort of phase-out initiative, Martin postulated that the burden of additional Lasix testing could become a sticking point.

Cont. p9

Week In Review cont.

"The commissions' drug testing programs are done to enforce the official rules," Martin said. "If a commission authorizes a departure from the promulgated rules that lets the track set [no Lasix] as a condition of entry...what obligation does a commission have to perform tests to enforce a different policy for different races at that racetrack? The concept of just making these announcements," Martin added, doesn't solve the discrepancy between what the tracks would like to accomplish and the letter of the law.

Litigation--or at least the threat of it--is also sure to play a role, Martin said.

"Another issue has to do with if a commission does authorize this, is there any potential liability for damages from owners who might find that their horse has been excluded from participation?" Martin asked.

"Or even worse, if a horse [deprived of Lasix] suffers a bleeding incident that might exclude that horse from future participation?" Martin added.

Foreman noted that New York and Maryland tracks are currently the only THA-member entities under his direction that would be affected by the proposed phase-out. But he had a strong sense of what might or might not fly, Lasix-wise.

"New York's in a bit of a different situation [from other jurisdictions] because NYRA can card non-Lasix [stakes] races if they choose to do so," Foreman explained. "Under New York's current medication regulations, I believe NYRA can establish whatever conditions it wants for individual races. They just can't do a blanket ban on Lasix because it's a permitted medication. So it would require a change of regulation by the gaming commission to eliminate the use of Lasix in 2-year-old races.

"In Maryland, TSG would need the Maryland Racing Commission to change its regulations to prohibit Lasix in the graded stakes races and with respect to 2-year-olds," Foreman summed up. "They have not engaged at all with the Maryland horsemen or breeders on this issue. The Maryland horsemen and breeders have already voted to oppose any change to the current medication policy [because it is] not in the best interest of the horse, which is our primary responsibility."

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FRANK STRONACH TOUTS TUESDAY TALK, RACING CHARTER OF RIGHTS IN OPEN LETTER *by Dan Ross*



Frank Stronach | *Horsephotos*

In an open letter in Sunday's *Los Angeles Times*, Frank Stronach announced that he will speak this Tuesday evening, at 6 p.m., at the Embassy Suites Arcadia Hotel, close to Santa Anita racetrack, about the future of horse racing in California, and the need for a Racing Charter of Rights that protects both the human and equine participants of the sport.

"Horse racing is much more than a business. It is a culture, a way of life, and an industry that directly employs one million people," the letter states.

Frank Stronach writes in the letter, "I have always said that the key stakeholders within the industry are--the racetrack owners, horse owners, trainers, jockeys, breeders and veterinarians. As stakeholders, we have to prove to the public that we love and care for the horses--not only while they are racing but long after they finished their racing career.

"That is why I strongly believe we need a Racing Charter of Rights where all the participants in our industry are protected, including the horses. I look forward to bringing forth a number of different ideas to you, the people which love horses. Let's work together to set the highest standards in horse racing! I look forward seeing you on Tuesday."

The open letter reveals little about the intent behind and the specific contents of Tuesday's talk, nor about the Racing Charter of Rights, but it plays out against the backdrop of a bitter internecine fight within the Stronach family concerning The Stronach Group's (TSG) billion-dollar family empire.

Stronach cont.

In October of last year, Frank Stronach dropped a bombshell lawsuit alleging that his daughter, Belinda Stronach, the chairman and president of The Stronach Group (TSG) and the person he appointed to run his empire, has mismanaged the family's chief assets and trust funds, and has strong-armed control of the business from her father.

The lawsuit alleges that Belinda Stronach and Alon Ossip, TSG's chief executive, conspired together in "a series of covert and unlawful actions...that have been contrary to the best interests of, and to the overwhelming detriment of, other members of the Stronach family."

The suit seeks to remove Belinda Stronach from all corporate officer and trustee positions related to TSG, and demands \$540 million (CDN) in compensation and damages.

In November of last year, Frank Stronach's son, Andrew Stronach, filed a separate, but similar lawsuit alleging that his sister, Belinda Stronach, is guilty of "serious misconduct."

In January of this year, Belinda Stronach responded with a statement of defense and countersuit, alleging that her father's erratic behavior and ill-advised "passion projects" have cost the family some \$850 million (CDN), "with hundreds of millions of this amount likely being irretrievably lost."

Then, in February of this year Frank Stronach's youngest granddaughter, Selena Stronach, joined the legal fray, filing a suit requiring her aunt, Belinda Stronach, to "pay or reimburse Selena for personal expenses that have historically been paid or reimbursed on her behalf through the trusts and/or TSG."

In Sunday's open letter, Frank Stronach describes his rags-to-riches personal odyssey, starting a "one-man-tool-and-die shop," and transforming that into "one of the foremost companies in the world with 175,000 employees. That company is Magna International Inc. I believe Magna is the only company in the world with a Corporate Constitution and an Employee Charter of Rights."

Frank Stronach writes in the letter, "It was always clear to me a strong business is driven by three forces, smart managers, hardworking employees, and investors. All three have a right to the outcome, which is the company's annual profit. I created a unique profit-sharing environment where employees understood they own a portion of the company. That is why they would not only work hard, but also think about how to improve the business."

TDN reached out to TSG's chief operating officer, Tim Ritvo for comment on Sunday's letter, but hasn't yet received a response.

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS...AND RAIN ROT, DEW POISONING AND ABSCESSSES

Story and photos by Jen Roytz



They say April showers bring May flowers, but that's not the only thing they bring. Rain rot, dew poisoning and abscesses are some of the less enjoyable products of spring's rainy days and muddy pastures.

While some horses seem to simply be more prone to wet weather-related ailments than others, there are a number of things horsemen can do to minimize the severity of ailments such as rain rot, or avoid them all together.

Though often mistaken as a fungal disease, rain rot (or rain scald) is a common bacterial infection of the skin (also known as Dermatophilosis). *Dermatophilus congolensis*, the bacteria that causes the infection, lives dormant in the outer layer of the skin. When the skin is exposed to prolonged moisture (high humidity, rain, sweat), the bacteria infects the compromised skin, resulting in crusty, puss-filled scabs between the living and dead layer of skin.

"Rain rot is really what you see the most when we have a lot of rain, as the moisture impairs the skin's ability to protect against infection," said Bryan Waldrige, DVM, an internal medicine specialist with Park Equine Hospital who also manages Dr. B's Bluegrass, a Facebook page that features photos, TV interviews, articles and insights from his life as a veterinarian. "Older horses and those with Cushing's disease (pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction) are more prone to skin irritations and infections in general because their immune system is compromised, so if a horse is prone to such ailments, it may be worth testing for Cushing's disease." **Cont. p11**

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April Showers cont.

Simple biosecurity procedures are key in containing rain rot. The bacteria that causes rain rot isn't found in the mud, but rather on the skin of carrier animals, so simple steps like not sharing tack or brushes of horses who are infected and disinfecting them regularly can lower the risk of spreading it to other horses.

While blanketing to protect a horse from rain and snow seems like a logical preventative measure, Waldrige cautions against it.

"Blankets can act as greenhouses, trapping moisture against the skin. It's more advisable to get the horse out of the elements where he or she can dry off," he said. "A three-sided run-in shed allows the horse to escape the elements, or keeping the horse in a stall when the weather is adverse can go a long way in resolving the symptoms or preventing rain rot all together, as can daily grooming to remove dead skin and loose hair."

Proper nutrition also plays a key role in the prevention and resolution of skin irritations such as rain rot.



"Make sure their feed is fortified with the vitamins and minerals they need to support maintaining healthy skin and coat," said Waldrige. "When all else fails and a horse does get a significant case of rain rot or even ring worm, sprays or other topical treatments containing Chlorohexidine work well. One in particular that I've seen good results with is Miconahex + Triz, made by Dechra."

Another ailment commonly affecting horses in the wetter months is dew poisoning (also known as mud fever, scratches, or pastern dermatitis). Caused by the same bacteria as rain rot and/or a contact allergic type reaction that causes necrosis (dying back) of the blood vessels and skin, dew poisoning is often quite painful and affects a horse's pasterns and heels when exposed to prolonged periods of wetness (such as standing in wet grass or mud), causing scabs and brittle skin that can crack when the horse walks or flexes its ankle.



"When horses stand in the same spot in a pasture to eat every day, it can create a muddy mess. One of the simplest things horsemen can do to stave off dew poisoning is to put their hay in a different spot in their pasture every day," said Waldrige. "It's a lot easier to get under control when you first see it on a horse and tend to it rather than letting it exasperate and possibly become infected."

To treat dew poisoning, it is best to carefully clip the hair off the affected area so the skin will dry more quickly and medication applied will come in direct contact with the skin. There are many topical over-the-counter remedies, such as diaper rash cream, Shapley's M-T-G or Fura-Zone that soothe the irritated skin while creating a barrier between the skin and wet grass/mud. In more serious cases, medicated shampoos and creams, as well as oral medications, may be appropriate.

"If the horse is significantly uncomfortable, a low dose of Bute or Banamine will help with inflammation and pain. Antiseptic shampoos with iodine and topical creams with steroids and chlorohexidine in them are also effective," said Waldrige. "Unless the horse has significant swelling or open lesions, the best course of action is to leave bandages off to let air get to the affected area and keep it dry, which may mean keeping the horse in a stall for until the dew dries off of the grass."

The same wet conditions that lay the foundation for skin irritations can also wreak havoc with a horse's hooves in the form of cracks and abscesses.

Veteran farrier Steve Norman, who has shod such racing superstars as Unbridled's Song, Alysheba and Go for Gin at the height of their racing careers and works on some of the most prominent breeding stock (and their offspring) in the industry, says that this year's winter-turned-spring has been hard on horses' feet.

Jen Roytz cont.

"I have seen more abscesses in the past few months than I have probably seen in any spring in the last 10 years," said Norman. "All of this moisture and mud makes their feet soft, then they step on a rock or jagged piece of something and it bruises or penetrates the hoof, letting bacteria work its way in and create an infection."

Keeping the hoof as dry as possible is key, though for yearlings and broodmares who are turned out for the majority of the day, that proves virtually impossible. While Norman says products like Keratex or turpentine can help to harden the feet, they will only work if applied once, if not twice, a day.



Another issue that goes hand-in-hand with wet weather is cracks in the hooves. When hooves are repeatedly saturated with moisture, then dry out and the quality of the hoof can become compromised, causing an overly dry, brittle hoof when it's dry and a too-soft, fragile hoof when it's wet.

"One of the simplest things you can do to protect a horse's hooves is keep them trimmed on a regular schedule. It's so simple, but so important," said Norman. "You want to take care of the small cracks so they don't become deep and affect the horse's soundness, and for horses that are barefoot and turned out for most of the day, you want to allow them to build a callous on the bottom of their hoof to prevent abscesses while properly trimming and shaping the hoof to keep cracking at bay."

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OCTET SHARE FURLONG BULLET AT FINAL OBS UNDER-TACK SHOW

The final under-tack show ahead of this week's OBS April Sale of 2-Year-Olds in Training took place Easter Sunday morning in Ocala, with no fewer than eight juveniles sharing the day's fastest furlong of :9 4/5.

Consignor Randy Miles, agent, was represented by two of the day's bullet workers. Hip 939, a May-foaled son of Street Boss--Auntie Soph (Valiant Nature), is a half-brother to seven winners from as many to race from his dam, including three black-type performers, and hails from the Mill Ridge family of Grade I winners Dynaforce (Dynaformer) and Cetewayo (His Majesty) (video). Miles also consigns hip 998, a Shackelford filly whose third dam Clear Mandate (Deputy Minister) was a treble Grade I winner and bred GISW and Three Chimneys stallion Strong Mandate (Tiznow) (video).



Consignor Randy Miles | Fasig-Tipton photo

Claiborne inmate Flatter was responsible for Sovereign Award-winning 2-year-old male Avie's Flatter and another Ontario-bred grandson of A.P. Indy shared the bullet Sunday. Consigned by Woodford Thoroughbreds as agent, the May 9 foal--cataloged as hip 1214--is out of the stakes-winning and Grade II-placed Ever Elusive (Elusive Quality) (video).

First-crop sire Palace (City Zip) was represented by a \$100,000 colt at the OBS March Sale and his de Meric Sales-consigned daughter of Avenging Tomisue (Belong to Me) was another to broach the 10-second barrier Sunday. Hip 943 carries a cross over A.P. Indy similar to Classics contender Improbable and

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counts Flaxman standout producer Chimes of Freedom (Private Account) as her third dam ([video](#)).

Hip 1111 will have many, including Becky Thomas's Sequel Bloodstock, making a wish, and she brings a big pedigree to the table. By Medaglia d'Oro, whose top-level winners Bolt d'Oro, Plum Pretty and Dickinson are all out of A.P. Indy mares, the dark bay is a half-sister to SW & GISP Bajan (Speightstown) and is out of a half to GI Kentucky Oaks winner Lemons Forever (Lemon Drop Kid), dam of champion Forever Unbridled (Unbridled's Song) and her stakes-placed Medaglia d'Oro half-brother Forever d'Oro. ([video](#)).

King's Equine's **hip 935** is already named Superbloodwolfmoon (Malibu Moon), an April-foaled bay whose stakes-placed dam A Story of Revenge (Tale of the Cat) is a half-sister to the late GISW I Want Revenge (Stephen Got Even). ([video](#)).

The session's other bullet breezers were: **hip 1168**, a California-bred daughter of Lakerville (Unusual Heat) consigned by TIP Thoroughbred Investment Possibilities, agent ([video](#)); and Shanghai Bobby colt **hip 1179**, a Randy Bradshaw-consigned son of Grade III-winning turfer Dyna Da Wyna (Doc's Leader) ([video](#)).

The session's swiftest two furlongs was turned by Envision Equine's **hip 951**, a colt from the first crop of Fast Anna (Medaglia d'Oro), who clocked :20 2/5. Out of the winning Tapit mare Ballad, the Florida-bred hails from the extended female family of the very talented Valid Expectations.

A pair of juveniles shared the second-fastest quarter-mile work, stopping the clock in :20 3/5. Top Line Sales, agent, sends out **hip 928**, a filly from the first crop of Competitive Edge (Super Saver), who has already been represented by a winner at the races this spring. The bay is a half-sister to SW Aaron's Orient (Orientate) ([video](#)). **Hip 1106**, consigned by Harris Training Center LLC, is related to five winners from seven to the races, including GSW Calgary Caper (El Corredor) ([video](#)).

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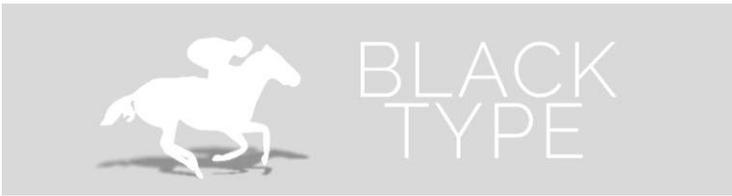
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IN ORDER OF PURSE:

FIRST STAKES WINNER FOR SIRE

STAR SHOOT S., C\$101,900, Woodbine, 4-21, 3yo, f, 6f (AWT), 1:09.53, ft.

1--**SISTER PEACOCK, 118, f, 3, by Real Solution**

1st Dam: Imforeal, by In Excess (Ire)

2nd Dam: Miss Soft Sell, by Siyah Kalem

3rd Dam: Solamente Un Vez, by Relaunch

(\$9,000 Ylg '17 KEESEP). **1ST BLACK TYPE WIN.** O-Brent & Russell McLellan & Stuart C Simon; B-Kenneth L & Sarah K Ramsey (KY); T-Stuart C Simon; J-Jesse M. Campbell. C\$60,000. Lifetime Record: 5-3-2-0, \$109,244. *First stakes winner for sire (by Kitten's Joy).

IN THE  DARBY DAN TRADITION

BLACKWOOD GRADUATE

2--**Missmizz, 118, f, 3, Mizzen Mast--Silimiss (GB), by Dansili (GB).** (\$32,000 Ylg '17 FTKTUR). O-DARRS Inc; B-Sangreal Investments LLC (KY); T-Michael Stidham. C\$20,000.

3--**Power Gal (Jpn), 120, f, 3, Empire Maker--Nan, by High Yield.** (RNA Wlg '16 JRASAL). O-Gary Barber; B-Paca Paca Farm (JPN); T-Mark E Casse. C\$10,000.

Margins: 1 1/4, 2 1/4, 3/4. Odds: 1.85, 13.55, 10.55.

Also Ran: Intanga Rose, Si Si Tequila, Speedy Soul, My Gal Betty, Kettle Valley, Special for You. Scratched: Malibu Dawn.



Sister Peacock | WEG/Michael Burns

Star Shoot S. cont.

Sister Peacock took Sunday's Star Shoot S. field from flagfall to finish to remain unbeaten in three local appearances and in so doing, provided her sire (by Kitten's Joy) with his first black-type winner.

Very quickly into stride, Sister Peacock set a fairly sedate pace in advance of Missmizz, with jockey Jesse Campbell riding tall in the saddle. The latter looked dangerous for a stride or two nearing the quarter pole, but Sister Peacock turned her away with relative ease and strolled under the line a comfortable winner. Martha Washington S. victress Power Gal won a photo for third from the previously undefeated Intanga Rose, who was one of the last away, angled in to save some ground and finished one-paced for fourth.

Victorious in her first two outings by a combined 12 1/2 lengths late last season, Sister Peacock was runner-up on the turf in her last two starts, the Jan. 25 Andromeda S. at Gulfstream and that track's Mrs. Presidentress S. Neither event was black-type eligible.

Sister Peacock is out of a half-sister to a trio of Benchmark full-siblings, including the Cecil Peacock-owned MGISW Brother Derek, in addition to MSW & GSP Don'tsellmeshort and MSW Sister Kate. The winner has a yearling half-brother by Kitten's Joy and Imforeal was most recently covered by Twirling Candy. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**



IN ORDER OF PURSE:

5th-Woodbine, C\$73,175, Msw, 4-21, 3yo, 5f (AWT), :57.04, ft.

POWELL (c, 3, Munnings--Dearest One, by Macho Uno)

completed the exacta in each of his first two career starts, finishing a debut second over the Laurel main last August before dropping a half-length decision at Kentucky Downs a month later. A close third on sophomore debut on the dirt at Fair Grounds Mar. 5, the chestnut was the 1-2 chalk here and made no mistakes. Adding blinkers for his first synthetic attempt, Powell was in front after the opening 100 yards, went a good gallop up front while under a hold and shot clear of his rivals in the stretch to score a very impressive 5 1/4-length victory.

Cont. p2

5th-WO, cont.

The winner is a maternal grandson of the rags-to-riches Dearest Trickski (Proudest Romeo), winner of the 2007 GI La Brea S. Dearest One was most recently covered by Laugh Track (Distorted Humor--Flaming Heart), a Grade III winner over the local track and narrow runner-up in the 2013 GI Breeders' Cup Sprint. Sales history: \$57,000 RNA Wlg '16 FTKNOV; \$52,000 Ylg '17 KEEJAN. Lifetime Record: 4-1-2-1, \$68,251. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** O-DARRS Inc; B-Mike Abraham (KY); T-Michael Stidham.

8th-Santa Anita, \$56,404, Msw, 4-21, 3yo, f, 5ft, :56.80, fm. HOLLY HUNDY (f, 3, Yes It's True--Cryptos' Best {SW & GSP, \$158,090}, by Cryptoclearance) began his career on the East Coast, debuting with an even sixth at Gulfstream in December. The bay finished fourth in a one-mile turf maiden in her local unveiling Feb. 16 and filled the same spot when narrowly beaten down the hill Mar. 30. A chasing second early as Vangogo (Gio Ponti) caught a flyer and led clear, Holly Hundy came after the front-runner nearing the stretch, was firmly in front a furlong from home and came away to score by 1 3/4 lengths. Ameerah B (Street Boss), the 14-5 second choice on debut, sat a good trip in behind, was stymied for a run past midstretch and finished well for second. The Virginia-bred is a half to the 2-year-old colt Crypto Cash (Majesticperfection) and a yearling Artie Schiller filly. Cryptos' Best was most recently covered by Mobil. Sales history: \$180,000 2yo '18 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-0, \$40,100. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-Holly & David Wilson; B-Lazy Lane Farms LLC (VA); T-Vladimir Cerin.

 **Consigned by de Meric Sales** 



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SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: MONDAY, APRIL 22

Mucho Macho Man (Macho Uno), Adena Springs, \$10,000
122 foals of racing age/15 winners/2 black-type winners
5-Parx Racing, Msw 6f, HARLEY Q, 3-1
\$25,000 SAR AUG yrl; \$15,000 EAS MAY 2yo

Verrazano (More Than Ready), Ashford Stud, \$15,000
268 foals of racing age/29 winners/2 black-type winners
9-Laurel, Msw 5 1/2ft, FORBIDDEN FROLIC, 9-2
\$90,000 KEE NOV wnl



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ADDITIONAL
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STAKES RESULTS:

NEON DESERT H., \$75,000, Sunland, 4-21, 3yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f, 1:16.43, ft.

1--**PERFORMANCE REVIEW, 121, m, 6, Eskendereya--Right to Rule (SW, \$137,217), by Five Star Day.** (\$150,000 2yo '15 OBSAPR; \$10,000 4yo '17 KEENOV). **1ST BLACK TYPE WIN.** O-Judge Lanier Racing; B-Fletcher & Carolyn Gray (KY); T-Miguel L Hernandez; J-Santiago Gonzalez. \$45,000. Lifetime Record: 11-4-1-2, \$110,590. *1/2 to A Different Style (The Factor), MSW, \$224,379.

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 LANE'S END SALES GRADUATE 
 **THOROSTRIDE** - featured horse

2--**Baydar, 122, f, 4, Graydar--Sarah Accomplished,** by Performing Magic. (\$47,000 Wlg '15 KEENOV; \$100,000 Ylg '16 KEESEP). O-Harry L Veruchi; B-Dennis Crooks & George Bates (KY); T-Susan F Arnett. \$15,000.

 **TAYLOR MADE FOR YOU!**
3--**Kram, 120, f, 4, Colonel John--Triple o' Five,** by Elusive Quality. (\$85,000 2yo '17 OBSAPR). O-G Chris Coleman & Brad King; B-Lane Thoroughbreds LLC (KY); T-T Fincher. \$7,500.

Scanlon Training & Sales Grad
Bred Foaled and Raised at Johnson & Johnson Farm ■ 502-664-6289
Margins: 2, 1 3/4, 3HF. Odds: 10.60, 3.70, 2.60.

TODAY'S FEATURED VIDEO REPLAYS
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Sister Peacock (Real Solution) becomes the first SW for her sire (by Kitten's Joy) in the Star Shoot S.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

3rd-Woodbine, C\$70,197, 4-21, (NW1\$X), 3yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2f (AWT), 1:04.54, ft.

GOLDTOWN (m, 5, Speightstown--Glory Gold, by Medaglia d'Oro) Lifetime Record: 13-3-0-1, \$70,738. O-Thomas B Uniacke; B-Twin Creeks Farm (NY); T-Ross Armata Jr. *\$300,000 Ylg '15 SARAUG; \$20,000 3yo '17 KEENOV. **1/2 to Espresso Shot (Mission Impazible), SW, \$274,975.

TAYLOR MADE FOR YOU!

8th-Santa Anita, \$59,781, Opt. Clm (\$40,000), 4-20, 3yo/up, f/m, 1mT, 1:35.03, fm.

STRADELLA ROAD (f, 4, Elusive Quality--Miss Houdini, by Belong to Me) Lifetime Record: SP, 12-2-3-3, \$130,169. O/B-Bo Hirsch LLC (KY); T-Gary Stute. *1/2 to Papa Clem (Smart Strike), MGSW & GISP, \$1,121,190.

10th-Gulfstream, \$48,320, (S), Opt. Clm (\$12,500), 4-21, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10.67, ft.

FLORA FANTASY (m, 5, Cowtown Cat--Kat Princess, by El Prado {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 20-5-3-6, \$129,360. O-Amancio Alonso; B-Kathleen Amaya & Raffaele & Alexandro Centofanti (FL); T-Efren Loza Jr.

4th-Indiana Grand, \$37,500, (S), 4-20, (NW3L), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11.40, sy.

SO CAUGHT UP IN U (g, 5, Skylord--Trigger Fish Lane, by Petionville) Lifetime Record: 16-3-3-2, \$98,068. O-Allie Racing Stable & Andy Kohler; B-Scott Arnold (IN); T-Ronald Keith Kinmon. *\$3,500 RNA Ylg '15 PEDIND.

6th-Penn National, \$31,600, (S), 4-20, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:45.95, ft.

BIGASAUROUS (g, 5, Union Rags--Mini Chat, by Deputy Minister) Lifetime Record: 9-2-3-0, \$55,350. O-DB DOJO LLC; B-Chadds Ford Stable LLC (PA); T-Francis Abbott III. *\$50,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP; \$125,000 2yo '16 OBSMAR. **1/2 to Dixie Chatter (Dixie Union), GISW, \$464,606; and Rumor (Indian Charlie), GSW, \$418,391.

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5th-Sunland, \$29,300, (S), Opt. Clm (\$15,000), 4-21, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:08.99, ft.

MCGOLDIE (f, 4, McKenna's Justice--Thanks Be to Gold, by Formal Gold) Lifetime Record: 17-4-1-3, \$105,614. O-Judge Lanier Racing; B-McKenna Thoroughbreds LLC (NM); T-Miguel L Hernandez.

7th-Sunland, \$27,300, 4-21, (NW2X), 3yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:02.12, ft. **SECULAR NATION (c, 4, Distorted Humor--Adrina, by A.P. Indy)** Lifetime Record: SP, 6-3-2-0, \$87,680. O-J Kirk & Judy Robison; B-Courtlandt Farm (KY); T-Henry Dominguez. *\$50,000 Ylg '16 KEESEP.

LANE'S END SALES GRADUATE

7th-Hawthorne, \$25,600, Opt. Clm (\$18,000), 4-20, 3yo/up, f/m, 1m 70y (off turf), 1:42.54, ft.

RAKE IT UP (f, 4, Soldat--Streamin Heat {SW, \$236,367}, by Bring the Heat) Lifetime Record: 17-3-5-3, \$81,503. O-Ismael Thoroughbreds LLC; B-Richard Ravin (IL); T-Eduardo Rodriguez.

4th-Lone Star, \$24,000, 4-21, (NW1X), 3yo, c/g, 1m, 1:39.71, ft. **GOLD BUYER (g, 3, My Golden Song--Most Magic, by Magic Cat)** Lifetime Record: 7-2-2-0, \$40,686. O/B-Douglas Scharbauer (TX); T-W Bret Calhoun. *\$37,000 RNA 2yo '18 TTAAPR.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Smiling Rose, f, 3, **Smiling Tiger**--Run Rosie Run, by Forefathers. Santa Anita, 4-21, (S), (C), 7f, 1:27.94. B-R 3 Racing & Calara Farms (CA). *1ST-TIME STARTER. **Won by 6 1/4 lengths.

Don't Sell, f, 3, **Square Eddie**--Too Much Excess, by In Excess (Ire). Golden Gate Fields, 4-20, (S), 5 1/2f (AWT), 1:03.65. B-Reddam Racing LLC (CA). *Full to How About Zero, MSW, \$349,640.

Lahinch, c, 3, **Temple City**--Southern Spin, by Sharp Humor. Gulfstream, 4-21, (S), 1mT, 1:36.95. B-Donarra Thoroughbreds LLC (FL). *\$30,000 RNA 2yo '18 OBSMAR.

Runnin'withdaveil, g, 4, **Lucky Pulpit**--Muchas Coronas, by Macho Uno. Santa Anita, 4-21, (S), 6 1/2f, 1:19.47. B-Frederick L Pabst (WA). *\$25,000 Ylg '16 WASSEP.

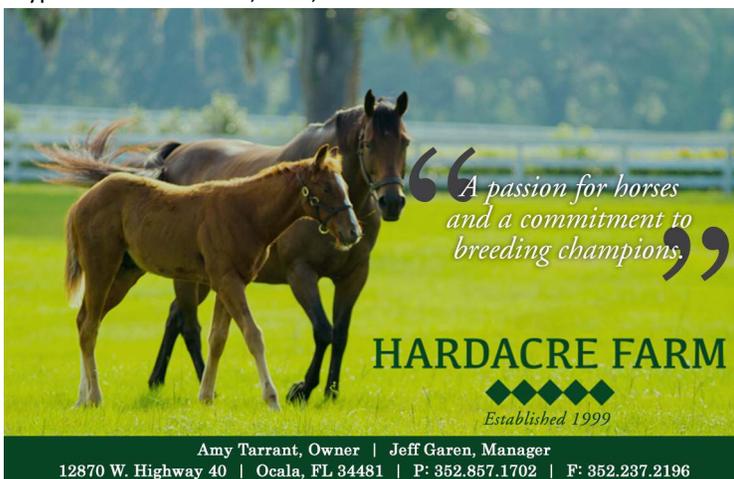
Shiny Copper Penny, h, 5, **Sweet Return (GB)**--Langworthy (SP), by Langfuhr. Gulfstream, 4-21, 5fT, :57.06. B-Susan F Woods (FL). *\$9,000 RNA Ylg '15 OBSAUG.

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- COWTOWN CAT**, Flora Fantasy, m, 5, o/o Kat Princess, by El Prado (Ire). AOC, 4-21, Gulfstream
- DISTORTED HUMOR**, Secular Nation, c, 4, o/o Adrina, by A.P. Indy. ALW, 4-21, Sunland
- ELUSIVE QUALITY**, Stradella Road, f, 4, o/o Miss Houdini, by Belong to Me. AOC, 4-20, Santa Anita
- ESKENDEREYA**, Performance Review, m, 6, o/o Right to Rule, by Five Star Day. Neon Desert H., 4-21, Sunland
- LUCKY PULPIT**, Runnin'withdaveil, g, 4, o/o Muchas Coronas, by Macho Uno. MSW, 4-21, Santa Anita
- MCKENNA'S JUSTICE**, McGoldie, f, 4, o/o Thanks Be to Gold, by Formal Gold. AOC, 4-21, Sunland
- MUNNINGS**, Powell, c, 3, o/o Dearest One, by Macho Uno. MSW, 4-21, Woodbine
- MY GOLDEN SONG**, Gold Buyer, g, 3, o/o Most Magic, by Magic Cat. ALW, 4-21, Lone Star
- REAL SOLUTION**, Sister Peacock, f, 3, o/o Imforeal, by In Excess (Ire). Star Shoot S., 4-21, Woodbine
- SMILING TIGER**, Smiling Rose, f, 3, o/o Run Rosie Run, by Forefathers. MCL, 4-21, Santa Anita
- SKYLORD**, So Caught Up in U, g, 5, o/o Trigger Fish Lane, by Petionville. ALW, 4-20, Indiana Grand
- SPEIGHTSTOWN**, Goldtown, m, 5, o/o Glory Gold, by Medaglia d'Oro. ALW, 4-21, Woodbine
- SQUARE EDDIE**, Don't Sell, f, 3, o/o Too Much Excess, by In Excess (Ire). MSW, 4-20, Golden Gate
- SWEET RETURN (GB)**, Shiny Copper Penny, h, 5, o/o Langworthy, by Langfuhr. MSW, 4-21, Gulfstream
- TEMPLE CITY**, Lahinch, c, 3, o/o Southern Spin, by Sharp Humor. MSW, 4-21, Gulfstream
- UNION RAGS**, Bigasaurus, g, 5, o/o Mini Chat, by Deputy Minister. ALW, 4-20, Penn National
- YES IT'S TRUE**, Holly Hundy, f, 3, o/o Cryptos' Best, by Cryptoclearance. MSW, 4-21, Santa Anita



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PEDIGREE INSIGHTS: SKARDU



Skardu winning the Craven S. | Racing Post

By Andrew Caulfield

It was only a couple of weeks ago that I reminded everyone that marked success for a stallion is likely to breed more success four or five years down the line. On that basis, it looks to be a pretty safe bet that 2019 is going to be another big year for the 3-year-olds by Galileo (Ire), Shamardal, Dubawi (Ire), Dansili (GB), Invincible Spirit (Ire) and Oasis Dream (GB). The TDN's 2014 table of **leading European sires by group winners** records that all six of these stallions were represented by at least eight Northern Hemisphere group winners. All six then commanded fees of at least €70,000 in 2015.

Cheapest of the six, at €70,000, was Shamardal, even though he had ranked joint-second with Dubawi in 2014, with each of them being credited with a total of 14 group winners, including four Group 1 winners. While neither came close to matching Galileo's figures of 25 group winners and eight Group 1 winners, Shamardal deserved considerable credit--especially when many of his runners in 2014 had been sired at fees of around €20,000. Nowadays it is tempting to think of Shamardal primarily as the sire of Lope de Vega, whose fee has risen as high as €80,000, but Shamardal is still no older than 17 and there are already strong indications that his 2016 crop is going to prove memorable.

[Cont. p2](#)

FRENCH CLASSICS STILL THE AIM FOR PERSIAN KING

Trainer Andre Fabre said the **defection of Too Darn Hot (GB) (Dubawi {Ire})** from the G1 2000 Guineas won't have an affect on the Classic plans of **Persian King (Ire) (Kingman {GB})**. Godolphin and Ballymore Thoroughbreds's representative won the G3 Autumn S. at Newmarket last fall but Fabre said the only development that would sway his decision to point the **'TDN Rising Star'** toward the G1 Poule d'Essai des Poulains--and ultimately the G1 Prix du Jockey Club--would be a downpour in Newmarket.

"Too Darn Hot not running doesn't make a difference, really," said Fabre. "I've made my decision already, the only factor which would make me change my mind is if we got a change in the weather. If it started to rain for a whole week at Newmarket I might think again but it doesn't look like it will."

[Cont. p4](#)

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

'I HAD BLACK HAIR UNTIL I MET SEATTLE SLEW'

Snowy-haired guy, mid-seventies, mischievous smile, and some kind of voice. Chris McGrath profiles bloodstock guru John Williams. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

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PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

by Andrew Caulfield



Pedigree Insights: Skardu cont. from p1

Although it isn't one of his largest, it still numbers 108 foals and it has produced three individual group winners in recent weeks. Shaman (Ire) initiated the treble with his success in the G3 Prix La Force, which may have earned this

four-time winner a tilt at the G1 Poule d'Essai des Poulains. Next came Castle Lady (Ire)'s victory in the G3 Prix de la Grotte, one of the main trials for the G1 Poule d'Essai des Poulaches. The treble was completed last week when the unbeaten Skardu (GB) narrowly landed the G3 Craven S. on only his second start to put himself into the G1 2000 Guineas picture.

This crop also includes the smart Emaraty Ana (GB), winner last year of the G2 Gimcrack S. Watch out too for Tarnawa (Ire), an encouraging Leopardstown winner for the Aga Khan and the progressive Solid Stone (Ire), who gamely won a handicap at Newmarket.

One unusual aspect of Skardu's pedigree is that his fourth dam, the Seeking The Gold mare Spain Lane, was born comparatively recently, in 1991.

Skardu is the second foal of a second foal who was the first foal of Quecha (Ire), the second foal of Spain Lane.

Although bred in the U.S., Spain Lane went into training with Andre Fabre and carried the Sheikh Mohammed colours with distinction. An impressive debut winner at Chantilly in June of her juvenile career, Spain Lane went on to be a good third to Coup de Genie in the G1 Prix Morny and runner-up to the champion filly Lemon Souffle (GB) in the G1 Moyglare Stud S.

Although her sire Seeking The Gold stayed a mile and a quarter, Spain Lane proved to be a sprinter like her grandsire Mr. Prospector. She gained her first group success in the G2 Prix du Gros-Chene over five furlongs and later added the G3 Prix de Seine-et-Oise over six. She rounded off her second season with a third behind the flying Lochsong (GB) in the Prix de l'Abbaye.

Spain Lane had the distinction of sharing her dam Regent's Walk with Marquetry, a top-class performer sired by another of Mr. Prospector's sons, Conquistador Cielo. A Grade I winner on dirt and turf, Marquetry won at up to a mile and a quarter, but his main achievement as a stallion was to sire Artax and Squirtle Squirt, both of whom earned the title of champion sprinter in the States.

Unfortunately, Spain Lane proved much less effective as a broodmare than as a racehorse.

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Pedigree Insights: Skardu cont.

In a career which saw her visit the likes of Sadler's Wells, Darshaan (GB), Rainbow Quest, Storm Cat, El Prado (Ire), Green Desert and Pivotal (GB), she clearly didn't lack for opportunity but she had a moderate breeding record. Her final figures were just six foals, five starters and only two winners. Skardu's third dam, the Indian Ridge (Ire) mare Quecha, was second in fairly useful company on her only start at two in France but was then off the course for 10 months and ran poorly on her return. Timeform described her as headstrong.

Again, Quecha didn't want for opportunity early in her broodmare career, as her first three mates were Danehill, Anabaa and Sadler's Wells, and it was Exceed And Excel (Aus) who sired her best winner, the group-placed German two-year-old Lukrezia. Her Danehill filly Quaich (GB)--now the second dam of Skardu--won a seven-furlong maiden at Thirsk on her debut for Saeed bin Suroor.



Shamardal | Darley

Diala (Ire), the dam of Skardu, looked potentially useful when she won a Newmarket maiden over seven furlongs on her second start at two. Although she failed to make the expected progress, she ran respectably at three. This daughter of Iffraaj (GB) (Zafonic) began her broodmare career in Bahrain before being repatriated.

It is interesting that Shamardal sired Skardu from a mare from the Gone West sire line, as one of his other recent group winners, Castle Lady, is out of a grand-daughter of Gone West. Shamardal also sired the group-placed 2-year-old winner Desert Blossom (Ire) from a Zafonic mare and the Grade III winner Oregon Lady (Ire) from a Gone West mare, while Zafonic's son Xaar (GB) sired the second dam of Shamardal's son Hazapour (Ire), winner of the G3 Derrinstown Stud Derby Trial last year.

Pedigree Insights: Skardu cont.

Although Shamardal stayed well enough to add the G1 Prix du Jockey Club to his victory in the Poule d'Essai des Poulains, the chances are that Skardu--with daughters of Iffraaj, Danehill and Indian Ridge as his first three dams--will prove best at around a mile.

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EUROPEAN NEWS



French Classics Still The Aim for Persian King cont. from p1

"He'll run in the Poulains first and then the Prix du Jockey Club, which is always the race I've thought of for him but he can certainly run in the Poulains as well."

Of Persian King's five-length win in the G3 Prix de Fontainebleau on Apr. 14, Fabre said, "He was impressive the other day, he made the others look ordinary which is the mark of a good horse."

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Persian King | Scoop Dyga

SEA OF CLASS TO MISS MIDDLETON

An elevated temperature earlier this month means that last year's G1 Irish Oaks and G1 Yorkshire Oaks winner **Sea Of Class (Ire)** (Sea The Stars {Ire}) will miss her intended 4-year-old debut in the G2 Middleton S. at York on May 16, trainer William Haggas told Racing TV's *Luck on Sunday*.

"She spiked a temperature about two weeks ago which we didn't like," Haggas said. "It was down within 24 hours, but a couple of markers on her blood weren't great so we've had to give her a week off, which is why we'll take her out of the Middleton on Tuesday."



Sea Of Class is aiming for the Prince of Wales's | Racing Post

"She's essentially fine, she's back in work and looks great. We think she's improved a bit and we're also delighted they've decided not to run Almond Eye [in the Arc this year]."

Haggas said he is keen to pitch Sea Of Class against the colts this year. The filly was second in last year's G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe behind Enable (GB) (Nathaniel {Ire}), beating Group 1-winning colts like Cloth of Stars (Ire) (Sea the Stars {Ire}), Waldgeist (GB) (Galileo {Ire}) and Capri (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}).

"I'd love to meet [Almond Eye] some day, I was very impressed with her at Meydan, but I'm very keen to have a crack at the colts this year," Haggas said. "It's a bit softly-softly to go for all the Group 1 races for fillies. The other thing I want to do is bring her back in trip because I don't think any race she won last year she won because she out-galloped them--I think she won because she was quicker than them."

Sea Of Class's first crack at the colts this year could come at Royal Ascot.

"I really want to go for the Prince of Wales's, that's my first one," Haggas said. "I've discussed it with Mrs Tsui [owner], she's up for it, naturally, so that's what we'd like to do. Whether we get a run in first will be up to her, really."

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TOAST OF NEW YORK RETIRED

Eight-year-old gelding **Toast of New York** (Thewayouare), best known for his win in the G2 UAE Derby and nose second in the 2014 GI Breeders' Cup Classic, has been retired from racing, according to *Racing Post*.

"We've got to the point now where taking him any further isn't going to be in his interest, so we've decided to call it a day," trainer Jamie Osborne told *Racing Post*. "Since Al Shaqab bought him he's had lots of issues, which has been incredibly unlucky for them. They've been extremely understanding of the whole situation.

"It was an extraordinary career in a way because he ran only 13 times but still won just short of £2-million. He'll probably be best-remembered for being beaten an inch or two in the Breeders' Cup Classic."



Toast of New York and Jimmy McCarthy | *Racing Post*

Toast of New York, who spent the entirety of his career with Osborne, was initially campaigned by Michael Buckley. Prior to his Breeders' Cup second Toast of New York was also second in the GI Pacific Classic, and he was purchased privately by Al Shaqab Racing after the Breeders' Cup with sights on the 2015 G1 Dubai World Cup. Injury ruled him out of that contest and ultimately led to his first retirement, after which he took up stud duties in Qatar. A lack of opportunity there meant he returned to training with Osborne, and he won a Lingfield conditions race off a three-year layoff in December of 2017. Toast of New York picked up a second behind Mind Your Biscuits (Posse) in the Gill Lukas Classic at Churchill Downs last September, and was last seen finishing third in that same Lingfield conditions race on Dec. 5.

"We've had a fantastic journey with him," Osborne said. "There have been highs and lows for sure, and it's been a career peppered with disappointment along the way.

However, for me he came along at the right time and changed my life, he changed Michael Buckley's life, and we're forever grateful.

"We now owe it to the horse to give him a great retirement. He's not a horse who would be happy doing nothing, he needs to be active so we'll be sure to find him a nice purpose in life. He's still in the yard at the moment and, along with Jimmy McCarthy, who has been at his side since he was a yearling, we're going to see if we can do some kind of retraining of racehorses class with him."

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FIRST-SEASON SIRE WITH RUNNERS

Monday, April 22:

FRANCE:

Due Diligence (War Front), Whitsbury Manor Stud
85 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners
2-LION D'ANGERS, 1100m, DIVA SPEED (GB)
€5,000 Arqana Deauville V2 Yearlings 2018

Gutaifan (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}), Yeomanstown Stud
166 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
2-LION D'ANGERS, 1100m, FAN CLUB RULES (Ire)



Gutaifan looks for his first winner in France on Monday

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OBSERVATIONS

on the European racing scene

2.35 ParisLongchamp, Debutantes, €25,000, 3yo, f, 10 1/2ft
DARIYZA (FR) (Dawn Approach {Ire}) is a significant newcomer for the longstanding partnership between His Highness The Aga Khan and Alain de Royer-Dupre as a daughter of their G1 Hong Kong Vase heroine Daryakana (Fr) (Selkirk). Therefore a half-sister to the G1 Prix Ganay-winning sire Dariyan (Fr) (Shamardal), she encounters some notably-bred peers including Ballymore Thoroughbred's **Mighty Blue (Fr) (Authorized {Ire})**, a Henri Devin-trained daughter of the G1 Prix de Diane runner-up Millionaia (Ire) (Peintre Celebre).

3.50 ParisLongchamp, Cond, €35,000, 3yo, f, 8ft
SIYARAFINA (FR) (Pivotal {GB}) is another intriguing representative of the His Highness The Aga Khan-Alain de Royer-Dupre axis in this card, with 'TDN Rising Star' status to defend following her dynamic debut success at Saint-Cloud earlier this month. The daughter of the smart Siyenica (Fr) (Azamour {Ire}) meets another 'TDN Rising Star' in Gerard Augustin-Normand's **Commes (Fr) (Le Havre {Ire})**, the member of Jean-Claude Rouget's team who was beaten by the classy Suphala (Fr) (Frankel {GB}) at Chantilly in September. They have a Godolphin newcomer to tackle in the Andre Fabre-trained **Varamini (Fr) (Siyouni {Fr})**, a €300,000 ARQAUG full-sister to the G1 Prix de Diane third Volta (Fr).

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'TDN Rising Star' Siyarafina | Scoop Dyga

BRITAIN



Sunday's Results:

FIRST WINNER FOR SIRE

2nd-Southwell, £5,800, Novice, 4-21, 2yo, 4f 214y (AWT), 1:01.93, st.

LITLEDIDYOUKNOW (IRE) (f, 2, Due Diligence--Solfilia {GB}, by Teofilo {Ire}), sent off at 10-3, broke well to take the early advantage. Pressed by Hollaback Girl (GB) (Camacho {GB}) from two furlongs out, the bay asserted despite running around in front to score by 1 1/4 lengths. In doing so, she wins the race to become the first winner for her first-season sire (by War Front) who stands at Whitsbury Manor Stud for £4,000. She is also the first for the dam, who hails from the family of the G2 Derrinstown Stud Derby Trial and G3 Sandown Classic Trial-winning Fracas (Ire) (In the Wings {GB}). Sales history: €5,000 Ylg '18 GOFFEB; €15,000 Ylg '18 GOFSP. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$4,873. **Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** O-El Jefe; B-Rathasker Stud (IRE); T-Archie Watson.

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Littledidyouknow is the first winner for first-season sire **Due Diligence (pictured)** | Whitsbury Manor Stud

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNER:

Parallel World (Ire), g, 3, Morpheus (GB)--Miss Glitters (Ire), by Chevalier (Ire). Southwell, 4-21, 7f 14y (AWT), 1:29.46. B-Tallyho Stud (IRE). *€15,000 Ylg '17 TIRSEP.

FRANCE

**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

- Semariya (Fr)**, f, 3, **Archipenko**--Serasana (GB), by Red Ransom. Tarbes, 4-21, 10 1/2fT, 2:15.10. B-H H The Aga Khan's Studs SC (FR). *1/2 to Saryshagann (Fr) (Iffraaj {GB}), SP-Fr, \$102,438.
- Visage (Ire)**, f, 3, **Galileo (Ire)**--Just Pretending (GSW & MG1SP-Ire, GSP-Eng, \$199,212), by Giant's Causeway. Tarbes, 4-21, 11 1/2fT, 2:28.80. B-Orpendale, Chelston & Wynatt (IRE).
- Galoubet (GB)**, c, 3, **Makfi (GB)**--Creamcake, by Mr. Greeley. Argentan, 4-21, 6fT, 1:16.80. B-Ecurie La Vallee Martigny EARL (GB).
- Ferblue (Fr)**, c, 3, **Motivator (GB)**--Blue Fern, by Woodman. Tarbes, 4-21, 10 1/2fT, 2:17.40. B-Ecurie Skymarc Farm (FR). *€6,000 Wlg '16 ARQDEC. **1/2 to Blue Blue Sky (Ire) (Anabaa), SW & GSP-Fr; and Blue Ciel (GB) (Oasis Dream {GB}), SP-Fr.

GERMANY

**Sunday's Results:**

- ALTANO-RENNEN-Listed**, €25,000, Hoppegarten, 4-21, 4yo/up, 14fT, 3:02.36, gd.
- 1--**ERNESTO (GER)**, 129, c, 4, **Reliable Man (GB)**--**Enrica (GB)** (GSP-Ity), by **Niniski**. **1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN**. (€52,000 Ylg '16 BBAGS). O-Stall Reckendorf; B-Gestut Rottgen (GER); T-Markus Klug; J-Adrie de Vries. €14,000. Lifetime Record: GSP-Ger, 13-2-3-1, €52,550. **1/2 to Egerton (Ger) (Groom Dancer), MGSW & MG1SP-Ger, \$729,267; Enora (Ger) (Noverre), G1SW-Ger, \$303,781; Ephraim (GB) (Rail Link {GB}), GSW-Ger; and Ephigenie (Ire) (Groom Dancer), SW-Ger.
- 2--**Alounak (Fr)**, 126, c, 4, Camelot (GB)--Awe Struck (GB), by Rail Link (GB). (€110,000 Ylg '16 ARAUG). O-Darius Racing. €6,500.
- 3--**Moonshiner (Ger)**, 129, h, 6, Adlerflug (Ger)--Montezuma (Ger), by Monsun (Ger). O-Gestut Schlenderhan. €3,000. Margins: 1, HF, NK. Odds: 4.40, 1.80, 2.30. Also Ran: Wisperwind (Ger), Berghain (Ire), Klungel (Ger), Raviella (Cze).

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PREIS VON DAHLWITZ-Listed, €25,000, Hoppegarten, 4-21, 4yo/up, 10fT, time, going.

- 1--**BE MY SHERIFF (GER)**, 123, h, 5, **Lawman (Fr)**--**Bezzaaf (GB)**, by **Machiavellian**. (€36,000 RNA Ylg '15 BBASEP). O-Nadine Siepmann; B-Gestut Gorlsdorf (GER); T-Henk Grewe; J-Lukas Delozier. €14,000. Lifetime Record: 15-4-2-2, €84,713. *1/2 to Ans Bach (GB) (Green Desert), SW-UAE, \$135,722.
- 2--**Devastar (Ger)**, 128, h, 7, Areion (Ger)--Deva (Ger), by Platini (Ger). O-Gestut Park Wiedingen. €6,500.
- 3--**All For Arthur (Ire)**, 121, c, 4, Tertullian--All An Star (GB), by Galileo (Ire). O-Gestut Hony-Hof. €3,000. Margins: 3, NK, 1 1/4. Odds: 2.70, 1.60, 19.20.

1st-Hoppegarten, €5,100, 4-21, 3yo, 9fT, 1:53.81, gd. **STORYINWORD (GB)** (c, 3, **Toronado (Ire)**--**Shy Lady (Fr)** {**SW-Ger**}, by **Kaldoun (Fr)**), the 3-10 favourite on this debut, was intent on securing a lead which eventually came from Mojano (Fr) (Denon). Taking until the furlong pole to get past that spirited rival, the homebred asserted to score by 3/4 of a length. In doing so, he became yet another winner for his remarkable dam whose seven black-type performers include the G3 Prix du Calvados winner Ya Hajar (GB) (Lycius), the G1 St James's Palace S. hero Zafeen (Fr) (Zafonic), Hwt. 3yo Colt-Eng, G1SW-Eng & G1SP-Fr, \$559,248, and fellow sire Atlantic Sport (Machiavellian), SW-Eng & SP-Ity, \$188,818. Related to last year's G2 Duke of Cambridge S. winner Aljazzi (GB) (Shamardal) and the sire Opening Verse, Storyinword is her last known foal and her 13th in all. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €3,000. O-Jaber Abdullah; B-Rabbah Bloodstock Ltd (GB); T-Andreas Wohler.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

- Global Cloud (Ger)**, f, 3, **Soldier Hollow (GB)**--Global Beauty (GB), by Tiger Hill (Ire). Hoppegarten, 4-21, 10fT, 2:02.21. B-Gestut Auenquelle (GER). *€50,000 RNA Ylg '17 BBAGS.

**IN SOUTH AFRICA:**

- Cabo Da Cruz (Ire)**, g, 4, **Cape Cross (Ire)**--Pardoven (Ire), by Clodovil (Ire). Scottsville, 4-21, Hcp., 1200mT, 1:11.19. O-Mrs M Slack & Mr M B Javett; B-Ringfort Stud; T-Dennis Drier. *38,000gns Wlg '15 TATDEF; €220,000 Ylg '16 GOFORB.

European-bred winners cont.**IN SINGAPORE:**

Circuit Mission (Ire), g, 4, **High Chaparral (Ire)**--Precautionary (GB), by Green Desert. Kranji, 4-21, Hcp. (£40k/€46k), 1600m (AWT), 1:38.75. B-M Phelan. *Formerly Curiosity (Ire). **€46,000 Wlg '15 GOFNOV; €55,000 Ylg '16 GOFORB; £390,000 HRA '18 GOFAUG. **VIDEO**

IN MAINLAND CHINA:

Wu Zhui Ta Xue (GB), c, 3, **Girolamo**--Love Dancing (Arg) (GSW-Arg & SP-UAE, by Salt Lake. Wuhan, 4-20, 1200m, Sand Track, 1:16.69. Purse: 50,000 RMB. B-Godolphin. *€4,500 yrl '17 TATSEP. **VIDEO**.

Mei Ju (GB), f, 4, **Zoffany (Ire)**--Big Wave (IRE), by Choisir (AUS). Wuhan, 4-20, 1200m, Sand, 1:15.27. Purse: 50,000 RMB. B-Cuadra Altamira S.L., Calle Vicente Morales. *€10,000 yrl '16 GOFSP. **VIDEO**.

**IN SINGAPORE:**

Siam Royal Orchid, g, 3, **Shamus Award**--Chaotic, by King of Kings (Ire). Kranji, 4-21, Restricted Maiden (\$77k), 1200m (AWT), 1:11.92. B-Dr K Prendergast (NSW). *\$100,000 Ylg '17 MMGCYS. **VIDEO**

Cousteau, g, 4, **Exceed and Excel (Aus)**--Maritime, by Falbrav (Ire). Kranji, 4-21, Hcp. (\$52k), 1000m (AWT), :59.41. B-G R Daws (WA). *1/2 to Charlie Boy (Myboycharlie {Ire}), MGSW & MG1SP-Aus, \$906,875. **SP-NZ. ***\$230,000 Ylg '16 MMGCYS. **VIDEO**

Super Dynasty, g, 4, **Fastnet Rock**--Sayuri San, by Fuji Kiseki (Jpn). Kranji, 4-21, Hcp. (\$52k), 1600m (AWT), 1:39.54. B-Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al Maktoum (Vic). *1/2 to Rumya (NZ) (Red Ransom {USA}), MG1SW-Saf, US\$102,289; Badawiya (Al Maher), MGSW & G1SP-Aus, \$360,425; and Roobeena (Exceed and Excel), GSP-Aus. **Formerly Bidwee. **VIDEO**

Crouching Sun, g, 4, **Street Cry (Ire)**--Moonflute (GSW & G1SP-Aus, \$229,550), by Danehill (USA). Kranji, 4-21, Hcp. (\$52k), 1600m (AWT), 1:39.50. B-G Harvey (NSW). *Formerly Crouching Dragon. **\$250,000 Ylg '16 MMGCYS. **VIDEO**

European-bred winners cont.**IN MAINLAND CHINA:**

Li Jie Chong Sheng (AUS), c, 3, **Reward For Effort (AUS)**--Eclipse Harmony (NZ), by Pins (AUS). Wuhan, 4-20, 1100m, Sand Track, 1:09.48. Purse: 50,000 RMB. B-Grange Thoroughbreds. *A\$20,000 wnl '16 INGGG; A\$20,000 yrl '17 INGPREM. **VIDEO**.

WORLDWIDE NEWS**Sunday, Tokyo, Japan**

SANKEI SPORTS SHO FLORA S.-G2, ¥100,820,000, Tokyo, 4-20, 3yo, f, 2000mT, 1:59.50, fm.

1--**VICTORIA (JPN)**, 119, f, 3, by **Victoire Pisa (Jpn)**

1st Dam: **Black Emblem (Jpn)** (SW-Jpn, \$1,614,700), by **War Emblem**

2nd Dam: **Vin de Noir (Jpn)**, by **Hector Protector**

3rd Dam: **Princesse d'Elide (GB)**, by **Vaguely Noble (Ire)**

1ST STAKES WIN. O-Silk Co; B-Northern Farm; T-Shigeyuki Kojima; J-Keita Tosaki; ¥53,274,000. Lifetime Record: 5-3-0-0. *1/2 to **Bright Emblem (Jpn)** (Neo Universe {Jpn}), GSW-Jpn, \$678,299; and **Astra Emblem (Jpn)** (Daiwa Major {Jpn}), SW & MGSP-Jpn, \$1,559,994. **Werk Nick Rating: A.** [Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.](#)

2--**Shadow Diva (Jpn)**, 119, f, 3, **Heart's Cry (Jpn)**--**Diamond Diva (GB)**, by **Dansili (GB)**. (¥72,000,000 yrl '17 JRHAJUL) O-Shadow Inc; B-Northern Farm; ¥21,364,000.

3--**Jodie (Jpn)**, 119, f, 3, **Daiwa Major (Jpn)**--**Mystique (Ger)**, by **Monsun (Ger)**. (¥12,000,000 wnlg '16 JRHAJUL) O-Tadakazu Obama; B-Northern Farm; ¥13,182,000.

Margins: NO, HF, HD. Odds: 5.70, 4.40, 27.30.

[Click for the JRA chart and video](#) or the [free Equine.com catalogue-style pedigree.](#)

Victoria had scored on debut going 1900 metres last July, and was put away for the winter off two off-the-board finishes. She garnered mild support for this test, however, off a season-opening score at Nakayama on Feb. 24. Keen into the first turn of this Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks) prep, Victoria was checked a few times and eventually settled midpack on the rail. Still with a lot to do as they turned for home, Victoria moved off the rail as the field fanned out across the track. Waiting until the final furlong to make her move, she stormed down the middle of the track and found the front just in time.

Pedigree Notes

On May 19, Victoria will aim to become the second Classic winner for her Classic-winning sire Victoire Pisa.



With this victory, she became the third stakes winner for her dam Black Emblem, who won the third leg of the Japanese Fillies' Triple Crown, the Shuka Sho, in 2008, the year before it became an international Group 1 race. Black Emblem has made a most promising start to her broodmare career: her second foal is the G3 Sapporo Nisai S. winner Bright Emblem (Jpn) (Neo Universe {Jpn}), and he was followed by the listed-winning and multiple group-placed Astra Emblem (Jpn) (Daiwa Major {Jpn}).

Sunday, Kyoto, Japan

YOMIURI MILERS CUP-G2, ¥113,800,000, Kyoto, 4-21, 4yo/up, 1600mT, 1:32.60, fm.

1--**DANON PREMIUM (JPN)**, 126, c, 4, by Deep Impact (Jpn)

1st Dam: **Indiana Gal (Ire) (MSW & MGSP-Ire, \$319,044)**, by Intikhab

2nd Dam: **Genial Jenny (Ire)**, by Danehill

3rd Dam: **Joma Kaanem (Ire)**, by Double Form (Ire)

O-Danox Inc; B-K.I. Farm; T-Mitsumasa Nakauchida; J-Yuga Kawada; ¥59,700,000. Lifetime Record: Ch. 2yo Colt & G1SW-Jpn, 7-6-0-0. **Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.**

Werk Nick Rating: A++.

2--**Guanciale (Jpn)**, 123, h, 7, Screen Hero (Jpn)--Chuo Saya (Jpn), by Diablo. O-Toshihiro Matsumoto; B-Chuo Farm; ¥24,200,000.

3--**Pax Americana (Jpn)**, 123, c, 4, Kurofune--Global Peace (Jpn), by Sunday Silence. O-Sanshisuimei Inc; B-Chiyoda Farm; ¥15,100,000.

Margins : 1 1/4, NK, HD. Odds: 0.30, 22.80, 11.40.

Click for the JRA chart and video or the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree.

Danon Premium, Japan's unbeaten champion 2-year-old colt of 2017, suffered his only blip when sixth as the favourite in the G1 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) when stretched out to a mile and a half last spring, and he indicated here that he should be a major player in the country's mile and middle-distance features going forward. Heavily favoured off a win in the G2 Kinko Sho on Mar. 10, Danon Premium was quick from the gates and settled two lengths second. Switching to the outside of the pacesetter Guanciale coming off the bend of this one-turn mile, the blaze-faced bay needed only a light shake of the reins to take up the lead and win in commanding fashion.

Pedigree Notes

Danon Premium is the first stakes winner for Indiana Gal, who in 43 starts, mostly in Ireland for trainer Patrick Martin, won a pair of listed stakes over 2000 metres at Dundalk and picked up a few group placings. The mare's current 3-year-old, Premium Gift (Jpn) (Orfevre {Jpn}), is also a winner this year.

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Monday, Cologne, Germany, post time: 5.10 p.m.

KARIN BARONIN VON ULLMANN - SCHWARZGOLD-RENNEN-G3, €55,000, 3yo, f, 8fT

SC	PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	10	Akribie (Ger)	Reliable Man (GB)	de Vries	Klug	128
2	2	Anna Pivola (Ger)	Pivotal (GB)	Pecheur	Klug	128
3	1	Axana (Ger)	Soldier Hollow (GB)	Pedroza	Wohler	128
4	6	Barbados (Fr)	Dalakhani (Ire)	V Schiergen	P Schiergen	128
5	5	Eternal Summer (Fr)	Sommerabend (GB)	Minarik	Carvalho	128
6	8	Linaria (Ger)	Soldier Hollow (GB)	Casamento	Hirschberger	128
7	3	Peace of Paris (Ger)	Helmet (Aus)	Seidl	Klug	128
8	9	Satomi (Ger)	Teofilo (Ire)	Piechulek	Klug	128
9	4	Stex (Ire)	Lord of England (Ger)	Murzabayev	Dzubasz	128
10	11	Wild Emotion (Ger)	Lord of England (Ger)	Pietsch	Suborics	128
11	7	Wish You Well (Ger)	Soldier Hollow (GB)	Mendizabal	Carvalho	128

Monday, Milan, Italy, post time: 6:05 p.m.

PREMIO AMBROSIANO-G3, €71,500, 3yo/up, 2000mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Assiro (GB)	Declaration of War	Mezzatesta	Biondi	133
2	Azzurro Cobalto (Ity)	Aussie Rules	Branca	Simondi	133
3	Dirk (Ire)	Mujahid	Fiocchi	Botti	135
4	Lamarck (GB)	Solider Hollow (GB)	Maniezzi	Steinberg	133
5	Presley (Ity)	Gladiatorus	Vargiu	Botti	133

*All post times are local time.



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2018 KEENELAND STAKES WINNERS

Analyze It | A Raving Beauty | Blue Prize (ARG)
Bound for Nowhere | Bucchero | Chanteline | Colonia (FR)
Concrete Rose | Current | Finley'sluckycharm | Gas Station Sushi
Golden Mischief | Good Magic | Heart to Heart | Knicks Go | Leofric
Mom's On Strike | Monomoy Girl | My Boy Jack | Next Shares
One Go All Go | Promises Fulfilled | Rated R Superstar | Restless Rider
Rushing Fall | Shamrock Rose | Sistercharlie (IRE) | Strike Silver
Triple Chelsea | Valadorna | Vexatious | Warrior's Club | Zulu Alpha

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