

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRAINERS PLANNING OAKLAWN INVASION



Oaklawn Park | Coady

by Bill Finley

Santa Anita was never the type of place anyone wanted to leave. With great weather, good purses, a turf course and racing held in the midst of one of the most majestic settings in the sport, it was the type of place where some of America's best horsemen settled in, content to compete there year-round.

But racing's changing landscape, combined with the uncertainty facing Southern California racing since a rash of breakdowns earlier this year at Santa Anita, have several top trainers on the circuit ready to send strings to Oaklawn Park for the winter and spring. The *TDN* has confirmed that at least seven top California trainers will be sending strings this year to the Hot Springs, Arkansas track. The list includes Peter Eurton, Richard Baltas, John Sadler, Phil D'Amato, Doug O'Neill, Peter Miller and Jerry Hollendorfer. Hollendorfer did not have many other options as he has been banned from competing at Santa Anita by the track's owners, The Stronach Group.

The job of luring California trainers to Oaklawn became a bit easier when the track hired Rick Hammerle to serve as its racing coordinator. Hammerle was the racing secretary at Santa Anita until being dismissed late in 2018 and has strong ties to most Southern California horsemen. **Cont. p3**

## DA REPORT ON SANTA ANITA FATALITIES: NO CRIMINAL CONDUCT BUT AREAS OF CONCERN *by Dan Ross*

The long-awaited findings of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Task Force investigation into the rash of equine fatalities at Santa Anita was made public Thursday, and the main takeaway is that they did not find evidence of "criminal animal cruelty or unlawful conduct."

However, the **19-page report**--which covered an investigation into 56 equine fatalities between July 1, 2018 and Nov. 30, 2019 at Santa Anita--notes various areas of concern "and possible factors that may have contributed to the deaths," including issues surrounding medication restrictions for horses during routine training, pre-existing injuries and track conditions.

**Cont. p5**

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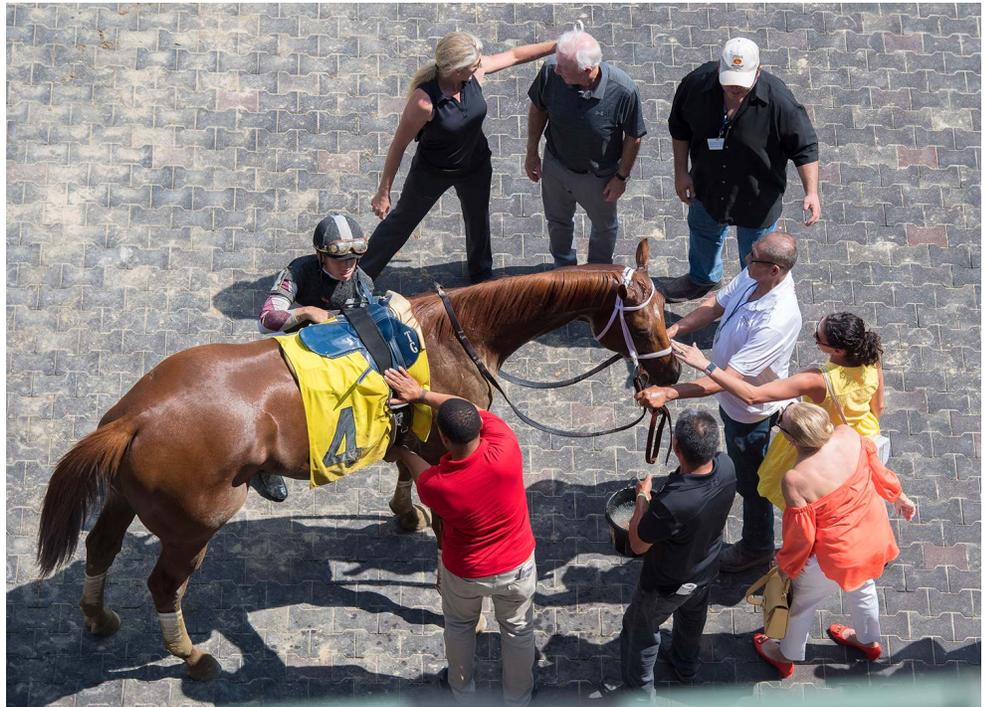
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**2019 in Photos: July 21.** The connections of Scars Are Cool (Malibu Moon) celebrate in the winner's circle at Saratoga after a maiden special weight victory. | Sarah Andrew

**APB: BY MY STANDARDS**

**8**

*Sidelined since crossing the wire a troubled 12th over the sloppy going in the GI Kentucky Derby, Allied Racing Stable's **By My Standards** (Goldencents) is beginning to gear up for his 4-year-old campaign.*

**BRANT ON WRITERS' ROOM PODCAST**

**14**

*Peter Brant has owned many good horses over the years, but never one that he held in higher regard than **Sistercharlie (Ire)** (Myboycharlie {Ire}). In a wide-ranging interview as the Green Group Guest of the Week on this week's **TDN Writers' Room podcast**, Brant said that he wanted Sistercharlie to campaign next year because finding a horse of that caliber is difficult.*

*Pennsylvania-Breds*

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**Oaklawn Invasion cont. from p1**



**Peter Eurton** | *Horsephotos*

None of the trainers will be abandoning Santa Anita all together and most will be sending 20 horses or fewer to Oaklawn. But many felt it was important to begin to lay the foundation at a track outside of Southern California, where a rash of breakdowns earlier this year led to uncertainty about the sport's future.

"For me, the surface at Santa Anita is fine and I think things will continue on as normal, at least over the next couple of years," Eurton said. "But there is a lot of uncertainty and the owners are worried. Without getting too knee jerk, it's important to see what your options are. Considering the situation here in Southern California, you can't get too complacent."

Eurton said he will send seven or eight horses to Oaklawn. The string will not include his GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner **Storm the Court** (Court Vision), but he could ship in for any of Oaklawn's rich prep races for the GI Kentucky Derby. D'Amato plans on sending about 15. O'Neill is planning on sending between 12 and 15 horses. Miller will send about 20.

"We left and took horses to Kentucky when the crisis happened earlier in the year at Santa Anita," Miller said. "We were one of the first out and were lucky to get a barn of 20 stalls at Churchill. There doesn't seem to be any proper leadership out in California and they don't seem to have a real plan. I felt it was necessary for myself and my owners to be ahead of the curve and establish a Midwest, Kentucky, Oaklawn string."

The 2020 Oaklawn meet begins Jan. 24 and concludes May 2. There will be 57 days of racing with purses that will average about \$600,000 a day, much of the money coming from casino revenues. Santa Anita cannot match Oaklawn's purses, and Baltas said that was the main reason some of his owners wanted to take horses to Hot Springs.

"I do have some owners that are pushing me to send horse

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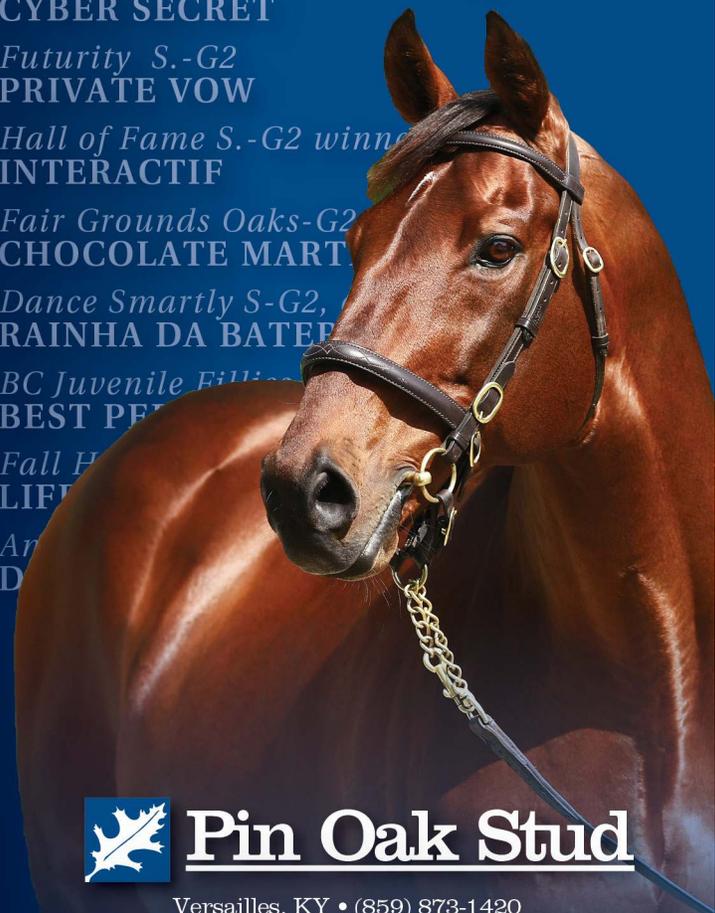
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there because of the purses,” Baltas said. “There are different kinds of owners. There are owners in it for the money and there are owners that are in it for the racing.”

Baltas will send about 10 horses to Oaklawn, and admitted he is doing so reluctantly.

“I’m totally behind California racing, 100%,” he said. “I’m from California and I believe we have some of the best horses in the country here and I don’t want to leave. I want to support California racing 100%. Sometimes, purse money doesn’t come into effect, like when you are developing a young horse, and sometimes it does.”

The main advantage Santa Anita has over Oaklawn is its turf course. Trainer Mark Glatt said that was one the reasons he will be staying at Santa Anita after being allotted stalls at Oaklawn.

“It just wasn’t going to work out for me from a logistics standpoint this year to send horses to Oaklawn, mostly because it’s tough when you can’t take any turf horses,” Glatt said.

Some will take their horses away from Santa Anita without making much noise. Some will not. In an interview last week with the *TDN*, O’Neill had harsh words for track management. So did Miller, who questioned why Santa Anita has not given the go-ahead to installing a synthetic track.

“If all the concern about safety was genuine, they would put a synthetic racetrack in and they’d cut race dates,” he said. “I could fix the problem in 10 seconds. Put in a proper synthetic racetrack and cut race dates. The problem with that is that it costs money. It’s free to blame trainers. It’s free to blame veterinarians or the weather. To actually move the needle, to actually right the ship, is going to cost money and they don’t seem to want to do that.”

It won’t be just California trainers who are setting up shop in Hot Springs. Shug McGaughey is bringing in a string of horses owned by John Ed Anthony and East Coast regular Jeremiah Englehart has also said he will be bringing a group of horses to Oaklawn. They’ll have to contend with Oaklawn regulars like Steve Asmussen, the odds-on favorite to be leading trainer. Throw the California trainers into the mix and never before has Oaklawn had a stronger contingent of horsemen.

“It’s going to be crowded there and there are going to be a lot of good horsemen there,” Baltas said. “I don’t think the money is going to be as easy to get your hands on as people think. But I’m just trying to keep everybody happy.”

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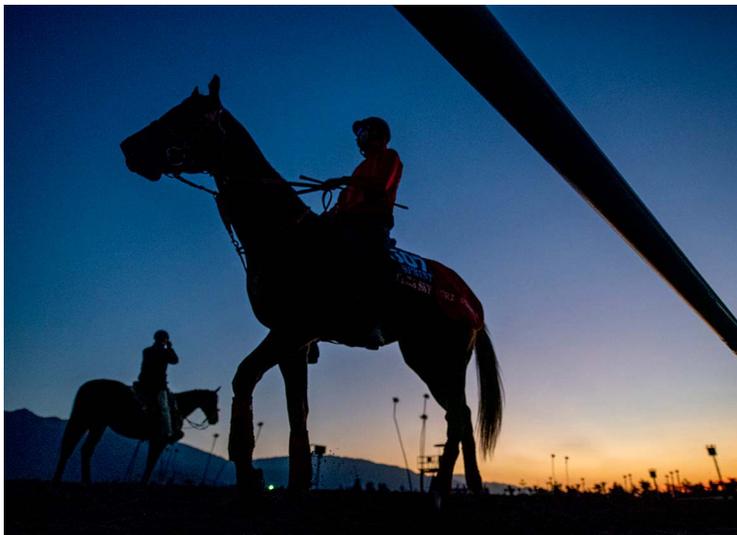
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**DA Report cont. from p1**



**Santa Anita** | *Breeders' Cup/Eclipse Sportswire*

As such, the report makes a series of recommendations pertaining to the early diagnosis of injuries, track maintenance, and regulatory safety enforcement. Many of these recommendations are already in place, while most of the others either are "in the process of being implemented or under consideration," wrote the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB), in a Thursday statement.

"The California Horse Racing Board agrees with the Santa Anita Task Force Report of Investigation issued by the Los Angeles County District Attorney. The CHRB has cooperated in every way with D.A. investigators and will continue to do so," the CHRB wrote.

It was back in March that the district attorney's office announced that it had opened an investigation into the spike in fatalities that occurred this past winter and spring at Santa Anita, triggering a frenzy of media coverage.

As part of its investigation--which is in an "ongoing capacity"--the 12-member Task Force relied upon "hundreds" of documents, including CHRB fatality reports, veterinarian records, training records and medication records, "as well as statements from witnesses, industry stakeholders and experts," the report states. So, what did they identify as areas of concern?

According to the report, the Task Force "did not uncover evidence indicating that an owner, trainer or jockey intentionally or knowingly raced an injured horse at Santa Anita Park. Such a scenario could constitute animal cruelty." However, the report notes that, despite heightened scrutiny in the wake of the fatalities this past winter and spring, "racing injuries and fatalities continue to occur."

Unsurprisingly given current understanding of catastrophic breakdowns, necropsies revealed the existence of preexisting

**BEYER**

Bolt d'Oro	103
Classic Empire	102
American Pharoah	101
Songbird	99
Game Winner	97

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**THE FASTEST  
MULTIPLE G1 2YO  
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injuries, "but presented as asymptomatic," the report notes. And while "treating veterinarians, trainers and riders... did not identify any red flags that would have alerted them to the horses' preexisting degenerative conditions," new imaging equipment like the **recently unveiled** MILE-PET scan machine will help diagnose these issues earlier, the report adds.

When it comes to the ever-contentious issue of medication, the Task Force initially reviewed the toxicology reports from the 23 equine fatalities that occurred between Dec. 30, 2018 and Mar. 31, 2019, the report states. This period was during the height of the rainy season that bedeviled the track earlier in the

year.

The report notes that the following eight substances were present in "a number of the horses": Phenylbutazone (NSAID), Xylazine (sedative), HEPS (metabolite of the tranquilizer acepromazine), Methocarbamol (muscle relaxant), Hydroxydetomidine (sedative), Flunixin (NSAID), Furosemide (Lasix), Trichlormethiazide (diuretic).

When it comes to the entire 56 horses investigated between July 2018 to Nov. 2019, 30 necropsies tested positive for NSAIDs, and nine for Lasix, the report states, noting too that none of the medications are illegal to administer to racehorses, and that none of the substances were at levels that would "constitute a CHRB violation for a horse that was racing or training."

However, while the CHRB does tightly regulate race day medications, "there are fewer restrictions on the presence of various substances in the blood of a horse that is training," the report adds.

When it comes to the issue of the safety of the track surface, some of the interviewees expressed concern that "high speed workouts and racing on a sealed or recently sealed track could cause stress fractures, particularly in a horse's front legs," according to the report. "Four of the fatal breakdowns in 2019 occurred on a sealed track. Two occurred on a track that had been unsealed earlier on race day," the report states.

Mick Peterson, a mechanical engineer and University of Kentucky professor, has been a long-time track surface consultant in Southern California, including for Santa Anita. The Task Force leant heavily on his testimony.

According to the report, Peterson admits that while synthetic and turf tracks are safer than dirt, "he believes that it is not unsafe to run on a sealed track," and that "issues arise in a track's consistency due to the complex decision making process when managing excess water and allowing the track to dry. He noted that Santa Anita Park had an unusually high amount of rain during the time period at issue."

Furthermore, "Dr. Peterson is in favor of adding as much data as possible when the decision is being made as to whether to cancel racing due to rain or poor track conditions. Dr. Peterson also recommends that tracks install sensors on tractors that measure moisture content all around the track," the report states.

Finally, at the height of the welfare crisis, a number of horsemen claimed that they had been unduly pressured by Santa Anita management to run horses. According to the report, the Task force interviewed approximately 100 witnesses "and found no evidence supporting this supposition" and no evidence "of trainers losing their stalls for a failure to run their horses in enough races."



**RAGOZIN**

Bolt d'Oro	4 ¾
Game Winner	4 ¾
Classic Empire	5 ½
American Pharoah	6 ¼
Songbird	6 ½

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**NO MATTER HOW  
YOU MEASURE IT.**

The report includes several revealing statistics which add valuable context to the situation. For example, it notes that in 2018, the national average of racing fatalities was 1.68 deaths per 1,000 racing starts, according to the Jockey Club. That same year, Santa Anita Park averaged 2.04 deaths per 1,000 racing starts while Churchill Downs averaged 2.73 deaths per 1,000 racing starts. However, the report similarly highlights how overall fatality numbers for major California tracks have been trending downwards over the past 10 years.

The report also breaks down the fatalities into several different categories. For example, the most common

catastrophic breakdown site on the horse was the right front leg, followed by the left front. When it comes to identifying potential risk factors, the majority of the horses fatally injured were 3-year-olds, most were geldings, and most of them had had no prior starts.

The vast majority of horses--46 of the 56--had not been claimed at some point in their career.

Since July last year, the most dangerous period at Santa Anita was this past January, when 13 horses were fatally injured during the entire month. The report also identifies the facility's main track as the place where the majority of the catastrophic injuries occurred, with the most dangerous prevailing conditions proving to be when it's classified as "fast."

In response to the report, The Stronach Group (TSG) wrote in a statement that "we thank District Attorney Lacey's Office for their diligent work in this robust investigation into whether any conduct or conditions at Santa Anita Park affected the welfare of safety and horses. We are all committed to the same thing--the highest level of equine safety and welfare--and we will continue to do everything possible to promote equine and rider health and safety. And we are gratified that the District Attorney's report into the conduct and conditions at Santa Anita Park found no evidence of misconduct."

According to Jeff Blea, a practicing veterinarian and the current chair of the American Association of Equine Practitioners' Racing Committee, he's not surprised the Task Force found no evidence of criminal conduct.

"I didn't expect them to find anything," Blea told the *TDN*. "Certainly nothing intentional or nefarious or in a negative animal welfare sense. That's not what we're about. These people care about their horses. I didn't expect anything different in what the DA reported."

PETA vice president, Kathy Guillermo, however, took a much more critical position. "It's beyond credible that the district attorney doesn't see that trainers who medicate horses obviously know that they are injured and sore, so they should be criminally culpable if they then force them to race to their deaths," she wrote, in a statement. "No sane person can find it acceptable for horses for horses to suffer and die in a sport."

Ultimately, the district attorney's report emphasizes industry efforts to improve overall welfare and safety, and points to the period between April 29, 2019 and May 17, 2019--after Santa Anita implemented a **broad sweep** of safety protocols and medication reforms--when Santa Anita had more than 7,000 timed workouts and almost 800 race starts without a fatality.

"The industry as a whole should strive to do everything in its power to achieve these model numbers and continue to trend toward improved safety standards," the report states, before listing its recommendations.



**THORO-GRAPH**

Bolt d'Oro	-1 ½
Classic Empire	0
American Pharoah	1 ½
Game Winner	2
Practical Joke	2 ¾

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**NO 2YO  
HAS BEEN THIS  
ELECTRIC.**

The CHRB is conducting its own investigation into the horse racing fatalities at Santa Anita, which is due early next year.

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# APB | STEVE SHERACK

## Tracks Down Top Horses on the Sidelines

### BY MY STANDARDS BACK ON THE WORKTAB *by Steve Sherack*



**By My Standards** | Sarah Andrew

Sideline since crossing the wire a troubled 12th over the sloppy going in the GI Kentucky Derby, Allied Racing Stable's **By My Standards** (Goldencents) is beginning to gear up for his 4-year-old campaign.

The handsome blaze-faced bay, an impressive winner of the GI Twinspires.com Louisiana Derby, has worked three times since late November at trainer Bret Calhoun's Fair Grounds base, most recently covering four furlongs in :50.60 (52/82) Dec. 12.

"It was a bad track for the Derby and we got sawed off coming out of the gate," owner **Chester Thomas** said. "He ended up with a quarter crack and a foot abscess, this and that, so we opted just to be cautious. He's a very nice horse and we gave him some time off. We got his feet healed up, he put on a bunch of weight and he's back on the worktab now. He's doing good. The horse is just really happy to be back and is enjoying his job. With these horses you've got to always keep your fingers crossed, but right now, you couldn't ask for him to be doing any better."

Bred in Kentucky by Don Ladd, **By My Standards** brought \$150,000 from Josh Stevens Bloodstock on behalf of Thomas as a 2-year-old after breezing an eighth in :10 3/5 at the 2018 OBS April Sale. The son of multiple stakes winner and graded stakes-placed A Jealous Woman (Muqtarib) was a good-looking maiden

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winner at fourth asking in New Orleans prior to his aforementioned 22-1 upset in late March.

Although in no rush to map out early season targets for 2020, Thomas said that the plan for now was to work backwards from the GI Breeders' Cup Classic at Keeneland.

"That's a long ways off, but hopefully he shows that he deserves to be in a race like that," Thomas said. "We're just taking our time though--we've got a nice racehorse. There's no pressure coming to Bret from my end. When he's ready, we're gonna run him and hopefully win some more races."

Thomas also campaigns the well-named millionaire Mr. Money

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“Bret’s done an awfully nice job this year picking spots for our horses. When it gets close to race time, I’m sure we’ll sit down and talk about it,” Thomas concluded.

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### MIDNIGHT BISOU BREEZES FOR SAUDI CUP



**Midnight Bisou** | Sarah Andrew

Bloom Racing, Madaket Stables and Allen Racing’s **Midnight Bisou** (Midnight Lute) returned to the worktab Thursday morning at Fair Grounds, breezing an easy half mile in :53.60 (46/48) for trainer Steve Asmussen. The five-time Grade I winner, currently being aimed at the \$20-million Saudi Cup Feb. 29, was runner-up in the GI Breeders’ Cup Distaff at Santa Anita Nov. 2. “We are extremely excited to have our filly gearing up for 2020,” co-owner Jeff Bloom said. “She’s had a very nice mini break and has been beautifully easing back to full training.”

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“Everybody is here—owners, trainers, bloodstock agents and farm owners.”

– Dean DeRenzo

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APRIL

SALE

# TAKING STOCK

by Sid Fernando



## TAKING STOCK: THE MARE NICK

by Sid Fernando



**\$8.2-million American Pharoah-Leslie's Lady filly** | *Horsephotos*

"What about the mare?"

This is the response that I got recently from a breeder who was grilling me about nicks. She's fairly new to the business and had been doing her homework. She'd run pedigree nick reports with one of her newly acquired mares, and after a while she'd realized that the nick ratings were based on the success of the cross between the sires (or their sire lines) in which she was interested and the sire (or his sire line) of her mare.

Yes, that's the classic definition of a nick, I explained. It's based on sire-line crosses. It's a great starting point to analyzing a mating, I said, but, of course, the mare is important, as is her family and their produce records.

"Are there mare nicks?" she asked.

Well, yes, there are, in the sense that some mares or female families seem to have a specific affinity for a certain sire or sire line despite what a nick (or sire line cross) may initially indicate. In most cases, these nicks come about because the mare has had success with a certain stallion and the breeder decides to either go back to that stallion or to another from the same line.

### Leslie's Lady

Take the mare **Leslie's Lady** (Tricky Creek), a stakes winner who was bought by Clarkland Farm for \$100,000 in 2006 at the Keeneland November sale after she'd produced four foals. Her yearling at the time was a colt by Harlan's Holiday (Harlan, by Storm Cat) bred by James T. Hines, Jr. He'd sold for \$80,000 a month earlier at the Fasig-Tipton October sale. The next year, B.



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Wayne Hughes bought that colt--Into Mischief--for \$180,000 at OBS March, and he won the GI CashCall Futurity at Hollywood Park in late December. He became Leslie's Lady's first black-type winner from three foals of racing age at the time.

Judy B (Marquetry), a winner of \$44,960, was Leslie's Lady's first foal. The mare's second foal was Louis the Bold (Orientate), a winner of \$58,265. Into Mischief was her third foal, and he was followed by two unraced fillies, Victory Party (Yankee Victor), bred by Hines; and Daisy Mason (Orientate), the first of the mare's foals bred by Clarkland.

In the spring of 2007, well before Into Mischief had raced, Clarkland bred Leslie's Lady to Rockport Harbor (Unbridled's Song)--producing One World, a winner of \$47,115--but in 2008, after Into Mischief had become a top-level winner, Clarkland sent Leslie's Lady back to Harlan's Holiday. The colt from that mating, Florida Holiday, wasn't much in the sales ring or at the track. He made just \$25,000 as a Keeneland September yearling and placed on the track. That mating, however, was followed by a visit to Henny Hughes (Hennessy, by Storm Cat). The resulting filly was champion Beholder, who Hughes purchased for \$180,000 as a yearling and earned \$6,156,600.

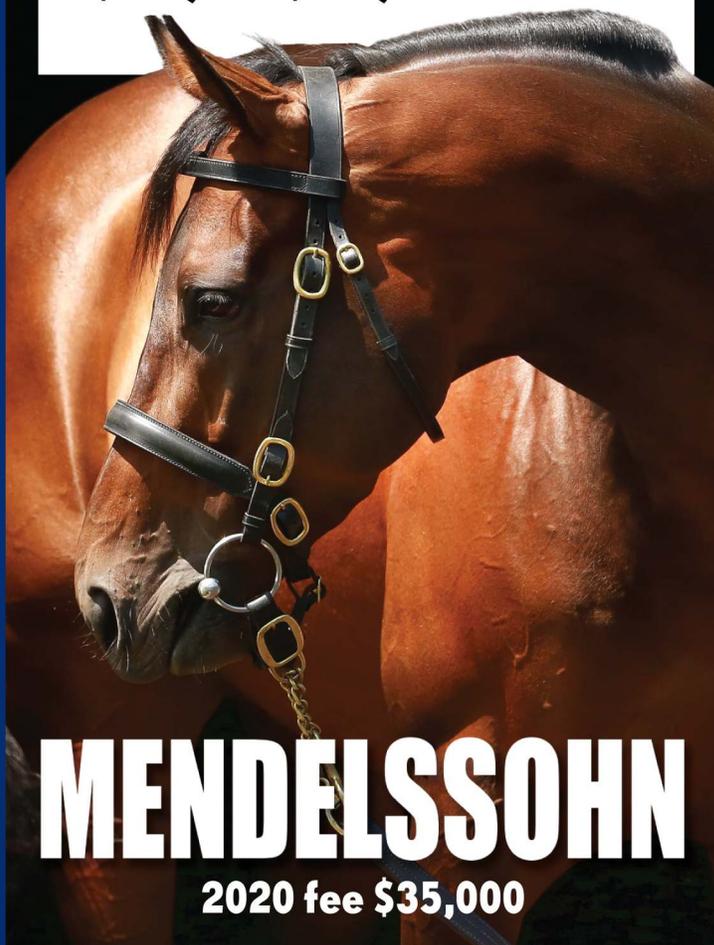
After Beholder became a Grade I winner at two in 2012, that made Leslie's Lady the dam of two outstanding runners by Storm Cat-line sires, prompting Clarkland to go back to the Storm Cat sire line after two foals by Curlin--the unraced Curlin to Mischief and the placed Leslie's Harmony. The latter was a \$1.1 million Keeneland September purchase and a financial homerun for Clarkland, but the mare didn't click with Curlin from two tries.

Leslie's Lady was bred to Eskendereya (Giant's Causeway, by Storm Cat) in 2013, but the resulting foal died in 2014. The following year she had a colt by Scat Daddy (Johannesburg, by Hennessy). He was Grade I winner Mendelssohn, a \$3 million Keeneland September yearling and the mare's third top-level winner. Like the other two, he was by a Storm Cat-line sire, and the path through Hennessy was the same as with Beholder.

Clarkland bred Leslie's Lady next to Medaglia d'Oro and American Pharoah. The colt by the former, now two, is unnamed and was a RNA at Keeneland September, but the filly by the latter was the record-breaking \$8.2 million yearling at Keeneland this past September, now named America's Joy. She'll have every opportunity to give her dam a black-type winner by a sire that's not from the Storm Cat line, but Clarkland has gone back to what worked before by breeding Leslie's Lady-- the 2016 Broodmare of the Year--to two Storm Cat-line sires. She has a weanling by Not This Time (Giant's Causeway) and was bred this year to Kantharos (Lion Heart, by Tale of the Cat, by Storm Cat).

# There's a lot to like...

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- ✓ Won the **UAE Derby-Gr.2** by **18½ lengths** in **record time**
- ✓ Cost **\$3,000,000** as a yearling when topping Keeneland September
- ✓ One of the best sons of sire of sires **SCAT DADDY**
- ✓ Half-brother to the leading sire **INTO MISCHIEF**
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**Brown Berry**

The case of **Brown Berry** (Mount Marcy), a foal of 1960, is more pronounced. This prolific mare had 19 foals, nine by Ribot-line sires. From these nine, she produced four black-type winners and three black-type-placed horses, a total of seven stakes horses. Her notable offspring included two mile-and-a-half classic winners, Avatar (GI Belmont S.) and Hours After (G1 Prix du Jockey-Club):

**Unconscious** (Prince Royal II {GB}, by Ribot {GB}) - Stakes winner of \$373,300.

**Avatar** (Graustark, by Ribot) - Classic winner of \$464,609.

**Monseigneur** (Graustark) - Won G2 Prix du Conseil du Paris and G2 Prix d'Harcourt.

**Hours After** (Alleged, by Hoist the Flag, by Tom Rolfe, by Ribot) - Classic winner.

**Glorieuse** (Prince Royal II) - Black-type placed.

**Commemorativo** (Hoist the Flag) - Grade III-placed.

**Estoril** (Graustark) - Grade III-placed.

**Grausberry** (Graustark) - Black-type placed.

The 10 foals by non-Ribot sires were by such notable stallions as Nureyev, Sir Ivor, Vaguely Noble, Damascus, Khaled, and Fleet Nasrullah, and this group managed one black-type placed runner, Khalberry (Khaled), among them. Brown Berry, obviously, had a thing for Ribot-line horses, and the various breeders who owned her throughout her career mined this connection.

**Schwarzblaurot line**

The Gestut Schlenderhahn female line of the mare **Schwarzblaurot (Ger)** (Magnat {Ger}), a daughter of the great German racemare Schwarzgold (Ger) (Alchemist {Ger}), has been prolific in Europe since the 1950s, and its members in tail-female include, among others, G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner Sagace (Fr), U.S. champion turf horse Steinlen (GB), and G1 Epsom Derby winner Slip Anchor (GB).

There are breeders around the world that collect members of this "S" family, including the Yoshida brothers in Japan, who are having continued success by breeding mares that trace to Schwarzblaurot to their ubiquitous Sunday Silence-line sires.

Teruya Yoshida of Shadai bred the Sunday Silence black-type winner Manhattan Cafe (Jpn) from this line in 1998 and more recently is enjoying success from another member of this line, the Grade I winner Stacelita (Fr) (Monsun {Ger}), whose foals include current Group 3 winner **Schon Glanz (Jpn)** (Deep Impact {Jpn}). Away from the Sunday Silence line, Stacelita is the dam of 2017 Group 1 Japanese Oaks winner Soul Stirring (Jpn) (Frankel {GB}).



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- Bachelor's Degree in business or accounting or related field
- Ability to research, analyze, and retrieve data necessary to complete duties
- Proficiency in Quick Books, Excel and other Microsoft Office Suite programs
- Familiarity with local, state and federal employment, related laws in KY and OH



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Likewise, Katsumi Yoshida of Northern Farm is represented as the breeder of 3-year-old black-type winner **Velox (Jpn)** (Just A Way {Jpn}, by Heart's Cry {Jpn}, by Sunday Silence), who is a Schwarzblaurot-line colt and is one of only three black-type winners for his sire.

Last Sunday, Katsumi Yoshida and son Shunsuke Yoshida's Northern Racing was represented as breeder by the 2-year-old Japanese Group 1 winner **Salios (Jpn)** (Heart's Cry), whose G1 German Oaks-winning dam Salomina (Ger) (Lomitas {GB}) traces in tail-female to Schwarzblaurot.

Last year it was reported in *Racing Post* that Katsumi Yoshida had privately purchased the 2016 German Oaks winner Serienholde (Ger) (Soldier Hollow {GB}). As you might guess from her name, she's a descendant of Schwarzblaurot.

Previously, Northern Racing had the prolific Schwarzblaurot-line mare Biwa Heidi (Jpn) (Caerleon), who had great success with Sunday Silence and his sons. She produced:

**Admire Japan (Jpn)** (Sunday Silence) - Black-type winner of \$1,559,402.

**Admire Aura (Jpn)** (Agnes Tachyon {Jpn}, by Sunday Silence) - Group 2 winner of \$2,455,945.

**Buena Vista (Jpn)** (Special Week {Jpn}, by Sunday Silence) - Group 1 winner, Horse of the Year, and earner of \$17,018,548.

**Tosen Reve (Jpn)** (Deep Impact) - Group 3 winner of \$2,455,791.

**Joie de Vivre (Jpn)** (Deep Impact) - Group 1 winner, 2-year-old champion, earner of \$1,188,345.

**Sang Real (Jpn)** (Zenno Rob Roy {Jpn}, by Sunday Silence) - Group 2 winner of \$720,580.

The Schwarzblaurot illustration is of a family many generations removed from the principal that's still succeeding with a particular sire line, whereas the cases of Brown Berry and Leslie's Lady are specific to a single mare having success with sires from the same line.

However it happens, these are examples of affinity between components within a pedigree, and this is also the simple explanation behind a sire-line nick as well.

None of this is rocket science.

*Sid Fernando is president and CEO of Werk Thoroughbred Consultants, Inc., originator of the Werk Nick Rating and eNicks.*

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▼

1<sup>st</sup> Kentucky Derby [G1]



WOW CAT

▼

1<sup>st</sup> Beldame Stakes [G1]

2<sup>nd</sup> Breeders' Cup Distaff [G1]



DIAMOND OOPS

▼

1<sup>st</sup> Smile Sprint Stakes [G3]

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## PETER BRANT ON THE TDN WRITERS' ROOM PODCAST

Peter Brant has owned many good horses over the years, but never one that he held in higher regard than **Sistercharlie (Ire)** (Myboycharlie {Ire}).

In a wide-ranging interview as the Green Group Guest of the Week on this week's **TDN Writers' Room podcast**, Brant said that he wanted Sistercharlie to campaign next year because finding a horse of that caliber is difficult.

"Because she basically has only run 15 or 16 times and she is a very special horse, at least in my lifetime, the most special horse," Brant said when asked why Sistercharlie will race next year. "I figured the chance of getting another one that's sound and ready to race another year, it's just not going to come along very often, if ever again. So, I just decided that's what I wanted to do. I think everybody enjoys watching her run, and most of all me, so I guess it was just a decision that I made with my family, and with Chad (Brown), and we're very delighted that she's going to be around for another year. Hopefully, she does very well."

Brant also touches on his purchase of Payson Park and his plans for that facility in the podcast.

"We have improved that turf course a lot," he said. "We put rails up, and have new cutting equipment, and new harrows for the race track, for the dirt track. We think it's a great training facility. I knew George Oliver very well and he was part of building that, along with Michael Phipps, and Mr. Chenery, and Bull Hancock. It's got such a great history and it got a little rundown but nothing that some tender care can't improve. We've worked on the quarters for the grooms, and people that are living there that work at Payson. We've improved that, and we're starting to improve some of the barns and hopefully, our goal is to make it a cooperative to the trainers that are there. We're working on that, and think that's the best future for it."

[Click here to listen to the podcast](#), or go to Apple podcasts, search for the *TDN* and subscribe in order to be notified when a new podcast is posted.

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## ALLEGED "FRONT" TRAINER GETS NY PENALTIES OVERTURNED *by T.D. Thornton*

A trainer fined \$5,000 and suspended 60 days last year amid stewards' allegations of "falsely representing" his role as the conditioner of a horse he entered four times and who won once at New York tracks, had his penalties wiped off the books by a 4-0 vote of the New York State Gaming Commission (NYSGC) Thursday.

Earlier this year, when Eduardo Jones appealed the series of rulings against him for acting as a so-called "front" or "program" trainer, he told *Daily Racing Form's* Dave Grening the allegations were racially motivated.

"This is racial stuff," Jones, who is black, told the *Form* Jan. 10. "I didn't do anything wrong. For the last year and a half [state steward Steve Lewandowski, who is white] has been picking on me." In the same story, Lewandowski denied having anything against Jones.

In a summary version of the appeal report that was read into the record at Thursday's NYSGC meeting, the hearing officer who presided over the four days of testimony in the case wrote that the violations against Jones were "unfounded."

The hearing officer further recommended that the fines and suspensions levied against Jones be overturned, and that the placings and purse money for the horse Tanya's Gem (Dialed In)




December 18, 2019

With Green Group Guest of the Week **PETER BRANT**

In our last podcast of the year, host Joe Bianca, Jon Green, Bill Finley, and Alan Carasso host Green Group Guest of the Week Peter Brant, who talks about his decision to keep Sistercharlie in training in 2020. The writers also cover the year in review, their favorite races, and the tumultuous events of 2019.

Click to listen to the podcast stream here, or subscribe to it on Apple Podcasts.

# BEST DEALS OF THE SEASON!

## WTBOA STALLION SEASON AUCTION

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all be restored. The NYSGC subsequently voted unanimously to sustain those recommendations.

After the meeting, *TDN* requested the full hearing officer's report from the NYSGC press office, but was told that the agency would not release it unless a freedom-of-information request was submitted to the state.

In the *Form* story about the appeal, Jones explained that logistics involved in shipping Tanya's Gem back and forth from Penn National and issues about whether he had stall space available for the filly led to the New York Racing Association stewards scrutinizing the chain of "care, custody, and control."

During that time frame, Tanya's Gem won a \$35,000 claiming race on Sep. 7, 2018, at Belmont Park, then ran second and fifth in optional claimers in October. When Jones entered her at Aqueduct Nov. 21, the stewards scratched her. Shortly thereafter, the rulings against Jones were issued.

Jones has a 2-for-99 training record so far this season. Tanya's Gem has lost 18 consecutive races since that now-restored victory.

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## THOROUGHBRED SAFETY COALITION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS TO DISCUSS ADVANCING COALITION EFFORTS

*Edited Release*

The Thoroughbred Safety Coalition Steering Committee met in New York City to discuss next steps on advancing safety in Thoroughbred racing. The committee gathered to progress reforms and formalize membership efforts.

### Reforms

The initial medication, organizational and operational reforms unveiled last month continue to gain traction within the Thoroughbred racing community. One recent success includes last week's passage of enhanced safety and medication reforms by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission after strong support from and ongoing dialogue with coalition members Churchill Downs Incorporated and Keeneland Association Inc.

The Thoroughbred Safety Coalition Steering Committee reached a consensus to explore and implement additional safety measures to include the following:

- Data driven decision making: Coalition members will use advanced data collection and analysis to identify at-risk horses.



	Constitution	Frosted
Earnings	\$1,031,596	\$3,972,800
Best Beyer	111	123
G1 wins	2	3
First-crop mares		
CPI	2.63	3.40
CI	2.16	2.74
First-crop yearlings		
Average	\$71,424	\$223,365
Median	\$50,000	\$160,000
First-crop Graded Stakes winners	4	?

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These horses will receive added scrutiny prior to races, up to and including pre-race examinations performed by independent veterinarians.

- **Use of diagnostic methodologies:** The coalition will advocate for its members to use state of the art diagnostic technology. Coalition member Santa Anita Park recently debuted a new PET scan machine to better diagnose ailments among its equine athletes.
- **Extracorporeal shockwave therapy:** As with any medical treatments, the use of this technique should have strict protocols. The coalition will draft and implement a policy that could mandate up to 30 days on the vet's list, as well as require treatment take place at a central location at each race track, if this treatment is used.
- **Minimum Thoroughbred workout standards:** The coalition will expand the standards for minimum workout requirements to enable horses to be eligible to race. While these standards are currently in place in some regions, such as California and New York, there is an opportunity to standardize and strengthen guidelines among a broader set of race tracks and jurisdictions.
- **Increased licensing requirements for trainers:** The coalition will work collectively and with other industry stakeholders to establish an enhanced proficiency standard for licensing to include continuing education for horsemen.

### Membership

Since its launch, the Thoroughbred Safety Coalition is heartened by the overwhelming show of support from others within the Thoroughbred racing community, many of whom have asked to join as members or volunteer their support in various ways.

The Steering Committee voted to add four new members to the coalition: the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA), Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (TOBA), Kentucky Thoroughbred Association (KTA) and the University of Kentucky.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held at the end of January.

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## MOONHAK CHIEF NAMED KOREAN HORSE OF YEAR

by Alan Carasso

In a season of notable firsts for horse racing in Korea, the history-making **Moonhak Chief** (Pioneerof the Nile) was named the nation's Horse of the Year in ceremonies held Thursday evening. It was the second year-end title for the colt, who was Korea's champion 2-year-old colt of 2017.



**Moonhak Chief** | KRA photo

A graduate of the 2016 Keeneland September sale and bred in Kentucky by White Fox Farm, Moonhak Chief made eight trips to the post for five wins in 2019, becoming the first locally based runner to win the valuable Listed Keeneland Korea Cup (1800m) in September ([video](#)). He closed the season, and ultimately cemented his case for Horse of the Year, with a 1 1/2-length success in the Dec. 8 Listed Grand Prix S. (2300m) ([video](#)).

Two of Moonhak Chief's three losses came at the hands of **Dolkong** (Afleet Alex), who made history of his own when scooping the Listed Curlin H. and when third in the G1 Al Maktoum Challenge-R3 at Meydan last winter. Dolkong was absent from the Grand Prix and misses a return trip to Dubai via injury.

**Blue Chipper** (Tiznow) lost out on Horse of the Year honors, but was recognized with a 'Special Award' for his 2019 endeavors. The 4-year-old formed the front end of a home-team sweep in September, winning the Listed Keeneland Korea Sprint from a high draw ([video](#)), and was ambitiously pointed for the G1 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile. Prominent throughout the running, he stayed on extremely well for third behind Spun On the Run (Hard Spun) and Omaha Beach (War Front).

Both Moonhak Chief and Blue Chipper are part of a six-strong Korean contingent for the 2020 Dubai World Cup Carnival.

Korean-bred Horse of the Year honors fell to **New Legend (Kor)**, a son of the departed Menifee and Kota (Smarty Jones), who made the first seven starts of his career in the U.S., graduating at Arlington last summer. The 4-year-old won half of his eight starts in 2019 and is also wintering in Dubai this year.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**MIKE STINSON**

I thought your **recent interview** with Doug O'Neill about his view of California racing was really insightful. While I don't personally know Doug, I've followed his very impressive career for years. His body of work, including two [GI Kentucky] Derby winners, speaks for itself.

You heard from Doug the trainer's perspective, let me sound the alarm from that of an owner.

I'm a small owner and have been involved in Thoroughbred racing for over 45 years. I'm a Texan and for many years ran mostly in the southwest. I also participated in several racing partnerships with most of those horses running back east.

A few years ago, the opportunity of a lifetime came my way when I was able to engage the services of the extraordinary bloodstock expert Tom McGreevy. I had long admired his remarkable record of selecting young horses that went on to become superstars.

Tom and I sent about half of our 2-year-olds each year to California and half to the east coast. Hall of Fame trainer Jerry Hollendorfer has trained our horses in California. We've been fortunate enough to have a colt (**Dueling** {Violence}) last year in the [GI] Breeders Cup Juvenile and a 3-year-old colt (**King Jack** {Jimmy Creed}) who won the GII Gallant Bob this year at Parx.

As all race fans, I have always loved California racing. How does it get any better than running at Santa Anita and Del Mar? The weather, the atmosphere, the people. It's just what racing should be all about. And the commitment Dr. Allred has made at Los Alamitos after the Hollywood Park closing has really been just terrific.

Fast forward to 2019. What a disaster. Doug O'Neill very artfully described the current situation in California. It's been the elephant in the room no one wants to talk about. The industry is on life support. Mass exodus of trainers like Doug and dozens of horses. Many leaving, never to return.

My experience in California has been so unpleasant that not only are the eight to 10 horses that I've had in training there leaving, but I've told Tom that I have no interest in purchasing new horses. It's pretty sad that a dream of working with someone like Tom McGreevy is unfulfilled.

We can only hope that the decision makers will honestly acknowledge how dreadful and toxic the environment really is. The clock is ticking.

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**RACEHORSE DEPRECIATION EXTENSION PASSED BY CONGRESS**

A key provision that extends three-year tax depreciation for all racehorses through 2020 passed the Senate by a vote of 71-23 Thursday. The racehorse provision was passed by the House of Representatives Tuesday by a vote of 297-120 as part of a larger tax package.

"We appreciate the Senate's work to include this important provision," said NTRA President and Chief Executive Officer Alex Waldrop. "We especially applaud the efforts of Leader McConnell, who does so much to support Kentucky's signature industry."

Uniform three-year racehorse depreciation was among numerous tax provisions across many industries that either expired at the beginning of 2018 or this year, or were set to expire as of Jan. 1, 2020. The bill reinstates the three-year schedule for all racehorses retroactive to 2018 and through 2020.

The provision allows taxpayers to depreciate, on a three-year schedule, racehorses 24 months of age and younger when purchased and placed into service, as opposed to a seven-year schedule.

Three-year racehorse depreciation was most recently available to the industry in 2017 but Congress did not renew it for 2018 as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) passed in December 2017. The TCJA did include 100% bonus depreciation and a \$1 million Sec. 179 expense allowance for qualified depreciable property, two important investment incentives that lessened the need for three-year depreciation in many cases. However, three-year depreciation continues to be a beneficial option for many racehorse owners, especially racing partnerships with multiple passive owners, as it better aligns deductions with corresponding income opportunities on an annual basis.

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**WOODBINE RELEASE 2020 STAKES SCHEDULE**

Woodbine Entertainment unveiled its stakes schedule for the 2020 Thoroughbred racing season with 87 stakes offering over \$16.5 million in purses. The Woodbine meet runs from Apr. 18 to Dec. 13. The schedule is highlighted by the Queen's Plate June 27, the GI Ricoh Woodbine Mile Sept. 19 and the GI Pattison Canadian International S. Oct. 18, all of which are worth

\$1 million this year.

“Announcing our stakes schedule this early was important so we can provide our horse people with as much information as possible as they head into the Woodbine off-season,” said Jonathan Zammit, Vice President of Thoroughbred Racing Operations for Woodbine Entertainment. “The 2020 stakes schedule has plenty to be excited about including increasing the Pattison Canadian International to a \$1-million purse and other changes that we believe will help drive quality of racing, horse supply, and ultimately, wagering on our product.”

Also on tap are the GI Summer S. and GI Natalma S. Sept. 20, both of which are Breeders’ Cup “Win and You’re In” events.

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### COLONIAL DOWNS TO RACE 18 DAYS IN 2020

Colonial Downs will race 18 days in 2020 after receiving official approval from the Virginia Racing Commission. The meet will begin July 23 and run through Aug. 29 with live racing Thursday to Saturday starting at 5:30 p.m.

Colonial Downs will distribute \$500,000 per day in purses and provide a lucrative series of state-bred and certified races for the second straight year. The popular MATCH Series will be run Aug. 15 and the GIII Virginia Derby will close out the meet Aug. 29 along with the Virginia Oaks, Rosie’s S. and Kitten’s Joy S.

“It was such a successful return of racing to Virginia in 2019, with Colonial Downs receiving wonderful support of top horsemen and women from all regions of the country, as well as horseplayers, fans and the entire racing industry,” said Vice President of Racing Operations Jill Byrne. “We could not be more enthusiastic for the 2020 season.”

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### NYRA CANCELS THURSDAY RACING

The New York Racing Association canceled live racing at Aqueduct Thursday due to an extremely low wind chill of five to 15 degrees. Aqueduct remained open for simulcasting. Live racing returns Friday with first post at 12:30 p.m.

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### OBS WINTER MIXED SALE CATALOG NOW ONLINE

The catalog for the Ocala Breeders’ Sales Company’s 2020 Winter Mixed Sale is now [online](#). There are 167 horses cataloged for the Preferred Session Jan. 28 at 11 a.m., which will be immediately followed by the Racing Age Session, which currently has 122 horses. The 298-horse open session will be held Jan. 29, also at 11 a.m. Supplemental entries will be

accepted through Jan. 15. The under tack show for the Racing Age Session will be held Jan. 27 at 10 a.m.

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### TURFWAY & WOODBINE JOIN FORCES FOR ALL-WEATHER CHALLENGE

Turfway Park and Woodbine Entertainment have teamed up to create the All-Weather Winners Challenge series with winners of designated stakes at each track earning automatic entry with nomination and entry fees paid to stakes across the border. The new series begins in 2020, with the first eligible winners coming from Woodbine’s GIII Grey S. and GIII Mazarine S.

Turfway’s two key races figure prominently in the arrangement with the winner of the GIII Jeff Ruby Steaks S. Earning berth to the Mazarine and the Bourbonette Oaks winner earning a spot in Woodbine’s GIII Selene S. The winner of the 2019 Grey earned a spot in the Jeff Ruby and the 2019 Mazarine winner was awarded a spot in the Bourbonette.

“We look forward to working with Woodbine to drive fresh interest in featured races at both tracks and showcase the value of racing on all-weather surfaces,” said Chip Bach, general manager of Turfway Park. “I appreciate Tyler’s and Stu’s initiative in making this happen.”

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### Kentucky Sports Betting Bill Could See Action Fast, But It’s Not Perfect

“Kentucky sports betting will get another chance next year after Rep. Adam Koenig prefiled a bill similar to this year’s attempt.” **Matthew Waters, Legal Sports Report**

## ROAP BOARD ELECTS OFFICERS

The Racing Officials Accreditation Program’s (ROAP) board of directors elected its 2020-21 officers during its Dec. 17 board meeting.

Frank Lamb, a ROAP-accredited steward, was elected ROAP chairman; Eric Hamelback, CEO of the National Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association, was elected ROAP vice chairman; Wendy Davis, director at the University of Arizona and previously ROAP vice chairman, was elected ROAP secretary; and Kristin Werner, senior counsel at The Jockey Club, was re-elected treasurer.

Renewing members of the ROAP board are the University of Louisville EIP with Terri Burch, AQHA with Duayne Diderickson, Jennifer Durenburger, Keeneland Association with Ben Huffman, USTA with TC Lane, Alex Waldrop with NTRA, and The Jockey Club with Kristin Werner. Changes are Alex Waldrop (NTRA) replacing Steve Koch with a new alternate of Keith Chamblin, The Jockey Club’s new alternate Andrew Chesser, and Dr. Camie Heleski stepping down from University of Kentucky AEP to be replaced by Dr. James MacLeod with Dr. Scott Stanley as his alternate. Two members who stepped down are Stan Bowker and Dan Fick.

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## SANTA ANITA’S “SEABISCUIT” RETIRED TO SQUARE PEG FOUNDATION

Fighting Furrari, better known as the primary horse used in the 2003 movie “Seabiscuit,” has been retired from his duties as Santa Anita’s mascot and has been relocated to the Square Peg Foundation in Half Moon Bay, California, which specializes in providing horses for emotional support for children with Autism.

While the winner of just one of his 16 career starts on the track, the 21-year-old gelding, also known by his barn name “Fred,” was one of the most recognized horses at Santa Anita.

“It is fitting that Fred will live out his days doing what he does best, taking care of young children,” said Candace Coder Chew, Santa Anita’s Director of Print & Graphics and the President of CARMA. “A few years ago, Ability First came to Santa Anita with a number of autistic and Down syndrome children. In addition to all of the kids petting Fred and giving him carrots, one young boy got to lead Fred around the walking ring. With cameras flashing, the boy marched around that ring, talking to the horse the entire time. Later, we were told the boy was non-verbal, and that the horse seemed to connect with him on some level, encouraging speech. It was an incredible thing to witness--the almost ethereal connection between an autistic child and a horse. As Fred was getting older, Square Peg presents him with the best retirement possible as it will allow him to be lovingly

cared for and to continue to do what he does best.”

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## FLORIDA HORSEMEN GIVE BACK FOR CHRISTMAS

The Florida Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association (FHBPA) and Gulfstream Park played host to holiday parties at Gulfstream Park and Palm Meadows earlier this week, providing food and toys to more than 650 families.

Workers at Gulfstream were invited to a holiday party on Monday while Palm Meadows workers were celebrated Tuesday. Along with dinner and refreshments, each child was given gifts. The FHBPA and Gulfstream will also host another event Friday at Gulfstream Park West.

“The kids were excited, each one received four or five gifts,” said Chaplain Tom LaPointe of His Place Ministries. LaPointe, who has helped at Florida racetracks since the late 1980s, added, “The kids had a lot of fun, it was great for the parents, as well as everyone who came out. Everyone took pictures and it was great to work with the FHBPA and Gulfstream.”

The FHBPA and Gulfstream will host Backstretch Appreciation Day in February.

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## CONCRETE ROSE NAMED AIKEN TRAINED HOY

Grade I winner **Concrete Rose** (Twirling Candy) has been named the 2019 Aiken Trained Horse of the Year by the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum. She trained at Aiken under Justin Wojczynski.

Opening her career in 2018 with a pair of wins, including the GII Jessamine S., Concrete Rose was a perfect four-for-four in 2019 with wins in the GIII Florida Oaks Mar. 9, GIII Edgewood S. May 3, GI Belmont Oaks July 6 and the inaugural Saratoga Oaks Aug. 2.

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## 2019 Leading Sires of Dirt 2yos by Earnings

for stallions standing in North America through Wednesday, Dec. 18

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

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	<b>Into Mischief</b> <i>(2005) by Harlan's Holiday Crops: 8 Stands: Spendthrift Farm KY Fee: \$175,000</i>	4	9	1	6	--	5	79	29	385,500	2,512,709
										Shoplifted	
2	<b>Uncle Mo</b> <i>(2008) by Indian Charlie Crops: 5 Stands: Ashford Stud KY Fee: \$125,000</i>	1	2	1	2	1	2	52	12	732,200	1,790,487
										Bast	
3	<b>Constitution</b> <i>(2011) by Tapit Crops: 1 Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$40,000</i>	4	7	4	6	1	2	52	19	347,000	1,698,759
										Tiz the Law	
4	<b>Flashback</b> <i>(2010) by Tapit Crops: 2 Stands: Diamond B Farm PA Fee: \$3,500</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	24	9	1,381,250	1,590,234
										British Idiom	
5	<b>Court Vision</b> <i>(2005) by Gulch Crops: 5 Stands: Acadiana Equine LA Fee: \$3,500</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	5	1,172,951	1,265,561
										Storm the Court	
6	<b>Liam's Map</b> <i>(2011) by Unbridled's Song Crops: 1 Stands: Lane's End Farm KY Fee: \$35,000</i>	2	2	2	2	2	2	38	14	329,500	1,214,363
										Wicked Whisper	
7	<b>Tapiture</b> <i>(2011) by Tapit Crops: 1 Stands: Darby Dan Farm KY Fee: \$7,500</i>	2	3	--	--	--	--	60	24	90,600	1,156,314
										Sky of Hook	
8	<b>Munnings</b> <i>(2006) by Speightstown Crops: 6 Stands: Ashford Stud KY Fee: \$30,000</i>	2	6	1	1	--	--	48	20	290,349	1,121,474
										Finite	
9	<b>Competitive Edge</b> <i>(2012) by Super Saver Crops: 1 Stands: Ashford Stud KY Fee: \$12,500</i>	4	6	--	--	--	--	44	19	219,308	1,115,248
										My Italian Rabbi	
10	<b>Khozan</b> <i>(2012) by Distorted Humor Crops: 1 Stands: Journeyman Stud FL Fee: \$8,500</i>	2	7	--	1	--	--	39	15	233,800	1,100,610
										Liam's Lucky Charm	
11	<b>Tapit</b> <i>(2001) by Pulpit Crops: 12 Stands: Gainesway Farm KY Fee: \$200,000</i>	2	4	1	3	--	1	31	12	191,000	1,077,053
										Lake Avenue	
12	<b>Twirling Candy</b> <i>(2007) by Candy Ride (Arg) Crops: 5 Stands: Lane's End Farm KY Fee: \$40,000</i>	3	5	1	2	--	--	42	19	199,551	1,016,794
										Fore Left	
13	<b>Sky Mesa</b> <i>(2000) by Pulpit Crops: 13 Stands: Three Chimneys Farm KY Fee: \$15,000</i>	2	4	1	2	1	1	24	7	560,988	981,373
										Perfect Alibi	
14	<b>Bayern</b> <i>(2011) by Offlee Wild Crops: 1 Stands: Hill 'n' Dale Farms KY Fee: \$15,000</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	43	16	107,112	952,299
										Tempers Rising	
15	<b>Goldencents</b> <i>(2010) by Into Mischief Crops: 2 Stands: Spendthrift Farm KY Fee: \$25,000</i>	1	3	--	--	--	--	57	16	114,400	879,187
										Newstome	

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**Saturday, Gulfstream, post time: 4:30 p.m. EST**

**MR. PROSPECTOR S.-GIII, \$100,000, 3yo/up, 7f**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Home Base	Street Sense	Patricia's Hope LLC	Tomlinson	Landeros	120
2	Imperial Hint	Imperialism	Raymond Mamone	Carvajal, Jr.	Castellano	126
3	X Y Jet	Kantharos	Rockingham Ranch, Gelfenstein Farm and David A Bernsen LLC	Navarro	Jaramillo	124
4	Zenden	Fed Biz	LLP Performance Horse, LLC	Pletcher	Velazquez	118
5	Lasting Legacy	Tapizar	West, Gary and Mary	Servis	Ortiz, Jr.	124
6	Diamond Oops	Lookin At Lucky	Diamond 100 Racing Club, LLC, Amy Dunne, D P Racing LLC and Patrick L. Biancone Racing LLC	Biancone	Leparoux	126

**Breeders:** 1-Christine Katherine Hayden, 2-Shade Tree Thoroughbreds Inc, 3-Didier Plasencia, 4-Brent Harris & Beth Harris, 5-Jack Swain III, 6-Kin Hui Racing Stables LLC



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**7th-Turfway, \$46,500, Alw, 12-18, (NW2L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f (AWT), 1:11.87, ft.**

**JEANNIE'S BEEPBEEP (f, 3, Successful Appeal--Vonnegut, by General Meeting)** rallied impressively to a blowout debut win in the Tampa slop last December and was backed to 27-5 in this return. Showing much more speed than in her unveiling, the homebred dueled for command through splits of :22.19 and :45.92, hooked up with Urban Insight (Street Sense) to her outside three sixteenths from home and dug in gamely through the final eighth to deny that rival by half-length. The winner's second dam is GISW Cat's Cradle (Flying Paster). Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$42,150. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O/B-Kendel D. Standlee (KY); T-Anthony J. Granitz.



**IN ORDER OF PURSE:**

**8th-Gulfstream, \$40,700, Msw, 12-19, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10.25, ft.**

**SANAABLE (f, 3, Daaher--Hijaab, by Tiznow)** rallied to be a close third when opening her account over track and trip Jan. 12 and improved a spot Mar. 3 at Aqueduct before heading to the bench. Off as the narrow 3-1 second choice getting back to business here, the homebred broke smoothly and led in the opening strides before deferring to track from a joint second through a :22.88 quarter. Overhauling the pacesetter past a :46.27 half, the bay kicked clear going by the furlong pole and held sway from Asyena (Verrazano) late to graduate by 1 1/4 lengths. The winner's dam, a half to this term's GII San Vicente S. hero Sparky Ville (Candy Ride {Arg}), was a \$400,000 KEESep purchase by Shadwell in 2012. She is responsible for a yearling Tamarkuz filly in the UAE named Tamyeez. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-1, \$41,900. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O/B-Shadwell Stable (KY); T-Kieran P. McLaughlin.

**8th-Fair Grounds, \$40,000, Msw, 12-19, 2yo, 1mT, 1:40.95, fm. DUKE OF CARTHANIA (c, 2, Constitution--Shot Gun Pennie {SW}, by Speightstown)** showed late interest to be third debuting Sept. 5 at Kentucky Downs and was runner-up going this distance behind next-out GSW Chapalu (Flatter) on the Keeneland lawn Oct. 6. Backed to 8-5 favoritism off a brief freshening here, the chestnut got bounced around at the start and was very headstrong in the opening furlong before parking himself outside in fifth behind a :25.11 quarter. Settling a bit better after advancing a spot past a :49.48 half, he drew into contention approaching the lane while going steadily wider. Ending up on the outside half of the course at the top of the stretch, the chalk poked his head in front at the eighth pole and kept to his task to edge Spanish Kingdom (Animal Kingdom) by a half-length on the wire. The victor, the 27th for his standout freshman sire (by Tapit), is a half to Whatwasithinking (Violence), SW, \$139,043. His dam, bought for \$65,000 by Maple Lane Farm last year at Keeneland November, foaled a Cairo Prince filly Jan. 31 before being bred to West Coast. Sales History: \$70,000 Ylg '18 KEESep; \$75,000 RNA 2yo '19 OBSMAR. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-1, \$50,675. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-BG Stables; B-Machmer Hall (KY); T-Mark E. Casse.

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**6th-Charles Town, \$27,000, Msw, 12-18, 2yo, f, 4 1/2f, :54.04, ft.**

**PAPPAROXY (f, 2, The Big Beast--Legacy's Silver, by Robyn Dancer)** showed an upbeat worktab at Laurel for this debut, capped by a half-mile spin in :49 flat (4/13) Dec. 12, and was made the 21-10 second choice. Off a bit awkwardly, the gray surged between rivals to press the pace through a :22.58 quarter, took charge midway around the turn and drew clear to a 5 3/4-length score. Even-money favorite Your Eyes to Mine (Graydar) was second best. The winner, the 16th for her freshman sire (by Yes It's True), is a half to Perfect Measure (Wildcat Heir), SP, \$243,870; and Jilleah (Roar of the Tiger), SP, \$180,754. Sales History: \$32,000 2yo '19 EASMay. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$16,200. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-Kozak Racing LLC; B-Kelly Warhurst (FL); T-Anthony Farris.

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**FIRST-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20**

**The Big Beast** (Yes It's True), Ocala Stud, \$6,000  
 69 foals of racing age/16 winners/0 black-type winners  
 9-Gulfstream, Aoc 1m, ONE TURN JOHNNY, 15-1  
 \$13,000 RNA OBS WIN wnl; \$22,000 OBS OCT yrl

**Commissioner** (A.P. Indy), WinStar Farm, \$7,500  
 94 foals of racing age/17 winners/2 black-type winners  
 6-Fair Grounds, Msw 1mT, C F JOHNATHAN, 20-1  
 \$10,000 ESL YRL yrl

**Liam's Map** (Unbridled's Song), Lane's End Farm, \$20,000  
 114 foals of racing age/16 winners/2 black-type winners  
 9-Gulfstream, Aoc 1m, CHURN N BURN, 3-1  
 \$150,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$255,000 FTS AUG yrl

**Seek Again** (Speightstown), Stroud's Lane Farm, unknown  
 17 foals of racing age/3 winners/0 black-type winners

5-Tampa Bay Downs, Aoc 1mT, CHICK'S SHADOW, 6-1  
 \$34,000 RNA OBS OPN 2yo

**Summer Front** (War Front), Airdrie Stud, \$10,000  
 97 foals of racing age/16 winners/2 black-type winners  
 9-Gulfstream, Aoc 1m, ETE INDIEN, 8-1  
 \$85,000 RNA KEE NOV wnl; \$80,000 KEE SEP yrl  
 5-Tampa Bay Downs, Aoc 1mT, SUMMER CLOTHES, 7-2

**Xixixi** (Maimonides), Xanthus Farm, \$5,000  
 11 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners  
 6-Penn National, Alw 5 1/2f, GRACE AND PEACE, 10-1  
 \$5,000 OBS WIN wnl

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## U.S.-BRED/SIRED RUNNERS IN JAPAN



In this continuing series, Alan Carasso takes a look ahead at US-bred and/or conceived runners entered for the upcoming weekend at the tracks on the Japan Racing Association circuit, with a focus on pedigree and/or performance in the sales ring. Here are the horses of interest for this weekend running at Hanshin and Nakayama Racecourses, the latter of which plays host to a must-see renewal of the G1 Arima Kinen, featuring Horse of the Year Almond Eye, G1 Cox Plate winner Lys Gracieux and G1 Japan Cup hero Suave Richard:

### Saturday, December 21, 2019

**6th-HSN, ¥13,400,000 (\$123k), Newcomers, 2yo, 1800m**

**SUNRISE RAPPORT (JPN) (c, 2, Constitution--Kara's Match Point, by Curlin)** is the second foal from a winning dam who was purchased for \$450K carrying this filly in utero at Keeneland November in 2016. Kara's Match Point is a daughter of GSP Home Court (Storm Cat), the dam of MGSW/GISP Coup de Grace (Tapit)--now at stud in South Africa--as well as GISW Dancing Rags (Union Rags). The mare's produce of 2018, a colt by Duramente (Jpn), fetched ¥26 million as a yearling at this past summer's JRHA Select Sale. She foaled a Deep Impact (Jpn) colt this season. *B-Shimokobe Farm*

### Sunday, December 22, 2019

**5th-NKY, ¥13,400,000 (\$123k), Newcomers, 2yo, 1600mT**

**CHAROITE (f, 2, Uncle Mo--Taboo, by Forestry)**, a half-sister to SP Smartly Agree (Smart Strike) and to the promising 3-year-old filly and \$900K FTFMAR grad Der Lu (Orb), is out of a daughter of GISW Dream of Summer (Siberian Summer). The latter is the dam of GISW sire Creative Cause (Giant's Causeway), his GSW full-brother Destin and GSW Vexatious (Giant's Causeway). A \$295K buyback at FTSAUG last summer, Charoite fetched \$400K at this year's FTFMAR sale (:21 flat). Merriebelle Stable acquired Taboo for \$125K carrying Der Lu at KEENOV in 2015. Charoite is bred on the exacta same cross as champion Nyquist. *B-Merriebelle Stable (KY)*

**6th-NKY, ¥13,720,000 (\$126k), Allowance, 2yo, 1200m**

**AURORA TESORO (c, 2, Malibu Moon--For Passion, by Not For Love)** was twice third from four grass starts to begin his career before graduating by seven lengths in his first dirt appearance Oct. 5 (video, gate one). He was a very good fourth behind the promising Dieu du Vin (Jpn) (Declaration of War) when last seen in the Nov. 23 Cattleya Sho allowance. A half to SW & GSP Soul Driver (Street Boss) and out of a half-sister to GISW Victor's Cry

(Street Cry {Ire}) and GSP Clever Strike (Smart Strike), Aurora Tesoro was a \$140K KEEJAN who brought \$450K when re-offered at FTSAUG seven months later. *B-John R Penn & Spendthrift Farm (KY)*

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### ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

**7th-Fair Grounds, \$48,000, (C)/Opt. Clm (\$80,000), 12-19, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10.96, ft.**

**CLASSY ACT (f, 4, Into Mischief--Acting Class, by Distorted Humor)** Lifetime Record: MGSP, 19-4-6-0, \$295,288. O-Carl R. Moore Management LLC; B-George Krikorian (KY); T-Joe Sharp. \*\$92,000 Ylg '16 KEESEP.

*Consigned by Hill 'n' Dale Sales Agency*

**7th-Delta Downs, \$38,240, 12-18, (C), 3yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:19.85, ft.**

**FLAT LUCKY (c, 4, Flat Out--Ushuaia, by Cape Canaveral)** Lifetime Record: MSP, 26-4-5-8, \$184,247. O-Heads Up Racing; B-William B. Harrigan & Mike Pietrangelo (KY); T-Robertino Diodoro. \*\$50,000 Ylg '16 KEESEP.

**WILLIAM B. HARRIGAN** *Training Grad*  
LANE'S END SALES GRADUATE

**5th-Penn National, \$31,600, (S), 12-18, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:12.55, gd.**

**CACTUS JACK (g, 3, Warrior's Reward--Miss Cactus Juice, by Cactus Ridge)** Lifetime Record: 17-5-1-3, \$82,007. O-John & Suzanne Hamm; B-Karen S. Farrar (PA); T-Erin C. McClellan. \*\$3,000 Ylg '17 EASJAN.

**7th-Charles Town, \$29,000, (S), 12-18, (NW3L), 3yo/up, 7f, 1:28.13, ft.**

**RUSH TO THE CASTLE (g, 3, Windsor Castle--B's Wild Rush {MSW, \$163,365}, by Wild Rush)** Lifetime Record: MSP, 6-3-1-2, \$68,273. O/B-Taylor Mountain Farm (WV); T-James W. Casey. \*1/2 to B's Wild Cork (Denis of Cork), SW, \$224,410.

**3rd-Charles Town, \$28,000, 12-18, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 7f, 1:27.05, ft.**

**HERO'S MAN (g, 3, Charitable Man--Hero's Siren, by Sea Hero)** Lifetime Record: MSP, 10-5-2-2, \$108,704. O/B-Taylor Mountain Farm (WV); T-James W. Casey.

**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

**No Nay Maybe (Ire)**, g, 2, **No Nay Never**--Al Ihsas (Ire) (GSP-Eng), by Danehill. Gulfstream, 12-19, (C), 5fT, :55.94. B-Lynch Bages & Rhinestone B/Stock (IRE).



**CHARITABLE MAN**, Hero's Man, g, 3, o/o Hero's Siren, by Sea Hero. ALW, 12-18, Charles Town

**CONSTITUTION**, Duke of Carthania, c, 2, o/o Shot Gun Pennie, by Speightstown. MSW, 12-19, Fair Grounds

**DAAHER**, Sanaable, f, 3, o/o Hijaab, by Tiznow. MSW, 12-19, Gulfstream

**FLAT OUT**, Flat Lucky, c, 4, o/o Ushuaia, by Cape Canaveral. ALW, 12-18, Delta Downs

**INTO MISCHIEF**, Classy Act, f, 4, o/o Acting Class, by Distorted Humor. AOC, 12-19, Fair Grounds

**NO NAY NEVER**, No Nay Maybe (Ire), g, 2, o/o Al Ihsas (Ire), by Danehill. MCL, 12-19, Gulfstream

**SUCCESSFUL APPEAL**, Jeannie's Beepbeep, f, 3, o/o Vonnegut, by General Meeting. ALW, 12-18, Turfway

**THE BIG BEAST**, Papparoxy, f, 2, o/o Legacy's Silver, by Robyn Dancer. MSW, 12-18, Charles Town

**WARRIOR'S REWARD**, Cactus Jack, g, 3, o/o Miss Cactus Juice, by Cactus Ridge. ALW, 12-18, Penn National

**WINDSOR CASTLE**, Rush to the Castle, g, 3, o/o B's Wild Rush, by Wild Rush. ALW, 12-18, Charles Town

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*Sanaable (Daaher) comes back from a nine-month layoff to graduate at Gulfstream*



2019 in photos: June 15. Signalman (#2 saddle cloth) finishes second in the GIII Matt Winn S. at Churchill Downs. | EquiSport Photos

## NEW YEAR FULL OF FRESH PROMISE FOR TREGONING



Marcus Tregoning and Nayef | *Racingfotos*

by *Chris McGrath*

In the final approach to Whitsbury, splashing along ever narrower lanes, a grim winter sky had suddenly sagged and dissolved into shreds of mist, hanging over the ditches and glowing in the reprieved sun. And, entering his yard during the bustle of evening stables, it was not hard to perceive a parallel relief in the fortunes of Marcus Tregoning. Here is a trainer whose proven talents have been plunged too long in the shadow of past achievements. But not only has the year now drawing to a close admitted new beams of light-however fitfully, given the injury that confined his best horse to a single start at either end of the campaign. It also renews the familiar winter rituals, of welcoming and breaking young stock, with the buds of springtime already seeming more copious than in many a year. And that's because Tregoning's first and most important patron, Sheikh Hamdan, has restored heartening new life to their old association. In the six years since he left the Sheikh's Kingwood Stables outside Lambourn, to start afresh in a Hampshire yard rented from the Harper family of Whitsbury Manor Stud, Tregoning has been grateful to receive a handful of yearlings annually from Shadwell. These included Mohaather (GB) (Showcasing {GB}), whose impressive rehearsal in the G3 Greenham S. qualified him as one of the favourites for the 2,000 Guineas until derailed by his setback.

## BHA RELEASES REVIEW OF BUYING & SELLING IN BRITAIN

The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) has released its findings in the Review of the Buying and Selling of Bloodstock and Racehorses within British Racing. Commissioned in June of 2017 and completed earlier this year, the Review was led by the independent external advisor and former police officer Justin Felice. Since its completion, the Review has already precipitated the formation of the Bloodstock Industry Forum (BIF). Initiated in September, the organization is made up of the Federation of Bloodstock Agents, Goffs, the National Trainers' Federation, the Racehorse Owners Association, Tattersalls, the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, the Breeze Up Consignors Association and the British Horseracing Authority. [Cont. p6](#)



## IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

### D.A. ISSUES REPORT ON SANTA ANITA DEATHS

L.A. District Attorney's office released 17-page report finding no wrongdoing by Santa Anita in relation to horse deaths at the track. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

## The Leading Mid-Winter Sale

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### New Year Full of Fresh Promise for Tregoning cont.

He shaped extremely well when resurfacing in the G1 Queen Elizabeth II S., fifth having been last off the bridle in gruelling conditions, and remains very lightly raced. But the real excitement is that he will be accompanied, in 2020, by as many as 16 Shadwell youngsters of authentic Classic pedigrees.

"This summer Sheikh Hamdan came and visited for the first time since I came here, and it was like old times," Tregoning says. "My old Range Rover wouldn't start, but I've always got on with him and we have a banter and a laugh. Mohaather probably boosted things a lot, but anyway he said he thought he should send us some better horses-and he has. It's a real big kick for us, and lovely to have some of the old families again. For instance there's a Frankel colt out of Rumoush (Rahy), who we trained. So it does feel like we're turning the corner a little bit."

Tregoning, after all, has spent so many years matching his skills with animals of commensurate calibre-through all those years learning his trade, under the late Dick Hern, and then in his own right, whether with Sheikh Hamdan's blue-blooded champion Nayef (Gulch) or the Derby winner he found for 16,000gns, Sir Percy (GB) (Mark Of Esteem {Ire}).

"It was a big gamble coming here, but I think it's paying off," he reflects. "We started with 40 or so, which was a bit of a shock to the system. Renting is obviously very expensive, wherever you go, and those Saturday horses, I'm afraid, do help an awful lot. And a lot of people flock to the young trainers. As they did to me, when I first started."

He names two trainers. One, from the new generation, is in growing demand. Tregoning suspects that the horses are being drilled too hard, because they never seem to sustain prolific initial success. The other, a good deal older than Tregoning, has seen and solved every problem known to Thoroughbreds; and reliably maintains the appetite and development of his horses. "Lovely guy, lovely yard, and he's seen it all before," Tregoning says, shaking his head. "And completely out of fashion."

But even during the slowest of recent years, Tregoning never permitted himself self-pity. Because it was not just horsemanship he learned from Hern, who was notoriously evicted from the royal stables after being confined to a wheelchair by a hunting accident.



Lady Lloyd-Webber, Angus Gold and Marcus Tregoning after Mohaather's win in the G3 Watership Down Stud Greenham S.

*Racing Post*



**Sir Percy & Tregoning after winning the 2006 G1 Epsom Derby *Racingfotos***

Sheikh Hamdan kept the faith, and Hern promptly repaid him with dual Classic winner Nashwan (Blushing Groom {Fr}) and the sensational sprinter Dayjur (Danzig).

"He was just amazing," Tregoning recalls. "Never got down. It was a great thing for me to see that, how he would fight in a corner. The worse the situation became, the better he was." Even before the accident, Tregoning was familiar with Hern's stiff upper lip. Certainly he could never get him to expand on his wartime experiences, in North Africa and Italy, beyond the improvisation of tracks to race captured German horses. "He did say once that when you've experienced the smell of burning flesh, you might not want to talk about it again," Tregoning recalls. "But he always believed you have to stay positive, that you can always turn things round. In fact he was better with his back to the wall." And, conversely, his mentor

actually became more difficult when good horses came through. In his heyday, Hern would then withdraw into that remote, empathetic zone between trainer and animal; and it was only personal disaster, leaving him so much more dependent, that accelerated the education of his stalwart assistant.

"He wouldn't have taught me anything if he hadn't been in a wheelchair," Tregoning says. "Which is a shame, because he was a brilliant teacher. He was fascinated by conformation. When I was pupil assistant, and a horse was lame, he'd say: 'Go and get Marcus. Right, get on that horse.' So I'd have to ride it up and down the yard. 'Which leg is it lame on?' By God, you didn't dare get it wrong. So, touch wood, I feel like something of a vet when it comes to soundness. Because he trained me. It's funny, when you've been with someone so long, I suppose you start thinking the way they do."

Wishing all our clients  
a very Merry Christmas  
and a happy New Year



JUDDMONTE

---

Hardly one to suffer fools, Hern had Tregoning by his side for 14 years. "And not a single day was wasted," Tregoning stresses. "Every hour you spent with him you were learning, and he really was just the most brilliant trainer."

Sheikh Hamdan would share the benefits, the sorcerer training one champion out of Height Of Fashion (Fr) (Bustino {GB}) in Nashwan, and the apprentice another, in Nayef. There was a similar transfer of the baton with Sarayir (Mr Prospector), another of the great mare's foals, and her daughter Rumoush-whose son, as already noted, is now at Whitsbury. The first foal out of Height Of Fashion to enter Hern's care had been Unfuwain. "I remember the first time he came out in front of us in the yard," Tregoning recalls. "'Look at that, Marcus, a son of Northern Dancer, what do you think?' 'Quite a heavy horse, isn't he?' 'No! He's fine!' 'Do you think his feet are rather big?' 'Absolute nonsense, Marcus!' But it turned out to be his problem, that he felt the ground, that concussion through his feet. Years later, when Dick retired, he said: 'Well you were right about one thing, Marcus-about that horse's feet.' I couldn't believe it. He'd never said a thing, but it had obviously stuck in his mind all those years."

Tregoning had a ringside seat, of course, when Nashwan's famous springtime gallop ignited an ante-post bushfire. One senior lad made £60,000 on the Guineas-Derby double. "They wanted to give him a cheque, but he didn't have a bank account," Tregoning recalls. "So he said he'd come back in a couple of days and to have the cash ready. And he took in all these carrier bags, and then walked across the street to the bank, and opened an account. His father was a vicar in Wales and I think he bought his house for him."

Tregoning himself backed Nashwan along the rails on Derby day, only for one bookmaker to disappear after the race, owing him £3,500. Hern was horrified-not so much by the "welsher" as by the idea that his impoverished assistant should have staked enough to win such a sum. "Anyway he got the money back for me," recalls Tregoning with a wry grin.

He provoked equal alarm in his friend Richard Gaskell, whose father Dickie worked the rail for Ladbrokes for 25 years, when announcing that he intended the bet of his life on Bronze Angel (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}) going for his second Cambridgeshire. "He said I was mad, in a race like that," Tregoning recalls. "But I said no, he's absolutely flying. He was a funny old horse but he had those moments. I think a lot of horses do, they peak, don't they. He always used to peak in the autumn, just as it got a bit colder. He was an incredibly tricky horse to train, never the soundest."

Arguably posterity might assess a dual Cambridgeshire winner as no less a credit to Tregoning than his various Group 1 scorers.

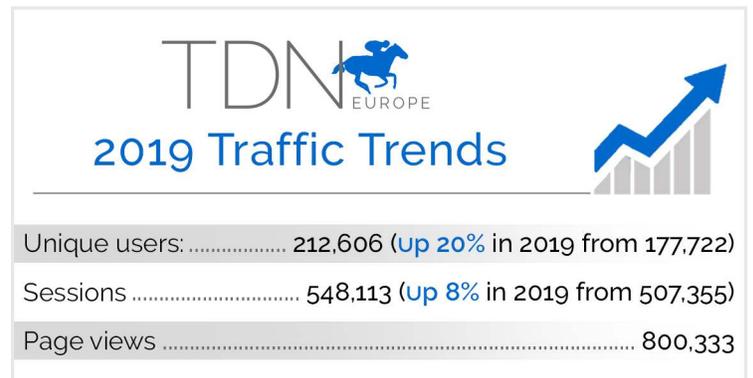
"If it was just about getting an animal to the races, fit, anybody could do it," he reflects. "Getting a horse to peak, it's feel. The oddest thing, really. You just get it. And very often the longer you can wait, the better. Not forcing them, that's the thing. If you can train them to peak without forcing them, mentally and physically, you're in a better place."

"Look at Dayjur. Dick Hern always knew he was a sprinter, of course he did. But he also knew-having had the likes of Bold Boy-that if he pressed him too soon, he'd have blown his brains. As it was, once they got him sprinting, he'd jump out and settle beautifully."

That instinct evidently extends to the sales ring. It has been striking, even as Tregoning's orders and budgets have diminished, to see him unfailingly at the rope in the Tattersalls ring, monitoring the traffic against his diligent preparations. That, after all, was how he found a colt to emulate Nashwan's Classic double at the very bottom tier of the market.

"I'd looked at Sir Percy and thought him a lovely horse, and that I'd go to 50 for him," he recalls. "And then hope to find someone to buy him. So when he was going for what he was, I just had to risk it. But I ended up holding him for long time. Just before Christmas one man said he'd have him, only to change his mind a month later. I was going to keep the horse myself but then Victoria Pakenham rang out of the blue, saying they'd seen him as a foal, but that he'd made too much, and was there any chance they could buy a share? Well, we had school fees to pay. But if they were lucky, then how lucky was I? How many others would have been prepared to turn down all that money for him, as an unbeaten 2-year-old?"

From his vantage by the sales ring, Tregoning has now been in the game long enough to lament changes in the breed. He gestures out to the darkening yard, where the great steeplechaser Desert Orchid was once stabled.



"Look how many times he ran, staying sound, and winning 34 races," he says. "On the Flat, they're not as sound a beast, structurally. Try and find a yearling today with good feet. It's very rare now, whether it's the way they feed them or breed them. A lot of these small farms are buying fillies that couldn't breathe, or that bled, and have bred them to these commercial sires-and now they're in the chain."

Admirers of Tregoning were as delighted by the emergence of Mohaather, attesting to his undiminished flair, as they were dismayed by his injury.

"You could see it happen in the Greenham, virtually," Tregoning says. "He started wandering about as though something wasn't quite right. He seemed fine afterwards, but that's quite common with the sort of issue he had, with no separation of the bone.

"As it turned out, the ground would have been too firm all summer anyway. He ran a terrific race at Ascot, as a lot of people seem to have noticed, but to this point he's a Group 2 horse. We'll soon find out whether he's genuine Group 1 quality, if he stays sound. He's an easy horse to get fit, not massively big, so we'll start in the Lockinge and see how he gets on. If he has to come back in trip, that would be fine too. But if he can be a Group winner at two, three and hopefully four, then he'd have

earned a stallion job somewhere."

Hern was fortunate to have patrons like Lord Rotherwick, who obliged him with an annual cheque of £100,000 up front. Tregoning can only dream of such clients. But he is very happy with his landlords-with the 35-box main yard, a historic overflow for the babies, maintained gallops-and, of course, with the renewed support of the client he values above all others.

"We're very lucky to have Sheikh Hamdan sending me horses," he says. "And I'm very lucky with the team I've got. Some have been with me for 18, 20 years. My biggest worry now is that we have to make sense of the whole business. Without going on about prizemoney too much, it's not the greatest help if you go up and win a race at Newcastle and find yourself basically out of pocket by the time you get home. There's no question we've the best racing in the world. So somehow we've got to make it work. We've got to be careful not to lose the thread of what we love." And that's something Tregoning himself has never done, even during the fallow years. "We're so grateful to get a push," he says. "A couple of Group winners, a couple of Saturday winners, and suddenly you have a momentum that keeps going. I can see a future in it, now. And we'll give it a hell of a shot."

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2019 in photos: Anthony Van Dyck (Ire) & Seamie Heffernan winning the G1 Investec Derby at Epsom | [Racingfotos.com](#)

# THE SOURCE

*of 2YO success*

## Leading Sires of 2YOs in GB & Ire 2019

Rk	Stallion	Sire	GSWs	Earnings £
1	<b>GALILEO</b>	Sadler's Wells	5	1,151,068
2	Shamardal	Giant's Causeway	3	981,484
3	<b>NO NAY NEVER</b>	Scat Daddy	5	967,059
4	<b>FOOTSTEPSINTHESAND</b>	Giant's Causeway	1	612,998
5	Cable Bay	Invincible Spirit	1	602,551
6	Night of Thunder	Dubawi	3	494,383
7	Kodiac	Danehill	0	464,289
8	<b>GLENEAGLES</b>	Galileo	3	463,190
9	Frankel	Galileo	1	456,795
10	<b>STARSPANGLED BANNER</b>	Choisir	1	448,066
11	Dark Angel	Acclamation	1	446,198
12	<b>ZOFFANY</b>	Dansili	1	442,800

Racing Post, 19th Dec

**AUSTRALIA** had 3 juvenile SWs in GB & Ire this year with a whopping BT W/R strike rate of 8.82% - higher than Kingman, Lope De Vega, Night Of Thunder, No Nay Never etc

# COOLMORE

**BHA Releases Review cont. from p1**

“The bloodstock industry welcomes the BHA Review of the Buying and Selling of Racehorses and Bloodstock in Britain and, since August, has been working closely with the BHA in response to the findings and recommendations included in the review, many of which have already resulted in action,” said Tattersalls Marketing Director Jimmy George, who chairs the Bloodstock Industry Forum (BIF). As a result of the Review’s findings, the bloodstock industry’s Code of Practice, which outlines the principles and standards which must be met during the sale of bloodstock, stallion shares and nominations, is currently being revamped.

“Work is well under way in producing an all new, robust Code of Practice which will not only appear in all Tattersalls and Goffs sales catalogues but will be widely disseminated and available through all BIF member organisations and will be regularly reviewed. Critically, the new code of practice sets out to introduce a complaints procedure independent of the industry bodies with, when necessary, ultimate sanction lying with the BHA, whose regulatory and investigative processes BIF believes to be sufficiently robust and confidential to support the implementation of the new code of practice.”

Added Chief Executive of the BHA, Nick Rust, “The BHA is pleased to be part of the Bloodstock Industry Forum and to be working closely with the other BIF members in response to the recommendations of the review published today. We recognise the commitment from leaders in this sector of the racing industry to integrity and transparency and look forward to engaging with the BIF to agree how both are enhanced in the context of the findings of our review. We have published our findings in accordance with our commitment as a regulator to openness and accountability and will work collaboratively to build on the progress already made by the BIF in the New Year.”

For the complete Review, click [here](#).

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## FIRST-SEASON SIRE WITH RUNNERS

**Friday, December 20, 2019:**

**UNITED KINGDOM**

**Anjaal (GB)** (Bahamian Bounty {GB}), Rathasker Stud  
149 foals of racing age/18 winners/0 black-type winners  
17:30-WOLVERHAMPTON, 7.25f, THE CHEROKEE KID (Ire)  
€34,000 Goffs November Foals Sale 2017; €18,000 RNA Goffs Sportsman's Yearling Sale 2018; €18,000 RNA Goffs Horses In Training Sale 2019

**Brazen Beau (Aus)** (I Am Invincible {Aus}), Dalham Hall Stud  
78 foals of racing age/14 winners/1 black-type winner  
18:30-WOLVERHAMPTON, 6f, DAZZLING DES (Ire)  
€33,000 Tattersalls Ireland September Yearlings 2018

**Cappella Sansevero (GB)** (Showcasing {GB}), Bridge House Stud  
60 foals of racing age/6 winners/1 black-type winner  
18:30-WOLVERHAMPTON, 6f, DIAMOND COTTAGE (GB)

**Due Diligence** (War Front), Whitsbury Manor Stud  
85 foals of racing age/18 winners/3 black-type winners  
18:00-WOLVERHAMPTON, 7.25f, BARKING MAD (GB)  
£3,500 Tattersalls Ireland Ascot Sept. Yearling Sale 2018;  
€60,000 Tattersalls Ireland Goresbridge Breeze Up Sale 2019

**Fountain of Youth (Ire)** (Oasis Dream {GB}), Bearstone Stud  
71 foals of racing age/4 winners/0 black-type winners  
18:30-WOLVERHAMPTON, 6f, ELIXIR SKY (GB)  
4,800gns RNA Tattersalls October Yearling Sale 2018 - Book 3

**Fulbright (GB)** (Exceed And Excel {Aus}), Kildangan Stud  
37 foals of racing age/2 winners/0 black-type winners  
18:00-WOLVERHAMPTON, 7.25f, RICHARD R H B (Ire)  
€9,000 Goffs November Foals Sale 2017; £22,000 Goffs UK Premier & Silver Yearling Sale 2018

**FRANCE**

**Hallowed Crown (Aus)** (Street Sense), Kildangan Stud  
77 foals of racing age/4 winners/0 black-type winners  
3-LYON LA SOIE, 1800m,



**Due Diligence** | Whitsbury Manor Stud

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version 2.5

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**IRELAND**

**Anjaal (GB)** (Bahamian Bounty {GB}), Rathasker Stud  
149 foals of racing age/18 winners/0 black-type winners  
1-DUNDALK, 5f, LIFE AND STRIFE (Ire)

€11,000 Goffs February Mixed Sale 2018; £7,800 RNA Goffs UK  
Premier & Silver Yearling Sale 2018

8-DUNDALK, 7f, ZEESHAN (Ire)

€8,000 Tattersalls Ireland Flat Breeding Stock Sale 2017;

€3,000 Tattersalls Ireland September Yearlings 2018

**Cable Bay (Ire)** (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), Highclere Stud  
114 foals of racing age/25 winners/1 black-type winner  
1-DUNDALK, 5f, CHANELL ECLIPSE (Ire)

**Cappella Sansevero (GB)** (Showcasing {GB}), Bridge House Stud  
60 foals of racing age/6 winners/1 black-type winner  
8-DUNDALK, 7f, DELTA SANSEVERO (Ire)

€1,000 Goffs Open Yearling Sale 2018

**Gutaifan (Ire)** (Dark Angel {Ire}), Yeomanstown Stud  
166 foals of racing age/29 winners/0 black-type winners  
1-DUNDALK, 5f, BIG GOSSEY (Ire)

€21,000 RNA Goffs November Foals Sale 2017

**Ivawood (Ire)** (Zebedee {GB}), Haras de Mont Goubert  
100 foals of racing age/14 winners/2 black-type winners  
8-DUNDALK, 7f, LAZY SUSAN (Ire)

**BRITAIN****ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

**I Love You Baby (GB)**, f, 3, **Cityscape (GB)**--Ashtaroth (GB), by  
Royal Applause (GB). Wolverhampton, 12-19, 7f 36y (AWT),  
1:29.36. B-North Bradon Stud (GB). \*£600 HRA '19 TATIAS.

**My Excelsa (Ire)**, f, 3, **Exceed and Excel (Aus)**--Emirates Joy, by  
Street Cry (Ire). Southwell, 12-19, 4f 214y (AWT), :59.62.  
B-Lynchbages Edgeridge Ltd & Glenvale Stud (IRE). \*£70,000  
Ylg '17 GOUKPR; 6,500gns HRA '19 TATJUL.

**FRANCE****ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

**Heywa (Ire)**, f, 3, **Camelot (GB)**--Clodora (Fr) (GSW-Fr,  
\$121,913), by Linamix (Fr). Marseille Pont De Vivaux, 12-19,  
10f (AWT), 2:08.72. B-Smythson (IRE). \*€65,000 Ylg '17  
ARAUG. \*\*1/2 to Clodovil (Ire) (Danehill), G1SW-Fr, \$323,070,  
& to Colombian (Ire) (Azamour {Ire}), GSW-Eng, SW & GSP-Fr,  
G1SP-US, \$393,182.

**Dear Lady (Fr)**, f, 2, **Kendargent (Fr)**--Dourada (Fr) by Invincible  
Spirit (Ire). Marseille Pont De Vivaux, 12-19, 7 /2f (AWT),  
1:28.07. B-J P J Dubois (FR). \*€60,000 Ylg '18 ARAUG.

**IN DUBAI:**

**Golden Goal (Ire)**, g, 5, **Dark Angel (Ire)**--Golden Rosie (Ire), by  
Exceed and Excel (Aus). Meydan, 12-19, Hcp., 1600m, 1:37.52.  
B-Yeomanstown Stud. \*£240,000 Ylg '15 DONAUG;  
AED210,000 HRA '18 ERASEP. **VIDEO**

**My Catch (Ire)**, g, 8, **Camacho (GB)**--Catch The Sea (Ire), by  
Barathea (Ire). Meydan, 12-19, Hcp., 1200m, 1:12.36. B-D  
Noonan & Loughphilip Bloodstock. \*1/2 to Vladimir (Ire)  
(Kheleyf), Ch. Imp. 2yo Colt-Spa, SW & G1SP-Fr, \$101,264.  
\*\*GSW-UAE & Fr. \*\*\*85,000gns Ylg '12 TATOCT; €135,000  
2yo '13 ARQMAY; €120,000 HRA '13 ARQARC. **VIDEO**

**MIDDLE EAST****Thursday's Results:**

**DUBAI CREEK MILE-Listed**, AED265,000, Meydan, 12-19,  
3yo/up, 1600m, 1:38.24, ft.

1--**SECRET AMBITION (GB)**, 128, h, 6, **Exceed and Excel (Aus)**--  
**nner Secret, by Singspiel (Ire)**. (AED150,000 HRA '16 ERAAPR).  
O-Nasir Askar; B-Darley; T-Satish Seemar; J-Tadhg O'Shea;  
AED159,000. Lifetime Record: GSW-UAE, 34-9-7-1, \$464,162.  
\*1/2 to Crystal River (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}), SW-Fr; and Royal  
Marine (Ire) (Raven's Pass), G1SW-Fr, \$285,288.

2--**Kimbear**, 126, h, 5, Temple City--Sky Dreamer, by Sky Mesa.  
(\$30,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP). O-Sheikh Rashid Bin Humaid Al  
Nuaimi. AED53,000.

**IN THE DARBY DAN TRADITION**

3--**Rodaini**, 126, g, 5, Exchange Rate--Blessings Count, by Pulpit.  
(\$140,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP; 340,000gns 2yo '16 TATAPR).  
O-Abdullah Saeed Al Naboodah. AED26,500.

Margins: 1, SHD, 2.

Also Ran: Manguzi (Fr), Thegreatcollection, Yulong Warrior,  
Heavy Metal (GB).

Despite carrying a penalty for his victory in the G3 Jebel Ali  
Mile last January and racing first-up for eight months, Secret  
Ambition raced with the back and found enough in the final 200  
metres to stamp himself as one to watch in the upcoming Dubai  
World Cup Carnival.

**Listed Dubai Creek Mile cont.**

Three deep outside of pacesetter Heavy Metal (GB) (Pivotal {GB}), Secret Ambition traveled comfortably beneath Tadhg O'Shea into the stretch, struck to the front with a little less than 400 metres to the finish and held sway late as Kimbear rallied to touch Rodaini out of second.

"Secret Ambition is a very strong-minded horse," said winning trainer Satish Seemar. He's not an easy horse to train at home because of his character. When he has his day, that's his day. Today he broke the mould because the track was all speed, so it's nice to see him come back and it sets him up for the (Dubai World Cup) Carnival perfectly."

Secret Ambition is one of four winners from five to race for his dam, a half-sister to Godolphin stars Librettist (Danzig, MG1SW); Dubai Destination (Kingmambo, G1SW); and MGSW & G2 UAE Derby third Secret Number (GB) (Raven's Pass). Inner Secret is the dam of a yearling colt by Dawn Approach (Ire) and a weanling colt by Dubawi (Ire). **VIDEO**

**2nd-MEY, AED165,000, Maiden, 2yo, f, 1400m, 1:25.27, ft. DOWN ON DA BAYOU (f, 2, Super Saver--Bayou Tortuga, by Empire Maker), a half-sister to former 'TDN Rising Star' and 2016 G3 UAE Oaks winner Polar River (Congrats, \$771,139), opened her account at second asking in the night's first Thoroughbred race Thursday at Meydan. The bay debuted over this course and distance Nov. 7, but bombed the start, was trapped out and never reached contention, finishing a distant fourth of five to the impressive 'Rising Star' Rio Angie (Honor Code). Drawn gate one for this second go, Down On Da Bayou was sent through at the inside to take up the running in the first 200 metres, took some pressure to her outside from Feriyal (Successful Appeal), but put that one away turning for home and skipped clear to graduate by eight lengths. First-time starter Hamama (Shackleford) covered ground, but kept on well to be a promising second. A \$150,000 Keeneland September purchase by Tally-Ho Stud, he was resold for €190,000 at this year's Arqana May Breeze-Up ([under-tack video](#)).**

**Cont. p9**



Secret Ambition | DRC/Erika Rasmussen

Mey-2 cont.



Down On Da Bayou | DRC/Erika Rasmussen

Down On Da Bayou, whose dam RNAd for \$675,000 at Keeneland November in 2017, has a yearling half-brother by Orb and a weanling half-sister from the first crop of Gun Runner. Bayou Tortuga was most recently bred to Blame. Incidentally, Polar River produced her first foal in 2019, a filly by Uncle Mo. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$29,654. **VIDEO** O-Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed al Maktoum; B-McCann Bloodstock, Mark Kelder & Doug Richards (KY); T-Salem bin Ghadayar.

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**3rd-MEY, AED165,000, Maiden, 2yo, c/g, 1600m, 1:40.47, ft. DUBAI AVENUE (c, 2, Bated Breath {GB}--Starfly {Ire}, by Invincible Spirit {Ire})** was unplaced in two British runs earlier this season for Cilve Cox and was entering this on the back of a runner-up effort to the very promising Raakezz (Street Boss) over an insufficient 1000 metres at Jebel Ali Nov. 29. Quickly into stride from an outside gate, the bay pressed the early pace from second and was roused to the front approaching the 400-metre marker. Far Sky (Stay Thirsty), a bit reluctant to load, got to the leader's saddle towel inside the furlong, but Dubai Avenue kept on and had a margin of 3/4 of a length at the line. The winner, produced by a half-sister to the dam of UAE Group 2 winner Mythical Magic (Ire) (Iffraaj {GB}), is kin to a yearling filly by Kodi Bear (GB). Sales history: €24,000 Ylg '18 TISEP. Lifetime Record: 4-1-1-0, \$31,043. **VIDEO** O-Ahmad al Shaikh; B-M C Bloodstock Ltd & CBS Bloodstock; T-Ali Rashid al Rayhi.

# ASIA

**Thursday, Nagoya, Japan**

**NAGOYA GRAND PRIX-Jpn G2-NAR (Listed), 49,600,000, Nagoya, 12-19, 3yo/up, 2500m, 2:42.40, yl.**

- 1--**DERMA LOUVRE (JPN), 119, c, 3, Pyro**
  - 1st Dam: Caribbean Romance (Jpn), by Commands (Aus)
  - 2nd Dam: Sabana Perdida (Ire), by Cape Cross (Ire)
  - 3rd Dam: Capriola, by Mr. Prospector

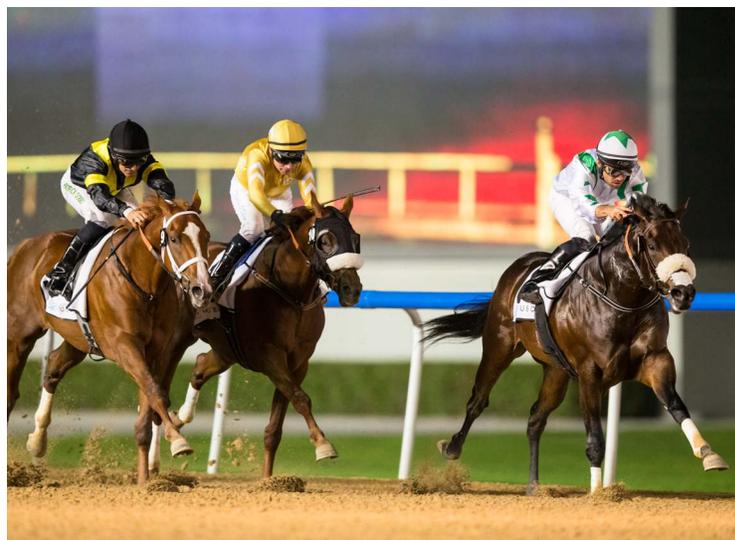
O-Hiroyuki Asanuma; B-Bando Farm; T-Hirofumi Toda; J-Makoto Okabe; ¥31,000,000. Lifetime Record: GSP-Jpn, 12-4-4-1. **Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.**

**Werk Nick Rating: F.**

- 2--**Angreifen (Jpn), 123, h, 7, Stay Gold (Jpn) Red Thread (Jpn),** by Peintre Celebre. O-Koji Maeda; B-North Hills; ¥8,680,000.
- 3--**Another Truth (Jpn), 123, g, 5, I'll Have Another--Kyoei Truth (Jpn),** by Fuji Kiseki (Jpn). O-Normandy Thoroughbred Racing; B-Okada Stud; ¥4,960,000.

Margins : Neck, 1.1/2, 1.1/2 ; Odds : 1.80, 5.10, 2.00

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Dubai Avenue | DRC/Erika Rasmussen



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**Sunday, Nakayama, Japan, post time: 3:25 p.m.**

**ARIMA KINEN-G1**, ¥570,000,000 (£4,005,913/€4,685,731/A\$7,568,600/US\$5,211,828), 3yo/up, 2500mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Scarlet Color (Jpn) (f)	Victoire Pisa (Jpn)	Iwata	Takahashi	121
2	Suave Richard (Jpn)	Heart's Cry (Jpn)	Murphy	Shono	126
3	Etario (Jpn)	Stay Gold (Jpn)	Yokoyama	Tomomichi	126
4	Stiffelio (Jpn)	Stay Gold (Jpn)	Maruyama	Otonashi	126
5	Fierement (Jpn)	Deep Impact (Jpn)	Ikezoe	Tezuka	126
6	Lys Gracieux (Jpn) (f)	Heart's Cry (Jpn)	Lane	Yahagi	121
7	World Premiere (Jpn)	Deep Impact (Jpn)	Take	Tomomichi	121
8	Rey de Oro (Jpn)	King Kamehameha (Jpn)	Miura	Fujisawa	126
9	Almond Eye (Jpn) (f)	Lord Kanaloa (Jpn)	Lemaire	Kunieda	121
10	Saturnalia (Jpn)	Lord Kanaloa (Jpn)	Soumillon	Sumii	121
11	Kiseki (Jpn)	Rulership (Jpn)	Moore	Sumii	126
12	Crocsmia (Jpn) (f)	Stay Gold (Jpn)	Fujioka	Nishiura	121
13	Al Ain (Jpn)	Deep Impact (Jpn)	Matsuyama	Ikee	126
14	Velox (Jpn)	Just a Way (Jpn)	Kawada	Nakauchida	121
15	Aerolithe (Jpn)	Kurofune	Tsumura	Kikuzawa	121
16	Cheval Grand (Jpn)	Heart's Cry (Jpn)	Fukunaga	Tomomichi	126

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## THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRST IMPRESSIONS



John Kelly | TDNAusNZ

by Bren O'Brien

Years of experience in the thoroughbred game have taught Newhaven Park's John Kelly the importance of keeping a cool head, but he admits there is an aspect of nervous anticipation at the prospect of debuting a new stallion to the buying bench, as he will with Xtravagant at next month's Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale.

There will be 18 of Xtravagant's first crop on sale at the Gold Coast, with 17 of them part of Newhaven Park's 31-strong draft for the sale, as the iconic Boorowa-based farm puts their judgement on the line in the astute and competitive Australian market.

"There's a lot of nervous anticipation. He's not what you'd call the run-of-the-mill stallion that people stand. He was a freak of a horse with his pedigree and then he went and won his first and only start at two by eight lengths," Kelly told TDN AusNZ.

"He came back and was a very good sprinter-miler. It is a bit unusual to bring a New Zealand horse to Australia. We just thought he was so good to mate to Danehill and he's such a good outcross and we think he is a bit of a unique horse.

"As nervous as I am to see how the market receives him, we are sure that when his progeny get to the sales and they see them, they are going to be very taken by them."

Xtravagant will be one of 29 first season sires represented at Magic Millions, matching up against high-profile names such as Newgate's Capitalist, Coolmore's American Pharoah (USA) and Darley's Astern, all of whom Kelly has considerable respect for.

Kelly sees Xtravagant in a slightly different category than those horses, all of whom stood for more than two times his debut service fee of \$16,500 (inc GST), but he knows the market can be brutal in its early assessment.

"It's very competitive. And plenty of his competitors in that market are going to have great chances to make sires," he said.

"We think our bloke is going to be there and he's got a great opportunity. He covered a great book of mares and has a supportive syndicate of breeders behind him.

"It's always tough with any stallion, but with most first season sires, either they are good or they are not good and we just think he ticks most of the boxes."

### *Make or Break*

The slight nervousness Kelly and the team at Newhaven Park feel is understandable given the energy they have put into supporting the stallion's fledgling career and the speed at which the market can make an assessment which could well define his future success.

"With any first season sire, the perception of the market after we leave the Magic Millions will decide how we go for the rest of the year at the Classic Sale, Melbourne, Adelaide and Easter," he said.

"This is where we will launch him and this is where the public will get the chance to see what we've been privy to for the last 16 months. Hopefully we have got the right group of horses there."

The Xtravagant yearlings which did make it to Newhaven Park's Gold Coast draft pretty much "picked themselves", according to Kelly.

"They have to be pretty precocious horses. They need to be early foals and they need to be good looking. Obviously, he's got a very good group and they picked themselves off the farm," he said.

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**The Power of the Outcross**



**Xtravagant** | *Newhaven Park*

The Magic Millions draft of Xtravagants are typically from mares which indicate early speed and precocity, being by the likes of Snitzel, Fastnet Rock, Exceed And Excel and Not A Single Doubt.

Xtravagant, being Danehill (USA)-free, has given breeders an outcross option and Kelly sees this as an enormous asset for the stallion going forward.

"If you look especially at a horse like I Am Invincible who is free of Danehill and has done so well. All the best mares in the country are full of Danehill and his sons, we are convinced that the next champion stallion of Australia is going to be free of Danehill and we are hopeful this guy might be the one," he said.

That confidence has only been enhanced by the quality the son of Pentire (GB) has delivered with his two crops on the ground.

"I think he will get 2-year-olds and he'll get sprinter milers. That's what he was himself. He was a brilliant horse. Not many horses win two Group 1s by a combined margin of 16.5 lengths. That is what attracted us to him, his freakish ability," Kelly said.

"(His progeny) have got great natures and they are lovely moving horses so that has been quite simple really. We are pleased with where we are at this stage of preparation but there is a fair bit of nervous anticipation getting to the Gold Coast."

Contributing to that anticipation is the fact that Newhaven Park's location, at Boorowa, some 340 kms south-west of Sydney and far from the thoroughbred heartland of the Hunter Valley, means it is not on the inspection trail of most vendors.

"It probably suits us a bit. When they get to the sales they will be ready to be sold and will be ready to be sold in the best light," Kelly said.

"I'm extremely confident that the market will like the horses. They are very athletic and good looking. We are as confident as you can be that they are going to get there and stand up. I'm sure the market will embrace him when they get there."

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