

## INTO MISCHIEF'S CROWNING MOMENT



Into Mischief | Sarah Andrew

by Chris McGrath

A first general sires' championship in North America--after finishing 35th, 13th and fourth in the three previous years--sets a formal seal on what has long been clear to everybody about Into Mischief. But there is something especially apt about the fact that the Spendthrift phenomenon should scale this final ridge, and attain the summit, as the 2010s draw to a close. Because you could argue that he is not just stallion of the year, but stallion of the decade.

Not in any kind of strict sense, admittedly. For one thing, he cannot yet rival the achievements of Tapit--and remember that Gainesway's multiple champion also had to earn his stripes, working his way through the ranks from \$12,500 to the stratosphere. In broader terms, however, there is no mistaking the fact that Into Mischief is very much a stallion for our times. Because since his first foals were delivered, in 2010, he has become the poster boy for the way his farm transformed the commercial breeding landscape.

Spendthrift's owner B. Wayne Hughes has himself enjoyed a career just as instructive of the miracles that can be achieved if you can create and serve the right market.

His father was a sharecropper in the Oklahoma Dust Bowl, and joined the exodus towards California described in *The Grapes Of Wrath*.

*Cont. p3*



## TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR TRAINER GARY SHERLOCK

by Dan Ross

Trainer Gary Sherlock passed away Sunday from lung cancer at the age of 73, and in what should be no surprise to any who knew him, the tributes that have poured his way all point to one unifying theme: a universal respect and admiration among his peers in California's racing community.

Sherlock was born into the business--his father was a jockey, while his mother was a racing official. He was a mainstay of the industry since the 1950s, during which time he wore many hats. Trainer of both Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds. Assistant trainer. Pinhooker. Horsebreaker. Insurance salesman.

As a Quarter Horse trainer, Sherlock won scores of races at Los Alamitos, including the 1977 Los Alamitos Derby with Azure Three. *Cont. p8*

## IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

### LANWADES ALL IN WITH STUDY OF MAN

Emma Berry offers an in-depth look at the incoming Lanwades stallion, the Niarchos-bred French Classic winner Study Of Man. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

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**Tuesday, December 31, 2019**



**2019 in Photos: March 22.** On the eve of the GI Louisiana Derby, Ian Bennett gallops 'TDN Rising Star' Country House (Lookin At Lucky) as the sun rises on Fair Grounds Race Course. | Sarah Andrew

## FASIG-TIPTON TDN DERBY TOP 12

**10**

As the calendar prepares to turn to 2020, T.D. Thornton lays out his top 12 GI Kentucky Derby contenders in the first installment of our annual series.

## PHILLIPS ELECTED TAA PRESIDENT

**14**

The Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance's board of directors elected Darby Dan Farm owner John Phillips as president for the 2020 term, and added three new members to the TAA board.

The Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association congratulates PA-Bred

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***Into Mischief's Crownning Moment cont. from p1***

The self-made fortune of the boy who remembers that migration, a mattress strapped to the roof of the family car, is a classic fairytale of American capitalism: Hughes and a partner each put up \$25,000 to start a storage company that ended up valued at \$40 billion.

So when Hughes came into the breeding business--as an outsider, and more or less by accident--he brought with him a radical eye for its inefficiencies. As he once told me, "Unless you're a rich person messing around, like I was for 20 years, it wasn't a good business model."

With a couple of young stallions to launch into the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, Hughes and his team devised a series of incentives to engage the imagination of smaller breeders, in particular. First came Share The Upside: commit to the stands-and-nurses fee for two seasons, and you

get a lifetime breeding right. After that, Hughes and his team offered Breed Secure, suspending the covering fee until the resulting weanling (or yearling) was sold, and even then letting the breeder keep the first \$6,000 (or \$12,000) against keep.

The idea was that, while the yield would obviously be less, turnover should go up. The competition was aghast. One farm owner complained privately that Hughes was making it impossible to stand a horse in Kentucky for \$10,000 or under. But now he and many others have introduced similar schemes of their own.

Hughes knew that would happen. Anybody who wanted to stay in business would have no choice--even those who thought their high-end stallions inviolable to such "cheap" maneuvers. And that was

because the expensive horse is never guaranteed to make it; just as the cheap horse never has zero chance. ***Cont. p4***



B. Wayne Hughes with Spendthrift general manager Ned Toffey  
Keeneland

# KARAKONTIE

FIRST-CROP STAKES HORSES INCL.



**KENZAI WARRIOR** (G3W)



**SOLE VOLANTE** (SW)



**KARAK** (SW)



**TORRES DEL PAINÉ** (MSP)



**IN THE PRESENT** (SP)



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Thoroughbreds being what they are, Hughes was confident that the Spendthrift revolution would catapult a pauper among the princes.

Opening at \$12,500, Into Mischief mustered only nine Share The Upside contracts in his first year. (Oh you happy few!) That debut crop numbered just 42 named foals, but seven would become stakes winners.

In 2012, just as Into Mischief was launching first runners, he covered 50 mares at \$7,500. The following year, further assisted by the emergence of his half-sister Beholder (Henny Hughes) to win the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies, he entertained 210--and in the six years since, he has had another 1,352 trysts. In 2020, Into Mischief will command a fee of \$175,000.

Everybody needs luck, of course, as well as enterprise. When Into Mischief went to stud, he had just been a son of Harlan's Holiday out of an anonymous Tricky Creek mare who once changed hands for \$8,000. But Beholder went on to win another 10 Grade Is; and another sibling, a Scat Daddy colt, became a \$3-million September sale-topper, a Breeders' Cup winner, and now a 252-cover Ashford rookie: Mendelssohn.

The inexorable rise of Into Mischief, moreover, could become steeper yet. His 2-year-olds of 2019 were still the result only of \$45,000 covers, so the more upmarket mares he has since been entertaining have yet to add their own genetic wares to the mix. Though by no means guaranteed, it's certainly being widely anticipated that these mares will improve Into Mischief's chances of stretching his stock beyond its trademark, one-turn whizz. (In his own track career, comprising just six starts, he won a Grade I at two before soon reverting to seven furlongs).

In fairness, he has already contrived a GI Kentucky Derby third, Audible, out of a Gilded Time sprinter. But the leading contributor to his 2019 haul, which exceeds \$19 million, is a classic Into Mischief dazzler: Covfefe, dashing winner of the GI Longines Test S. and GI Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint.



Covfefe | Breeders' Cup/Eclipse Sportswire

# SIZZLING First Weanlings!

## Keeneland November Sale

Weanlings sold for **\$260,000** (Oxo Equine), **\$210,000** (Waystar Co.), **\$185,000** (Brookstone Farm), **\$120,000** (De Meric Stables, agent), **\$115,000** (McMahon & Hill Bloodstock, agent), **\$110,000** (Red Devil Bloodstock) etc.

## Fasig-Tipton November Sale

His only weanling offered sold for **\$240,000** (Oxo Equine)

## Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Fall Sale

Sire of the two top-priced weanlings **\$160,000** (Steven Weston) & **\$150,000** (Exclusive Equine Investments)

**Larry Best of Oxo Equine** has enjoyed tremendous success with Practical Joke's sire Into Mischief and it looks like he's a fan of Practical Joke too after purchasing his two top-priced weanlings!



“ Practical Joke won both the Hopeful and the Champagne. He was a fast, tough, precocious two-year-old and trained on to show even better form at three. He's a horse no commercial breeder can leave off their list ” **Alan Porter**

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Significantly, Covfefe earned a much smaller percentage of her sire's overall tally than did the principal performer for all the other stallions towards the top of the table, attesting to the sheer range of Into Mischief's arsenal. Moreover, he would also have been champion in four of the past five years, even though the stallion who did finish on top invariably owed more to his premier runner.

Sure enough, Into Mischief's 221 winners of 346 races in 2019--all these figures subject to overnight updating, incidentally, being through Dec. 30--put him in a different league. He is, in fact, the first North American sire to have 200 winners in a calendar year. (Hats off to Kitten's Joy for the closest pursuit, with 188 winners of 303 races, even if Bricks and Mortar has granted Giant's Causeway a posthumous interruption of the perennial turf champion's reign.)

But it's about quality as well as quantity. Into Mischief's nine Grade I performers this year match the four and five who respectively represent the two stallions on the lower steps of the prize money podium: Curlin, whose personal best haul (starring Vino Rosso) elevates him to second, as in 2016; and Tapit, who maintains his wonderfully consistent output in third. We recently celebrated Tapit's \$150-million milestone and, even in his first campaign without an elite scorer, he still outperforms the rest on several indices--notably his 26 black-type winners, at 8.9% of starters, and his 13 graded stakes winners.

Hard Spun, in fourth, deserves extra credit as the least expensive living stallion in the top 15; and also as sire of three Grade I winners in 2019, a tally surpassed only by Quality Road on his way to a dizzying new fee of \$200,000. The only Kentucky sires younger than Quality Road in the top 20 are also at Lane's End, namely The Factor (at much the cheapest fee) and Twirling Candy.

As he turns 15, however, Into Mischief himself remains very much in his pomp--and in some respects he has fewer miles on the clock, bearing in mind those small early books, than rivals who were in demand from the outset. He has now been America's leading sire of 2-year-olds three times in the four years since he has had runners out of his 200-plus books.

In setting such industrial numbers, Into Mischief has been aided by a libido and fertility as extraordinary as his genetic impact. These attributes, moreover, have now enabled Hughes and his team to push the boundaries yet again. They are now offering Quarter Horse mares the frozen semen of Into Mischief at \$10,000, along with that of retiring sprint champion Mitole (Eskendereya) at \$4,000.

No two-turn aspirations there, naturally! But whatever his more aristocratic partners may yet deliver Into Mischief, the fact is that he has punched above his weight right from the get-go.

*Cont. p6*



# THE FACTOR

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His very first crop was highlighted by the \$5,500 yearling **Goldencents**, who became his sire's first Grade I winner in the Santa Anita Derby and then added two editions of the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile.

Goldencents, of course, is now standing alongside his sire at Spendthrift--and, guess what, ends 2019 atop the second-crop sire list. He was the leading rookie by winners last year, with 29, 10 more than his nearest pursuer **Cairo Prince**; though Jaywalk's success at the Breeders' Cup allowed studmate **Cross Traffic** to relegate him to second by prize money.



**Goldencents | Spendthrift**

This time around, Goldencents is top of his intake by both winners and prize money, with four-time Grade III scorer Mr. Money and GII Louisiana Derby winner By My Standards leading the way. It must be said that Goldencents has a pretty ordinary family, making it massively auspicious for the next phase of Into Mischief's amazing story--as a sire of sires--that his son appears to be replicating the goods.

Cairo Prince, for his part, consolidated extremely well: second in the prize money table but joint-top with **Fed Biz** by black-type winners, and with **Will Take Charge** by graded stakes horses. **Noble Mission (GB)**, having corrected a few misapprehensions in producing a dirt sophomore as accomplished as Code of Honor from his first crop, is a deserving third by earnings.

This year, Spendthrift has played up its winnings in eye-catching fashion, recruiting a series of really top-class prospects off the track. In the meantime, however, the competition catches a break in the freshman table.

Testing out his big fee, **American Pharoah** has done the necessary, top by prize money and only just eclipsed by runner-up **Constitution** in terms of winners (29 vs. 27, a tally matched by **Tapiture**, with **Competitive Edge** and **Wicked Strong** on 26).

*Cont. p7*



## 5 WINNERS LAST WEEKEND INCL...



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Pharoah can obviously be expected to follow through with maturing, two-turn sophomores, so an all-the-way Breeders' Cup winner over five furlongs lays down a pretty stunning marker. Much as had been anticipated at Ashford, Four Wheel Drive is only one example of his sire's presumed efficacy on turf. American Pharoah could well become an important transatlantic influence, with juveniles already placed at the elite level on both sides of the ocean.



American Pharoah at Coolmore Australia | Darren Tindale

Constitution, having matched Pharoah's eight graded stakes performers, is hiked to \$40,000 (from \$15,000) after nailing a Grade I through Tiz The Law; **Palace Malice**, third by prize money, followed suit with Structor. But how about **Liam's Map**? Two black-type winners--and both, amazingly, scored at the Grade I level.

History suggests there's still ample time, despite the market's tendency to panic, for the slow burners to come through. Not so long ago, after all, Into Mischief himself was one. For now, however, the lay of the land can be judged from that \$8.2-million Keeneland September sale-topper: a half-sister, by American Pharoah, to the new champion sire.

For if the freshman's table is headed by a wonderful throwback, the first Triple Crown winner in a generation, then Into Mischief is definitively a stallion for his own epoch; one who not only reflects the 21st Century commercial landscape, but has gone a long way to shaping it.

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**Tributes Pour in for Gary Sherlock cont. from p1**

"That was his big horse that everybody knew about," said Sherlock's long-time friend and barn patron, owner Terry Lovingier. "But he had lots of good Quarter Horses."

As a conditioner of Thoroughbreds, Sherlock sent out 245 winners and accrued over \$9 million in purses from two training stints that ran from 1979-1995, and from 2005-2019. The three-time Grade I-winning filly, Intangaroo, was his most illustrious protegee.

The following remarks are edited for brevity.

**Terry Lovingier, of Loveacres**

**Ranch:** I'm going to miss a dear friend. I sat at the FrontRunner

Bar with him at the same spot for 15 years. I knew Gary from the Quarter Horses--from when I was in high school. He was

about eight years older than I am. That's how long I've known him. A lot of years together.

I still ride myself--I could talk with him about horses. It was horseman-to-horseman. The true story is, with a young horse, he would turn it out at the farm rather than go into the joint. That was just the kind of guy that he was. He was really good for the horses that way, and the horses stayed sounder, longer because of it.

The biggest thing for me is that end of the bar at the FrontRunner is just not going to be the same, not having him sitting in the same spot. I will tell you he hogged the channel changer at the end of the bar, though. We had to watch what Gary wanted to watch, whether

it was professional football or whatever. He was in control of the channel changer! **Cont. p9**



Gary Sherlock | Horsephotos



2019 in photos: August 3. Covfefe edges ahead of Serengeti Empress to win the GI Longines Test S. | Sarah Andrew

It's easy to celebrate somebody's life whenever they were a good person. Gary was a good guy, and when you look back upon his life, people would be so lucky to have led the life that he led.

**Gary Stevens, jockey:** He was a great individual. Great father. He's going to be missed on the backstretch. I looked forward to seeing his face out there every morning. Hard worker, and a consummate horseman.

I don't think he had any enemies. He treated people the same as he treated his horses--with respect. I think that everybody respected him--all of his friends, obviously, and all of the horsemen. The thing about Gary, he didn't mince his words. He was straight to the point, direct, with criticism and with compliments.

Everybody loved the guy--that's very rare on the backstretch of any racetrack in the world.

**Gary Stute, trainer:** I just got to know him really well the last four to five years, and he was just a stand-up-straight guy. Good horseman, and a nice guy to be around. He was always over at Los Alamitos when I was a kid and heard about him, and once I knew him, it was like, 'No wonder everybody liked him.' Been around the track his whole life. Good horseman. Sharp. Just a good guy.

**Alonso Quionez, jockey of Intangaroo:** I'm really thankful for him putting me on that filly, who won three Grade Is. He was very focused on the game, very professional. Very passionate. Always wanted to do the best for his horses. Everybody liked him--everybody got along with him. It's very sad.

We're like a family at the track--always trying to help each other. Gary helped me, especially with that filly. All I can say is I'm very thankful for what we did and had. We had great success together, great stories. When we won all those Grade Is together, we really enjoyed it a lot. Like a dream come true for the both of us, I think.

**Huey Barnes, long-time assistant starter:** He was a really good man, he was a very good trainer, and everybody really liked him. He was very likeable.

I knew him when I went over to the Quarter Horses [at Los Alamitos]. That's where I first met him. Then he came over here [Santa Anita], started training here. He always treated me like a man, respected me. And I always respected him.

His was the old way of training--he doesn't have the young methods of training now. He always lived on those old methods of training horses, and he was a good trainer. Not just because I work with his son [Mike, an assistant starter]. I knew him before he had any kids.

I never heard anybody talk bad about him--really. Nobody did. He'd been sick for quite a while, but I guess he kept it all to himself. He's one person that's going to be missed in the industry of training horses. He's going to be missed by a lot of people at the track.



**Gary Sherlock with Rafael Bejarano | Benoit**

**Kathy Walsh, trainer:** I was fortunate enough to know his father [William], who was a good rider. Basically, [his father] was a good friend of my father's--the older generation. They raced around the Fairs, and Gary followed in his footsteps. He'd have been very proud of Gary--proud of his accomplishments.

Remember, Gary was very successful with Quarter Horses, and when he switched to Thoroughbreds, he was every bit as good. But most importantly, he was a good person, and he never forgot his friends, and he never forgot who he was. He raised a lovely family.

I guarantee, you won't get many people to knock him. No. The trouble is, he had something [cancer] you just can't beat, but he tried like hell, they said. The way everything is in racing right now, we do want to remember the good days and the good people. It brightens things up. But we had a major loss when we lost him.

**Ray Bell, trainer:** I've always thought of him as an astute judge of horse conformation. I went to the sales with him quite often--we spent quite a bit of time together in Kentucky, critiquing individuals at the yearling sales, and I found that his judgement of horse flesh was very, very good. I know that he was a well-liked fellow--everyone seemed to enjoy his presence. And I know he had a wonderful wife and sons.

**Mike Smith, jockey:** Was not only a great horseman, but a very kind and wonderful man. My condolences to his family.



# TOP KENTUCKY DERBY CONTENDERS

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## TDN DERBY TOP 12 FOR DEC. 31



**Thousand Words** | Horsephotos

by T.D. Thornton

It's the first installment of the 2020 TDN Derby Top 12, and chaos and uncertainty are the prevailing (but intriguing) themes. Betting favorites have gone down in defeat in the last seven "Road to the GI Kentucky Derby" preps, and there is no clear consensus on which 2-year-olds represent the top of the crop. But it's plenty early--we're 125 days from post time for the first leg of the Triple Crown.

### 1) THOUSAND WORDS (c, **Pioneerof the Nile--Pomeroy's Pistol, by Pomeroy**)

O-Albaugh Family Stables & Spendthrift Farm. B-Hardacre Farm (Fl). T-Bob Baffert. Sales History: \$1,000,000 yrl '18 KEESEP.

Lifetime Record: GSW, 2-2-0-0, \$151,000.

Last Start: 1st **GII Los Alamitos Futurity**, LRC, Dec. 7

Next Start: Uncommitted.

**Equineline PPs. KY Derby Points: 10.**



Sold by **Brookdale** for Hardacre Farm



**Barry Berkelhammer 352•804•3000**

Consider the lofty perch of Thousand Words to be more of an optimistic placeholder than emphatic assertion at this stage of

the season. This \$1-million KEESEP Pioneerof the Nile bay is undefeated in two starts, having debuted as a stalking sprint winner over 6 1/2 furlongs Oct. 26 at Santa Anita, then stretching out to two turns for a blinkers-on, pace-pressing score (over only three rivals and a sealed wet track) in the GII Los Alamitos Futurity. This colt earned style points by forcing an uncoupled stablemate through quick splits, yet still had enough fight and interest left to repel a stretch challenge from the runner-up in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile, and Thousand Words galloped out stronger than that favored rival after the wire. No next-race prep has been etched in stone, but the GIII Robert Lewis S. or GII San Felipe S. have been mentioned as possibilities.

### 2) STRUCTOR (c, **Palace Malice--Miss Always Ready, by More Than Ready**)

O-Jeff Drown & Don Rachel. B-Three Chimneys Farm (Ky).

T-Chad Brown. Sales History: \$160,000 yrl '18 KEESEP; \$850,000 2yo '19 OBSMAR. Lifetime Record: GISW, 3-3-0-0, \$709,500.

Last Start: 1st **GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf**, SA, Nov. 1

Accomplishments Include: 1st **GIII Pilgrim S.**, BEL, Sept. 28

Next Start: Uncommitted.

**Equineline PPs. KY Derby Points: 0.**



**Pick View LLC Graduate**



**THORO STRIDE -featured horse**

One side effect of Derby fever in recent seasons has been an unprecedented zeal to try top-level juvenile grass horses on dirt as sophomores. This \$160,000 KEESEP pinhook, who re-sold for \$850,000 at OBSMAR and capped a three-for-three season with a mature, capable win in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf, could make that transition because of the unflappable presence he displayed in two stakes starts. Two seasons ago the Juvy Turf produced three Derby starters (Mendelssohn, Flameaway, My Boy Jack), and last year War of Will parlayed a Juvy Turf fifth in into a trip-troubled Derby seventh before winning the GI Preakness. S. Trainer Chad Brown told TDN after the Breeders' Cup that, "I'm curious to find out what he can do on the dirt in the spring." **Cont. p11**

Structor's poise in his first race against winners--holding off a cavalry charge in the GIII Pilgrim S.--is worth a watch in case you need a convincer about how well he handles pressure.

**3) DENNIS' MOMENT (c, *Tiznow*--*Transplendid*, by *Elusive Quality*)**

 '**TDN Rising Star**' O-Albaugh Family Stables LLC. B-Tolo Thoroughbreds (Ky). T-Dale Romans. Sales History: \$400,000 yrl '18 FTSAUG. Lifetime Record: GSW, 4-2-0-0, \$167,800.

Last Start: 8th GI TVG Breeders' Cup Juvenile, SA, Nov. 1

Accomplishments Include: 1st GIII Iroquois S.

Next Start: Aiming for GII Fountain of Youth S., GP, Feb. 29

Equineline PPs. KY Derby Points: 10.

	Ballysax Bloodstock Graduate	
--	------------------------------	---

Barry Berkelhammer 352•804•3000
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'TDN Rising Star' Dennis' Moment will be squarely at the center of early-season Derby debates because the narrative for this \$400,000 FTSAUG Tiznow bay contains elements that can be used to argue both for and against his chances.

Supporters will view his prospects through the prism of "Dennis" being an athletically gifted 19-length maiden winner who dominated the GIII Iroquois S. in hand, then lost all chance when stumbling out of the gate and running last as the 9-10 favorite in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile. Detractors will argue that Dennis didn't beat any contenders of consequence in either his Ellis Park maiden romp or his September stakes win at Churchill, and it is a concern that the colt has now lost a rider and/or failed to come out of the gate cleanly in two of his four lifetime starts. Circle his planned soph debut Feb. 29 at Gulfstream as one of the most highly anticipated comebacks of the 2020 Derby campaign.



Dennis' Moment | Coady

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**4) MAXFIELD (c, Street Sense--Velvety, by Bernardini)**

O/B-Godolphin LLC (KY). T-Brendan Walsh. Lifetime Record: GISW, 2-2-0-0, \$354,412.

Last Start: 1st **GI Claiborne Breeders' Futurity**, KEE, Oct. 5

Next Start: Uncommitted.

**Equineline PPs.** KY Derby Points: 10.

Maxfield's 5 1/2-length clock-cleaning of the GI Breeders' Futurity field at Keeneland Oct. 5 was flat-out the most visually impressive Derby prep race on the autumn schedule.

Considering he had never before raced against winners or around two turns, it was ultra-impressive how this Street Sense Godolphin homebred settled, wove through the pack, then bounded outside and swooped past seven horses between the three-eighths and quarter poles before opening up big in the stretch under light encouragement. The reason Maxfield isn't ranked higher on the initial Top 12 is because he's recovering from surgery to repair a "mildly displaced" ankle chip, and he's only up to farm training in Ocala right now before a scheduled return to trainer Brendan Walsh's stable at Palm Meadows in several weeks.

**5) AJAAWEED (c, Curlin--Asiya, by Daaher)**

O-Shadwell Stable. B-Shadwell Farm (KY). T-Kiaran McLaughlin. Lifetime Record: GSP, 4-1-1-0, \$119,850.

Last Start: 2nd **GII Remsen S.**, Aqu, Dec. 7

Accomplishments Include: 4th **GI Claiborne Breeders' Futurity**, Kee, Oct. 5

Next Start: Uncommitted.

**Equineline PPs.** KY Derby Points: 5.



Ajaaweed | Chelsea Durand

Ajaaweed's second, beaten only a half-length in the **GII Remsen S.**, rates as one of those sneaky-good performances in which the runner-up ran more impressively than the winner.

On a chilly Dec. 7, the final five races (including four stakes) at Aqueduct were won in wire-to-wire fashion, and this Curlin Shadwell homebred was allowed to settle near the back while wide on both turns behind a tepid tempo. Ajaaweed began to wind up for a serious run 2 1/2 furlongs out, uncoiling with a slow-burning grind before sparking into action when asked to pick up another gear three-sixteenths from home. This colt was the only foe making headway behind a speed-carrying winner who needed to be saved by the wire, and the remainder of the tired field was scattered behind the top two by open lengths.

**6) ANNEAU D'OR (c, Medaglia d'Oro--Walk Close, by Tapit)**

O-Peter Redekop B.C. Ltd. B-Highland Yard (Ky). T-Blaine Wright. Sales History: \$170,000 RNA yrl '18 KEESEP; \$480,000 2yo '19 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: GISP, 3-1-2-0, \$399,000.

Last Start: 2nd **GII Los Alamitos Futurity**, LRC, Dec. 7

Accomplishments Include: 2nd **GI TVG Breeders' Cup Juvenile**

Next Start: Uncommitted.

**Equineline PPs.** KY Derby Points: 12



**Brookdale Foaled, Raised & Sold**



**ALISTAIR RODEN 2 YO Purchase**

After breaking his maiden by eight lengths on the turf at Golden Gate, the connections of Anneau d'Or wanted to take a shot at the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. As a Plan B hedge against getting shut out of that oversubscribed race, the colt was cross-entered in the Juvenile, and this \$480,000 OBSAPR Medaglia d'Oro bay (RNA'd for \$170,000 at KEESEP) ran a surprise second on the dirt at 28-1 despite being three or four paths wide on both turns. In the Los Al Futurity, Anneau d'Or managed to get pocketed in a four-horse field while taking kickback over a sloppy surface, and when he finally tipped out to a clear path and commenced a lumbering run, he got on even terms with (but never passed) number one-ranked Thousand Words. Trainer Blaine Wright told *Horse Racing Nation* that the Feb. 1 Lewis S., the Feb. 15 El Camino Real Derby, and the Mar. 7 San Felipe S. are all possible next-race options, with the Apr. 4 GI Santa Anita Derby a longer-range target.

**7) INDEPENDENCE HALL (c, Constitution--Kalahari Cat, by Cape Town)**

O-Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, Twin Creeks Racing Stables, LLC, Kathleen & Robert Verratti. B-Woodford Thoroughbreds (Ky). T-Michael Trombetta. Sales History: \$100,000 yrl '18 KEESEP; \$200,000 RNA 2yo '19 FTFMAR. Lifetime Record: GSW, 2-2-0-0, \$127,500.

Last Start: 1st **GIII Nashua S.**, AQU, Nov. 3

Next Start: Jerome S., AQU, Jan. 1

**Equineline PPs.** KY Derby Points: 0.

Independence Hall paired a favored, open-lengths winning debut at Parx on the GI Pennsylvania Derby undercard with a gaudy 12 1/2-length dismantling of the GIII Nashua S., so there's a buzz of anticipation to see what he comes up with for an encore in career start number three. We won't have to wait long, because Wednesday he'll headline the one-turn mile Jerome S. at Aqueduct as the heavy favorite against a weak-on-paper crew. This \$100,000 KEESEP Constitution colt (subsequently RNA'd for \$200,000 at FTFMAR after breezing an eighth in :10 2/5) sizzled a 101 Beyer Speed Figure in his stakes coming-out party (at 9-1 odds, no less), making him the only juvenile to crack triple digits on the Beyer scale in 2019.

#### 8) TIZ THE LAW (c, **Constitution--Tizfiz**, by **Tiznow**)

 O-Sackatoga Stable. B-Twin Creeks Farm (NY). T-Barclay Tagg. Sales History: \$110,000 yrl '18 FTNAUG. Lifetime Record: GISW, 3-2-0-1, \$347,000.

Last Start: 3rd GII Kentucky Jockey Club S., CD, Nov. 30

Accomplishments Include: 1st GI Champagne S., BEL, Oct. 5

Next Start: Aiming for the GIII Holy Bull S., GP, Feb. 2

Equineline PPs. KY Derby Points: 12.

#### **Sequel New York graduate**

Tiz the Law closed as the second favorite behind "all other males" in Pool 1 of the Kentucky Derby Future Wager primarily because his horror-trip third in the Kentucky Jockey Club S. was fresh in the minds of bettors. Some handicappers will look at what happened to him in that race--locked, blocked and pocketed, with several momentum stoppages before bulging through too late--and come to the conclusion that this \$110,000 SARAUG Constitution bay would have been much the best under cleaner circumstances. Others will need more convincing. "Tiz" won sprinting in his Saratoga debut against fellow New York-breds. He next jumped up to open company to win the one-turn mile GI Champagne S., a race that also saw him creating and then overcoming his own trouble (repeatedly running up on heels while full of run). One concern is that in both of his stakes tries, Tiz has had his head cocked out to the grandstand and has required fairly busy handling to stay straight and on the correct lead.

#### 9) ANSWER IN (g, **Dialed In--D'ya Knowwhatimean**, by **Broken Vow**)

O-Robert LaPenta & Madaket Stables. B-Glen Oak Farm & Two Stamp Stables (KY). T-Brad Cox. Sales History: \$175,000 wnlg '17 KEENOV. Lifetime Record: SP, 3-1-2-0, \$153,412.

Last Start: 2nd Springboard Mile, RP, Dec. 15

Next Start: Possible for GII Southwest S., OP, Feb. 17

Equineline PPs. KY Derby Points: 4.

This \$175,000 KEENOV Dialed In colt broke his maiden at

second asking by 5 1/4 lengths over seven furlongs, and his two-turn debut was a better-than-it-looks loss as the 3-5 fave in the Springboard Mile S. In that Remington race, Answer In settled in fifth, committed to an inside path 3 1/2 furlongs out, had to tip four wide at the quarter pole, then got caught on the heels of a tiring leader. But he showed zero hesitation when jockey Javier Castellano gunned him down to the rail to try to dive through a narrow passage in deep stretch, losing only by a head.



**Answer In | Coady**

#### 10) STORM THE COURT (c, **Court Vision--My Tejana Storm**, by **Tejano Run**)

 O-Exline-Border Racing LLC, David Bernsen, Susanna Wilson & Dan Hudock. B-Stepping Stone Farm (Ky).

T-Peter Eurton. Sales History: \$5,000 yrl '18 FTKFEB; \$60,000 2yo '19 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: GISW, 4-2-0-1, \$1,172,951.

Last Start: 1st GI TVG Breeders' Cup Juvenile, SA, Nov. 1

Next Start: Uncommitted.

Equineline PPs. KY Derby Points: 22.

#### **Foaled & Raised at Phoenix Farm Congrats to Stepping Stone Farm**

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#### **THOROSTRIDE -featured horse**

There's no getting around it: Storm the Court's blinkers-on, wire-to-wire 45-1 shocker capped the most perplexing and confounding edition of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile in its 35 runnings. Perhaps a silver lining for the colt's Derby development will be that because so many people regard his performance as a fluke, this \$60,000 OBSAPR Court Vision bay (bought for \$5,000 as a FTKFEB yearling) won't be saddled with the usual high-pressure expectations that come with winning that race. *Cont. p14*

The Juvenile was beset by no-shows: The third-favorite on the morning line scratched three days before race, the second fave in the betting ran a dull sixth, and the odds-on choice stumbled out of the gate and finished dead last. But still, Storm the Court won the internal Juvenile pace battle and had enough left to prevail in a slugfest stretch drive. His connections are considering--but not limiting their options to--the winter Derby preps at Santa Anita.

### **11) SOUTH BEND (c, *Algorithms*--*Sandra's Rose*, by *Old Trieste*)**

 O-Sagamore Farm. B-Highclere, Inc. (Ky). T-Stanley Hough. Sales History: \$47,000 RNA yrl '18 FTKJUL; \$70,000 2yo '19 OBSMAR. Lifetime Record: SW, 4-3-0-0, \$174,504.

Last Start: 6th *GII Kentucky Jockey Club S.*, CD, Nov. 30.

Accomplishments Include: 1st *Street Sense S.*, CD, Oct. 27

Next Start: Possible for Mucho Macho Man S., GP, Jan. 4

**Equineline PPs.** KY Derby Points: 0.

 **Pick View LLC Graduate**   
 **Another Yearling Graduate from Stuart Morris, Agent**

South Bend started a perfect three-for-three in one-turn races, but he threw in a blah sixth as the humbled fave in the GII Kentucky Jockey Club S. That race was run over a sealed, sloppy track under the Churchill lights, and it was the first two-turn try for this \$70,000 OBSMAR Algorithms bay (RNA'd for \$47,000 at FTKJUL). But South Bend's one-length win in the Oct. 27 Street Sense S. is quite a bit more encouraging. He stalked while covered up at the rail, lost several positions on the turn, got bottled up behind traffic, then tipped out to punch home with a nice run. The final time was only a hundredth of a second off McCracken's stakes record set in 2016, and the third- and fourth-place finishers both won Grade II stakes in their next starts.



**South Bend | Coady**

### **12) SILVER PROSPECTOR (c, *Declaration of War*--*Tap Softly*, by *Tapit*)**

O-Ed & Susie Orr. B-Hargus & Sandra Sexton & Silver Fern Farm LLC (Ky). T-Steve Asmussen. Sales History: \$50,000 yrl '18 KEESEP; \$190,000 2yo '19 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: GSW, 6-2-0-2, \$255,551.

Last Start: 1st *GII Kentucky Jockey Club S.*, CD, Nov. 30

Next Start: Uncommitted.

**Equineline PPs.** KY Derby Points: 10.

This Declaration of War \$50,000 KEESEP pinhook who resold for \$190,000 at OBSAPR has made a respectable turf-to-dirt transition after requiring four starts to break his maiden. The crowning achievement of his juvenile season was a three-quarter length win in the Kentucky Jockey Club S. over a sloppy/sealed surface. Silver Prospector rated comfortably in fifth for most of that trip before commencing a steady grind 3 1/2 furlongs out, but he did require assertive handling from jockey Ricardo Santana, Jr. to nail a three-way photo with an 87-1 runner-up and the trip-troubled Tiz the Law. The gray is stabled at Fair Grounds, with next-race plans yet to be disclosed.

### **On the Bubble: (in alphabetical order)**

**Chance It** (*Currency Swap*): Has roughed up Florida sire stakes competition and looms as home-court fave in Saturday's Mucho Macho Man S.

**High Velocity** (*Quality Road*): Didn't give up without a fight against Thousand Words in the Los Al Futurity.

**Scabbard** (*More Than Ready*): Fourth-place colt from BC Juvenile now breezing at Palm Meadows.

**Shoplifted** (*Into Mischief*): '*TDN Rising Star*' is the only BC Juvenile participant so far to come back and win; took overland route home in Springboard Mile.

**Shotski** (*Blame*): Wired Remsen field over nine furlongs, aiming for either GIII Lecomte S. at Fair Grounds or GIII Withers S. at Aqueduct. *Click here to visit our top Kentucky Derby contenders page.*

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## **TAA ELECTS PHILLIPS PRESIDENT, THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

The Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance board of directors elected John Phillips as its President for the 2020 term and elected three new board members at its meeting Dec. 30. Phillips, owner of Darby Dan Farm, served as TAA President in 2018. He has been a member of the TAA board since 2016.

"The TAA is dedicated to protecting our sport by caring for its equine athletes once their racing careers are over," Phillips said. "I am honored to serve the TAA. It is my way of giving thanks to the equines that have given me and my family so much."

Mike Meuser, managing director at Miller, Griffin & Marks, PSC, who served as President for the 2019 term, will remain on the TAA's board and executive committee for 2020 as Immediate Past President. Meuser previously served as the TAA's Vice President and Secretary and was one of the TAA's founding board members.

"We are pleased that John Phillips has agreed to serve another year as TAA President, as we build a foundation of highly talented successor board members to assume leadership of the organization for years to come," Meuser said. "This is a very strong board that has the skills and focus to keep building sustainable funding for the TAA's future."

Phillips and Meuser are joined on the executive committee by TAA Vice President Craig Bandoroff, owner of Denali Stud; TAA Treasurer Jen Shah, director of tax services at Dean Dorton; and TAA Secretary Walter Robertson, attorney at Stites & Harbison.

The TAA rotates its board of directors and its executive officers. The new board members beginning service in 2020 are: John Keitt, CEO and Publisher of *BloodHorse*; Josh Rubinstein, President of Del Mar Thoroughbred Club; and Richard Schosberg, multiple Grade I-winning trainer and chair of the aftercare committee of the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. They join current TAA board members: Boyd Browning, Brian Graves, Case Clay, Chip McGaughey, David O'Farrell, Donna Brothers, Dora Delgado, James Gagliano, Jeffrey Bloom, Martin Panza, Nicole Walker, Simon Bray, Susie Hart, Tom Ventura, and Yvonne Schwabe.

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#### THIS DATE IN HISTORY:

**December 31, 1966**...Buckpasser won the 13th consecutive race of his 3-year-old campaign, taking the Malibu S. at Santa Anita Park. He was voted Horse of the Year and champion 3-year-old and handicap horse.

**December 31, 1989**...Jockey Pat Day edged Angel Cordero Jr. as the year's leading jockey by just two wins after chartering a plane to Louisiana and riding Dana's Woof Woof and Miltons Magic to victory during the evening program at Delta Downs. Day won the title--his first--with 399 wins to Cordero's 397.

**December 31, 1989**...Jockey Kent Desormeaux set a world record for the most wins in a single season, 598, riding East Royalty to victory in the Inner Harbor S. at Laurel. He surpassed the old mark, set by Chris McCarron, by 52 wins.

**December 31, 1993**...Jockey Mike Smith set the record for the most stakes victories in a single year, 62, with a win aboard Bit of Puddin in the Bertram F. Bongard S. at Aqueduct.

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**Wednesday, Santa Anita, post time: 6:00 p.m. EST****JOE HERNANDEZ S.-GII, \$200,000, 4yo/up, 5 1/2FT**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Tribalist	Tribal Rule	Abrams, Robert, Dutko, Mitchell and Paran, Michael	Heap	Fuentes	120
2	Double Touch (GB)	Dutch Art (GB)	Hronis Racing LLC	Sadler	Espinoza	120
3	Grinning Tiger	Smiling Tiger	Tyree J. Wolesensky	Saavedra	Valdivia, Jr.	120
4	Texas Wedge	Colonel John	Altamira Racing Stable, Rafter JR Ranch LLC, STD Racing Stable and Miller, A.	Miller	Prat	120
5	Oiseau de Guerre	War Front	Head of Plains Partners LLC and Bligh, Jay W.	McCarthy	Franco	120
6	True Valour (Ire)	Kodiac (GB)	Simon Callaghan	Callaghan	Van Dyke	124
7	Captain Scotty	Quality Road	Wachtel Stable and Barber, Gary	Miller	Rosario	120
8	Legends of War	Scat Daddy	C T R Stables, Qatar Racing Limited & Keh, Steven	O'Neill	Cedillo	122
9	Blitzkrieg	War Front	R3 Racing LLC and Calara Farms	O'Neill	Bejarano	122
10	Carnivorous	Square Eddie	Thomsen Racing, LLC	Knapp	Gutierrez	120
11	Bay Muzik	Maclean's Music	Scott Herbertson	Herbertson	Baze	120

**Breeders:** 1-Dutko & Abrams, 2-Honeypuddle Stud, 3-Patrick Cosgrove, 4-Nancy Shuford, 5-Jay W. Bligh, 6-Mr P. O'Rourke, 7-John R. Mulholland & Martha Jane Mulholland, 8-DP Racing, 9-Ramona S. Bass, LLC., 10-Reddam Racing, LLC, 11-Barak Farm



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WATCH



# NORTH AMERICAN RACING



Tuesday, December 31, 2019



## ALLOWANCES

### IN ORDER OF PURSE:

**6th-Aqueduct, \$75,563, Alw (NW2\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$62,500), 12-30, 3yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f, 1:17.58, sy.**  
**ALISIO (f, 3, Ghostzapper--Sahara Wind, by A.P. Indy)** was a three-length winner over this track and trip last time out Nov. 15. The prohibitive 2-5 favorite chased the pacesetters through an opening quarter in :23.54, she spurted into contention nearing the stretch through a half in :47.53 and motored clear down the lane to score by 13 1/4 lengths. Posse Needed (Caleb's Posse) was second. Sahara Wind, in foal to Street Boss, sold for \$160,000 at the 2017 Keeneland November sale. Her Street Boss filly RNA'd for \$147,000 at this year's Fasig-Tipton July sale. The mare, a half-sister to multiple Grade I winner Better Lucky (Ghostzapper), was bred to Candy Ride (Arg) this year. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** Lifetime Record: 8-3-3-1, \$181,123. O/B-Godolphin (KY); T-Kiaran P. McLaughlin.

**9th-Santa Anita, \$58,404, Alw (NW1\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$40,000), 12-29, 3yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f, 1:16.78, ft.**

**INTO CHOCOLATE (f, 3, Into Mischief--Candy Drawer, by Candy Ride {Arg})**, third in the Aug. 17 GIII Torrey Pines S., was well beaten while trying the turf in an Oct. 4 optional claimer and returned to the main track to be fourth after a stumbling start and a wide trip at this distance at Del Mar Nov. 23. The 5-1 shot settled off the pace through a quarter in :22.04. She made rapid progress on the turn, came four wide into the stretch and powered to the lead with a furlong to run and held on to win by a half-length. Eternal Endeavour (GB) (Mayson {GB}) was second. Candy Drawer, a half-sister to multiple Grade I winner Harmonious (Dynaformer), produced a colt by Union Rags this year and was bred back to Quality Road. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

Lifetime Record: GSP, 7-2-1-2, \$108,131.

O/B-Pam & Martin Wygod (KY); T-Clifford W. Sise, Jr.



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## MAIDENS

### IN ORDER OF PURSE:

**3rd-Aqueduct, \$68,000, Msw, 12-30, 3yo/up, 1m, 1:38.94, sy.**  
**HIGH AMPLITUDE (g, 3, Bernardini--Lady On Holiday {SP, \$145,452}, by Harlan's Holiday)** was a distant second behind 'TDN Rising Star' Hidden Scroll (Hard Spun) in his Jan. 26 unveiling at Gulfstream last January and was last seen finishing third in a 1 1/16-mile maiden special weight in Hallandale Mar. 2. The 3-2 second choice set the pace through a quarter in :23.45 and a half in :47.69 with 4-5 favorite One Eyed Jack (Uncle Mo) in close attendance. He began inching clear leaving the backstretch and splashed home an easy 12 1/4-length winner. Road Home (Quality Road) was second and One Eyed Jack faded to fourth. Longshot Mucho Sunshine (Mucho Macho Man) spooked shortly after the start, swerving sharply and hitting the rail, but was able to walk off. High Amplitude was a \$110,000 KEESEP yearling. Lady on Holiday produced a colt by Orb in 2018 and a colt by Golden Ticket this year before being bred back to Dialed In. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-1, \$51,770.

O-Klaravich Stables, Inc.; B-Nordic Thoroughbreds & Godolphin (KY); T-Chad C. Brown.



## TAYLOR MADE FOR YOU!

**5th-Parx Racing, \$46,250, Msw, 12-30, 2yo, f, 6f, 1:13.60, sy.**  
**IT'S SO EASY (f, 2, Raison d'Etat--Heavenly Ransom {GSW, \$181,720}, by Red Ransom)**, a \$1,000 KEESEP yearling, was dismissed at 12-1 in this debut. Outfooted in the early going, the bay filly raced at the back of the field before improving her position down the backstretch. She scampered up into contention on the turn and grabbed command at the top of the stretch before striding clear to win by five lengths. Helene Jacqueline (Central Banker) was second. Graded stakes winner Heavenly Ransom, in foal to English Channel, sold for \$10,000 at last month's Keeneland November sale. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$27,000.

O-Silver Trail Stables LLC; B-Calumet Farm (KY); T-Daniel Velazquez.



## AMERICAN-BRED WINNERS ABROAD

### IN SOUTH KOREA:

**Nice Chance**, g, 2, **Declaration of War**--Overly Tempting (GISP, \$207,471), by In Excess (Ire). Busan, 12-28, Hcp. (\$65k), 1300m. B-Liberty Road Stables (KY). \*1ST TIME STARTER. \*\*Graduated by two lengths at first asking as the 4-5 chalk. \*\*\*1/2 to A Lot (Tapit), MSW & GISP, \$475,440. \*\*\*\*\$145,000 RNA Ylg '18 KEESEP; \$75,000 2yo '19 OBSJUN.

**Fantastic Road**, c, 2, **Elusive Quality**--Im Cruising Dixie, by Dixie Union. Busan, 12-29, Hcp. (\$52k), 1000m. B-Ivy Lane Farm LLC & Godolphin (KY). \*Won by five lengths as the 3-10 favorite. \*\*1/2 to Mezzano (Mizzen Mast), MSP, \$279,812. \*\*\*\$42,000 Ylg '18 KEESEP; \$60,000 2yo '19 OBSAPR.

 Raised & Sold by Mulholland Springs 

### IN PERU:

**Birdie Queen**, f, 4, **First Samurai**--Singitnsignit (GB), by Singspiel (Ire). Monterrico, 12-29, Clasico Concejo Distrital de Santiago de Surco (NBT), 1500m. B-Teneri Farm Inc (KY). \*Won by 6 1/2 lengths. \*\*\$10,000 Ylg '16 KEESEP. [VIDEO](#)

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## FIRST & SECOND-CROP RUNNERS

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### FIRST-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: TUESDAY, DEC. 31

**Bayern** (Offlee Wild), Hill 'n' Dale Farms, \$15,000  
95 foals of racing age/23 winners/0 black-type winners  
5-Sunland, Alw 6f, OLD TRAFFORD, 4-1

**Carpe Diem** (Giant's Causeway), WinStar Farm, \$25,000  
124 foals of racing age/16 winners/1 black-type winner  
3-Aqueduct, Msw 1 1/8m, FIAT LUX, 8-1  
\$30,000 OBS OCT yrl; \$90,000 EAS MAY 2yo

**Competitive Edge** (Super Saver), Ashford Stud, \$7,500  
111 foals of racing age/26 winners/4 black-type winners  
5-Sunland, Alw 6f, COMPETITIVE IDEA, 8-5

**Conveyance** (Indian Charlie), Buck Pond Farm, \$5,000  
41 foals of racing age/5 winners/0 black-type winners  
6-Turfway, Aoc 1m, PLEASE THE COURT, 10-1  
\$3,000 FTK OCT yrl; \$15,000 OBS OPN 2yo

**Danza** (Street Boss), Fair Winds Farm, \$3,500  
91 foals of racing age/11 winners/0 black-type winners  
4-Turfway, Msw 6 1/2f, WHISKEY CHASER, 20-1  
\$61,000 KEE SEP yrl

**Lea** (First Samurai), Claiborne Farm, \$7,500  
72 foals of racing age/8 winners/2 black-type winners  
6-Turfway, Aoc 1m, GLASS EATER, 12-1  
\$27,000 RNA KEE NOV wnl; \$50,000 KEE SEP yrl

**Secret Circle** (Eddington), Hill 'n' Dale Farms, \$5,000  
45 foals of racing age/10 winners/0 black-type winners  
8-Sunland, Alw 6f, MISS HIGH HEELS, 5-2  
\$3,000 KEE SEP yrl

**Tonalist** (Tapit), Lane's End Farm, \$15,000  
97 foals of racing age/16 winners/1 black-type winner  
3-Aqueduct, Msw 1 1/8m, COWTOWN, 6-1  
\$260,000 KEE SEP yrl

**Wicked Strong** (Hard Spun), Spendthrift Farm, \$7,500  
130 foals of racing age/26 winners/1 black-type winner  
6-Turfway, Aoc 1m, ARTEMUS EAGLE, 7-2



  
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# ADDITIONAL RACING

## ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

**7th-Aqueduct, \$88,622,** (S), 12-30, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11.59, sy.

**SICILIA MIKE (g, 5, Girolamo--Song of Broadway, by Tiznow)**

Lifetime Record: 47-4-16-9, \$462,786. O-Yellow Moon Stable, John Novello & Richard Kwiecinski; B-Linda Rice & Antonio Miuccio (NY); T-Gary Sciacca. \*\$7,000 2yo '16 OBSOPN.

**10th-Santa Anita, \$68,664,** (NW1\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$40,000), 12-29, 3yo/up, 5 1/2ft, 1:02.55, gd.

**PRODIGAL SON (g, 3, Square Eddie--Stretchinthelimits, by In Excess {Ire})** Lifetime Record: 11-3-1-1, \$155,974. O/B-Reddam Racing, LLC (CA); T-Doug F. O'Neill.

**7th-Parx Racing, \$57,040,** (NW1\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 12-30, 2yo, 6f, 1:12.49, sy.

**JOHNNY RITT (g, 2, Weigelia--C J's Little Girl, by Attorney)**

Lifetime Record: 7-2-1-1, \$88,250. O-Cash is King LLC and LC Racing LLC; B-Barbara Wheeler (PA); T-Robert E. Reid, Jr. \*\$17,000 Ylg '18 EASOCT.

**9th-Golden Gate Fields, \$40,084,** 12-29, (NW1\$X), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m (AWT), 1:38.37, ft.

**CASINO GAMES (f, 3, Indian Evening--Shes a Lucky Wager**

**{MSP, \$347,880}, by Valid Wager)** Lifetime Record: 11-4-3-0, \$85,898. O-Victory Rose Thoroughbreds, Inc.; B-Victory Rose Thoroughbreds, Inc. & KMN Racing (CA); T-Ellen L. Jackson.

**8th-Golden Gate Fields, \$35,320,** (NW1\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$40,000), 12-29, 2yo, 6f (AWT), 1:10.67, ft.

**LITTLE CENTS (c, 2, Goldencents--Chasing Lightning, by Belong to Me)** Lifetime Record: 7-3-2-1, \$63,340. O-John Battle; B-Brandywine Farm (Jim & Pam Robinson) (KY); T-Bill McLean. \*\$25,000 Ylg '18 KEESEP. \*\*1/2 to Lovely Daniella (Gold Token), SW, \$171,942.

 **BRED, FOALD & RAISED at Brandywine Farm (Jim & Pam Robinson)**

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**High Amplitude (Bernardini) romps home to graduate at Aqueduct Monday.**

## ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

**Prince de Prince, g, 2, Fullbridled--Iforgottobeme, by Free At Last.** Golden Gate Fields, 12-29, (S), 6f (AWT), 1:10.89. B-Remmah Racing Inc. (CA).

**Magnetique, f, 2, Normandy Invasion--Als Delight (SP, \$113,818), by Wayne County (Ire).** Aqueduct, 12-30, (S), (C), 7f, 1:28.03. B-Fountain Spring Stable & Donna Sammons (NY). \*\$27,000 Wlg '17 FTNMIX; \$47,000 RNA Ylg '18 SARAUG; \$25,000 Ylg '18 FTKOCT; \$85,000 2yo '19 EASMAY. \*\*1/2 to Extinct Charm (American Lion), SW & GSP, \$368,500. \*\*\*Fourth winner for freshman sire (by Tapit).

**Lovely Lady Linda, f, 2, Western Pride--Shanghai Princess, by Private Vow.** Mahoning Valley, 12-30, (S), 6f, 1:15.85. B-Stephen Reed, Brett Woodie & Robert C. Cline (OH).

**Wild Boar, g, 3, Tale of the Cat--Riolama, by Unbridled's Song.** Aqueduct, 12-30, (S), (C), 7f, 1:27.38. B-Gallagher's Stud (NY). \*\$170,000 Ylg '17 SARAUG.



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# ALL TDN WINNERS BY SIRE

- BERNARDINI**, High Amplitude, g, 3, o/o Lady On Holiday, by Harlan's Holiday. MSW, 12-30, Aqueduct
- FULLBRIDLED**, Prince de Prince, g, 2, o/o Iforgottobeme, by Free At Last. MSW, 12-29, Golden Gate
- GHOSTZAPPER**, Alisio, f, 3, o/o Sahara Wind, by A.P. Indy. AOC, 12-30, Aqueduct
- GIROLAMO**, Sicilia Mike, g, 5, o/o Song of Broadway, by Tiznow. ALW, 12-30, Aqueduct
- GOLDENCENTS**, Little Cents, c, 2, o/o Chasing Lightning, by Belong to Me. AOC, 12-29, Golden Gate
- INDIAN EVENING**, Casino Games, f, 3, o/o Shes a Lucky Wager, by Valid Wager. ALW, 12-29, Golden Gate
- INTO MISCHIEF**, Into Chocolate, f, 3, o/o Candy Drawer, by Candy Ride (Arg). AOC, 12-29, Santa Anita
- NORMANDY INVASION**, Magnetique, f, 2, o/o Als Delight, by Wayne County (Ire). MCL, 12-30, Aqueduct
- RAISON D'ETAT**, It's So Easy, f, 2, o/o Heavenly Ransom, by Red Ransom. MSW, 12-30, Parx Racing
- SQUARE EDDIE**, Prodigal Son, g, 3, o/o Stretchinthelimits, by In Excess (Ire). AOC, 12-29, Santa Anita
- TALE OF THE CAT**, Wild Boar, g, 3, o/o Riolama, by Unbridled's Song. MCL, 12-30, Aqueduct
- WEIGELIA**, Johnny Ritt, g, 2, o/o C J's Little Girl, by Attorney. AOC, 12-30, Parx Racing
- WESTERN PRIDE**, Lovely Lady Linda, f, 2, o/o Shanghai Princess, by Private Vow. MSW, 12-30, Mahoning Valley

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New York Thoroughbred Breeders' annual stallion season auction, to be held on [Starquine.com](http://Starquine.com) from Tuesday, January 14 to Thursday, January 16.

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## Kentucky Stallions:

Algorithms | Always Dreaming | Anchor Down | Astern (AUS)  
Bee Jersey | Commissioner | Enticed | Good Samaritan | Gormley  
Ironicus | Klimt | Lea | Midshipman | Oxbow | Palace | Sharp Azteca  
Tale of Ekati | Wicked Strong

## New York Stallions:

A Shin Forward | Bellamy Road | Big Brown | Bustin Stones  
Central Banker | Courageous Cat | Desert Party | Destin  
Disco Partner | Dr Large | Frank Conversation | Freud | Frost Giant  
Giant Surprise | Laoban | Leofric | Majestic City | Market Rally  
Micromanage | Mission Impazible | Redesdale | Teuflesberg  
Union Jackson | War Dancer | Weekend Hideaway

## Florida Stallions:

First Dude



## A STUDY IN EXPERIENCE



Landwades Stud welcomes  
Classic winner Study Of Man for 2020

By Emma Berry

It has been a year of ups and downs among the Japanese stallion ranks. The country lost its flagship stallion, Deep Impact (Jpn), on July 30 at the age of 17, and a fortnight later another stalwart of the Shadai Stallion Station, King Kamehameha (Jpn), died at 18. But it has also been a year when the offspring of that duo's fellow Shadai incumbents have come to the fore internationally. Heart's Cry (Jpn), like Deep Impact a son of Sunday Silence, is responsible for the G1 Cox Plate winner Lys Gracieux (Jpn), who followed up her Australian success with a scintillating display in last week's G1 Arima Kinen. The King Kamehameha stallions Rulership (Jpn) and Lord Kanaloa (Jpn) have, respectively, provided G1 Caulfield Cup winner Mer De Glace (Jpn) and Almond Eye (Jpn), winner of the G1 Dubai Turf and G1 Autumn Tenno Sho. Meanwhile, G1 Nassau S. winner Deirdre (Jpn) is a daughter of Harbinger (GB), who is about to embark on his tenth season at Shadai.

While this has truly been an annus mirabilis for Japanese-bred horses overseas, the success of the country's breeding programme, and the dominance of Deep Impact in particular, has hardly been a secret in the bloodstock world before now. And in recent years, a number of European breeders with the means to do so were understandably eager to use Japan's multiple champion sire.

The Wildenstein family was rewarded with the G1 Poule d'Essai des Poulches winner Beauty Parlour (GB), who is now among Peter Brant's White Birch Farm broodmare band

following her €1.6 million purchase in 2016. Further European Classic success for Deep Impact came last year with the 2000 Guineas winner Saxon Warrior (Jpn), who is about to start his second season at Coolmore Stud, while Lanwades Stud welcomes the Niarchos family's G1 Prix du Jockey Club winner Study Of Man (Ire) to its stallion roster for 2020.

For Kirsten Rausing, this is not just a chance to stand a young stallion with a mouth-watering pedigree but also, as she celebrates her 40th anniversary at Lanwades, it represents the renewal of a longstanding association with Study Of Man's breeders and the second time a Niarchos-bred French Classic winner has been retired to the Newmarket farm.

"The first stallion I had here was Niniski, and he was syndicated by the British Bloodstock Agency," says Rausing. "The late Mr. Stavros Niarchos took a share in the horse, from which share he eventually bred the very good French Derby winner, Hernando (Fr), who himself became a stallion here at Lanwades. In fact, there are long ties of friendship and professional association."

Of course, when it comes to breeding, there are two halves to every pedigree and, as desirable as his sireline may be, every bit as appealing is the bottom half of Study Of Man's pedigree. His dam Second Happiness placed just once in three starts but she is a Storm Cat half-sister to Kingmambo and thus a daughter of the champion Miesque. In recent years, different branches of the Miesque family have also been responsible for the Group/Grade 1 winners Alpha Centauri (Ire) (Mastercraftsman {Ire}), Karakontie (Bernstein), Rumplestiltskin (Ire) (Danehill) and Tapestry (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}).

"It is an absolutely marvellous family and, I'm sure we all agree, one of the very best in the stud book," Rausing says. "Study Of Man's grandam Miesque, of course herself a winner of no less than 10 Group 1 races, but also dam of two Classic winners-Kingmambo and East Of The Moon-and now ancestress also of the up-and-coming Karakontie, a very exciting first-season sire standing in Kentucky, but with very significant results in Europe with his first crop of 2-year-olds this year. It's a very live and developing family, of which of course Miesque is the shining star, and I am so thrilled to be associated with it."

## IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

### MGRATH TALKS INTO MISCHIEF

Chris McGrath delves into the dominance of Spendthrift's Into Mischief and the man behind the stalwart stallion, B. Wayne Hughes. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

A Study in Experience cont. from p1



**Study of Man | ScoopDyga**

As if such ties needed bolstering, extra encouragement can be found in the fact that two of the top three first-season sires in Japan in 2019 are sons of Deep Impact, with the champion freshman, Kizuna (Jpn), bred on the same Storm Cat cross as Study Of Man.

Rausing of course supports her stallions well with her own broodmare band, as do the owners of the horses she stands. It was notable that at the recent stallion parade at the stud during the Tattersalls December Sale, not only was the Niarchos family's racing manager Alan Cooper present, but so were Heike Bischoff and Niko Lafrentz, owner-breeders of exciting young Lanwades sire Sea The Moon (Ger), and Victoria and Anthony Pakenham, owners of the Derby winner Sir Percy (GB). The quartet of stallions in residence is completed by GI Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint winner Bobby's Kitten. Following the sad death of Roaring Lion and the departure of Hawkbill to Japan, he is the only son of leading American sire Kitten's Joy standing in Britain and will be represented by his first 2-year-old runners in 2020. Rausing says, "We are very proud of having three Derby winners here: Sir Percy, Sea The Moon and now of course Study Of Man. I was most fortunate to have the late Archipenko here, a very well-bred horse by Kingmambo out of Bound, by Nijinsky, and he was a good racehorse himself. I think he exceeded many a spectator's expectations by what he managed to do in a relatively brief stud career. He unfortunately died early from leukaemia and so we miss him greatly, but he gave us three Group 1 winners, each one of whom was inbred to the great mare Special, and now we have quite a few daughters of Archipenko at stud here. I'm looking forward to breeding them to Study Of Man and getting a bit of inbreeding to Miesque."

## The top two juvenile fillies in Europe are by Coolmore Sires!

Rk	HORSE	SIRE	OFFICIAL RATING
1	Millisle	<b>STARSPANGLEDBANNER</b>	115
2	Albigna	<b>ZOFFANY</b>	114
3	Quadrilateral	Frankel	113
-	Raffle Prize	Slade Power	113

**Both sires have their biggest and best crops to run in 2020. Both great value at €22,500.**

Millisle (**STARSPANGLEDBANNER**) wins the **Gr.1 Cheveley Park Stakes** at Newmarket in record time for Jessica Harrington & owner/breeders Stonethorn Stud Farms Ltd



Albigna (**ZOFFANY**) draws clear to win the **Gr.1 Prix Marcel Boussac** at ParisLongchamp for Jessica Harrington & owner/breeders the Niarchos Family

**COOLMORE**



**Kirsten Rausing & Study Of Man | Lanwades Stud**

There is clearly much to look forward to for the team at Lanwades, and with a significant anniversary to celebrate in 2020, there is also much upon which to reflect. Rausing's many roles within the breeding industry during that time—including as chairman of the TBA and EFTBA—as well as being a breeder of more than 100 black-type winners, make her something of a pioneer among women in the world of bloodstock. Born in Sweden, she spent an informative chapter of her life in Ireland working for the late Captain Tim Rogers of Airlie Stud, himself a notable trailblazer in the modern-day stallion business.

"I cannot underestimate the extraordinarily important influence Captain Rogers would have on my own life," she recalled recently in an interview with the Bloodstock Notebook. And it was of course through the Airlie connection that Rausing came to buy from the Aga Khan Studs the most influential matriarch of her broodmare band, Alruccaba (GB), in partnership with Sonia Rogers. From this inspired purchase has sprung a stream of successful racehorses which flows still and includes Alyssa (GB) (Sir Percy {GB}) and Algometer (GB) (Archipenko), two recent group winners in the white and green hoops.

One might well imagine that Rausing would first nominate an esteemed member of this dynasty, her dual Champion S. heroine Alborada (GB) (Alzao), as her proudest achievement as a breeder. But it is in fact another grey, Kala Dancer (GB), who is offered up as the recipient of this distinction.

"He was one of five yearlings that I had that year [1983]," she says. "They were the first yearlings conceived during my time at Lanwades and I had four colts and a filly. We had two Niniski colts from his first crop of 27 live foals and myself and my then stud groom Jim Lilley, we did the yearlings, and I remember walking this grey colt and Jim walked a bay colt.

"We were walking into the wind, and it's quite difficult to speak because you're walking quite as fast as you can, and Jim

said, 'I like this colt, I think he'll be good,' and I shouted back at him, 'yes, I'm sure you're right but I like the grey. I think he could be nice too!'"

That bay and grey went on to be known as Petoski (GB) and Kala Dancer, each of whom played a significant role in ensuring an important first-season sire championship for Niniski in the early days of Rausing's tenure at Lanwades. Petoski's juvenile victory in the G3 Lanson Champagne S. at Glorious Goodwood was later augmented by his victory over Oh So Sharp (GB) and Rainbow Quest in the G1 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth S. Meanwhile the G1 Dewhurst S. winner Kala Dancer went on to stud in Australia, where he sired one of the country's most beloved horses, the Melbourne Cup winner Subzero (Aus), who still plays an important ambassadorial role at the age of 31.

"[Kala Dancer] was certainly my first Group, 1 winner, but he was also the horse that put Lanwades on the map and certainly made Niniski champion first-season sire. So I think from that point of view, Kala Dancer was for me a wonderful horse." The stallion master's instincts of Captain Rogers have clearly been well learned over the years and for someone with Rausing's nous, blood will always out when it comes to selecting the right horse to stand at stud.

"Obviously in an optimum situation, one looks for a combination of all factors, but I'm operating under certain budgetary restrictions. One often has to give on something and I have to say that the thing I would find most difficult to give on is pedigree," she says.

"You may be able to accept conformational defects in some of them, not all of them, but it's very difficult to make a case for a horse with a very, very light pedigree, even should he have exceptionally good racing results. It's just my experience, but I feel that horses breed true to their pedigrees rather than maybe their racing performances. But there's always the odd exception to every rule."



**Miesque | Racing Post**

It may be "just" her experience, but an amalgamation of knowledge gleaned over four decades at the helm of her own operation, not just in dealing with fellow breeders but also in applying it to the Lanwades broodmare band, should not go unconsidered. And it is an instinct that bodes well for stud's newest stallion.

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## EUROPEAN NEWS

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### CHAMPION ERASMUS TO STAND AT HARAS DES FONTAINES IN 2020

German champion 2-year-old colt **Erasmus (Ger)** (Reliable Man {GB}—Enora {GB}, by Noverre), a runaway winner of the 2017 G3 Preis der Winterfavoriten, will take up stud duty at the Haras des Fontaines, near Pau in the South West of France, in 2020. Erasmus will stand for €1,900. Bred by Gestut Roettgen and trained by Markus Klug, the colt was third in his career debut at

Dusseldorf before annexing a 1,600-metre maiden event. In what would be his career finale, he took the 1,600-meter Winterfavoriten by eight lengths and was preparing for his 3-year-old return when sustaining a sesamoid fracture during a routine morning gallop early in the season.

The colt is out of Enora, a winner of the G1 Preis der Diana and one of 10 winners and five black-type winners produced by Enrica (GB). She is a half-sister to the Group 2 winner and Group 1-placed Egerton (Ger) (Groom Dancer), group winner Ephraim (GB) (Rail Link {GB}) and stakes winners Ephigenie (Ire) (Groom Dancer) and Ernesto (Ger) (Reliable Man {GB}).

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## FIRST-SEASON SIRES WITH RUNNERS

Tuesday, December 31, 2019:

### UNITED KINGDOM

**Due Diligence** (War Front), Whitsbury Manor Stud  
85 foals of racing age/19 winners/3 black-type winners  
14:10-LINGFIELD PARK, 7f, GOOD TIME CHARLIE (GB)  
30,000gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2017; £35,000 Goffs UK Premier & Silver Yearling Sale 2018

**Fountain of Youth (Ire)** (Oasis Dream {GB}), Bearstone Stud  
71 foals of racing age/5 winners/0 black-type winners  
14:10-LINGFIELD PARK, 7f, GOLDEN FOUNTAIN (Ire)  
£18,000 Goffs UK Premier & Silver Yearling Sale 2018

**Fulbright (GB)** (Exceed And Excel {Aus}), Kildangan Stud  
37 foals of racing age/2 winners/0 black-type winners  
14:10-LINGFIELD PARK, 7f, VARIOUS (Ire)  
£16,000 Goffs UK Premier & Silver Yearling Sale 2018

**Golden Horn (GB)** (Cape Cross {Ire}), Dalham Hall Stud  
98 foals of racing age/8 winners/2 black-type winners  
12:35-LINGFIELD PARK, 8f, ST JUST (GB)  
40,000gns Tattersalls December Yearlings Sale 2018

**Gutaifan (Ire)** (Dark Angel {Ire}), Yeomanstown Stud  
166 foals of racing age/30 winners/0 black-type winners  
14:10-LINGFIELD PARK, 7f, COCONUT SUGAR (Ire)  
7,500gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2017; 12,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale 2018 - Book 3  
14:10-LINGFIELD PARK, 7f, NEW ARRIVAL (Ire)  
19,000gns RNA Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2017; 4,500gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale 2018 - Book 3



Gutaifan (Ire) | Yeomanstown Stud

**Make Believe (GB)** (Makfi {GB}), Ballylinch Stud  
87 foals of racing age/16 winners/3 black-type winners  
12:35-LINGFIELD PARK, 8f, SARACEN STAR (GB)

## BRITAIN



### ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

**Exmoor Beast (GB)**, g, 3, **Sepoy (Aus)**--Junket (GB), by Medicean (GB). Lingfield, 12-30, 10f (AWT), 2:04.40. B-Strawberry Fields Stud (GB). \*18,000gns Wlg '16 TATFOA; 22,000gns Ylg '17 TAOCT.

## FRANCE



### CONDITIONS RESULTS:

**5th-Deauville**, €35,000, Cond, 12-30, 3yo, 9 1/2f (AWT), 1:57.99, st.  
**KIEV (FR)** (g, 3, **Olympic Glory (Ire)**--**Lunashkaya (GB)**, by **Muhtathir (GB)**) Lifetime Record: 13-2-3-2, €55,150. O-Ecurie Five, Etienne Leenders & Gregoire Leenders; B-Alain Jathiere (FR); T-Etienne & Gregoire Leenders. \*1/2 to Moskova (Fr) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), SP-Fr.

**3rd-Marseille-Pont de Vivaux**, €15,000, Cond, 12-30, 3yo, 7 1/2f (AWT), 1:29.05, st.

**HIGH CLIFF (FR)** (f, 3, **French Fifteen (Fr)**--**Billette (Fr)**, by **Thunder Gulch**) Lifetime Record: 15-3-0-2, €47,530. O-Bernard Giraudon & Mlle Francoise Perree; B-Mlle Francoise Perree (FR); T-Fabrice Vermeulen.

### ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

**Gipsy Jet Sept (Fr)**, g, 3, **Air Chief Marshal (Ire)**--Kitty d'Argos (Fr), by Ecossais (Fr). Marseille-Pont de Vivaux, 12-30, 13f (AWT), 2:49.58. B-Franck Benavides (FR).

**Kiwi Kiss (Fr)**, f, 3, **Dabirsim (Fr)**--Big Monologue (Ire) (SW-Ger, \$117,410), by Testa Rossa (Aus). Deauville, 12-30, 9 1/2f (AWT), 1:56.80. B-Erich Schmid (FR). \*€80,000 Ylg '17 ARAUG; €3,000 3yo '19 ARQNOV.

**Half Light (Ire)**, f, 3, **Shamardal**--Northern Melody (Ire), by Singspiel (Ire). Deauville, 12-30, 7 1/2f (AWT), 1:26.82. B-Godolphin (IRE).

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## BOOMER EXCITED BY HKJC OPPORTUNITY



Arthur Mitchell, Tony Tighe & Craig Rounsefell (left) | TDNAusNZ

By Bren O'Brien

Boomer Bloodstock's Craig Rounsefell has taken up the position as the buyer for the Hong Kong Jockey Club at all the major Australian, New Zealand and South African sales in a massive feather in the cap for the Australian bloodstock agent.

Hong Kong Jockey Club pursued Rounsefell for the opportunity which will begin almost immediately with the 2020 Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale, which starts on Jan. 8.

"It will involve all the selected Southern Hemisphere sales in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, looking to bolster the stock in Hong Kong for their sale in the coming year," Rounsefell told TDN AusNZ.

Renowned New Zealand bloodstock identity Bruce Harvey of Ascot Farm, who already works closely with the Hong Kong Jockey Club as a breaker and preparer of horses, will assist Rounsefell in the selecting of horses across the major sales in each country.

"We will begin at Magics, move onto Karaka, then Melbourne and Easter and then onto South Africa," Rounsefell said.

The opportunity evolved out of a series of conversations between Rounsefell and the HKJC, who were looking for someone to facilitate their buying in the region.

"We had various conversations largely focused on my business and professional history up until this point," he said.

"It came as a bit of a surprise for me, but it's a perfect fit for my business. The Hong Kong Jockey Club pride themselves on integrity and that has been the cornerstone of my business since I established Boomer Bloodstock over a decade ago.

"As a client, the HKJC do not conflict with market space occupied by my other clients. I'm really looking forward to the challenge."

### *A Feather in the Cap*

Rounsefell admits it's a high-water mark for the Boomer Bloodstock business which he started in 2008 to be working with one of the most respected racing bodies in the world.

"It's just ticked over 11 years since I started Boomer Bloodstock. I've got a really good band of loyal clients behind me. For me this is a very proud moment," he said.

"That the Hong Kong Jockey Club is held in such high regard in world racing and to be able to represent them in the Southern Hemisphere, for me, it's something that I'm proud of and looking forward to fulfilling to the best of my ability."

The Boomer Bloodstock business has been built with such opportunities in mind and Rounsefell has every confidence that the extra responsibilities with the HKJC will not impact his ability to continue to service his existing clients as well as any new opportunities which may arise.

"The sales I go to, I always look at every horse in the book. With this, it's a different aspect. It's a specific criteria of horses looking at colts that you think are going to be suitable for Hong Kong," he said.

"These are often the horses which for one reason or another, your clients are in another bracket, and so it's going to be an exciting opportunity to buy these horses and be involved in their careers."

The one new frontier which Boomer Bloodstock will be forging will be into South Africa, whose major yearling sale in late April closely follows the yearling sales season in Australia.

That only adds to the sense of anticipation for Rounsefell and his team.

"It's exciting in many ways. Going to South Africa and seeing what that offers is going to be exciting for me."