

All multiple Gr.1-winning 2YOs....
 Air Force Blue, American Pharoah, Classic Empire,
 Lookin At Lucky, Practical Joke and Uncle Mo.

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KENTUCKY VALUE SIRE 2020, PART V: FIRST 3-YEAR-OLDS



Constitution | WinStar

by Chris McGrath

After surveying the four intakes since, each still safely immune from judgement on the track itself, today we finally reach the first group of stallions who have actually tested their ability to replicate the talent that first earned them--however marginally, in some cases--a place at stud.

Their first juveniles, last year, at least permitted some initial response to any erosion of their reputations, through the notoriously jittery and impressionable consensus of the yearling market. Yet there are few more instructive indices of the odds against them than the contrast between the typical averages achieved by their first and second crops of yearlings. Almost invariably, these will already have entered a decline that only some will ever reverse.

It remains far too early, of course, to reach reliable conclusions about many stallions when only their most precocious stock have tested the water. The blood we should covet most, after all, is supposed to get you through two turns on the first Saturday in May. And there have been plenty of champion freshmen, down the years, who have soon proved themselves too one-dimensional, and often too mediocre, to do that.

Cont. p3

PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR SEEKING TO RAID SLOTS MONEY THAT GOES TO STATE TRACKS

by Bill Finley

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf submitted his 2020-2021 budget Tuesday, which called for a massive cut in the amount of money that goes to horse racing from slots proceeds. Wolf is seeking to take \$204 million away from the Race Horse Development Fund, which totals about \$250 million.

Such a move would prove devastating to racing and breeding industries, as slot money accounts for 88% of the total purses.

"This scheme would destroy an industry that provides a \$1.6-billion economic impact and supports an estimated 16,000 to 23,000 jobs in the agriculture, manufacturing, construction, retail and hospitality industries here in Pennsylvania," said Pete Peterson, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Equine Coalition, an organization representing the six Thoroughbred and Standardbred horsemen and breeder associations in the state. **Cont. p13**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

COLT BY CHURCHILL HEADS GOFFS DAY 1

A yearling colt by Churchill led the proceedings during the opening session of the 2-day Goffs February sale. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

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 VERY FAST HORSE.**

**THERE AREN'T
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 ON...**

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GOAL FRONT

AND I'M IN. *-Kip Elser*

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In Memoriam: Ben Massam (1988-2019)

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Wednesday, February 5, 2020



Kidding around. A goat oversees Tuesday morning's activities at Oaklawn. | Coady

MD OFFICIALS MOVE TO KEEP PREAKNESS AT PIMLICO 14

Maryland lawmakers have introduced a bill that would fund renovations at Pimlico and Laurel, ensuring the GI Preakness S. remains at Pimlico.

ALEMPIJEVIC NAMED NYTHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 16

Will Alempijevic will join the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association as their Executive Director, effective Feb. 1.

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Kentucky Value Sires cont. from p1

Yet those stallions to have made a quiet start with their first 2-year-olds will often pay so savage a price at the sales that the game is effectively up already. Commercial breeders who blindly support unproven stallions show ludicrous impatience as soon as the merit (or otherwise) of their investment is in danger of exposure.

This series has repeatedly amplified the dangers to the breed of corralling the majority of mares to sires who will never again command a fee as high as their opening one. But what we haven't yet done is acknowledge our own complicity, in the media. The other day I mentioned one young stallion whose debut book, well past 200, shrank to barely 50 in his second year--yet we can hardly blame that crazy state of affairs entirely on his farm, when all bloodstock publications devote such attention to the performance of first-season sires. So I guess collective problems call for a collective widening of

perspective.

One way or another, anyway, the big winner of 2019 was unmistakably **CONSTITUTION** (Tapit--Baffled by Distorted Humor). Yes, he was launched onto a sea of volume at WinStar, the 98 members of his first crop through the ring in 2018 having outnumbered any other member of the intake. Three-quarters of them found a home at an average \$71,424, which placed him ninth in the table and represented a solid enough yield on a \$25,000 cover.

His second crop, however, soared to third at \$95,314. Because while the son of Tapit had the kind of numerical footprint that required success in reasonable quantity, there's no arguing with the quality that flavored his crop--high 29 individual winners--highlighted by the GI Champagne S. success of Tiz The Law, and three other graded stakes winners including the dazzling Independence Hall.

Cont. p4



Constitution's Tiz the Law winning the Holy Bull | *Coglianesse*

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Kentucky Value Sires cont.

Tiz The Law confirmed himself among the favorites for the Kentucky Derby when winning the GIII Holy Bull S. last Saturday, while this weekend Independence Hall puts his own case in the GIII Sam F. Davis S. Those two, moreover, could be joined on the Classic trail this spring by Gouverneur Morris, who remains a promising work in progress after an immediate elevation in class and distance (runner-up in the GI Claiborne Breeders' Futurity) following a nine-length debut success at Saratoga.

With sophomores like these in play, Constitution is plainly on his way. His books having begun to erode, in the usual way, he was actually cut from \$25,000 to \$15,000 for last season. But he'll now have no shortage of business at his revised fee of \$40,000.

Remember he didn't run at two, so his juveniles represent a very positive foot in the door. Like his sire, he won a springtime Grade I as a sophomore; but he was also able to add the GI Donn H. (111 Beyer) at four. There's still a long road ahead before he can be anointed any kind of long-term successor to Tapit, but he could hardly have made a more promising start.

If Constitution surpassed expectations, then we shouldn't take for granted the success of the year's other dominant freshman, simply because it was no less than everyone anticipated of the first Triple Crown winner in a generation.

At an opening fee of \$200,000, soon designated "private" at Ashford, **AMERICAN PHAROAH** (Pioneerof The Nile--Littleprincessemma by Yankee Gentleman) embarked on his second career with little margin for error. Hats off to him, then, for mustering an all-the-way Grade I sprint winner at the Breeders' Cup from his first crop. The fact that Four Wheel Drive won those laurels on the turf, moreover, was only the most vivid of many corroborations for the theory that American Pharoah--author of the most iconic dirt achievement available to the breed--has the potential to become a potent transatlantic influence. **Cont. p5**



American Pharoah | Coolmore

SUMMER FRONT

WAR FRONT – ROSE OF SUMMER

“**Ete Indien**, who finished second, ran what would have been a winning race in most editions of the Holy Bull. He was 11 1/2 lengths clear of third-place **TOLEDO** while earning a **Beyer Figure of 95**, superior to the figs earned by the winners of the Withers and Robert Lewis the same day.”

JAY PRIVMAN
Daily Racing Form

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- Chris Baccari,
Baccari Bloodstock/Seclusive Farm

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- Peter O'Callaghan, Woods Edge



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LOOK FOR **FIRST YEARLINGS** AND
IN-FOAL MARES AT F-T FEB

Kentucky Value Sires cont.

In fact, his black-type/graded-stakes winners all came on the grass. But this partly reflects the distribution of his stock, which was immediately coveted in Europe too, and overall his 27 winners were essentially divided half-and-half between surfaces. While he was obviously an elite juvenile himself, it's exciting that American Pharoah should already have laid down such a marker even before his foals venture into the kind of dirt Classic environment in which he himself excelled.

Naturally, Coolmore have backed him with quantity as well as quality, with 600 mares across his first three books. And even with a second Triple Crown winner plus Mendelssohn added to their roster last year (with an eye-watering 252 covers apiece), American Pharoah still mustered 178 mares. Let's see what his sophomores can do but so far he hasn't missed a beat, from the moment he sent his first, prized weanlings into the ring.

The first crop of **PALACE MALICE** (Curlin--Palace Rumor by Royal Anthem) likewise produced a Breeders' Cup winner on turf. Structor had already suggested himself to be out of the ordinary as a \$160,000 Keeneland September pinhook who made \$850,000 as an OBS 2-year-old, and the talk is that he will now switch over to dirt and throw his hat into the Derby ring.



Structor | Breeders' Cup/Eclipse Sportswire

Which is fair enough, given that his sire won the Belmont before dropping down to win the GI Met Mile at four, in the course of racking up eight consecutive triple-digit Beyers. Three Chimneys had clipped Palace Malice to \$15,000 last spring, from an opening \$20,000, after he covered 158 mares in his first book and just 65 in his third. (Remember he had an unrewarding fourth year in training, so memories of his peak were beginning to fade.) That trim to his fee evidently helped him steady the ship, as he mustered a solid fourth book of 91, and Structor has promptly filled the sails to the extent that Palace Malice is now up to \$25,000. **Cont. p6**

OSCAR PERFORMANCE

Kitten's Joy - Devine Actress by Theatrical (IRE)

TDN Rising Star in his 2nd start at Saratoga winning by over 10 lengths

At 2: Won **G1** Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf

At 3: Won **G1** Belmont Derby (1¼ mile)

Won **G1** Secretariat (1¼ mile)

At 4: Won **G1** Woodbine Mile

Won **G3** Poker Stakes

Equaled the World Record Mile 1:31.23

Earned: \$2,345,696

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in 2019 with
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Contact: Kim Poulin . ph: 859.231.0606 . kpoulin@millridge.com

Kentucky Value Sires cont.

His stats beyond Structor are admittedly matched, in percentage terms, by several others in the intake, so his story just shows how precariously these young stallions depend on an early headliner. As it is, Palace Malice did something beyond nearly all of them, with his second crop, and almost precisely maintained his yearling average (at around \$75,000). Moreover his own career suggests that his stock will keep building as they mature and Palace Malice, himself a graduate of his sire's first crop, looks eligible for the growing competition among the affordable sons of Curlin.

None of this group wrote his headlines more efficiently than **LIAM'S MAP** (Unbridled's Song--Miss Macy Sue by Trippi), whose two stakes winners both won Grade Is: Basin, in the Runhappy Hopeful, and Wicked Whisper in the Frizette.

A late developer himself, Liam's Map was making a quiet start with his early runners until taking off at Saratoga. He's a conduit for some timeless Nerud blood and his Breeders' Cup performance, like that of half-brother Not This Time, confirmed that we are dealing with a seam of genetic gold.

Lane's End have managed Liam's Map as wisely as you would expect, with no giddy ups and downs but solid three-figure books through his first four years. He responded with a highly successful sales debut, his median six times his \$25,000 opening fee, much as you would expect of a horse who himself raised \$800,000 as a September yearling.

Nonetheless he received a precautionary trim to \$20,000: the gray always promised to be a long-term play. As it was, those two stunning injections of Grade I publicity have immediately inflated his fee to \$35,000, and maintained a six-figure average (behind only American Pharoah) with his second crop of yearlings.



Honor Code | Lane's End

Early success will often prove a flash in the pan but Liam's Map has such a strong pedigree that he seems plainly capable of sustaining this start. One thing is for sure: the \$20,000 tag that earned him a "gold" recommendation on the value podium last year is receding in the rear-view mirror.

Liam's Map's studmate **HONOR CODE** (A.P. Indy--Serena's Cat by Storm Cat) has experienced contrasting fortunes, trimmed from \$40,000 to \$30,000 after failing to decorate any of his 14 winners with black type--and duly finding the going rather tougher with his second crop at the sales, albeit still ranking fourth in the intake.

But while he lacked the precocious animals to trade numerical blows with those who had more industrial backing, he had basically maintained a full book through his fourth year after a warm reception for his first yearlings.

Like Liam's Map, his two Grade Is at the age of four lent fresh distinction to one of the noblest families around; but he was also able to show his flair at two, winning the GII Remsen S. That didn't necessarily mean he was going to land running, however, and a glossy overall package--in pedigree, physique and performance--of course

remains wholly undiminished by this low-key start.

Sure enough, last Saturday Honor Code notched a first graded stakes success through Max Player, in the GIII Withers S. Max Player was making a big step forward from two starts in Parx maidens and others in the crop will doubtless keep developing along the same lines. Certainly I'd remain confident that Honor Code can still contribute to the legacy of A.P. Indy. Quite apart from the royalty in his own family (Serena's Song etc), the cross between the farm's venerable patriarch and a Storm Cat mare combines Secretariat's celebrated daughters Weekend Surprise and Terlingua. **Cont. p7**

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Kentucky Value Sires cont.

One way or another, an Honor Code filly will always retain value--whatever she does on the track. And Honor Code could yet replicate his GI Whitney S. display, when way off the early pace before running down the trailblazing Liam's Map.

Also finishing well that day, for third, was **TONALIST** (Tapit--Settling Mist by Pleasant Colony)--who joined the other pair at Lane's End only to have his fee halved to \$15,000 after failing to match their early traction. But while he was down to 63 mares in his fourth book, their owners could well have the last laugh.

Like Palace Malice, Tonalist is a Belmont winner who later recorded Grade I success at a mile, and collected triple-digit Beyers for fun in a hard-knocking career in which he banked \$3.6 million. And his bottom line measures up even to his two regal contemporaries at Lane's End, his first two dams being half-sisters respectively to the mother of Havre De Grace (Saint Liam) and to champion Plugged Nickle (Key To The Mint); while his third is Broodmare of the Year Toll Booth.



Tonalist | Lane's End

Having made his only juvenile start in November, Tonalist was never likely to produce a cavalcade of Keeneland sprint maiden winners. But he remains a legitimate option to anyone in the business of breeding a runner, and his 16 winners last term were just a foundation stone. He wrapped up the year with a first stakes winner, by nine lengths, and the same filly, Tonalist's Shape, then gave her sire a graded stakes breakthrough in the GIII Forward Gal S. last weekend. Tonalist has every right to keep flourishing after fast-buck breeders have taken their money and fled from stallions of ostensibly "commercial" allure.

Another tough son of Tapit, **TAPITURE** (Tapit--Free Spin by Olympio), has been in consistent demand off \$7,500--assembling monster books at Darby Dan of 176, 165, 184 and 114. Having got closest to Goldencents (Into Mischief) in the GI Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile, and won graded stakes three seasons running, he did not squander his strength in numbers when launching his first crop. **Cont. p8**



HONOR CODE

A.P. Indy - Serena's Cat, by Storm Cat

3YOs OFF AND RUNNING IN 2020

INCLUDING A FIRST-CROP GRADED STAKES WINNER

MAX PLAYER, Withers S. (G3) by 3 ¼ lengths - A leading Kentucky Derby (G1) contender

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\$185,000

\$140,000

\$135,000

\$120,000

\$115,000

\$105,000

\$105,000 etc.

KENTUCKY VALUE SIRES 2020, PART III: FIRST YEARLINGS

CLASSIC EMPIRE (Pioneerof the Nile--Sambuca Classica, by Cat Thief) extended the farm's collection of Eclipse Award-winning juveniles, and opened up with 185 mares at \$35,000. A clip to \$25,000 helped maintain a six-figure book last spring, and now he gets another businesslike trim to \$20,000.

That's pretty tempting about a young stallion with every right to produce runners. From the family of Harlan's Holiday, Ride the Rails and Boldnesian...

As a sophomore Classic Empire added to his two Grade I juvenile wins in the Arkansas Derby, before running fourth and second, beaten a head, in the first two legs of the Triple Crown. Classic Empire faces plenty of competition among heirs to the lamented Pioneerof the Nile-- think American Pharoah, Cairo Prince, Midnight Storm--but offers a pretty comprehensive package

TDN, Jan 20

CLASSIC EMPIRE



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A M E R I C A

Kentucky Value Sires cont.

His 27 winners included a couple at black-type level, and Premier Star is apparently on his way to the GI Florida Derby after beating a smart colt on debut and following up impressively in allowance company at Gulfstream a couple of weeks ago. Tapiture's pedigree looks brighter than it did a year ago, too, his brother having meanwhile won a Grade III even as his sister produced a stakes-winning juvenile.

Another who converted a huge first book into plenty of winners--26 in all--was **WICKED STRONG** (Hard Spun--Moyne Abbey by Charismatic), who covered no fewer than 190 mares at Spendthrift in 2016. His numbers have been very uneven since, eroding his fee from \$10,000 to \$6,000, but he was back up to 131 last spring after turning round a modest auction debut with some rewarding 2-year-old sales.

He has already had a pretty hectic second career, then, and suffered the standard cooling with his second crop. But he is, of

course, only just getting started in terms of the reasons why a horse goes to stud. Certainly he is entitled, as a hard-knocking son of his thriving sire, to produce runners--and runners who last, too. After closing to within half a length of Honor Code in the GII Remsen at two, he landed his Grade I in the Wood Memorial (1:49.16) and finished fourth in the Kentucky Derby before beating Tonalist in the GII Jim Dandy S.; and then stuck gamely to his task at four.

For plenty of commercial breeders, no doubt, he has already done his job. But if that means he may not be inundating future catalogs in quite the same way, arguably he's a value play now.

COMPETITIVE EDGE (Super Saver--Magdalena's Chase by Cape Town)

has experienced a similarly bewildering start to his stud career, barely matching his first book of 160 mares in three years since. But that big first crop did what was required, mustering 27 winners to move him back up to \$12,500 (had dipped to \$7,500). **Cont. p9**



Wicked Strong | Spendthrift

FIELD OF DREAMS

He's a beast...If they all look this good, you don't have anything to worry about.

- Beau Lane

Colt out of Terminology, born 1/15/20
Bred by Woodline Farm

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Kentucky Value Sires cont.

He had made an explosive start on the track, too--a \$750,000 2-year-old who won a Saratoga maiden and then the GI Hopeful by daylight--only to derail in his second summer. His pedigree becomes quite interesting further back, and he raised four black-type winners from that debut crop. Anyhow, Competitive Edge appears to be back in business for Coolmore, in fact bucking the usual negative trend by actually moving up the average of his second yearling crop (\$53,468 from \$48,252 for his first).

RACE DAY (Tapit--Rebalite by More Than Ready), remarkably, also mustered four stakes winners from just 16 overall winners, good news for those who secured him another six-figure book in his fourth season at Spendthrift. In jostling for position among sons of Tapit, he had taken the standard slide in numbers after an opening book of



Race Day | Louise Reinegal

155 but has now earned fresh momentum upped to \$7,500. Remember he racked up some big numbers on the clock, along with three graded stakes, and is out of a half-sister to

GI Kentucky Oaks winner Lite Light (Majestic Light).

LEA (First Samurai--Greenery by Galileo {Ire}), similarly, found two black-type winners from just eight overall. He's by an under-rated sire out of a mare by Europe's colossus, and showed corresponding versatility himself. In consecutive starts he was collared close home in the Woodbine Mile on turf, and then chased home Liam's Map in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile. He redeemed those Grade I near-misses in the Donn H. and, while he has had some

topsy-turvy book sizes, is plainly in good hands off \$7,500 at Claiborne.

Cont. p10

FIELD OF DREAMS

"This colt is very athletic with a great hind leg. I can't wait for the shed to open so I can breed back to Always Dreaming."

- Collier Mathes, Chesapeake Farm

Colt out of Efforting, born 1/13/20
Bred by Mark Stansell

ALWAYS DREAMING

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Kentucky Value Sires cont.

BAYERN (Offlee Wild--Alittlebitearly by Thunder Gulch) remains an interesting horse. He made an impressive sales debut, managing a six-figure average off a \$15,000 fee, and followed through on the track with 23 winners from 54 starters. Hopefully that will restore momentum, as he was down to just 48 mares in his fourth book and his second crop struggled at the sales (albeit while achieving an exceptional clearance rate).

His sire was always going to make things tough, commercially, Bayern having emerged too late to prevent his export to Turkey. But the bottom line is the stuff of legend, with the matriarch Courtly Dee as close up as his third dam. And the way he carried his speed on the track should make Bayern appealing to every kind of agenda: he won the GII Woody Stephens by 7 1/2 lengths in 1:20.75 before later stretching out to win the GI Breeders' Cup Classic. Unfortunately that luster faded during



Bayern | *Coglianesse*

a disappointing campaign at four, but that set him up to be the value he is today at Hill 'n' Dale. Bayern is an awful lot of horse for the money.

CARPE DIEM (Giant's Causeway--Rebridled Dreams by

Unbridled's Song) also made a solid start at the sales and duly mustered a fourth book of 130 at WinStar, building on no fewer than 439 matings to that point. His first campaign yielded 17 winners, but his farm has made a remarkably business-like response to the tougher round of sales he experienced, like so many, with second crop: he will stand this year at \$15,000, down from \$25,000.

Obviously a lot of breeders will have been seeking the genes that powered a six-length Grade I win on his second juvenile start, and there's

no denying that there was something exciting about his raw talent. For a Giant's Causeway youngster to wire a sprint maiden field on debut at Saratoga was something else, and so was the \$1.6 million he had cost that spring when topping OBS March.

FIELD OF DREAMS

" I couldn't be any happier,
I'm definitely breeding back. "

- Chip Muth

Filly out of My Adeline, born 1/6/20
Bred by Christopher J. Muth

ALWAYS DREAMING

#THEYWILLRUN | Fee: \$25,000 S&N

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Classy first weanlings sold for

\$285,000

\$250,000

\$225,000

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TDN, Jan 20

CLASSIC EMPIRE



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A M E R I C A

Kentucky Value Sires cont.



Commissioner | Jon Siegel

Perhaps his disappearance after the Kentucky Derby encouraged misapprehensions that he would be an influence only for precocity. But the Blue Grass S. winner--his sire's only elite success on dirt--could yet give us the type of stock to excel with a bit of time and distance. (His dam, already a Grade I producer, is by Unbridled's Song.) At his new fee, and with plenty of volume to liven up his news feed, I'd say now could be a smart time to get involved.

COMMISSIONER (A.P. Indy--Flaming Heart by Touch Gold), runner-up to Tonalist in the Belmont, started out at the same farm off \$7,500 and now has a graded stakes winner, Island Commish, to add to the couple of black-type juvenile winners among 17 overall last year.

The son of A.P. Indy had maintained a fourth three-figure book, and his page has meanwhile received quite an upgrade from his half-sister's son Vino Rosso (Curlin). His dam is by Touch Gold, i.e. broodmare sire gold, and his grand-dam is duplicates Rough Shod II's son Lt. Stevens 3x3. Lasting foundations, there, for anyone inclined to breed from a daughter of Commissioner.

SUMMER FRONT (War Front--Rose Of Summer by El Prado (Ire)) holds his \$10,000 fee at Airdrie after putting some intriguing straws into the wind: his first graded stakes winner Fighting Seabee, for instance, then made an eye-catching switch to dirt when closing well for second in the Street Sense S. at Churchill. Ete Indien, a Gulfstream allowance winner on the dirt, then ran an excellent second in the GII Holy Bull S.; while the other day another son dominated a Fair Grounds sprint maiden switched to the main track.

So just as his sire is more versatile than generally allowed, here's another who could be parlaying his acceleration and toughness--undefeated stakes winner at two, graded stakes winner in each of the next three seasons, beaten two lengths in the GI Breeders' Cup Mile--into unexpected directions.

Remember Summer Front's dam, herself responsible for another elite juvenile scorer in Laragh (Tapit), is a half-sister to a Grade I winner on dirt in Siphonic (Siphon {Brz}).

A \$475,000 2-year-old, at a time when his sire was still standing at \$15,000, Summer Front is making his looks tell, too: a couple of his first crop similarly made quite a splash at European breeze-up sales, even as many round the ring were scratching their heads over their catalogs.

For those actually prepared to walk the walk on turf blood, which talkers set at such a high premium nowadays, **KARAKONTIE (Jpn)** (Bernstein--Sun Is Up by Sunday Silence) is another interesting prospect.

Of the dozen juvenile winners in his first crop, three scored at black-type level; and one gave the trainer of a small British stable only his second Group success in a 13-year career. That's no less than you'd expect of a horse offering Kentucky breeders the very cream of the European breed.

His third dam is Miesque, for goodness sake, and he inherited the class to win a juvenile Group 1 and a Classic in France before notching the top turf Beyer of the year in the GI Breeders' Cup Mile. Unfortunately it did not pay to keep Karakontie in training, which possibly contributed to his lack of early traction at Gainesway; but his fourth book of 69 actually represented an improvement on his second and third, perhaps a response to a fee trim from \$15,000 to just \$10,000.

For a top-class miler from the family of Kingmambo to trade at that kind of money is a pretty damning commentary, if hardly a surprising one, on current prejudices in Kentucky. I'd wager short odds that he'll sire top-class runners, but that seems a pretty marginal priority for commercial breeders just now.

Kitten's Joy knows all about that, of course. And the turf Titan surfaces as a half-brother to the second dam of **FAST ANNA** (Medaglia d'Oro--Dreaming Of Anna by Rahy), whose own sire has become a hallmark of the versatility of the El Prado (Ire) line. **Cont. p12**



Karakontie | Brittlan Wall

Kentucky Value Sires cont.**Mr Speaker | Lane's End**

Fast Anna is himself a good example of that diversity, having majored in dirt speed. Though unraced as a juvenile, he showed blistering pace in his first two races and was only collared late in the GI King's Bishop. That turned out to be the highlight, but his mother is champion juvenile Dreaming Of Anna (Rahy) and of his 11 first-crop winners, three scored at black-type level. That helped his second crop of yearlings hold up better than most, year on year, and justly elevated him to \$10,000 from \$7,500 at Three Chimneys.

MR SPEAKER (Pulpit--Salute by Unbridled) had a tough break to overcome after being stranded in Chile, and his book at Lane's End last spring was unsurprisingly modest as a result. But he's clawing back lost ground with Three Technique, who ran such a promising race in the Smarty Jones S. the other day. Out of a Grade II-placed daughter of Personal Ensign, Mr Speaker won a Grade I on turf but his pedigree entitles him to summon up real dirt class at \$10,000.

SKY KINGDOM (Empire Maker--Sky Beam by Kingmambo) made a quiet start with four winners but one of them included a conspicuous talent in Wrecking Crew, an \$875,000 2-year-old with two Grade I podiums to his name. Though Sky Kingdom himself couldn't convert his genes to success beyond Grade III level, his dam is out of a Classic-placed sister to A.P. Indy and, following the loss of his sire, he can contribute to the legacy off \$5,000 at Darby Dan.

Another flying the flag for a lamented sire is **PALACE** (City Zip--Receivership by End Sweep). As winner of two Grade I sprints at Saratoga, the Vanderbilt in 1:08.56 and the Forego in 1:21.95, he appealed as very fairly priced by Spendthrift at \$6,000 and duly made a lively start with his first crop. A \$570,000 Fasig-Tipton Mid-Atlantic 2-year-old filly showed the way, and she

became one of by 17 winners from just 40 starters (and is meanwhile Grade II-placed).

Palace has a good shape to the numbers behind him, a fourth book of 120 last year being the biggest since his first, and a record of 30 starts across four seasons suggests that his stock will keep thriving. All in all, with a trim to \$5,000, he looks a highly feasible commercial option at the bottom rung of his farm's roster.

Besides being one of several in this intake with some aristocratic genes, **JACK MILTON** (War Front--Preserver by Forty Niner) at Crestwood \$6,500 also offers access to an accomplished racing record. He was the hardy author of graded stakes success on turf at three, four and five, when a first and second at Grade I level proved him to be better than ever; and flash numbers at a mile, combined with an aristocratic Claiborne family, represents a breeder's grail. Eight winners represented a perfectly solid start, relative to his relatively modest opening book.

Buck Pond can similarly hope for more from **CONVEYANCE** (Indian Charlie--Emptythetill by Holy Bull), responsible for five winners from just 19 starters. The gray likewise has a pretty storied bottom line--tracing all the way back, in fact, to Alcibiades--and showed that he had been born with an engine when winning his first four starts, three at graded stakes level. He has limited numbers behind him but one of them is a fee of \$3,500.

WE MISS ARTIE (Artie Schiller--Athena's Gift by Fusaichi Pegasus), who also has a small footprint, managed three winners from just 10 starters, one promptly adding a stakes podium. The son of Artie Schiller is the latest wager on the El Prado line for Ramsey Farms, and retails a juvenile Grade I success at \$5,000.

Chris McGrath's Value Podium**Gold: Karakontie, \$10,000 Gainesway**

Someday elite turf quality will get more than lip service

Silver: Bayern, \$15,000 Hill 'n' Dale

Something for all agendas: fast on the track, timeless on the page

Bronze: Tonalist, \$15,000 Lane's End

A sleeper, entitled to generate an overdue vogue on the track

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Pennsylvania Governor Seeking to Raid Slots Money That Goes to State Tracks cont. from p1

When addressing the General Assembly Tuesday, Wolf laid out a plan to create a \$200-million fund that would provide college scholarships for Pennsylvania residents at Pennsylvania state schools under a program called the Nellie Bly Tuition program. He proposed that the program be paid for by taking money out of the Race Horse Development Fund.

“We will use existing tax dollars that are right now flowing into the Horse Racing Development Fund,” he said. “Let’s bet on our kids, instead of bankrolling racehorse owners, to ensure the viability of Pennsylvania’s state system of higher education.”

The Pennsylvania Equine Coalition issued a press release shortly before Wolf’s address that quoted numerous individuals involved in the Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries, all of them coming out strongly against Wolf’s proposal.

“I cannot believe that our Governor would turn his back on the horse breeding and racing industry,” said Pat Chapman, who owned Smarty Jones. “This would be absolutely devastating to so many of us in the horse business. I brought Smarty Jones back to Pennsylvania for breeding because of what we were told four years ago and I thought I could trust what we were told. If the governor goes through with this proposal, the end is near for my breeding and racing days in the state of Pennsylvania and the end for many others. This is a very devastating possibility.”

“I strongly oppose the governor taking any of the money from the Race Horse Development Trust Fund, which funds purses and breeder incentives,” said trainer Mark Reid. “It will be the end of horse breeding and racing in Pennsylvania. The industry in Pennsylvania will never recover from this.”

This is not the first time that a Pennsylvania governor has gone after racing’s slot money. In 2012, then governor Tom Corbett took \$72 million from the fund, spread out over three years. But the racing industry thought that it had guarantees in place that would prevent any future attempts at diverting money out of the fund. In 2017, the legislature passed legislation that converted the fund into a trust called the Race Horse Development Trust Fund (RHDTF), which industry leaders believed could not be touched by the government.



Racing at Parx | Sarah Andrew

“I don’t know that he’s necessarily taken a hard look at all the legal ramifications for him and the Commonwealth if he is to take the money away from the trust,” Peterson said. “The legislature put the money into a trust fund because of complaints from breeders organizations and others who said they were having had difficulty getting people to bring stallions in and encouraging new investment in Pennsylvania because of the uncertainties. They put it onto a trust fund for that very reason, to deliver certainty. I don’t understand how this governor can go in and say the trust fund doesn’t mean anything. The 2017 Race Horse Industry Reform Act, which established the trust, noted that the money in the trust are not funds of the Commonwealth and that the Commonwealth shall not be rightfully entitled to any money.”

Peterson predicted that legal action would be taken against Wolf and the state based on the guarantees that were supposedly a part of the RHDTF.

When the formation of the trust was announced, Pennsylvania

breeders saw an immediate spike in business, a welcome development after the uncertainty about the future of the fund has caused many breeders to choose other states. The number of mares bred in Pennsylvania in 2019 was 686, a 12.5% increase.

“If the governor takes money from Pennsylvania horsemen, it would decimate the entire agricultural industry in the state,” said Layne Shaffer, the farm manager at Arrowood Farm. “What people don’t understand is that the majority of horsemen

don’t have a ton of money. Most of the money we earn goes to pay the veterinarian, the farrier, the hay farmer, the horse trailer driver and so on. If this happens, I don’t know what thousands of families in Pennsylvania will do and what will happen to the horses they love.”

The budget cannot go into effect until after it is approved by both houses of the Pennsylvania legislature. That will give the industry’s lobbyists time to state their case regarding the RHDTF. Another possibility is that pressure from the industry and racing-friendly politicians could persuade Wolf to seek less than the \$204 million.

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MARYLAND LAWMAKERS INTRODUCE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD KEEP PREAKNESS AT PIMLICO

By Bill Finley

Maryland lawmakers have introduced a bill, the Racing and Community Development Act of 2020, that would fund renovations at Laurel and Pimlico, ensuring that the GI Preakness S. will remain at Pimlico. The bill calls for the Maryland Stadium Authority to oversee the project and to raise \$350 million to do so through the sale of bonds.

The future of the Preakness had been in doubt when officials with The Stronach Group, which owns Laurel and Pimlico, made it known that they were interested in moving the race to Laurel. Part of their reasoning was that Pimlico was run down and a huge investment, one they were not willing to make, was needed to rebuild the track. The City of Baltimore sued The Stronach Group, but, last fall, TSG and local and state politicians came to an agreement to work together. That led to the plans to modernize both Maryland tracks, assurances from TSG that the Preakness would remain in Baltimore and the city dropping its suit.

The legislation calls for at least \$180 million towards rebuilding efforts at Pimlico and \$155 million at Laurel. The entire grandstand and clubhouse at Pimlico will be rebuilt. The legislation was sponsored by Sen. Guy Guzzone. As part of the deal, The Stronach Group will be required to donate the land at Pimlico to the City of Baltimore, which would lease it during a spring racing meet.

"The goal here is to save the Preakness," Guzzone told the *Baltimore Sun*. "It's to help surrounding neighborhoods. It's to make Pimlico a viable racing venue for the long term. It's to do so in a fiscally responsible way where we use no funds that would have ever been programmed for education."

"Today's bill introduction is a critical step forward for Baltimore as it preserves the great tradition of Preakness at Pimlico and signals the commitment of significant investment in the Park Heights community," Young said.

Though the race meets at Pimlico will continue to be brief, the new facility will be operating throughout the year as the renovations will include the building of athletic fields and

housing for the community. The track will also be rotated 30 degrees, which will free up land for private development.

The Sun reported that if the bill becomes a law, starting from the time the bill is signed by the governor, the project will take three to four years to complete.

In a statement Baltimore Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young said: "I thank our legislative leaders who clearly understand what this historic piece of legislation does for the City of Baltimore and for the communities surrounding the racetrack. Today's bill introduction is a critical step forward for Baltimore as it preserves the great tradition of Preakness at Pimlico and signals the commitment of significant investment in the Park Heights community."

The money earmarked for Laurel would go toward building a new grandstand, additional stabling and housing for employees. Once the project is completed, there will no longer be any stabling at Pimlico. The Bowie Training Center will also be shut down as TSG has agreed to turn that land over to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for recreational purposes, and to the City of Bowie and Bowie State University.

"Will there be some people who don't think it's the best? I'm sure," Guzzone told *the Sun*. "We'll deal with those issues as they come along. This is the beginning. This is real now. We have a bill now. Now it's time to listen to everybody once again and see where it all comes out."

The legislation also calls for the creation of an Equine Health, Safety and Welfare Advisory Committee under the Maryland Racing Commission.



Pimlico development concept | *Racing For the Future*

The Baltimore Sun reported that House of Delegates Speaker Adrienne A. Jones plans to introduce a similar bill later in the week.

The legislation has been in the works for months, ever since the city of Baltimore and The Stronach Group, which controls racing in Maryland, reached a deal last fall to end a fractious dispute that had the company threatening to move the race to Laurel and the city suing to seize Pimlico and take control of the Preakness.

Under the deal, The Stronach Group, which owns Pimlico, pledged to donate the track's land in Northwest Baltimore to the city for development.

Cont. p15

MD Introduce Legislation to Keep Preakness at Pimlico cont.

Pimlico's antiquated grandstand and clubhouse would be demolished and a new clubhouse would be built in its place. The track would be rotated 30 degrees to create nine parcels of land that could be sold for private development.

In a statement Monday, Democratic Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young called the legislation "historic."

"Today's bill introduction is a critical step forward for Baltimore as it preserves the great tradition of Preakness at Pimlico and signals the commitment of significant investment in the Park Heights community," Young said.

The parties envision the bond proceeds going not only for the Pimlico track and community redevelopment, but also for The Stronach Group's track at Laurel Park. Laurel would receive a new clubhouse and training facilities, along with new stables and new housing for backstretch workers. The Thoroughbred industry's Maryland training and stable operations would be consolidated there.

The legislation introduced Monday makes minor tweaks to the deal, but keeps its framework largely intact.

One change removes a future source of funding for repaying the bonds to address concerns about the original plan, which would have taken money intended for the state's Education Trust Fund. The original plan would have switched the use of casino funds dedicated to horse racing in the state to pay the bonds for the tracks. Under the legislation, the state now would be required to contribute \$17 million a year from the lottery. The casino money set aside for horse racing would sunset and those funds would go to education.

The bill also calls for \$2.4 million to go annually to Park Heights Renaissance for work improving the community around the Pimlico track.

"Will there be some people who don't think it's the best? I'm sure," Guzzone said of the bill. "We'll deal with those issues as they come along. This is the beginning. This is real now. We have a bill now. Now it's time to listen to everybody once again and see where it all comes out."

The bill notes bonds and projects would need to be approved by the state Board of Public Works.

State Sen. Jill P. Carter, a Baltimore Democrat who represents the Pimlico area, said she wants to ensure the deal benefits the

community there.

"What is most important to our constituents is not only that we retain the Preakness at Pimlico, but that we ensure that the Pimlico site becomes a 24/7, 365-day-a-year benefit to Park Heights and surrounding communities," Carter said.

Park Heights community leader George Mitchell said the bill's introduction is the culmination of months of hard work and consideration.

"We've come a long way since Day 1," he said. "First it was the Preakness moving to Laurel, and people said there's no sense in trying to fight it.

"We have come a long, long, long way and thank God we have."

The legislation also calls for the creation of an Equine Health, Safety and Welfare Advisory Committee under the Maryland Racing Commission to study the welfare of horses engaged in racing and training in Maryland.

And it lays out a plan for what would happen to the defunct Bowie Training Center, which also is owned by Stronach. Part of that facility's land would be turned over to the

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for recreational activities, such as hiking and wildlife viewing, and to the city of Bowie and Bowie State University for activities such as baseball and football.

Douglas J.J. Peters of Prince George's County, a Democrat who represents Bowie, said the plan has community support.

"Everybody wins. It's a compromise," he said.

Senate President Bill Ferguson, a Baltimore Democrat, said he was "confident" the bill would pass this year.

"We will find a way to get it done," Ferguson said. "It's most

important to get it done right."

This fall, Baltimore city and state legislative leaders hailed the deal as one that would keep the 144-year-old race, the second leg of racing's Triple Crown, at its longtime home. If approved by the legislature and signed into law by Republican Gov. Larry Hogan, construction is expected to be completed in three to four years.

The Preakness would continue to be run at Pimlico even during construction, under the deal. The Stronach Group would sign a lease for a minimum of 30 years to use the property for two months each year to prepare for and run the Preakness.



Pimlico development concept | *Racing For the Future*

MD Introduce Legislation to Keep Preakness at Pimlico cont.

Belinda Stronach, president of The Stronach Group, said the plan provides a "long-term future of the Thoroughbred racing industry and the revitalization of the Park Heights community."

In addition to the support of Young, Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski Jr. and Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman Jr. also back the plan. The county executives are also Democrats.

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ALEMPIJEVIC NAMED NYTHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Will Alempijevic (pronounced Al-em-pee-ya-vich) will join the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association effective Feb. 12, 2020, as the new Executive Director, NYTHA announced Tuesday. Alempijevic replaces Andy Belfiore, who served in the role for four years before leaving to take the post as the national THA’s Project Manager for the Mid-Atlantic Strategic Plan to Reduce Equine Fatalities last October.

A member of the New York Racing Association team since November of 2015, Alempijevic was the Director of Business Development before being promoted to Director of Guest Services. He most recently was named Director of Racing Analytics, where he focused on horse safety and welfare initiatives, as well as compiling and analyzing racing office data to help inform the department’s business decisions.

“We are excited to welcome Will to the NYTHA team,” NYTHA President Joe Appelbaum said. “He brings a wealth of experience in a number of areas vital to the health of New York’s racing industry, and skills in data analytics and interdepartmental collaboration that will be of great value to our organization. He is also passionate about the sport, and we look forward to working with him.”

Prior to coming to New York, Alempijevic was with Portland Meadows racetrack in Portland, Oregon, for nine years, starting as Director of Wagering and Guest Services and working his way up to General Manager in January of 2008, a position he held for more than seven years.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Sharing (Speightstown) was tabbed as a “TDN Rising Star”

Visit the [TDN Rising Stars](#) section

2020 Kentucky Derby Future Wager Pool 2
Friday, Feb. 7-Sunday, Feb. 9

#	Horse	Morning Line Odds
1	Anneau d’Or (Medaglia d’Oro)	30-1
2	Authentic (Into Mischief)	15-1
3	Basin (Liam’s Map)	30-1
4	Chance It (Currency Swap)	30-1
5	Dennis’ Moment (Tiznow)	12-1
6	Enforceable (Tapit)	30-1
7	Exalted (Twirling Candy)	50-1
8	Gold Street (Street Boss)	30-1
9	Gouverneur Morris (Constitution)	30-1
10	Honor A. P. (Honor Code)	30-1
11	Independence Hall (Constitution)	10-1
12	Max Player (Honor Code)	20-1
13	Maxfield (Street Sense)	15-1
14	Nadal (Blame)	12-1
15	Palm Springs (Uncle Mo)	50-1
16	Premier Star (Tapiture)	50-1
17	Silver State (Hard Spun)	50-1
18	Storm the Court (Court Vision)	30-1
19	Structor (Palace Malice)	30-1
20	Thousand Words (Pioneerof the Nile)	15-1
21	Three Technique (Mr Speaker)	50-1
22	Tiz the Law (Constitution)	8-1
23	Violent City (Violence)	50-1
24	All Other 3-Year-Olds	5-2

*Morning Line Odds by Mike Battaglia



ONTARIO RACING’S MARE PURCHASE PROGRAM CONCLUDES

Ontario Racing’s Mare Purchase Program (MPP), designed to bolster the province’s breeding and racing industry through its Thoroughbred Horse Improvement Program (TIP), has concluded with a total of 123 new broodmares added to the breeding program and 76 of those pledged to breed back to Ontario stallions. **Cont. p17**

Ontario's Mare Purchase Program cont.

Through the end of the OBS Winter Mixed sale Jan. 29, a total of 24 in-foal broodmares were purchased at various public auctions with 16 expected to be bred back to a registered Ontario sire during the 2020-21 breeding season and eligible for the MPP program offer.

The Mare Purchase Program offered eligible applicants 50% of the purchase price of an in-foal broodmare, up to a maximum of \$15,000 (CDN), at recognized public auctions, plus another \$2,500 (CDN) as an Ontario Sire 'breedback' incentive.

Last month, the Mare Recruitment Program, which offered \$5,000 (CDN) to horsepeople to bring an in-foal mare to Ontario to foal, also with an Ontario Sire breed back incentive worth \$2,500 (CDN), had 99 broodmares with 60 pledged to be bred back to a registered Ontario sire, submitted. The paperwork for 23 broodmares (21 bred back to an Ontario sire) came through immediately after the time the program was fully subscribed. Ontario Racing will disburse for those submissions.

"The success of the Mare Purchase Program and Mare Recruitment Program has gone beyond our expectations," said David Anderson, longtime breeder-owner and Ontario Racing (OR) board member. "The objectives of Ontario Racing's Thoroughbred Horse Improvement committee were crafted to accommodate all sectors of the racing and breeding community. We want the broodmares to stay in Ontario permanently, offer a significant incentive to breed back to a registered Ontario sire, to produce an Ontario-bred, to be sold at the local yearling sale, while eventually racing at Woodbine or Fort Erie. We're clearly off to a great start."

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COLLECTED SIRES FIRST FOALS

The first foals by Grade I-winning multimillionaire **Collected** (City Zip--Helena Bay, by Johannesburg), have been reported at Airdrie Stud, Anderson Farms and Trackside Farm, Airdrie announced Tuesday. Airdrie Stud's 2012 GI Kentucky Oaks winner Believe You Can (Proud Citizen) foaled a colt by Collected Feb. 1.

"We bred the most important mare on our farm to Collected and he has greatly rewarded our faith in him," said Airdrie's Bret Jones. "Believe You Can's colt is an absolutely exceptional foal with the presence and charisma to match all the physical attributes you brag on with a great baby. It's the best possible start for a stallion in which we have tremendous belief."

Dattt Echo (Stormy Atlantic), a stakes-placed half-sister to GISW Mani Bhavan (Storm Boot), delivered a Collected filly at Anderson Farms in Ontario. "We are thrilled with the bone, leg and scope of our filly. Like a good one, she was up and nursing in 25 minutes. We bred 11 mares to Collected last year and are

doing the same this year. He reminds me of Blushing Groom (Fr), who resonates in his family. I think he is one of the best values in the stud book, period," said David Anderson.

It'schemistrybaby (Meadowlake) delivered a three-quarter brother to GSW Majestic City (City Zip) at Tom Evans's Trackside Farm near Versailles, Kentucky.

"He has the qualities we hope to see in a young foal, length, depth and a confident presence. We are sending the mare right back to Collected," said Evans.

Collected, who defeated champions Arrogate (Unbridled's Song) and Accelerate (Lookin At Lucky) in the 2017 GI TVG Pacific Classic, earned just shy of \$3 million for Speedway Stable and Bob Baffert. He stands at Airdrie Stud for \$17,500 stands and nurses.

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PROSPECT PARK'S FIRST FOALS ARRIVE

The first foals by GSW **Prospect Park** (Tapit--Quiet Romance, by Bertrando) arrived almost simultaneously Feb. 1 at Harris Farms. Classy Lady Liz (Papa Clem) delivered a colt for breeder Dana Rocheford and Cloud of Glory (Beau Genius) had a colt for breeder John Harris. The farm also welcomed a filly by Prospect Park Monday out of Quick Luck (Lucky J. H.). Prospect Park stands at Harris Farms in California for \$2,500.

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FIRST FOAL FOR THE LIEUTENANT

The first foal by GSW **The Lieutenant** (Street Sense--Stage Magic, Ghostzapper) was a filly born Feb. 1 at Keane Stud for breeder Meadow Hill Lane Farm. She is out of Keysong (Songandaprayer).

A half-brother to Triple Crown hero Justify (Scat Daddy), The Lieutenant was one of four stallions killed by intruders at Peru's Haras Barlovento in late December.

"We will cherish every foal we get by The Lieutenant and are very happy that the first one came to one of our favorite New York breeders, Meadow Hill Lane Farm," said Sequel owner Becky Thomas.

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Correction: In Tuesday's paper, we incorrectly stated that Drew Cuoto represented all defendants in in the NoCal Simulcast dispute. He only represented Los Alamitos. We regret the error.

CETTINA, GOODALL SELECTED TO NHC HALL OF FAME

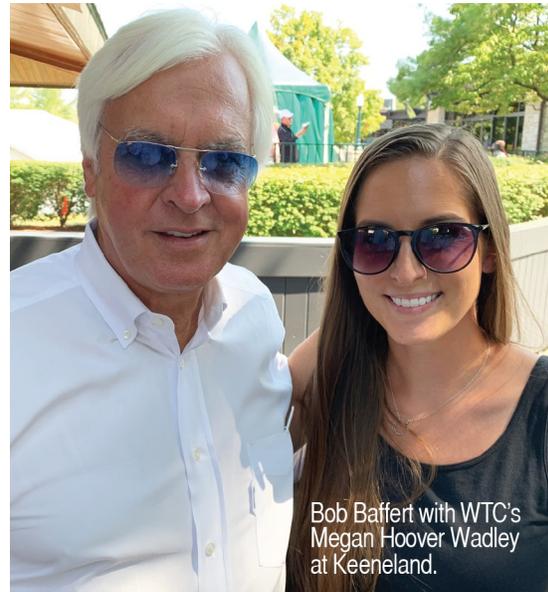
Roger Cettina, the only player to finish second twice in the National Horseplayers Championship (NHC), and 2008 NHC champion Richard Goodall have been selected for induction into the NHC Hall of Fame, the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) announced Tuesday.

Goodall and Cettina represent the sixth class of NHC Hall of Fame inductees and will be recognized during the NHC Champions Dinner on Sunday evening at the conclusion of the 21st NTRA National Horseplayers Championship Presented by Racetrack Television Network, Caesars Entertainment and Bally's, set for Feb. 7-9 at Bally's Las Vegas. Since its launch in 2014, the NHC Hall of Fame has inducted two impact figures each season, making Goodall and Cettina the Hall's 11th and 12th members.

"It's pretty exciting actually. I was surprised," Cettina, who also finished second in the 2016 NHC, said of his Hall of Fame selection. "I knew I was nominated because a couple people I know actually voted. But it's a great honor. It really is."

"It's validating," Goodall said of being voted into the Hall of Fame. "My wife and I have made this the centerpiece basically of our travel plans for the last 20 years and we've just had a wonderful ride. Winning was of course wonderful and awesome and this is sort of the cherry on top of the cake. It's great. We really do plan our entire life around it. Basically if I had one word to sum it all up, it would be fun."

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Bob Baffert with WTC's Megan Hoover Wadley at Keeneland.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Valid Point (Scat Daddy) was tabbed as a "TDN Rising Star"

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2020 Second Crop Sires by Earnings

for stallions with first 3-year-olds standing in North America through Sunday, Feb 2

Earnings and Black-type represents Worldwide figures & stud fees are for 2020

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	Constitution <i>(2011) by Tapit FYR: 2017</i>	2	4	1	2	--	--	36	4	151,900	419,489
										<i>Tiz the Law</i>	
										<i>Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$40,000</i>	
2	Tonalist <i>(2011) by Tapit FYR: 2017</i>	1	1	1	1	--	--	25	6	92,070	286,808
										<i>Tonalist's Shape</i>	
										<i>Stands: Lane's End Farm KY Fee: \$15,000</i>	
3	Khozan <i>(2012) by Distorted Humor FYR: 2017</i>	1	2	--	1	--	--	32	5	105,000	272,184
										<i>Liam's Lucky Charm</i>	
										<i>Stands: Journeyman Stud FL Fee: \$8,500</i>	
4	Honor Code <i>(2011) by A.P. Indy FYR: 2017</i>	1	1	1	1	--	--	27	3	137,500	265,135
										<i>Max Player</i>	
										<i>Stands: Lane's End Farm KY Fee: \$30,000</i>	
5	Carpe Diem <i>(2012) by Giant's Causeway FYR: 2017</i>	--	1	--	--	--	--	33	3	53,400	263,667
										<i>Monforte</i>	
										<i>Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$15,000</i>	
6	Wicked Strong <i>(2011) by Hard Spun FYR: 2017</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	36	7	51,000	238,297
										<i>Villainous</i>	
										<i>Stands: Spendthrift Farm KY Fee: \$6,000</i>	
7	American Pharoah <i>(2012) by Pioneerof the Nile FYR: 2017</i>	1	3	--	1	--	--	27	3	55,000	218,580
										<i>Harvey's Lil Goil</i>	
										<i>Stands: Ashford Stud KY Fee: Private</i>	
8	Tapiture <i>(2011) by Tapit FYR: 2017</i>	--	1	--	--	--	--	32	6	31,620	203,488
										<i>Miss Tap Dance</i>	
										<i>Stands: Darby Dan Farm KY Fee: \$7,500</i>	
9	Danza <i>(2011) by Street Boss FYR: 2017</i>	1	1	--	--	--	--	22	5	62,244	182,888
										<i>Pitching Ari</i>	
										<i>Stands: Fair Winds Farm OH Fee: \$2,500</i>	
10	Competitive Edge <i>(2012) by Super Saver FYR: 2017</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	28	5	30,220	180,844
										<i>Maru</i>	
										<i>Stands: Ashford Stud KY Fee: \$12,500</i>	
11	Bayern <i>(2011) by Offlee Wild FYR: 2017</i>	--	2	--	--	--	--	32	2	25,600	180,077
										<i>Green Monster</i>	
										<i>Stands: Hill 'n' Dale Farms KY Fee: \$15,000</i>	
12	Summer Front <i>(2009) by War Front FYR: 2017</i>	--	2	--	2	--	--	22	5	49,000	176,389
										<i>Ete Indien</i>	
										<i>Stands: Airdrie Stud KY Fee: \$10,000</i>	
13	Palace <i>(2009) by City Zip FYR: 2017</i>	--	1	--	1	--	--	23	6	74,200	169,110
										<i>Auberge</i>	
										<i>Stands: Spendthrift Farm KY Fee: \$5,000</i>	
14	Fast Anna <i>(2011) by Medaglia d'Oro FYR: 2017</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	5	33,000	167,610
										<i>Gidgetta</i>	
										<i>Stands: Three Chimneys Farm KY Fee: \$10,000</i>	
15	The Big Beast <i>(2011) by Yes It's True FYR: 2017</i>	--	1	--	--	--	--	20	6	26,400	154,916
										<i>Bad Little Beast</i>	
										<i>Stands: Ocala Stud FL Fee: \$6,000</i>	

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WEDNESDAY'S INSIGHTS: PROMISING CARPE DIEM COLT TAKES ON WINNERS AT GULFSTREAM



Carpe Omniaus | Ryan Thompson

9th-GP, \$51K, OC 75k/N1X, 3yo, 7f, 5:03 p.m. ET

CARPE OMNIOUS (Carpe Diem) punched through an inviting opening along the rail to win at first asking going six furlongs with a very solid 83 Beyer Speed Figure at Gulfstream Dec. 21. The priciest of 73 first-crop yearlings by Carpe Diem to sell in 2018 when he brought \$550,000 at Keeneland September, Carpe Omniaus is co-owned by WinStar Farm and China Horse Club International and trained by Todd Pletcher. His dam Renards Lapin (Tiznow) is a half-sister to English highweight Lucky Story (Kris S.) and Group 1 winner Dr Fong (Kris S.). **TJCS PPs**

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IN ORDER OF PURSE:

5th-Parx Racing, \$40,750, (S), Msw, 2-4, 3yo, 5 1/2f, 1:05.10, ft. FORTHELUVOFBOURBON (g, 3, Bourbon Courage--Nosubstituteforluv, by Not For Love), off at debut odds of 5-1, chased on the inside from his rail draw, tipped out to set his sights on the leader off the turn for home and took off in the stretch to graduate by 5 1/2 lengths over favored Brilliant Chase (Golden Lad). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$24,000. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** O-Vaccaro Racing Stable & Patricia Farro; B-Hidden Acres 4-D Farm (PA); T-Patricia Farro.



SECOND-CROP SIRES TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

Bold Red (Wiseman's Ferry)

3 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
2-Mahoning Valley, Msw 6f, REALLY RED, 8-5

Carpe Diem (Giant's Causeway), WinStar Farm, \$15,000

231 foals of racing age/19 winners/2 black-type winners
9-Gulfstream, Aoc 7f, CARPE OMNIOUS, 7-5
\$550,000 KEE SEP yrl

Constitution (Tapit), WinStar Farm, \$40,000

233 foals of racing age/30 winners/5 black-type winners
8-Fair Grounds, Msw 7 1/2ft, BREEZY MONEY, 8-1
\$90,000 KEE SEP yrl
9-Gulfstream, Aoc 7f, SMALL REASON, 30-1
\$20,000 KEE SEP yrl

Hampton Court (Aus) (Redoute's Choice {Aus}), Spendthrift Farm

44 foals of racing age/12 winners/0 black-type winners
7-Fair Grounds, Alw 6f, FAST VERDICT, 8-1

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Khozan (Distorted Humor), Journeyman Stud, \$8,500
 130 foals of racing age/23 winners/2 black-type winners
 9-Gulfstream, Aoc 7f, SMASH FACTOR, 2-1

Lea (First Samurai), Claiborne Farm, \$7,500
 103 foals of racing age/10 winners/2 black-type winners
 8-Fair Grounds, Msw 7 1/2ft, KINZEA STONE, 12-1
 \$95,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl; \$72,000 RNA OBS APR 2yo

Race Day (Tapit), Spendthrift Farm, \$7,500
 145 foals of racing age/20 winners/4 black-type winners
 9-Gulfstream, Aoc 7f, CONQUEST DAY, 9-2
 \$70,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$170,000 OBS OPN 2yo

Secret Circle (Eddington), Hill 'n' Dale Farms, \$5,000
 62 foals of racing age/13 winners/0 black-type winners
 7-Fair Grounds, Alw 6f, REACH THE CIRCLE, 8-1



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ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-Parx Racing, \$41,000, (S), 2-4, (NW1BX), 4yo/up, f/m,
 6 1/2f, 1:18.86, ft.

E T'S GYPSY WOMAN (f, 4, Emperor Tiberius--Deona, by
Yankee Victor) Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-1, \$67,790. O-Starlight
 Stables, LLC; B-R. N. Miller (PA); T-Gustavo Chacon.

4th-Mahoning Valley, \$31,300, (S), 2-4, (NW2L), 3yo/up, f/m,
 6f, 1:15.04, ft.

SHORE OF EDEN (f, 3, Unbridledwood--Sassy Shore Breeze, by
Shore Breeze) Lifetime Record: 10-2-1-0, \$49,833. O-Calypto
 Stable; B-Robert A. Rowe (OH); T-Jason DaCosta. *\$3,700 Ylg '18
 OHIOCT.



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3rd-Mahoning Valley, \$24,000, 2-4, (NW3L), 3yo/up, 6f,
 1:11.92, ft.

DRENA'S BULLET (g, 5, **Bullet Train {GB}**--Achnasheals, by
Broken Vow) Lifetime Record: 27-3-4-3, \$73,524. O-Sam
 Passero; B-Paul Van Doren (KY); T-Kevin Buttigieg.

2nd-Mahoning Valley, \$23,500, 2-4, (NW2L), 3yo, f, 6f, 1:14.53,
 ft.

OVER THE BLUES (f, 3, **Overanalyze**--Bluegrass Belle, by
Bluegrass Cat) Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-0, \$41,194. O-Fort Springs
 Racing; B-C. W. Swann & Jason Sciortino (KY); T-Brian A. Lynch.

*Won via disqualification.

UPDATE Hip 422: Dam sells @ FT Feb Sale w/ GAINESWAY



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ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Broadway d'Oro, c, 4, **Medaglia d'Oro**--Broadway Gold (SW, \$166,645), by Seeking the Gold. Sunland, 2-4, 6 1/2f, 1:18.43. B-SF Bloodstock LLC (KY). *\$475,000 RNA Ylg '17 KEESEP; \$700,000 Ylg '17 FTKOCT; \$10,000 3yo '19 FTKHRA. **Full to Golden Lad, MGSW, \$645,320; 1/2 to Broadway's Alibi (Vindication), MGSW & GISP, \$521,500; R Gypsy Gold (Bernardini), MSW & GISP, \$271,417.

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- BOURBON COURAGE**, Fortheluvofbourbon, g, 3, o/o Nosubstituteforluv, by Not For Love. MSW, 2-4, Parx Racing
- BULLET TRAIN (GB)**, Drena's Bullet, g, 5, o/o Achnasheals, by Broken Vow. ALW, 2-4, Mahoning Valley
- EMPEROR TIBERIUS**, E T's Gypsy Woman, f, 4, o/o Deona, by Yankee Victor. ALW, 2-4, Parx Racing
- MEDAGLIA D'ORO**, Broadway d'Oro, c, 4, o/o Broadway Gold, by Seeking the Gold. MSW, 2-4, Sunland
- OVERANALYZE**, Over the Blues, f, 3, o/o Bluebrass Belle, by Bluegrass Cat. ALW, 2-4, Mahoning Valley
- UNBRIDLEDWOOD**, Shore of Eden, f, 3, o/o Sassy Shore Breeze, by Shore Breeze. ALW, 2-4, Mahoning Valley



TODAY'S FEATURED VIDEO REPLAYS

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Fortheluvofbourbon (Bourbon Courage) wins first out at Parx Tuesday.



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SON OF CHURCHILL TAKES COMMAND AT GOFFS



Day 1 Topper, Lot 183 | Goffs

By Daithi Harvey

KILDARE, Ireland - The Goffs sales' year got off to a relatively low-key start on Tuesday as the first session of the two day February Sale got underway. Yearlings were the order of the day and it was a handsome son of Coolmore stallion Churchill (Ire) who topped proceedings when selling to leading pinhooker and breeder Ciaran Conroy of Glenvale Stud for €82,000. This price failed to match the corresponding top price of €120,000 from 2019, but nevertheless trade more or less mirrored last year with 154 of the 237 offered horses changing hands at a clearance rate of 65%. The aggregate of €1,979,900 came in a fraction below last year as did the average of €12,856 while the median rose €1,000 to €8,000.

"We liked him a lot and we thought he was a standout horse here today," remarked Conroy after signing for the sale topper--lot 183--the first foal of the Cape Cross (Ire) mare Najma (GB), who was consigned by Riverview Farm. "He might come back here for the Orby Sale but we'll see how he develops over the year. He is a very mature horse and I must say Churchill is producing outstanding stock, I will be very surprised if he doesn't make a very successful stallion," Conroy added of the grandson of G2 Ribblesdale S. winner Silkwood (GB) (Singspiel {Ire}). Those thoughts were echoed by the yearling's co-breeder Jane Mangan who said.

"I'm delighted with that price and with the home he is going to. I bred him along with my mother and it's a great start with the mare. Churchill certainly seems to be stamping them in his own image, this lad included and I think we will have to strongly consider sending the mare back to him based on this outcome."

Like the sale topper, a return for the autumn yearling sales is on the cards for lot 64, a filly by Profitable (Ire) which was knocked down to Mags O'Toole for €75,000. "She is for Lynn Lodge Stud and is a lovely filly," O'Toole said. "It's a good family and she has a few smart horses running for her and I think she could come back for any of the select sales later in the year," she added. The filly is a half-sister to Listed Bosra Sham S. winner Cape Factor (Ire) (Oratorio {Ire}) while another sibling Court House (Ire) (Dawn Approach {Ire}) was second in the Listed Winter Derby Trial S. at Lingfield last weekend. The John Gosden trained 5-year-old is a leading contender to go one place better in the G3 Winter Derby in a few weeks' time, a race he finished second in last year. [Cont. p2](#)

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

KENTUCKY VALUE SIREs 2020: FIRST 3YOS

In Part 5 of an ongoing series, Chris McGrath examines Kentucky stallions represented by their first crop of sophomore in 2020.

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For Kildare breeder Gerry Callanan the sale of lot 64 was profitable indeed, the chestnut filly conceived from a €12,000 stud fee and out of a mare Crossanza (Ire) (Cape Cross {Ire}) that Callanan also bred. Callanan actually brought the filly to the November Sale but fate intervened and it appears now that it was possibly for the better. "She just picked up a bug here last time and I withdrew her and while it was disappointing at the time it has all worked out well in the end," Callanan said. "She is a lovely filly and she has done well since November. The brother [Court House] finishing second last week was no harm either and it is a family that has been very good to me. I actually had the mare here in a sale as a foal 15 years ago but she broke a bone just before the sale and I had to keep her. She has been a great broodmare and we've been well paid for a few of her progeny. She is barren at the moment but she will be going to Blue Point (Ire). I am delighted with the sale



Ciaran 'Flash' Conroy | Goffs

of this filly and hopefully she will be lucky for her new owners." Tally-Ho Stud rarely leave a sale empty handed and they snapped up lot 83, a filly by their own stallion Kodiak (GB).

Ballintry Stud consigned the yearling on behalf of breeder Debbie Kitchin and the half-sister to stakes performer Al Hamdany (Ire) (Kodiak {GB}) was knocked down to Tally-Ho for €42,000. It was the turn of the Yeomanstown Stud branch of the O'Callaghan family to express an interest in the second of the three Kodiak (GB) yearlings on offer and it took a bid of €52,000 from Gay O'Callaghan to secure lot 146 from Phoenixtown Stud. This colt is the first produce of the former Godolphin owned Leyburn (GB)

(Shamardal) who is a half-sister to stakes winners Centennial (Ire) (Dalakhani {Ire}) and Siren's Song (Ire) (Azamour {Ire}). Four time Group 1 winner Ribchester (Ire)'s first foals were well received in 2019 averaging over €50,000 for 30 sold and that trend continued when lot 253, one of two yearlings by the sire

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PROFITABLE

He was the standout sire with first foals to my mind. Having not used him before, we are sending two mares this year.
David Egan Corduff Stud

We were very impressed with his foals. As a bunch they were athletic and strong and we were delighted to buy a lovely filly by him.
Violet Hesketh WH Bloodstock

Profitable has really stamped his stock and they are racy individuals.
Hamish Macauley Agent

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Clearly amazing

in the sale sold to BBA Ireland for €54,000. Offered by Belmont Stud the easy walking colt is out of the Empire Maker mare Surface Of Earth, herself a daughter of French stakes winner and influential broodmare Wild Planet (Nureyev). Meanwhile a well related Australia (GB) filly (lot 98), the first produce of the dual winner Filante (Ire) (Harbour Watch {Ire}) sold to MP Bloodstock for €52,000. Filante is a half-sister to GI Northern Dancer Turf S. winner Forte Dei Marmi (Selkirk) as well as two other international stakes winners. Fellow Coolmore stallion



Jane, Jimmy & Mary Mangan, breeders of session topper | Goffs

Starspangledbanner (Aus) was represented by just a single yearling in the sale but lot 204 from Jossestown Farm made its mark when selling to Pegasus Bloodstock for €40,000. The bay filly is a half-sister to French listed winner Alexander James (Ire) (Camelot {GB}) while another sibling Johan Zoffani (Ire) (Zoffany {Ire}) showed smart form in maidens last year for trainer Michael O'Callaghan. Matt Houldsworth and Geoffrey Howson were on the ball early in the sale picking up two of the first three lots into the ring. Lot 2 was a son of Fast Company (Ire) out of a winning half-sister to G2 Lowther S. winner Living In The Past (Ire) (Bungle Inthejungle {GB}) that cost €27,000, while two lots later the pair signed for a colt by Churchill (Ire) offered by Baroda Stud on behalf of Paul Hensey of Rifa Mustang. Houldsworth went to €40,000 to secure lot 4 who hails from the family of Hydrangea (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) and Hermosa (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}). Lot 31 from the McCalmont family's Yeomanstown Lodge Stud received a timely update last week when his half-brother Mr Mooj (Ire) (Camelot {GB}) broke his maiden at the second attempt at Dundalk and the son of Decorated Knight (GB) went the way of Willie Browne after he saw off Kevin Blake with a bid of €38,000. The sale resumes at 10a.m. Wednesday when a mix of 2-year-olds, horses in training, breeding stock and stallion prospects come under the hammer.

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GOFFS FEBRUARY SALE

TUESDAY'S TOP YEARLINGS

LOT	Sex	SIRE DAM	PRICE (€)
183	c	Churchill (Ire)–Najma (GB) <i>Breeder: J. Mangan (IRE)</i> <i>Consignor: Riverview Farm</i> <i>Purchaser: Glenvale Stud</i>	82,000
064	f	Profitable (Ire)–Crossanza (Ire) <i>Breeder: Nanallac Stud (IRE)</i> <i>Consignor: Nanallac Stud</i> <i>Purchaser: Margaret O'Toole</i>	75,000
146	c	Kodiac (GB)–Leyburn (GB) <i>Breeder: M & M Butler (IRE)</i> <i>Consignor: Phoenixtown Stud</i> <i>Purchaser: Yeomanstown Stud</i>	58,000
253		Ribchester–Surface of Earth <i>Breeder: Belmont Bldstock & Glenville Bldstck (IRE)</i> <i>Consignor: Belmont Stud</i> <i>Purchaser: BBA Ireland</i>	54,000

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SESSION TOTALS	2020	2019
• Catalogued	277	268
• Number Offered	238	216
• Number Sold	153	137
• Not Sold	85	79
• Clearance Rate	64.2	63.4
• High Price	€ 82,000	€ 120,000
• Gross	€1,978,900	€2,033,950
• Average (% change)	€12,934 (-12.9%)	€14,846
• Median (% change)	€8,000 (+14.3%)	€7,000



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DUBAI DUTY FREE EXTENDS DERBY SPONSORSHIP



Sovereign winning the 2019 G1 Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby | *Racing Post*

Dubai Duty Free has extended its sponsorship of the G1 Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby by a further two years, and added five additional races to its sponsorship portfolio, which will see prizemoney at this year's Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby Festival on June 26 to 28 rise to €2.25-million from €2-million. In 2021, all races at the festival will be worth a minimum of €100,000.

The Dubai Duty Free Village in the Curragh garden will this year provide a new entertainment venue with an array of food and beverage outlets and a full programme of entertainment. Dubai Duty Free will continue to sponsor the most stylish racegoer competition, with the winner receiving a five-star holiday to Dubai.

Dubai Duty Free will continue to support the Irish Derby 'Free Entry' initiative, with Chester's Listed Dee S. and G3 Chester Vase and ParisLongchamp's G3 Prix de Lys added to the roster of races. Dubai Duty Free has also increased its support of stable staff, with a trophy going to the winning groom of each company sponsored race and a cash prize going to the best turned out winner of each.

"Dubai Duty Free have been outstanding partners of The Curragh and I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution that Colm McLoughlin and his team have made to the success of the Irish Derby since 2008," said The Curragh Racecourse Chief Executive Pat Keogh. "Their increased support across their six sponsored races for the next two years will ensure we can maximise the quality and competitiveness across all races.

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“The 2017 Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby was the highest-rated race in the world and our objective is to ensure we attract the very best 3-year-old horses in Europe. The extension of the ‘Free Entry’ is a great initiative and will encourage owners and trainers to be part of Ireland’s greatest and most valuable horse race.”

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UNFORTUNATELY SIRES FIRST FOAL



Unfortunately’s first foal, a colt born last week

The first foal for Group 1-winning 2-year-old **Unfortunately (Ire)** (Society Rock {Ire}) is a colt out of Heartsong (Ire) (Kheleyf) bred by Mrs RJ Gallagher and born last week at Batsford Stud.

Unfortunately won the G1 Prix Morny and G2 Prix Robert Papin at two and the G3 Renaissance S. at three. He was officially rated 117 and named champion 2-year-old in France. After standing his first season at Cheveley Park Stud, Unfortunately has moved this year to Springfield House Stud but remains under Cheveley Park’s management.

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SALES REVIEW PART TWO RELEASED

Part two of the Weatherbys Bloodstock Sales Review 2019 has been published and is available for purchase [online](#) and at Goffs and Tattersalls. The review provides an in-depth analysis of all Thoroughbreds sold at public auction in Europe last year, in addition to foals and yearlings sold in North America sired by European-based stallions.

The information contained includes averages and medians for both colts and fillies of different age classes by sire; vendors and purchasers; leading sires lists; extensive editorial; and top lots from major sales.

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Second in the **Prix du Jockey-Club-Gr.1** and the **Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe-Gr.1**.

GROUP 2 WINNER AT 2 YEARS over 7f.

Total earnings **€9,500,000!**

His first crop foals sold for **€185,000, €140,000, €95,000, €75,000 etc.**



HIGHLAND REEL

Bred on same **GALILEO/DANEHILL** cross as Gr.1 sires **FRANKEL** and **TEOFILO**.

From the family of Gr.1 sire **STARSPANGLED BANNER**.

COOLMORE

Fee : **€12,500**

BRITAIN

Tuesday's Result:

3rd-Kempton, £6,000, Novice, 2-4, 3yo, 8f (AWT), 1:41.28, st. LEXINGTON FORCE (FR) (c, 3, Dabirsim {Fr})--Fox Force Five {Ire}, by Araafa {Ire}), a 25-1 shot on this debut, was tucked into mid-division after the initial stages. Full of running straightening for home, the bay swept aside Law of Peace (GB) (Shamardal) 100 yards from the finish en route to a convincing 1 3/4-length success. The dam, whose 2-year-old colt is by Dream Ahead, is a half to two black-type performers including the listed winner Ossun (Fr) (Anabaa). Sales history: €90,000 Ylg '18 ARAV2. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$5,045.
O-Middleham Park Racing XLVII; B-Sarah Lhermite (FR); T-Richard Hannon.

FRANCE

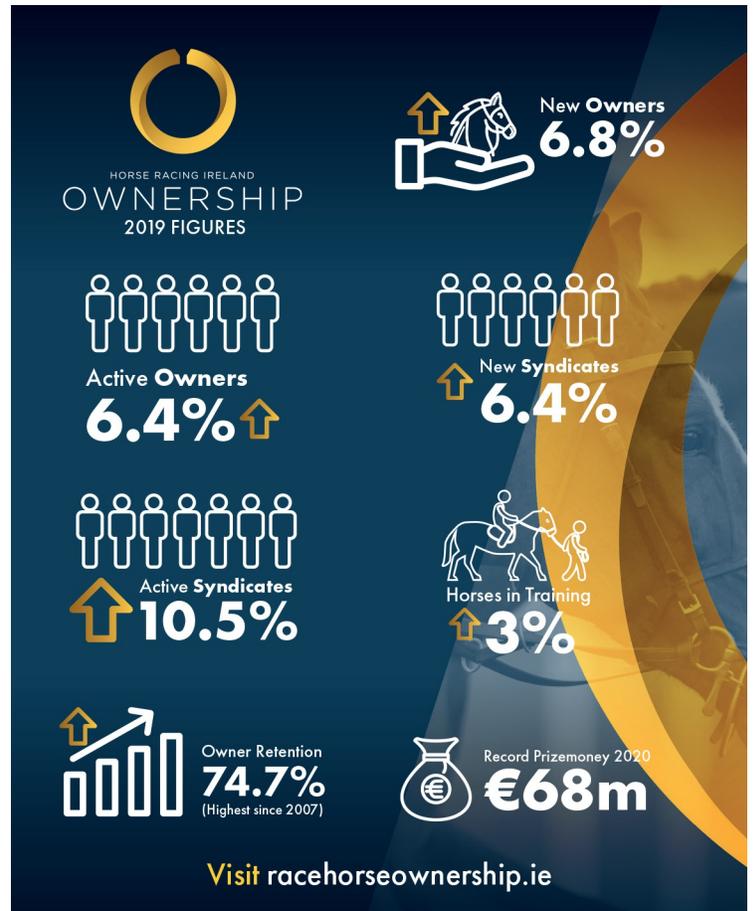
ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNER:

Ruzzini (Ire), c, 3, Intello (Ger)--Keegsquaw (Ire) (SW-Fr, \$151,216), by Street Cry (Ire). Pau, 2-4, 10f (AWT), 2:04.20. B-Ecurie Peregrine SAS (IRE). *€200,000 Ylg '18 AROCT. **1/2 to Lucius Tiberius (Ire) (Camelot {GB}), SP-Eng & Ire, \$161,591.

WORLDWIDE NEWS

HONG KONG CONSIDERING FURTHER ON-SITE REDUCTIONS

In light of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Hong Kong Jockey Club revealed as part of a statement on Tuesday that it is "critically considering a further reduction of on-site participation by our customers" from Saturday. Meetings at Hong Kong's two racecourses, Sha Tin and Happy Valley, have been staged in recent weeks under partial lockdown, meaning that only owners, horse people, racecourse staff and patrons with existing hospitality bookings were permitted on-course. New hospitality bookings at the two racecourses have been suspended effective immediately. On the same day that Hong Kong confirmed its first Coronavirus death, the Hong Kong Jockey Club on Tuesday released a set of measures aimed to avoid crowd congregations and assist in the containment of the disease.



This includes the closure of off-course betting branches and some Teletbet hotlines. Customers can continue to place bets via Teletbet's automated system or the Club's online wagering or mobile betting platforms.

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Sha Tin Racecourse | Hong Kong Jockey Club



VOW AND DECLARE TAKES STEP FORWARD



Vow and Declare | *Bronwen Healy*

By Paul Vettise

The starting point of the autumn campaign of the G1 Melbourne Cup winner Vow And Declare (Declaration Of War {USA}) has still to be locked in, but he'll be in top shape for whatever first-up goal he's aimed at. The 4-year-old received top marks from jockey Craig Williams, who partnered him to glory at Flemington, after riding the stayer in an 1190 metre hitout at the Cranbourne trials on Tuesday morning.

Vow And Declare sat back in the small field before improving near the turn and was allowed to run home under his own steam to finish runner-up behind Shephard (GB) (Sea The Moon {Ger}), who led all the way.

"He's come back in great shape and we just wanted a nice, soft trial. That was perfect and Craig was very happy with him," said Ben Gleeson, assistant to trainer Danny O'Brien.

"He's strengthened up and Craig was very complimentary and said he feels like a man now – he's broader and certainly put on plenty of weight and spelled very well and put on about 40kg. At this stage he is right where we want to see him."

O'Brien returned to Australia on Wednesday morning from the United States where he attended the Super Bowl and has been in regular contact with Gleeson.

"He'll be in first thing after being away for a couple of weeks and he'll see the improvement the horse has made," Gleeson said.

Vow And Declare will make his first appearance since triumphing in the Melbourne Cup in Group 1 company over 2000 metres, with the venue either Flemington or Randwick.

"It's 50-50 between the Australian Cup or the Queen Elizabeth S. and we'll see how he comes through this trial first," Gleeson said. "Dan may look to trial him again or he might look to go straight to the Australian Cup.

"If we trial him again we'd probably go straight up to Sydney because it would be a bit longer between runs. It's a toss-up between the two at the moment."

The heat winner Shephard is trained by David Brideoake for Peter Moody, who bought the 4-year-old for 30,000 gns (AU\$57,000) at the Tattersalls December Foal Sale. He has won three of his four Australian starts with his dam a half-sister to the G1 Grand Prix de Paris winner Cavalryman (GB) (Halling {USA}).

Of the 2-year-olds on show in three 800 metre heats, the quickest in 45.88s was Phillip Stokes' Diamonds Inthe Sky (Zoustar), who was making her first trial appearance.

The filly was bought out of Springmount's weanling draft at the Inglis Great Southern Sale by the McMaster family for \$100,000. She is a daughter of Cacophony (Elusive Quality {USA}), who won twice and is from the family of the American Group 2 winner and Group 1 performer My Gi Gi (USA) (E Dubai {USA}).

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Surace's B2B Laying Solid Foundations

Fierce Impact Targets Further G1 Glory

Jameka's Brother Makes Public Appearance

Kolding Popular In All-Star Mile Voting