



2020 Triple Crown Nominations	
1	American Pharoah 15
2	Uncle Mo 13
3	Into Mischief 12

COOLMORE AMERICA

HOW 'DENNIS' JUMP STARTED BALLY SAX



Carl McEntee | Fasig-Tipton

by Chris McGrath

Call it seizing the moment. Carl McEntee's very first Saratoga consignment, just a couple of weeks after hanging out a shiny new Ballysax board at the July Sale in Lexington. A consignment, admittedly, comprising of a single Tiznow colt.

"Obviously everyone wants to take a yearling to Saratoga," McEntee says. "And it's very simple to say, 'Let's take this Tapit up there, or this War Front, this Pharoah.' Great, if you have those horses. At that stage, in a fledgling company that'd been going six months, I didn't have clientele with that kind of quality.

"There is, however, a specific horse that works for Saratoga. Maybe a tier below on pedigree, but with the physical attributes, and the mental fortitude not to be buzzed out by being shown monotonously, over and over again. And 'Dennis' was that kind of horse."

Dennis, of course, being Dennis' Moment--author of perhaps the most spectacular maiden success by any 2-year-old last year, by just under 20 lengths at Ellis Park in July. After following up in the GIII Iroquois S., he started as a hot favorite for the GI TVG Breeders' Cup Juvenile, only to kneel down leaving the gate and trail in last. With that mishap easily forgiven, however, he sets out to restore his Kentucky Derby credentials in the GII Fasig-Tipton Fountain of Youth S. Saturday.

Whatever happens next, McEntee certainly made an unerring choice of flagbearer for Ballysax's debut at an elite sale. **Cont. p3**

MULTIPLE CHAMPION COVFEFE RETIRED

LNJ Foxwoods' **Covfefe** (Into Mischief--Antics, by Unbridled), who last month was named champion 3-year-old filly and champion female sprinter at the Eclipse Awards, has been retired from racing and will be bred to boom sire Constitution for the upcoming breeding season. She will reside at Gainesway Farm.

Bred in Kentucky by Alexander-Groves Thoroughbreds, Covfefe was a \$250,000 purchase out of the 2017 Keeneland September yearling sale by Alex Solis II and Jason Litt of Solis/Litt Bloodstock on behalf of Larry, Nanci and Jaime Roth of LNJ Foxwoods. Turned over to trainer Brad Cox, Covfefe graduated by 9 1/4 lengths at first asking and would go on to win five of her six starts during her sophomore season in 2019.

The 8 1/2-length winner of the GIII Miss Preakness S. in a track record-setting time of 1:07.70 ([video](#)), the bay scored a gutsy success in the GI Longines Test S. at Saratoga Aug. 3. **Cont. p6**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

SOLDIER ON BALLYHANE TOUR OF DUTY

Emma Berry speaks with Ballyhane Stud's Joe Foley on new stallion **Soldier's Call (GB)** (Showcasing {GB}). [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

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Looking to the Future. Dual champion Covfefe (Into Mischief) has been retired from racing and will take up residence at Gainesway Farm. "Covfefe is the epitome of why one gets into the game and did everything we could ask for as a racehorse," said LNJ Foxwoods' Jaime Roth. "She has given us some of the most incredible moments of our lives." | Horsephotos

RENOWNED RACING OFFICIAL TROTTER DIES AT 93 **7**

Tommy Trotter, who spent a 56-year career in racing and became one of the sport's most acclaimed racing secretaries, died Saturday in Aventura, FL. He was 93.

BRITISH IDIOM, FINITE LEAD 116 OAKS NOMS **8**

Champion British Idiom (Flashback) and MGSW Finite (Munnings) headed a list of 116 nominations to the May 1 GI Kentucky Oaks released Monday.

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How 'Dennis' Jump Started Ballysax cont. from p1

"He had real fluidity through his shoulder, was kind of walking downhill the whole time," he recalls. "I thought the 2-year-old boys would love him up to about 300 [thousand] and that if we got really lucky, a couple of end users might come in above that."

And that's exactly what happened, Albaugh Family Racing ultimately taking the colt home for \$400,000. But this was hardly beginner's luck, McEntee being no kind of novice. He was raised in a family of horsemen, and his transatlantic resume had extended beyond 20 years by the time he left a position as director of sales at Darby Dan to start Ballysax.

With a self-deprecating grin, he presents the gamble as a kind of mid-life crisis. Forty on the horizon; a few days laid low by a bug; reviewing his contacts book, sketching out some numbers.

"Just that sort of glitch moment, where you're peering down the barrel and thinking, 'What's it all for? What am I doing?'"



Dennis' Moment | Coady

McEntee says. "That sort of self-indulgent nonsense! But I have never been one to get too comfortable. I still look at myself as a 12-year-old kid thinking, 'They're never going to let me do this.' You have to push yourself, always have to seek the next

challenge, the next thing that makes you feel like you can't do it. That's what tends to drive me in life."

He put the idea to friends and clients who'd been with him all the way: not just at Darby Dan, but at Northview, and before that at Ghost Ridge. They told him to go for it; that he could bank on them. Literally.

"And so these three gents bought 30% of my company before I went live," McEntee says. "That gave me the start-up capital. It was kind of them, to

have a little bit of faith in me. And we put just under 200 horses through the consignment that first year; then 260 last year, for clients old and new. For only our second year, I was really proud of that." **Cont. p4**

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But this air of improvisation actually belies the longest of gestations for Ballysax Bloodstock. McEntee remembers announcing to the other adolescent bid spotters at Tattersalls that he would someday sell horses in the name of his first family home, back in County Kildare.

“Obviously, you say things when you’re silly and 15,” he said. “And life tends to be nothing more than living out the changes to your plans. I wanted to be champion apprentice, then I wanted to be a jump jockey. But the Ballysax name always resonated with me.”

If riding aspirations were confined, as he grew to six feet, the horsemanship was certainly ingrained. McEntee’s father, once a champion apprentice in Ireland, had ended up training a small stable of jumpers--emulating his own father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

McEntee’s brother Philip is a trainer in Newmarket; and Philip’s daughter Grace is taking the clan into a sixth generation on the Turf as a leading apprentice there. But the two other brothers had pioneered a path to Kentucky, Mark as long-serving manager at Miacomet Farm near Georgetown; and Paul training locally too. They all absorbed old-school, hands-on horse lore from a father whose example, though he died in 1998, remains ever in mind.



Carl McEntee with LNJ Foxwoods’ Jaime Roth | Lucas Marquardt

“He always said that you should never ask a man to do a job you couldn’t do yourself, and better,” McEntee recalls. “I remember when I was five, he cut down a two-pronged pitchfork for me to clean the stall. I was too little to carry the muck sack, but the quicker I had it tied up, the farther I was able to walk to meet the string coming back; and then Dad would pick me up, put me on the horse and lead me back to the yard. It was his way of teaching me that the harder you work in life, the greater the reward.”

One Sunday morning, when still only 15, a Newmarket trainer paid McEntee £15 to school a horse over hurdles. His mount emerged from a horsebox pouring with sweat and “breathing fire.”

“But at that age, you think you can ride anything in the world,” he recalls. “Sure enough, it got within two strides and just bolted straight through the wing. I stayed on, but got a bad cut.

“We’d gone to mass in the morning, and Dad was there in his shirt and tie. He grabbed the horse. ‘Are you okay?’ ‘Yeah, I’m fine.’ ‘Your leg’s bleeding. Get off the horse.’ ‘Okay. But I don’t want to get in trouble with the trainer, Dad.’ ‘You won’t.’ And he jumped on this horse, literally wearing slip-on shoes, no helmet or anything. And he galloped him straight down, jumped three hurdles, three full-size hurdles, pulled up. And then he came over and gave the trainer a ruddy great talking-to, saying that he should never have put a child on a horse like that.

“My mother always said it was a fine line between bravery and stupidity, but there was basically nothing my father couldn’t do with a horse.”

That grounding sustains McEntee both now that he is a father himself--his three children know that the cardinal sin is sloth--and also in his own vocation. Recently he was on a farm where three grooms were trying to chase down a horse that had gotten loose with a shank; McEntee, keeping up his usual loquacious flow, had ushered him into a safe enclosure before even noticing what he was doing.

“It’s instinct,” he says with a shrug. “I’ll do something just because that’s how I was raised to do it. Some of the most important gifts you’re given as a child, without realizing it, are things you will know to do just because they’re right.” **Cont. p5**

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“Whether it’s manners, or decent behavior, or knowing to open a gate so a horse walks in there and doesn’t trip over a rope,” he added.

Other teachers contributed to his education, of course. There was an early stint here in the United States, with his brother at Miacomet and then down in Florida for the farm’s owners Bill and Jill Harrigan. A season with Dr. Riddle of Rood & Riddle. Back in England, senior positions with trainers as notably astute as Willie Musson and Mick Ryan.

He was not yet 30 when hired by Tarry Bratton to help establish Ghost Ridge in Pennsylvania, and can duly take credit for the arrival of the state legend Jump Start (A.P. Indy) from South America--in the process lending all the impetus implied in his name to McEntee’s own career.

“I’d never purchased a stallion before, and we paid \$1.2 million for 75%,” he recalls. “And that’s how I got into sales: it turned out that my owner couldn’t afford the entire horse, so I had to sell shares. And, believe it or not, the first ones I sold were to a gentleman who’s now a silent partner in my company. We met at Timonium in October: just got chatting, had a coffee, and when I left the sale ground, he handed me a check for four shares in Jump Start.”

When Bratton’s project did not last the course, McEntee bought out Jump Start for his new patrons at Northview. Little wonder, if he feels such affection for one of the most prolific regional sires of recent times.



Jump Start | Sarah Andrew

“I was told you couldn’t stand a horse there for \$10,000, and that we’d never breed more than 60 mares,” he recalls. “Which annoyed me no end! I tried to bring a little bit of Kentucky to Pennsylvania: stallion shows, dinner dances, free seasons. The first year we bred 144 mares, and then kept him above 125 for the next three. What a phenomenal horse. He had this regal air about him. He played a big role in our lives. To be frank, if it

wasn’t for him, I don’t think any of this would have happened.”

As it was, McEntee was spotted by Darby Dan and worked there for four years until lining up his men for the Ballysax plunge. The horses are prepped at Forever Spring Farm at Danville, owned by Ballysax partner Dr. David Williams (another is Hank Nothhaft) and managed by an old friend in Matt Jackson.

Once again, then, McEntee has landed running--and not simply by producing Dennis’ Moment from his first draft. Because the clients for whom he sold that colt, in his view, have the smarts and energy to prove an equivalent springboard to the one he found in Jump Start.

McEntee met Geoff and Brandi Nixon, the young Texas couple who bred Dennis’ Moment, through their farm manager Elise Handler. She had picked out a young mare named Transplendid (Elusive Quality) as one of their first investments, at Keeneland November in 2015--for just \$50,000, in foal to Verrazano. (Transplendid had needed 11 starts in maiden company to register her solitary success.) At the same auction the following year, when still with Darby Dan, McEntee supervised the sale of Transplendid’s Verrazano colt for \$185,000. And her next foal was Dennis’ Moment.

But he is no flash in the pan. Another mare added to the Nixons’ nascent operation was One True Kiss (Warrior’s Reward), in foal to Speightstown when acquired for \$250,000 at Keeneland November in 2018. A few weeks later her half-brother Shancelot (Shanghai Bobby) launched his explosive sprinting career with a maiden success at Gulfstream.

Next, McEntee gave \$92,000 for Soot Z (Empire Maker) at Fasig-Tipton February. They knew she had a 2-year-old daughter by Constitution; they couldn’t know she would turn out to be GII Sorrento S. winner Amalfi Sunrise.

Both Soot Z (with an Into Mischief cover) and Transplendid (with one by More Than Ready) were cashed in at Fasig-Tipton’s November Sale, selling through Ballysax for \$800,000 and \$1.4 million respectively. That was an auspiciously dispassionate business decision by the Nixons, barely a year after they had acquired Grantley Acres Farm in Kentucky.

“With the new farm, and a bunch of new mares, and with relatively low investment needed for these two, the churn is okay,” McEntee reasons. “You buy a mare for \$92,000 and flip her in nine months for \$800,000, that’s a great return. As for Transplendid, if Dennis goes on and wins the Derby, that’s phenomenal: I’d be delighted for the people that bought the mare. But in this industry, there are so many ifs and buts and what-ifs.

“You can sell that mare for \$1.4 million, or you can pay the insurance and hope to sell three yearlings in a row for a half-a-million apiece. Which is hard to do. She was on a late cover. What happens if she misses the next year?” **Cont. p6**

“All of a sudden, your next foal goes to the market in 2023; and if Dennis happened not to train on, she has a Grade III winner four years ago,” he continued.

As it is, the wheels have been oiled--with well-bred mares meanwhile recruited not just at the Kentucky breeding stock sales but also at Tattersalls--and the Grantley Acres brand has gained overnight stature.



Dennis' Moment | Coady

“This is a gentleman that’s really trying to push the industry forward,” enthuses McEntee. “A young guy, 34; bringing in his buddies, his fraternity brothers; people that have all done well, and they’re investing too. These are the kind of people this industry desperately needs.”

One of Nixon’s pals, for instance, had taken a share in One True Kiss--whose Speightstown filly, acquired in utero, sold for \$325,000 the same night as Soot Z and Transplendid. “So that’s instant: you’ve got your money back, you’ve paid for the next cover,” McEntee says. “So here’s another guy that’s had a great first-time experience in the industry and wants to reinvest.”

Immediately before the big sale, of course, the team had their perspectives lengthened in deflating fashion by the misfortune of Dennis’ Moment at the Breeders’ Cup. They had all flown out to California, buzzing.

“And then the horse falls on his head coming out of the gate, and the bubble just burst,” McEntee says ruefully. “Obviously, we were gutted. Those five seconds seemed like 95% of your entire lifespan. But at least people could give him a pass on that. He was still second choice in the Derby betting 48 hours later. And to everyone’s credit, the next day we all got dressed up again and had a wonderful time at the races. Geoff loves this sport, and these are the experiences I want him to have.”

McEntee himself, of course, meets these guys halfway. He’s

close enough in age, and remains captivated by the Thoroughbred; while already having decades of experience in the business. Certainly he’s no idle dreamer. While contemplating the Ballysax adventure, he found data suggesting that nine in ten start-ups will fail; and that only 4% turn a profit in the first two years.

“But within that time I’ve already returned 50% of my partners’ initial investment,” he says proudly. “It’s okay to make a profit! This is a business, after all. And, trust me, my clients have had an absolute ball.

“Of course, I couldn’t think Dennis would go on and do what he did. It’s a crapshoot, this game, and mostly luck. But he was a very good physical and I did think he’d be a racehorse. He has an ability to continuously push himself. You saw that on his first [win], as he kept going farther and farther clear. That made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up.

“Expensive horses usually sell themselves. However, at some point, you have to sell expensive horses that go on to be racehorses. Because nothing legitimizes a consignment quite like that. So for Dennis to come out of ours, in the first year, has been pretty special.”

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Covfefe Retired cont. from p1



Covfefe | Breeders' Cup/Eclipse Sportswire

Outslugging GI Kentucky Oaks victress and fellow Eclipse finalist Serengeti Empress (Alternation), with three-time Grade I winner Bellafina (Quality Road) back in third (video) in the Test, Covfefe prepped for the GI Breeders’ Cup Filly & Mare Sprint with an eight-length score over next-out Grade II winner Bell’s The One (Majesticperfection) in the Sept. 21 Dogwood S. in Louisville.

Cont. p7

Spotting Bellafina a home-court advantage on Breeders' Cup weekend, she held sway by three-quarters of a length to cement her championships ([video](#)). She retires with a record of 8-6-0-1 and earnings of \$1,110,025.

"We were left in awe of Covfefe's accomplishments as a 3-year-old," said Jaime Roth. "To be named the first dual female 3-year-old champion since Rachel Alexandra was an honor. Covfefe is the epitome of why one gets into the game and did everything we could ask for as a racehorse. As LNJ Foxwoods is primarily a breeding operation, my family has now chosen to focus on the next stage of her career. She has given us some of the most incredible moments of our lives and we look forward to campaigning her offspring in the near future."

Added Cox, "I feel privileged to have trained a dual champion. She has been brilliant since day one. Her entire campaign enamored me, but the performance that stands out was her Miss Preakness. Covfefe broke the Pimlico track record by over a second, running in 1:07.70. We are sad to see her go, but glad she is retiring 100% sound. I support the Roths' decision entirely and look forward to having the opportunity to train her progeny."

"We are honored to have Covfefe retire to Gainesway Farm," said Antony Beck. "We appreciate the support of the Roth family in entrusting us with their champion."

A 3/4-sister to Albiano (Harlan's Holiday), a two-time group winner and twice Group 1-placed in Japan; and to the French stakes-placed and stakes-producing Going Day (Daylami {Ire}), Covfefe is out of an unraced daughter of SW & GSP Aurora (Danzig), the dam of Grade I winners Arch (Kris S.) and Acoma (Empire Maker); UAE champion Festival of Light (A.P. Indy), MSW Alisios (Kris S.); Aztec Pearl (A.P. Indy), the dam of Grade III winner Aztec Sense (Street Sense); and the dams of MGSW Campaign (Curlin) and MSW Tea Time (Pulpit). Covfefe's third dam is champion Althea (Alydar).

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RENOWNED RACING OFFICIAL TOMMY TROTTER DIES AT 93

by Reg Lansberry

Tommy Trotter, whose 56-year career encompassed decades as one of the sport's most acclaimed racing secretaries, died Sunday in Aventura, FL, after a brief illness. He was 93 years old.

In addition to his renown as a racing secretary, he was a widely respected handicapper who stamped the immortal careers of Kelso, Forego and other champions by assigning them forbidding amounts of handicap weight that served to certify their greatness.

"When I think of Tommy Trotter, I think of Jimmy Kilroe," said Tom Robbins, executive vice president for racing at Del Mar. "For those that remember Jimmy Kilroe, nothing more needs to be said. Simply put, Tommy was one of horse racing's truly great professionals and gentlemen."

Born Sept. 21, 1926, approximately one mile south of Churchill Downs in Louisville, Trotter's deep-seated passion for racing was inscribed in his genes. His father, Charles Hildreth (Tobe) Trotter, was a trainer, as were his grandfather and great-grandfather. Trotter's mother, Helen Hoffler Trotter, had a brother, Jimmy, who was a jockey. Another uncle, Jimmy McGee, was a leading trainer.

Tobe Trotter's longstanding friendships allowed his son to rub elbows with and receive a first-class education in the sport from several of its most revered figures, including John Blanks Campbell, who many consider the turf's greatest racing secretary, Francis Dunne, Julius Reeder, Jimmy Ross and Kilroe. In 1945, at age 18, Trotter commenced work as a clerk in the secretary's office at Fair Grounds in New Orleans. That led to his first racing duties in New York as Campbell's secretary. In 1959, Trotter succeeded Kilroe as racing secretary when the latter opted to return to California.

Trotter estimated he was employed by 22 racetracks during his career. That included working for, and being fired by, Marje Everett at Arlington Park in Chicago, where he was hired in 1954 (and to which he would eventually return), before going to work for her again decades later at Hollywood Park in California. Known for packing on weight in an era when handicap races were a cornerstone of the turf, Trotter encountered no complaints from many of racing's most prominent owners--Vanderbilts, Whitneys and Phippses among them. Winning with top weight while conceding pounds to one's rivals served to validate the greatness of an owner's prized runner.

Given the inherent difficulty in compiling a condition book that will never garner unanimous praise from both horsemen and management, it remains an enduring Trotter hallmark that he enjoyed decades-long friendships with owners and trainers. Trotter's friendships with Kelso's owner, Allaire duPont, and trainer Carl Hanford, never suffered as their champion gelding--the only horse to win five consecutive Horse of the Year (1960-'64) titles--carried 130 pounds or more to the winner's circle 12 times during his Racing Hall of Fame career.

"Allaire just took it," Trotter said, referring to his weight assignments. "And we were always good friends. It was exactly the same with Carl Hanford; we were friends for the rest of his life. We even wound up in the steward's stand together at Delaware Park."

During a round of golf with trainer John Nerud, Trotter said they discussed his weight allocation to Dr. Fager for a handicap race in 1968. **Cont. p8**

**“HE’S LEBRON JAMES.
YOU’LL GO QUITE A LONG WAY BEFORE YOU FIND
A BETTER-LOOKING HORSE.”**

-Mike Ryan

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Kelso with Carl Hanford | Getty Images

Just before launching his drive off the tee, Nerud remarked, “Put on him whatever you want. I don’t care.” After Dr. Fager duly won, Trotter quoted Nerud as saying, “You should have put more weight on him.”

Further evidence of Trotter’s handicap acumen was Dr. Fager’s half sister, Ta Wee, who also raced in the colors of Tartan Farms’ owner William L. McKnight and would join her half-brother in the Hall of Fame.

Ta Wee won back-to-back renewals of the Fall Highweight H. at Aqueduct in New York. Carrying 130 pounds to victory against males in 1969, the most ever carried by a 3-year-old filly, she affirmed Trotter’s handicap prowess the next year when the hickory-tough daughter of Intentionally won the race again, this time toting an impost of 140 pounds.

Two other particularly meaningful friendships, among scores of them, were with actor and longtime owner-breeder John Forsythe, a passionate racing fan himself, and Hall of Fame trainer H. Allen Jerkens.

In an interview for *The Florida Horse*, Jerkens told the author he was particularly appreciative of Trotter’s help in 1962 when, after being interviewed in New York by Hobeau Farm’s Jack Dreyfus, his new patron sent him half a dozen horses.

With no stalls to accommodate them, Jerkens headed straight for the racing secretary’s office. Trotter promptly instructed Jerkens to place his horses in the receiving barn. Problem solved.

Only a few years into his racetrack career, Trotter’s character and resolve were tested by tragedy in 1948. When racing shifted from Hialeah Park to Tropical Park, Tobe Trotter, jockey Albert Snider, and a prominent Canadian owner set out to fish in the Florida Keys from a small skiff Mar. 5.

A sudden, ferocious storm swept over the area near Sandy Key, and no trace of the fishing party or their boat was ever

found. Snider was the regular jockey of Citation, 1947’s Horse of the Year, and Calumet Farm’s Warren Wright commissioned a search by aircraft. The search for Tobe Trotter, Snider and Donald Frazier ended Mar. 9. Citation would win the year’s Triple Crown with Eddie Arcaro in the saddle.

Trotter pressed on to burnish his father’s legacy in the succeeding decades. Making his mark in myriad ways, Trotter compiled the Experimental Free Handicap by himself from 1962-’71, and continued his involvement through 1989.

An inaugural member of the North American Graded Stakes Committee in 1972, upon which he served for many years, Trotter was director of racing at Arlington Park in 1984-’85 and chaired the selection committee for a new event, the Arlington Million. He also served as a steward in the 1970s at both Delaware Park and Atlantic City Race Course. He would conclude his career as a steward at Gulfstream Park in 2001.

Above all else, Trotter earned the universal respect of horsemen.

“Tommy always exuded class, and it never wore on you,” said Hall of Fame trainer Nick Zito. “I am not sure there is anyone like him in racing today, anyone who has what he did. You would see him walk by and someone would remark, ‘There goes Tommy Trotter.’”

Trotter is survived by his wife, Eleanor (Ellie) Gordon Trotter of Aventura. He had six children (four sons, two daughters) by his first wife, Sally Quinerly Trotter, who died in 1999. He was predeceased by a son, Barry Trotter, an equine dentist, who passed away in 2012.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete.

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CHAMPION BRITISH IDIOM, FINITE LEAD KENTUCKY OAKS NOMINATIONS

A total of 116 nominations, led by reigning champion 2-year-old filly **British Idiom** (Flashback), were received by the Churchill Downs racing office at the first entry stage for the \$1.25-million GI Longines Kentucky Oaks, to be held Friday, May 1 beneath the Twin Spires.

Campaigned in partnership by Michael Dubb, The Elkstone Group, Madaket Stables & Bethlehem Stables, and conditioned by 2018 Oaks-winning trainer Brad Cox, British Idiom was the impressive winner of the GI Darley Alcibiades S. last October before following up with a neck defeat of **Donna Veloce** (Uncle Mo) in the GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies.

The Pennsylvania-bred made her 3-year-old debut in the GII Rachel Alexandra S. at the Fair Grounds Feb. 15, but ran into **Finite** (Munnings) and was beaten 4 3/4 lengths into third.

That victory took the latter's winning streak to five, and she can boast of a stakes win at Churchill, having bested **Motu** (Paynter) in the GII Golden Rod S. last November. Eight Oaks winners in the last 15 years have prepped in New Orleans. Finite sits in the number one spot in the inaugural **TDN Kentucky Oaks Top 10**.

Munnings is the sire of a second serious Oaks contender in the form of the California-based **Venetian Harbor**. Trained by Richard Baltas, the bay has won her two appearances on the dirt by a combined 20 lengths, including a 9 1/4-length romp over the Bob Baffert-trained twosome of **Gingham** (Quality Road) and **Stellar Sound** (Tapit) in the GII Las Virgenes S. over a mile. Baffert, a three-time Oaks winner, is the leading trainer by nominees with 13.

Tonalist's Shape (Tonalist) has yet to taste defeat in four career starts, having won the one-mile Hut Hut S. by nine lengths late last year ahead of a 3 3/4-length success in the GIII Forward Gal S. over seven furlongs Feb. 1. She is a candidate for this weekend's GII Davona Dale S. en route to the GII Gulfstream Park Oaks.

One X-factor for the Oaks could be Japanese-based, but U.S.-bred **Serein** (Uncle Mo). A \$500,000 Keeneland September grad, the daughter of GISW Tiz Miz Sue (Tiznow) is a two-time winner from four tries at home and was recently third to Down On Da Bayou (Super Saver) in the G3 UAE Oaks at Meydan. The latter is not among the early Oaks nominees.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GARY FALTER, THE JOCKEY CLUB

Ken Wilkins got it right:

"The challenge is to identify and solve the real problem--we do not have enough people that want to own racehorses. More owners will create more demand for our breeding product, period. Conversely, less demand will exacerbate all our problems. It has already impacted us and we are experiencing a slow and sure gradual shrinking of our business. What can each of us do to achieve the outcome of increasing ownership? Let us start with asking the right question. How can we increase demand for our product?"

Simply put, we need more Thoroughbred owners. In the spectrum of supply and demand, the supply of racehorses has dropped by 43% since 2008, from 35,274 foals down to 20,000. One would expect with such a huge reduction in horses that demand would outpace the supply. But that has not happened.

Most would agree that owners are one of the lifebloods of our sport. Without owners who are willing to invest in racehorses, everyone is affected: racetracks, fans, breeders, auction houses, racing syndicates, trainers, jockeys, vets, farriers, training centers, agents, feed suppliers, publications, etc.

That's why, in 2012, The Jockey Club announced at the Round Table Conference a new initiative to "develop new resources to encourage Thoroughbred ownership." McKinsey & Company, which conducted a comprehensive economic study of our sport in conjunction with The Jockey Club, discussed in 2011 the difficult barriers to entry in our sport as an owner. As a result of this finding, OwnerView.com was launched in May 2012 by The Jockey Club and the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association. With a vast amount of information for new and existing owners, the website continues to be the "go-to" source for owners and prospective owners. And the best part is everything is free.

In 2014, OwnerView hosted the first Thoroughbred Owner Conference at Keeneland, followed by conferences at Gulfstream Park, Santa Anita (twice), Del Mar, and Churchill Downs. The annual conference has been very successful in educating prospective, new, and longtime owners. This year the owner conference takes place at Saratoga in late July.



Gary Falter at the 2018 Thoroughbred Owner Conference

Other advancements in growing the owner base include the recent trend in racing clubs. The success of these clubs has been well documented. The Churchill Downs Racing Club has more than 1,000 members. In 2019, the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association launched its first racing club (Empire Racing Club), and it will expand its efforts in 2020. Other tracks with racing clubs include Oaklawn Park, Arlington Park, Fair Grounds, Remington Park, Lone Star Park, and Canterbury Park.

Cont. p10

Although the conversion rate of club members to more traditional ownership levels is small, the sum of the parts from racing clubs may lead to an uptick in ownership levels. More racing clubs sponsored by racetracks and horsemen's organizations will help contribute to this uptick. A good example is the Victoria Racing Club in Australia, which has 31,000 members!

But it's going to take a substantial effort to make ownership more attractive to racing fans. Ken asked in his Op/Ed, "How can we increase demand for our product?" Answer: We can all do this collectively if every industry participant and organization makes it a priority to grow the owner base. We all have close friends, business associates, and family members who have the means to be Thoroughbred owners. But prior to 2012, we did not have a neutral and unbiased resource such as OwnerView where we could direct prospective owners. Instead, many new owners learned by their mistakes and often were referred to unprincipled people who took advantage of their lack of knowledge. With access to OwnerView.com and the annual owner conference, no person should be entering our business without fundamental knowledge of ownership.

Many owners have said that Thoroughbred ownership is one of the most entertaining, emotional, family-oriented rides they have ever been on. We need to get this message out to the general public and do everything in our power to nurture newcomers when they decide to make the jump into ownership. We believe OwnerView can and will continue to play an important role supporting a campaign for new owners.

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THE NOMINATION STRUGGLE

Chris McGrath's Value Sires series in the TDN has frequently touched on the difficulty of selling nominations to stallions in their third year at stud, as well as to solid, established stallions standing for a moderate fee. We asked stallion managers and nominations teams as well as bloodstock agents what changes could be made, if any, to help the situation.

Sean Tugel, WinStar Farm

Abel Tasman (Quality Road), Beholder (Henny Hughes), Stephanie's Kitten (Kitten's Joy), Plum Pretty (Medaglia d'Oro), Stellar Wind (Curlin) and Flower Alley (Distorted Humor). These names are recognizable champions, classic winners, and high-profile Grade I winners. Another common thread they all share is they were bred during their respective sires' third season, on stud fees ranging from \$12,500 to \$40,000. It took

their breeders' confidence, gumption, and desire to not just go with the status quo and avoid young sires that were in their "bubble years."



Sean Tugel | Sarah Andrew

Breeding Thoroughbreds is a long-term commitment and it takes patience; this key fundamental principle will never change. No one will deny that it has become more and more difficult to sell studs in their third or fourth season with the extreme polarization towards the super expensive or first-year stallions. This is one reason why it is so crucial to a young stallion's career to surround him with an excellent syndication of breeders who will support him not only in his first season but throughout his young career in years two, three, and four.

At WinStar, this is a great focus of ours when we retire a new stallion. We have been fortunate to have top breeders domestically and internationally choose to invest in our stallions, and with that commitment and dedication, our young stallions receive a great foundation that makes it possible to keep their numbers competitive during their early crops.

The significant trend of breeding for results in the sales ring rather than results on the racetrack has been a large contributor to the struggle of selling third and fourth-year stallions. Rigid programs based on popular first-year stallions, first foal or yearling averages, or those deemed "commercial" enough, leave third and fourth-year stallions off of many breeders' lists. Regardless of whether a stallion would be the perfect match physically, or the mare's family has had success with the sire line, these matings are being overlooked because the program does not allow for breeding to a "bubble" stallion. This limitation in a breeding program removes much of the imagination and creativity that has always been a key ingredient in mating Thoroughbreds.

Breeders should never be afraid of a good mating, because that's where champions come from.

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SIRES WITH NEW SWs/GSWs

FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 23, 2020
NORTH AMERICAN-BASED STALLIONS



Alkaraama became the 90th stakes winner for War Front in the Listed Jebel Ali Sprint Feb. 21 | DRC photo

Sire (Sire's Sire)	#SWs	#GSWs
AMERICAN PHAROAH (Pioneerof the Nile) <i>(Cafe Pharoah--Hyacinth S.)</i>	6	3
EARLY FLYER (Gilded Time) <i>(Dust A Flying--Two Altozano S.)</i>	18	1
INTO MISCHIEF (Harlan's Holiday) <i>(Frank's Rockette--Any Limit S.)</i>	68	27
KANTHAROS (Lion Heart) <i>(Jackson--GIII World of Trouble Sprint S.)</i>	22	6
LEMON DROP KID (Kingmambo) <i>(Mark of Approval--Listed Jebel Ali S.)</i>	97	45
PALACE MALICE (Curlin) <i>(Ice Princess--Maddie May S.)</i>	4	2
PAYNTER (Awesome Again) <i>(Sir Rick--Mine That Bird Derby)</i>	11	3

STANDING AT WINSTAR FARM. CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

NOMINATE A MARE • EMAIL LIAM O'ROURKE

WAR FRONT (Danzig) <i>(Alkaraama--Listed Jebel Ali Sprint S.)</i>	90	48
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STANDING AT CLAIBORNE FARM--CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

NOMINATE A MARE • EMAIL BERNIE SAMS

Italicized numbers indicate new activity

Interested in listing your information in future New SWs tables? Contact suefinley@thetdn.com

UPCOMING MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN STAKES

Date	Race	Track	
Feb. 29	GII Fasig-Tipton Fountain of Youth S.	Gulfstream	
	GII Davona Dale S.	Gulfstream	
	GII Gulfstream Park Mile S.	Gulfstream	
	GII Mac Diarmida S.	Gulfstream	
	GIII Canadian Turf S.	Gulfstream	
	GIII Herecomesthebride S.	Gulfstream	
	GIII Honey Fox S.	Gulfstream	
	GIII Palm Beach S.	Gulfstream	
	GIII The Very One S.	Gulfstream	
	Mar. 7	GI Santa Anita H	Santa Anita
		GI F. E. Kilroe Mile S.	Santa Anita
		GII San Carlos S.	Santa Anita
		GII San Felipe S.	Santa Anita
GII Tampa Bay Derby		Tampa	
GII Hillsborough S.		Tampa	
Mar. 8	GIII Gotham S.	Aqueduct	
	GIII Tom Fool H.	Aqueduct	
	GIII Challenger S.	Tampa	
	GIII Florida Oaks	Tampa	
	GIII Honeybee S.	Oaklawn	
	GII Santa Ysabel S.	Santa Anita	
	Mar. 14	GI Beholder Mile S.	Santa Anita
		GII Rebel S.	Oaklawn
	Mar. 21	GII Azeri S.	Oaklawn
		GIII Hurricane Bertie S.	Gulfstream
GIII San Simeon S.		Santa Anita	
GIII Jeff Ruby Steaks		Turfway	
GII TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby		Fair Grounds	
GII TwinSpires.com Fair Grounds Oaks		Fair Grounds	
Mar. 22	GII Muniz Memorial Classic	Fair Grounds	
	GII New Orleans Classic	Fair Grounds	
	GIII San Luis Rey S.	Santa Anita	
	GIII Sunland Derby	Sunland Park	



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Tuesday, Fair Grounds, post time: 4:53 p.m. EDT

MARDI GRAS S., \$75,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2fT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	ML
1	Lake Local	Street Boss	B Hernandez	Stidham	12-1
2	Spectralight (Ire)	Fast Company (Ire)	Doyle	House	20-1
3	Break Even	Country Day	Bridgmohan	Cox	5-2
4	Eyeinthesky	Sky Mesa	Geroux	Casse	10-1
5	Unbridled Class	Unbridled Express	C Hernandez	Flint	8-1
6	Aiken to Be	Aikenite	Murrill	Robertson	12-1
7	A Thousand Reasons	Munnings	Saenz	Amoss	12-1
8	Hotshot Anna	Trappe Shot	Graham	Robertson	9-2
9	Change of Control	Fed Biz	Saez	Lovell	12-1
10	On Probation	Into Mischief	Albarado	Pessin	30-1
11	Play On	Country Day	De La Cruz	Cox	6-1
12	Bell's the One	Majesticperfection	Lanerie	Pessin	8-1
Also Eligible					
13	Lunar Approach	Malibu Moon	Carroll	Foley	20-1



IN ORDER OF PURSE:

7th-Fair Grounds, \$46,000, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$17,500), 2-24, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:43.57, ft.

CHESS CHIEF (c, 4, Into Mischief--Un Blessed, by Mineshaft), second in last year's GIII West Virginia Derby and third in the GIII Oklahoma Derby, was most recently second over this track and trip in a Jan. 4 optional claimer. The prohibitive 1-10 favorite settled within striking distance along the rail through a quarter in :24.45 and a half in :48.42. Tipped out three wide at the top of the lane, the bay colt forged to the lead in upper stretch and powered clear to win by 4 3/4 lengths. Irish Wind (Daaher) was second. Chess Chief RNA'd for \$145,000 as a FTSAUG yearling. Morgan's Ford Farm purchased Un Blessed, in foal to Sidney's Candy, for \$110,000 at the 2014 Keeneland November sale. Her Ghostzapper colt sold for \$150,000 as a weanling at the 2018 Keeneland November sale and for \$430,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale. The mare, a daughter of Grade I winner Plenty of Grace (Roberto), also has a yearling filly by Gun Runner and was bred last year to Ghostzapper.

Plenty of Grace also produced the dam of multiple graded stakes winners Diabolical (Artax) and What a Name (Ire) (Mr. Greeley), as well as the dam of Grade I placed Grace Anatomy (Aldebaran). **Click for Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** Lifetime Record: MGSP, 15-2-3-2, \$314,830. O-Estate of James J. Coleman, Jr.; B-Morgan's Ford Farm (VA); T-Dallas Stewart.

 **Another Yearling Graduate from Stuart Morris, Agent**
Kip Elser's KIRKWOOD STABLES

5th-Fair Grounds, \$46,000, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$17,500), 2-24, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10.38, ft.

ON DECK (f, 4, First Samurai--What'smineismine, by Mineshaft), a debut winner versus \$50,000 maiden claimers at Keeneland last October, went to the sidelines following an eighth-place effort in a Nov. 27 Churchill allowance. She was claimed for \$30,000 out of a 3/4-length victory going 5 1/2 furlongs in an off-turf affair at this track Feb. 7. Sent off the 2-1 second choice, the chestnut filly was away alertly and settled just off the early pacesetter. She easily overtook the frontrunner nearing the homestretch and strode home a 4 1/4-length winner. Favored Its Cold in Dehere (Ice Box) was second. On Deck RNA'd for \$42,000 as a KEENOV weanling before selling for \$140,000 as a FTKJUL yearling. Her dam What'smineismine, in foal to Quality Road, sold to T&G Farm of Kentucky for \$100,000 at the 2016 Keeneland November sale. That Quality Road colt sold to White Birch Farm and Three Chimneys for \$1.1 million at the 2018 Keeneland September sale. Now named Johnnypump, the unraced 3-year-old colt worked three furlongs at Payson Park (:37.20, 2/10) Saturday. A half-sister to graded winner Holiday Star (Harlan's Holiday) and to Grade I winner Spring Quality (Quality Road), What'smineismine produced a colt by Gun Runner last year and was bred back to Justify. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** Lifetime Record: 4-3-0-0, \$56,293.

O-Windylea Farm, LLC; B-Shawhan Place LLC, Dr. Perry Wornall & Billy Thomson (KY); T-Danny Pish.

Bred, Raised & Sold by Shawhan Place

8th-Fair Grounds, \$41,000, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 2-24, 3yo, f, 5 1/2fT, 1:04.85, fm.

CALL ON MISCHIEF (f, 3, Into Mischief--Callmethesqueeze {MSW, \$324,499}, by Awesome Again) second, beaten just a nose, over this course and trip in a Dec. 6 optional claimer, was a well-beaten third over a sloppy main track last time out Dec. 21. Rated at mid-pack and racing keenly early, the 7-1 shot rallied along the rail down the lane.

Tipping out late, she soared by pacesetting Lillie Dell (Maclean's Music) en route to a two-length victory. Call on Mischief was a \$250,000 KEESEP yearling. Forging Oaks purchased her dam, Callmethesqueeze (Awesome Again), in foal to More Than Ready, for \$175,000 at the 2015 Keeneland November sale. Her Hard Spun filly sold for \$50,000 at last year's Keeneland September Yearling Sale. The multiple-stakes winning mare produced a colt by Malibu Moon last year and was bred back to Hard Spun. **Click for [Equibase.com chart](#) or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** Lifetime Record: 6-2-1-1, \$72,860. O-Phoenix Thoroughbred III; B-Forging Oaks (KY); T-M Stidham.



IN JAPAN:

Abul Haul, c, 3, **American Pharoah**. See 'US-Bred & -Sired Winners in Japan.'

Jigen, c, 3, **Into Mischief**. See 'US-Bred & -Sired Winners in Japan.'

Mytyl, f, 3, **Verrazano**. See 'US-Bred & -Sired Winners in Japan.'

IN SOUTH KOREA:

Moonhak Empire, c, 3, **Empire Maker**--Lady Lumberjack (MGSP, \$205,200), by Forestry. Seoul, 2-22, Hcp. (\$49k), 1400m. B-Clearsky Farms (KY). *1/2 to Machtree (Kitten's Joy), GSP, \$168,932. **\$245,000 RNA Ylg '18 KEESEP; \$145,000 Ylg '18 FTKOCT; \$60,000 RNA 2yo '19 KEEAPR.



Global Socks, g, 3, **Munnings**--Let It Go Lady, by Cherokee Run. Seoul, 2-22, Hcp. (\$49k), 1200m. B-Indian Creek & JRH Investments LLC (KY). *1ST TIME STARTER. **\$45,000 Ylg '18 FTKOCT.

THINK INDIAN CREEK

IN PANAMA:

Bonano, c, 3, **Take Charge Indy**--Corbina, by More Than Ready. Presidente Remon, 2-22, Maiden, 1300m. B-Peter J Shepell (KY). *1ST TIME STARTER. **\$1,700 Ylg '18 FTKOCT. **VIDEO**

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Saturday's Results:

6th-Kyoto, ¥13,830,000 (\$125,110), Allowance, 3yo, 1400m, 1:23.9, ft.

JIGEN (c, 3, **Into Mischief**--Under Wraps, by Dixie Union) finished runner-up in his first start on dirt over track and distance Jan. 12 and donned cap and gown over a furlong shorter at this venue Feb. 2. Settled three wide in the second flight of horses early on, the 2-1 favorite made good progress while a touch deep on the turn, hit the front 200 meters from home and cruised under the line a three-length winner. Produced by a sister to GISW sire Overanalyze and a half to GISW Meadow Breeze (Meadowlake)--dam of GSW and 'TDN Rising Star' Magic Star (Scat Daddy)--Jigen is a half to the 2-year-old filly Runningrabit (Distorted Humor) and his dam was most recently bred to Midnight Lute. Sales history: \$90,000 Ylg '18 KEESEP; \$345,000 2yo '19 OBSMAR. Lifetime Record: 5-2-1-0, \$128,571.

O-Masamichi Hayashi; B-Diamond A Racing Corp (KY);

T-Hidekazu Asami.



1st-Kyoto, ¥9,680,000 (\$87,548), Newcomers, 3yo, 1800m, 1:54.8, ft.

ABUL HAUL (c, 3, **American Pharoah**--Kitten's Dumplings {GISW, \$797,815}, by Kitten's Joy) was not a factor in a single turf try at two, but was made the even-money choice switching to dirt for the first time. Fast away beneath Christophe Lemaire, the Shadai homebred traveled on a loose rein, sprinted clear in upper stretch and held on to score by a half-length. Kitten's Dumplings, a full-sister to GSW Granny's Kitten and to SW/GSP Granny Mc's Kitten, was acquired privately by Shadai Farm in 2016. She was bred back to American Pharoah after producing this colt, was exported and produced a colt by the Triple Crown winner in 2018. Kitten's Dumplings was most recently covered by Duramente (Jpn) (King Kamehameha {Jpn}). Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$45,536. **VIDEO**

O-Shadai Race Horse; B-Teruya Yoshida (KY); T-Yasutoshi Ikee.

Sunday's Results:

2nd-Tokyo, ¥9,680,000 (\$87,548), Newcomers, 3yo, 1400m, 1:26.3, ft.

MYTYL (f, 3, **Verrazano**--Blue Bird Lady, by Congaree) made light work of 15 rivals to open her account in convincing fashion.

Soon in front from gate one for Yutaka Take, Mytyl galloped them along at an even clip, turned into the long Tokyo straight with a clear advantage and was never remotely asked for her best in scoring by a half-dozen lengths at even money. From the family of MGISW Pure Clan (Pure Prize), dam of SW & GISP Princesa Carolina (Tapit), Mytyl has a 2-year-old half-sister by Tourist and a yearling half-sister by Classic Empire. Her dam most recently visited Klimt. Sales history: \$100,000 Wlg '17 KEENOV; \$130,000 2yo '19 OBSMAR. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$53,571. **VIDEO**
 O-Kanayama Holdings; B-Denali Broodmare Partnership II (KY); T-Kenji Nonaka.



SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: TUESDAY, FEB. 25

Carpe Diem (Giant's Causeway), WinStar Farm, \$15,000
 231 foals of racing age/23 winners/2 black-type winners
 2-Fair Grounds, Aoc 5 1/2ft, CARPE NOCTEM, 8-1
 \$40,000 KEE SEP yrl
 2-Fair Grounds, Aoc 5 1/2ft, CARPE VICTORIAM, 6-1

Golden Ticket (Speightstown), Questroyal North
 47 foals of racing age/3 winners/0 black-type winners
 5-Delta Downs, Msw 7f, GOLDEN V C, 10-1
 \$1,000 EAS OCT yrl; \$15,000 OBS OPN 2yo

Hakassan (Chi) (Sir Cat), Millennium Farms, \$0
 15 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
 5-Delta Downs, Msw 7f, CHROME FIRE, 20-1

Karakontie (Jpn) (Bernstein), Gainesway Farm, \$10,000
 130 foals of racing age/14 winners/3 black-type winners
 4-Fair Grounds, Msw 1 1/16mT, KARAKONTIEPARADISE, 9-2

Lea (First Samurai), Claiborne Farm, \$7,500
 103 foals of racing age/12 winners/2 black-type winners
 5-Delta Downs, Msw 7f, TRAELEE, 15-1
 \$90,000 FTK JUL yrl

Palace (City Zip), Spendthrift Farm, \$5,000
 152 foals of racing age/23 winners/1 black-type winner
 8-Delta Downs, Alw 6 1/2f, GRACE FOREVER, 5-1
 \$20,000 OBS OCT yrl

Tonalist (Tapit), Lane's End Farm, \$15,000
 179 foals of racing age/22 winners/1 black-type winner
 5-Delta Downs, Msw 7f, TAPALIST, 3-1
 \$70,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$275,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$32,000 I '19 KEE NOV

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STAKES RESULTS:

RED HEDEMAN MILE S., (NB) \$100,000, Sunland, 2-23, (S), 3yo, 1m, 1:39.45, ft.

1--**EFFORT N RESULTS, 122, g, 3, Shame On Charlie--Happy N Harmony (SP), by Desert God.** O/B-Terry Bill Adams (NM); T-Joel H. Marr; J-Ken S. Tohill. \$60,000. Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-1, \$91,860.

2--**Evacuee**, 122, g, 3, Abstraction--Thibodaux, by Early Flyer. (\$30,000 Ylg '18 RUIAUG). O-R D Hubbard, Paul Blanchard & Doug Benson; B-Fred Alexander, Brad King & Todd Fincher (NM); T-Todd W. Fincher. \$20,000.

3--**Cerveza**, 122, g, 3, Attila's Storm--Cocktail Girl, by Hennessy. O-R D Hubbard & Paul Blanchard; B-R. D. Hubbard (NM); T-Todd W. Fincher. \$10,000.

Margins: 3/4, 2 3/4, HD. Odds: 14.60, 7.60, 4.00.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

7th-Santa Anita, \$59,500, (NW2\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$62,500), 2-23, 4yo/up, 1m, 1:35.60, ft.

KERSHAW (g, 5, Run Away and Hide--Texit, by Tapit) Lifetime Record: 14-4-2-3, \$143,757. O-Jay & Julie Manoogian; B-Ron Kirk, John Bates & Michael Riordan (KY); T-Philip D'Amato. *\$8,000 RNA Ylg '16 KEEJAN; \$25,000 Ylg '16 FTKOCT; \$135,000 2yo '17 OBSAPR.



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– **SID FERNANDO**

FIRST FOALS IN 2020

BEE JERSEY



Contact Ryan Norton:
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GRADE 1 WINNER
FROM THE SPEIGHTSTOWN LINE

JERSEY TOWN – BEES, BY RAHY | FEE: **\$5,000** S&N

8th-Santa Anita, \$59,500, (NW1\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$40,000), 2-23, 4yo/up, 1 1/4mT, 2:01.79, fm.

PROUD PEDRO (FR) (c, 4, Pedro the Great--Palma Nova {Ger}, by Tiger Hill {Ire}) Lifetime Record: SP, 10-2-2-3, \$121,260.

O-Benowitz Family Trust, Madaket Stables, LLC & Mark Mathiesen; B-EARL Haras Du Taillis & Bernhard Wenger (FR); T-Leonard Powell. *€15,000 Ylg '17 OSLATE; €20,000 RNA 2yo '18 OSABRE.

9th-Parx Racing, \$48,250, (NW2X)/Opt. Clm (\$35,000), 2-24, 4yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:17.82, ft.

ZOOMER (g, 4, Curlin--Rasindy, by A.P. Indy) Lifetime Record: 14-5-2-0, \$135,020. O-Morris E Kernan, Jr. & M-Z Racing Partnership; B-Robert E. & Lawana L. Low (KY); T-Marcos Zulueta. *\$245,000 RNA Ylg '17 FTSAUG.

5th-Mahoning Valley, \$36,000, (C), 2-24, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10.97, ft.

MAGNA MAN (g, 7, Magna Graduate--Personal Notebook, by Miner's Mark) Lifetime Record: 38-8-8-6, \$235,090. O-John Hoctel; B-Ron Treadway (OH); T-Ivan Vazquez.

8th-Golden Gate Fields, \$34,276, 2-23, (NW1\$X), 4yo/up, 6f (AWT), 1:09.41, ft.

MYSTERY MESSENGER (g, 4, Point of Entry--Starship Universe {MGSP, \$106,830}, by Mineshaft) Lifetime Record: 13-3-4-2, \$101,533. O-Pro Selection Stable, Robert Fontaine, Ann Kachigian & Terri Tucker; B-Adena Springs (KY); T-Doug F. O'Neill.



Bred and raised by *Adena Springs*



4th-Mahoning Valley, \$31,300, (S), 2-24, (NW2LX), 3yo/up, 1m, 1:43.74, ft.

OUR PETITION (g, 4, Unbridledwood--Haiti Lady, by Petionville) Lifetime Record: 19-2-2-2, \$60,874. O-Strike Plate LLC; B-Robert Allen Rowe (OH); T-Danny R. Bird. *\$1,700 Ylg '17 PEDOH.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Mister Mobil, g, 3, **Mobil**--Apple Annie, by Lemon Drop Kid. Mahoning Valley, 2-24, (S), 6f, 1:15.56. B-Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm (OH). *\$3,100 Ylg '18 OHIOCT.

Fritttons Gold, g, 4, **Ghostzapper**--St Trinians (GB) (GSW & GISP, \$440,758), by Piccolo (GB). Mahoning Valley, 2-24, 6f, 1:13.61. B-Sierra Farm (KY). *\$70,000 RNA Ylg '17 KEESEP.

Emerald Magic, g, 4, **Tapizar**--Crystal B Good, by Successful Appeal. Golden Gate Fields, 2-23, 6f (AWT), 1:10.20. B-James Nicol (KY). *\$2,000 RNA Wlg '16 KEENOV; \$20,000 Ylg '17 KEESEP.



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CURLIN, Zoomer, g, 4, o/o Rasindy, by A.P. Indy. AOC, 2-24, Parx Racing

FIRST SAMURAI, On Deck, f, 4, o/o What'smineismine, by Mineshaft. AOC, 2-24, Fair Grounds

GHOSTZAPPER, Fritttons Gold, g, 4, o/o St Trinians (GB), by Piccolo (GB). MSW, 2-24, Mahoning Valley

INTO MISCHIEF, Call On Mischief, f, 3, o/o Callmethesqueeze, by Awesome Again. AOC, 2-24, Fair Grounds

INTO MISCHIEF, Chess Chief, c, 4, o/o Un Blessed, by Mineshaft. AOC, 2-24, Fair Grounds

MAGNA GRADUATE, Magna Man, g, 7, o/o Personal Notebook, by Miner's Mark. ALW, 2-24, Mahoning Valley

MOBIL, Mister Mobil, g, 3, o/o Apple Annie, by Lemon Drop Kid. MSW, 2-24, Mahoning Valley

PEDRO THE GREAT, Proud Pedro (Fr), c, 4, o/o Palma Nova (Ger), by Tiger Hill (Ire). AOC, 2-23, Santa Anita

POINT OF ENTRY, Mystery Messenger, g, 4, o/o Starship Universe, by Mineshaft. ALW, 2-23, Golden Gate

RUN AWAY AND HIDE, Kershaw, g, 5, o/o Texit, by Tapit. AOC, 2-23, Santa Anita

SHAME ON CHARLIE, Effort N Results, g, 3, o/o Happy N Harmony, by Desert God. Red Hedeman Mile S., 2-23, Sunland

TAPIZAR, Emerald Magic, g, 4, o/o Crystal B Good, by Successful Appeal. MSW, 2-23, Golden Gate

UNBRIDLEDWOOD, Our Petition, g, 4, o/o Haiti Lady, by Petionville. ALW, 2-24, Mahoning Valley

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On Deck (First Samurai) strides home an easy winner at Fair Grounds Monday.



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SOLDIER ON BALLYHANE TOUR OF DUTY



Joe Foley with Archie Watson, Danny Tudhope and Soldier's Call at Royal Ascot | *Racing Post*

By Emma Berry

On a typically busy day last week at Ballyhane Stud, Joe Foley was asked by a visitor, "What do you actually do?"

It's a good question, and one which it would be hard for the master of Ballyhane to answer definitively. That's not because he's idle, but because there are few facets of Irish breeding and racing in which Foley is not actively involved.

On that particular day he had just delivered 100 questions—some of them fiendishly difficult—for the popular quiz named in memory of his friend Mark O'Hanlon and staged across the road at his 'local', the Lord Bagenal Hotel in Leighlinbridge. That same evening he presided over the launch of a valuable new race at Naas, the €200,000 Ballyhane S., which is to be run in association with the Irish EBF, of which he is vice president. Before that he sat down for a grilling for a *TDN* interview in between greeting breeders arriving to the stud with mares for his four stallions.

The stud's longer-term residents **Dandy Man (Ire)** (Mozart {Ire}), **Elzaam (Aus)** (Redoute's Choice {Aus}) and **Prince Of Lir (Ire)** (Kodiac {GB}) have been joined this season by **Soldier's Call (GB)**, one of four stallion sons of Showcasing (GB) and a terrific flag-bearer for the previous two seasons for Steve Parkin's burgeoning string of horses running in the name of his business Clipper Logistics.

DOUBLE TRIGGER DIES AT 29

By Emma Berry

Double Trigger (Ire) (Ela-Mana-Mou {Ire}--Solac {Fr}), by Gay Lussac {Ity}), one of the most popular stayers of the modern era, died in retirement at Clarendon Farm on Sunday at the age of 29.

During a long and illustrious racing career, Double Trigger won the G1 Gold Cup at Royal Ascot in 1995 but will perhaps be best remembered for his record-breaking three Goodwood Cup wins. He also won the Doncaster Cup on three occasions, including on his final racecourse start at the age of seven.

Bred by Dene Investments N V, and bought from Ballygallon Stud as a yearling for IR£7,200 by owner Ron Huggins, the chestnut with a broad blaze was sent into training with Mark Johnston. He won both his starts as a 2-year-old, smashing the track record at Redcar with his 10-length maiden win, followed by success in the Listed Zetland S. at Newmarket. [Cont. p5](#)

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

MULTIPLE CHAMPION COVFEFE RETIRED

Two-time Eclipse Award winner Covfeffe (Into Mischief) has been retired and will be covered by Constitution. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)



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Soldier's Call Cont. from p1

Though the young stallion was bred in Wales by Llety Farms, for the Foleys, Soldier's Call's arrival at the stallion yard marks something of a homecoming. Bought as a yearling by Foley for 85,000gns at Book 2 of the Tattersalls October Yearling Sale, he was then broken in and pre-trained at Ballyhane by his wife Jane, who is also a trainer in her own right.

"I remember seeing him in Book 2. He was in on Wednesday morning, early, and I had seen him the day before," Foley recalls. "He was being sold by David Hodge of Llety Farms, a very good breeder. I loved him the first time I saw him and the next morning Federico [Barberini] and I saw him and we absolutely adored him."

Soldier's Call's British-bred dam Dijarvo, a daughter of Iceman (GB), had won the Listed Prix la Fleche at Maisons-Laffitte before being sold on to race in America, where she was later bought by Hodge and repatriated through agent Chad Schumer. Dijarvo produced just four foals—with Soldier's Call being second in line—before she died in 2018 at the age of nine. For Foley, much of the appeal in buying her Showcasing yearling was not only because he was by a stallion whose profile was rising swiftly on the back of some impressive progeny performances, but also because he was hewn from a consistently fast damline.

He says, "When I saw him the first time I remember studying his pedigree that night. His great great grandam was Abeer (GB), a very fast filly for Juddmonte, who won the Flying Childers like he did four generations later. His third dam was equally fast and his second dam was an interesting filly. I think she was born here [at Ballyhane] and she was extremely impressive in her maiden. She started second favourite for the Molecomb and then got injured in it and never ran again. And importantly [Soldier's Call's] dam was a fast filly and I love stallion prospects by good sires, obviously, but I think it's important that they are out of good race mares."

In a September 2017 feature for *Thoroughbred Owner Breeder* magazine, Steve Parkin described Foley as "the closest thing to a

racing genius." He is unlikely to have revised his opinion since then, particularly as only a month later, the then-unnamed Soldier's Call, bought at a snip of what it would cost to secure a 'readymade' stallion prospect, was on his way back to Ballyhane to come under the experienced eye of Jane Foley.

"We were concentrating on buying fillies prior to that year to help build up Steve's broodmare band at Branton Court. That

was the first year that we started buying colts with the long shot of trying to get a stallion, so to get Soldier's Call in the first year, we were very fortunate," Foley says with some understatement.

"He was a nice colt and settled in with the rest of them and started pre-training with my wife Jane and her team. He was an innocuous sort of a horse, very good-looking, but he didn't do anything dramatic. He did his

work very easily and was a very calm-tempered horse. He always looked like he had potential but I remember Jane telling me one morning around March time that this lad was pretty special."

Soldier's Call joined Archie Watson's fast-rising team the following month and it wasn't long before the trainer rang Foley to offer a similar opinion. By mid-May, the colt was on the racecourse, finishing second to odds-on favourite Glory Fighter (GB) on debut before breaking his maiden at Haydock on his next start. From there, it was straight to Royal Ascot.

"A Royal Ascot winner had always been an ambition of both mine and Steve's, so for Soldier's Call to win the Windsor Castle was a special moment. Notwithstanding what he did after that, it was a big deal to us that we had our first Royal Ascot winner that Saturday," Foley says. "Archie had an ambitious campaign for him. Goodwood

didn't suit him so Archie was keen to go back to a level track at Chantilly, which was the [G3] Prix d'Arenberg. He was very keen to back him up in the Flying Childers, which came quite soon after that. We were a little bit reticent but Archie was adamant and he was right, because he was ultra-impressive that day and won in a very fast time." **Cont. p3**



Soldier's Call at Ballyhane Stud. Click above for an interview between the TDN's Emma Berry and Ballyhane's Joe Foley.



Jane & Joe Foley w/Jamie Osborne | Tattersalls Ireland



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IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

IRELAND'S CALL FOR WILLIAMS

Melissa Steele speaks with owner Nick Williams, who with his father Lloyd, is shifting the majority of their horses to Ireland. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.](#)

Soldier's Call Cont.

With just less than a fortnight between his Group 3 and Group 2 victories, the colt was on his travels again three weeks later, back to France for his first attempt at a Group 1 and against older rivals, on Arc weekend. Just a head and a short-head separated the first three home in the Prix de l'Abbaye, with Soldier's Call taking third behind Mabs Cross (GB) and Gold Vibe (Ire).

Foley says, "We went for the Abbaye against the older horses and in my opinion he was quite unfortunate not to win, then we went to the [Listed] Breeders' Cup Juvenile [Turf Sprint] with him, but it was easy to do it with the colt. He's such a relaxed horse and he put on weight between his races, so if ever you were going to do it and give a 2-year-old a hard season, he was it."

For many colts these days, that would have perhaps been the end of his racing days. Soldier's Call's evident talent, particularly his speed and precocity, meant he was guaranteed a berth at stud. But he returned at three and, though winless, he posted some worthy placed efforts behind seasoned, top-class sprinters, notably when third to Blue Point (Ire) in the G1 King's Stand S. and runner-up to Battaash (Ire) in his track record-breaking G1 Nunthorpe romp.



Steve Parkin & Joe Foley at the sales | Sarah Farnsworth

"A lot of people expected to retire him as a 2-year-old," Foley says. "I suppose if he'd won the Abbaye we might have considered it more, but Steve's a racing fan. He loves racing horses and that's what this game is all about."

For Soldier's Call, the game now is about something rather different, but he appears to retain every bit of his youthful zip as he charges out of his box to the covering shed in the early weeks of the covering season. [Cont. p4](#)

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Soldier's Call | *Racing Post*

Soldier's Call Cont.

"It was very cool when he came back here," Foley remembers with a smile. "All the riders came to welcome him back and I think everyone was very proud that in our first year of attempting to get a stallion we landed on Soldier's Call. He was such a well-liked individual here as a yearling and 2-year-old, so we were delighted to get him back. It's like he's come home."

Among his first book of mares there will be strong support from Steve Parkin's own broodmare band. Fairy Falcon (GB), a Sepoy (Aus) half-sister to Group 1-winning sprinters Tangerine Trees (GB) (Mind Games {GB}) and Alpha Delphini (GB) (Captain Gerrard {Ire}) is one of those on his list, along with listed winners Gorane (Ire) (Dream Ahead) and Festoso (Ire) (Diesis {GB}). The latter was also second in the G2 Cherry Hinton S. and her offspring include the juvenile listed winner Festive Star (GB), one of the leading lights to date from the first crop of Golden Horn (GB).

While there is a hiatus now before the judges start to pass their verdicts on Soldier's Call's offspring, there is still plenty to keep the team at Ballyhane occupied. The G2 Norfolk S. winner Prince Of Lir, a son of Kodiak (GB), will be represented by his first runners this season. Meanwhile while the stud's flagship stallion Dandy Man has plenty of prospects to keep his name in lights around the world this year, including the Dubai-bound Kong Kong-based sprinter Big Time Baby (Ire), California-based multiple graded stakes winner River Boyne (Ire), and King Power Racing's promising 97-rated 3-year-old Lampang (Ire).

"Dandy Man's popularity goes from strength to strength," says

Foley. "He's also by a good stallion in Mozart and is out of a very fast filly, Lady Alexander, who won the Molecomb. He had some very good 3-year-olds last year, like Lady Kaya (Ire), but his 2-year-olds were a strong bunch: he had 34 winners, and five stakes horses."

The stud will also extend its support of Irish racing this season through its sponsorship, along with the Irish EBF, of the **six-furlong Ballyhane S. for 2-year-olds on Aug. 3 at Naas racecourse**. The €200,000 race, which closes for entries on Wednesday, Feb. 26, is open to EBF-eligible juveniles by sires whose median auction price is €75,000 or less.

"We're always looking to invest the Irish EBF's money to benefit the racing programme but also to enhance the market," explains Foley, who is vice chairman to John O'Connor. "Two or three years ago we started an auction series which was sponsored by Foran and has been very successful, and this coming season we are putting a lot of money into median races. I always liked the idea of having a big jackpot and high-profile race for Ireland, such as the Magic Millions in Australia or the Weatherbys Super Sprint in Britain, so we started building the race which has become the Irish EBF Ballyhane S. We got the template of it together and once we had the Irish EBF's approval of it, and HRI's approval, I thought I'd put my own money where my mouth is and sponsor it."

Apart from the guaranteed minimum of €120,000 to the winner, Foley has thrown in a €50,000 bonus to the winning owner if the winner happens to be by a Ballyhane stallion. Foley adds, "It's a huge pot for owners and trainers to target, and the bonus for a Ballyhane-sired winner is our way of rewarding supporters of our stallions."

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Dandy Man | *Emma Berry*

Double Trigger Cont. from p1

Placed in the St Leger the following year, Double Trigger went on to win the G3 Leger Italiano, but it was as a 4-year-old that he really established himself as one of this finest of his generation. His five group victories in 1995 included the Gold Cup, Doncaster Cup and Goodwood Cup, beating his year-younger full-brother Double Eclipse (Ire) by a neck in the latter. At five, he notched back-to-back wins in the G3 Sagaro S., G3 Henry II S., and the Doncaster Cup, as well as finishing second to Classic Cliche (Ire) in the Gold Cup, and he would go on to win the G2 Goodwood Cup in each of the following two seasons to become the first treble winner of the race. Only Stradivarius (Ire) has won the Goodwood Cup three times subsequently.

Ron Huggins paid a glowing tribute to his "horse of a lifetime" on Monday. He said, "I remember vividly buying him with Mark Johnston at Goffs and being so proud to have got him. We wanted to buy a stayer by a Group 1 stallion who was slightly out of fashion and Ela-Mana-Mou fitted the bill. From the time he won his maiden at Redcar as a 2-year-old, breaking the track record and winning by 10 lengths, until his retirement at Doncaster five years later after winning his third Doncaster Cup, he was an absolute star."

He continued, "He was a great character who was loved by the public and I will always remember after his third Goodwood Cup win the public flooded back to the winner's enclosure to cheer him home. It was more like Cheltenham than a Flat racecourse. There are so many memories. One of the funniest was Jason Weaver walking the course at Turin for the Italian St Leger in the pouring rain trying to protect himself with Deirdre Johnston's flimsy folding umbrella. It paid off as he won his first group race."

Jason Weaver, who rode Double Trigger in 10 of his 14 wins including the Gold Cup, recalled, "He was flashy-looking with his flaxen mane and white face, and in the very early days he used to be an absolute playboy in the mornings and never really worked very spectacularly. But he put in a really good piece of work one morning and we thought we might have something, then obviously he went to Redcar and absolutely bolted up. He was just a very good horse blessed with unimaginable amounts

of reserve. The two and a half miles of the Gold Cup still wasn't far enough for him. People really take to the stayers, they are the horses that bind the Flat people together, and he was so popular."

Huggins, who has been a passionate supporter of staying races in the subsequent years as both owner and breeder, added, "It felt really special to help re-establish staying races which are so popular with the public, but had been de-emphasised by the authorities with the quest for shorter-distance speed races around the world. Not that Trigger was slow—he broke two track records and in the 1997 Goodwood Cup his final furlong of :13.19 seconds was not only faster than Daggers Drawn in the same day's Richmond S., but the fastest of the entire Goodwood fixture.

"To be Mark Johnston's first Royal Ascot winner was something very special, when he was never headed when winning the Gold Cup. In the Royal Box afterwards, the Queen

Mother took me to one side and whispered in my ear 'it's real gold you know'."

Writing in his 'Bletherings' blog on his website, Mark Johnston said, "It seems that, no matter what champions I trained or might be lucky enough to train in future, I will always be remember more for having trained Double Trigger than for anything else. He captured the public's imagination like no other animal that I have been associated with, and rightly so."

Out of Solac (Fr) (Gay Lussac

{lty}), a daughter of the Oaks d'Italia winner Soragna, Double Trigger retired to stud at East Burrow Farm in Devon and then moved with John and Sarah Haydon to Clarendon Farm in Wiltshire, where he was retired from covering in 2012. His best runners from his dual-purpose stud career include the Midlands National winner Russian Trigger (GB), Grimthorpe Chase winner Ikorodu Road (GB) and Seldom Inn (GB). His death on Sunday morning was from a suspected heart attack.

Huggins said, "Trigger had such a fantastic life and was totally sound through his 29 years. Mark did a superb job training him and John Haydon looked after him for 22 years. Along with Sarah they have been marvellous friends to Trigger and to us. It was also a pleasure to have a number of his stock at home at Selby's Farm in Kent. My last runner from his stock was a hurdle winner I bred called Double Accord, trained by Anthony Honeyball. [Cont. p6](#)



Double Trigger wins his first Goodwood Cup with Jason Weaver

Racing Post



Ron Huggins being interviewed by Nick Luck with Double Trigger in the background | Emma Berry

Double Trigger Cont.

"It is truly the end of an era, but I'm sure he will always be remembered for his enthusiastic style of running and distinctive looks, as well of course for his three Goodwood Cups, three Doncaster Cups and his Ascot Gold Cup. He was a real character who will always have a place in my heart."

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20 / 20 VISION

DERMOT CANTILLON

In this TDN series we ask a group of experts for their predictions for the 2020 flat season in Europe. Today we hear from Dermot Cantillon.

TDN: Who do you think will be the leading first-season sire this year?

DC: This time last year there were some very positive comments coming from the breeze-up men for Night Of Thunder (Ire). This year I'm hearing similar talk about **Belardo (Ire)** (Lope de Vega {Ire}). A Group 1-winning 2-year-old, so it will be interesting how his breezers sell but it could be a similar story.

TDN: Have you bought/raised/sold any by Belardo? Does he typically stamp his stock?

DC: I have a small share in a filly by Belardo that I bred. She's out of Mocaraba (GB) (Unfuwain), a very consistent producer, and is in training with Johnny Murtagh. I understand her season target will be the valuable Ballyhane race at Naas in August.

TDN: Hope for the 2020 flat season?

DC: The Flat season begins in Ireland in late March so as usual I'm full of optimism for my varied interests on the flat. A horse with the potential to go to Melbourne for the Cup would be nice and a speedster for Ascot is always an ambition!!

TDN: We have been running a series in TDN recently on value sires. What European stallion(s) do you think represents the best value?

DC: Ours is a game of fashion and a horse who is out of fashion but represents serious value is **Lawman (Fr)**. Standing at Haras de Grandcamp in France for an advertised fee of €10,000, he has had 5 Group 1 winners and 33 stakes winners. Almost all of the stallions with their first runners in 2020 will statistically fail to match what Lawman has achieved.

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Dermot Cantillon | Racing Post



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BENBATL GREEN-LIGHTED FOR SAUDI CUP

MG1SW **Benbatl (GB)** (Dubawi {Ire}) has been given the green light to run in the inaugural \$20-million Saudi Cup this weekend. Trainer Saeed bin Suroor let the Godolphin colourbearer take his chance on dirt for the first time at Meydan earlier this month, and his flag-bearer responded with a comfortable success in the G2 Al Maktoum Challenge R2 on Feb. 6. Following that victory, the decision whether to take him to the \$20-million race in Riyadh was left to owner Sheikh Mohammed --and he has given the go-ahead.

"Yes, Benbatl runs--Sheikh Mohammed was happy for him to go," said Bin Suroor. "He won well on the dirt in Dubai, so we know that isn't a problem. He's been working well since, and he's in good form. The race will be very tough, we know that, but we're looking forward to seeing him run."

Bin Suroor will also be represented on Saturday in the Samba Saudi Derby by **Final Song (Ire)** (Dark {Angel {Ire}}). The bay saluted in the UAE 1000 Guineas Trial at Meydan on Jan. 2, was third in the Listed UAE 1000 Guineas to stablemate Dubai Love (GB) (Night of Thunder {Ire}) on Jan. 23 and went one better in the Feb. 6 Meydan Classic Trial conditions race.

"I also run Final Song in the Saudi Derby--the filly," he said. "She's a nice filly. She shows plenty of speed over six and seven furlongs--but this race is over a mile, so we'll see how she runs. She ran really well in the G2 Queen Mary at Royal Ascot last year, but five furlongs was too short for her."

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BRITAIN

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Dancing Feet (Ire), f, 3, **Footstepsinthesand (GB)**--Speronella (GB), by Raven's Pass. Wolverhampton, 2-24, 6f 20y (AWT), 1:12.73. B-Miss Mary Davison (IRE). *€40,000 Ylg '18 TIRSEP; 3,000gns 2yo '19 TATMAR.

Big Impact (GB), c, 3, **Lethal Force (Ire)**--Valandraud (Ire), by College Chapel (GB). Southwell, 2-24, 6f 16y (AWT), 1:17.30. B-Chasemore Farm & Owen Promotions (GB). *4,500gns Wlg '17 TATFOA; 9,500gns RNA Ylg '18 TAOCT. **1/2 to Final Answer (GB) (Kyllachy {GB}), SP-HK, \$695,669.



EUROPEAN-BRED WINNERS

IN JAPAN:

Aurora Flash (Ire), f, 3, **Frankel (GB)**--Squeeze (Ire), by Danehill Dancer (Ire). Tokyo, 2-23, Cond. (£97k/€115k), 1600mT, 1:35.2. Lifetime Record: 6-2-1-1, \$201,161. O-Masaru Shimada; B-Diamond Creek Farm; T-Kazuo Fujisawa. *€220,000 Ylg '18 GOFORB.

WINNERS BY EUROPEAN SIRES

IN JAPAN:

Solar Flare (Jpn), h, 5, **Shamardal**--Cosmic Flame (GB), by Doyen (Ire). Tokyo, 2-22, Cond. (£147k/€175k), 1400mT, 1:21.9. Lifetime Record: 12-3-1-1, \$262,500. O-Godolphin; B-Darley Japan Farm; T-Mizuki Takayanagi.



DID YOU KNOW?

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for stallions standing in Europe through Sunday, Feb. 23

Earnings represent worldwide figures, stud fees listed are 2020 fees.

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	Camelot (GB) <i>(2009) by Montjeu (Ire) FYR: 2015</i>	23	38	13	24	3	9	274	158	1,500,752 <i>Latrobe (Ire)</i>	11,789,613
				<i>Stands: Coolmore Stud Ire Fee: €40,000</i>							
2	Intello (Ger) <i>(2010) by Galileo (Ire) FYR: 2015</i>	12	19	4	8	1	4	179	89	561,909 <i>Intellogent (Ire)</i>	5,019,297
				<i>Stands: Haras du Quesnay Fr Fee: €12,500</i>							
3	Farhh (GB) <i>(2008) by Pivotal (GB) FYR: 2015</i>	9	11	5	5	1	2	68	33	1,181,563 <i>Dee Ex Bee (GB)</i>	4,087,533
				<i>Stands: Dalham Hall Stud Eng Fee: £12,000</i>							
4	Dawn Approach (Ire) <i>(2010) by New Approach (Ire) FYR: 2015</i>	7	17	2	10	--	3	209	88	727,571 <i>Madhmoon (Ire)</i>	4,419,364
				<i>Stands: Kildangan Stud Ire Fee: €10,000</i>							
5	Society Rock (Ire) <i>(2007) by Rock of Gibraltar (Ire) FYR: 2015</i>	6	13	3	8	1	2	196	100	423,808 <i>Corinthia Knight (Ire)</i>	4,753,802
				<i>Stands: Tally-Ho Stud EUR (Dead)</i>							
6	Dabirsim (Fr) <i>(2009) by Hat Trick (Jpn) FYR: 2015</i>	5	14	2	5	--	2	208	95	313,249 <i>Court of Justice (Fr)</i>	4,332,345
				<i>Stands: Haras de Grandcamp Fr Fee: €12,000</i>							
7	Havana Gold (Ire) <i>(2010) by Teofilo (Ire) FYR: 2015</i>	5	13	2	5	1	1	171	81	551,719 <i>Havana Grey (GB)</i>	3,285,624
				<i>Stands: Tweenhills Stud Eng Fee: £10,000</i>							
8	Pedro the Great <i>(2010) by Henrythenavigator FYR: 2015</i>	4	9	1	4	1	1	71	41	550,251 <i>Pedro Cara (Fr)</i>	3,154,358
				<i>Stands: Haras de la Haie Neuve EUR (Dead)</i>							
9	Reliable Man (GB) <i>(2008) by Dalakhani (Ire) FYR: 2015</i>	4	10	3	6	--	1	107	50	461,482 <i>Master Brewer (Fr)</i>	2,589,934
				<i>Stands: Haras d'Annebault Fr Fee: €7,000</i>							
10	Epaulette (Aus) <i>(2009) by Commands (Aus) FYR: 2015</i>	3	9	2	3	--	--	189	98	253,158 <i>Covert Operation (Aus)</i>	3,185,535
				<i>Stands: Kildangan Stud Ire Fee: €7,000</i>							
11	French Fifteen (Fr) <i>(2009) by Turtle Bowl (Ire) FYR: 2015</i>	3	5	2	3	1	1	69	30	909,174 <i>French King (GB)</i>	2,682,707
				<i>Stands: Haras du Logis Saint Germain Fr Fee: €6,000</i>							
12	Cityscape (GB) <i>(2006) by Selkirk FYR: 2015</i>	3	7	2	4	--	1	70	33	1,453,605 <i>Urban Aspect (GB)</i>	2,538,612
				<i>Stands: Overbury Stud Eng Fee: £5,000</i>							
13	Style Vendome (Fr) <i>(2010) by Anabaa FYR: 2015</i>	3	5	3	4	1	1	115	51	317,864 <i>Lily's Candle (Fr)</i>	2,530,694
				<i>Stands: Haras du Grand Courgeon Fr Fee: €2,500</i>							
14	Maxios (GB) <i>(2008) by Monsun (Ger) FYR: 2015</i>	3	10	1	5	1	1	149	80	340,885 <i>Diamanta (Ger)</i>	2,425,108
				<i>Stands: Castlehyde Stud Ire Fee: €6,000</i>							
15	Planteur (Ire) <i>(2007) by Danehill Dancer (Ire) FYR: 2015</i>	2	8	--	2	--	--	121	51	378,027 <i>Manguzi (Fr)</i>	2,466,688
				<i>Stands: Haras du Grand Courgeon Fr Fee: €2,500</i>							



IRELAND'S CALL FOR WILLIAMS



Melbourne Cup celebrations | Bronwen Healy

By Melissa Steele

Nick Williams's passport is awash with green stamps. Regular trips to Ireland are now commonplace in the proud Melbournian's calendar and, with more horses-in-training than ever with County Kilkenny-based trainer Joseph O'Brien, they're only set to rise in the future.

Nick's father Lloyd Williams's navy blue silks with white armlets have become synonymous with Australian racing and most notably the G1 Melbourne Cup which they have carried to victory on six occasions.

Four of those winners were trained out of the Williams family's state-of-the-art training facility Macedon Lodge and yet, at the end of last year it was put on the market with the announcement that their training in Australia would be outsourced and there would be a significant shift in their interests to Europe.

Perhaps six Melbourne Cups is enough for anyone, only the 'Cups King' Bart Cummings would have handled more, but Lloyd Williams has not lost interest in the race--far from it. The octogenarian still has his sights firmly set on a seventh win but as times change so must strategy and, shedding some light on the decision to sell Macedon Lodge, his son Nick explains.

"My father is in his 80th year and he was very much hands on up [at Macedon Lodge] every day and he's just got to a point

where he doesn't want to do that anymore. I've got the view, coming from a different generation, that you can employ people to do a job and you let them do it.

"I said why don't we put the horses to a couple of trainers that go well and that we respect. That way we don't have to worry about getting up at three in the morning and staff not turning up and all the little things that you have to worry about. We'll let that be someone else's problem."

There's more to it than early alarm clocks and unreliable staff though. In the fast world that we live in there is opportunity for those with patience and the Williams father and son duo have identified a gap to be exploited in a European market, which--as Australia did before it--has become increasingly swept up by commercial speed.

The Changing European Market

"There's two things that have happened," says Williams. "Firstly, over the last 10 years the breed in Australia, whilst probably superior over six furlongs, are not up to the grade once they get to 10 furlongs. That was what really started us thinking about making a change.

"Then, what's happened in the Northern Hemisphere I think over the last five years is that, like in Australia at yearling sales, there seems to be this need for speed which is odd given the program of races up there. A lot of the middle-distance horses seem to go unloved at the yearling sales, so it seemed to be a good opportunity to secure some value.



Donnacha & Joseph O'Brien | Racing Post

"You can buy some very nice pedigrees and some nice types over there for reasonable money. When you compare that to the yearling sales in Australia and anything that's bred to go over a mile and a quarter, you're definitely buying them better over there than you are here.

"In the last fifty years, as an owner we'd have been the biggest buyer of yearlings in Australia," continues Williams. "But the breed in Australia is no longer producing the type of horses that we're keen on and so we've transferred that model over to the Northern Hemisphere.

"I guess we're also pretty fortunate in that I've got a very good friend over there, Paul Shanahan, who's been very helpful to us in sourcing yearlings. Obviously, we've got a very close relationship with the Magnier family too who have been a great help in getting us established [in Ireland]."

He might not be short of friends in Tipperary but the Irishman with the biggest draw for Nick Williams is Joseph O'Brien. The 26-year-old trainer won the Williams family their sixth Melbourne Cup with Rekindling (GB) (High Chaparral {Ire}), pipping none other than his own father, Aidan O'Brien, to the post in only his first full year with a license.

A Winning Combination

The following summer, **Latrobe (Ire)** (Camelot {GB}) brought home the Irish Derby for the Cup-winning combination, providing both owner and trainer with their first European Classic.

"The thing that keeps us really keen on [racing in Ireland] I must say is Joseph O'Brien," says Williams. "You know, at 26 years of age, it's like he's been doing it for 100 years. He's a remarkable young man.

"We've known Aidan and Joseph for a long time and a fella like Joseph O'Brien only comes along once in a generation. We sort of backed him from the day he got his license and we've had a lot of success together.

"We've had his two biggest winners on the Flat I suppose and we're very happy to be in his camp. We think we've got a pretty good system over there."

A good system is something that the Williams team take great pride in having been hands-on in their training regime at Macedon Lodge for so many years, and when it comes to being

owners, they like to keep their finger on the pulse.

"I try and get over there four or five times a year," says Williams. "But I talk to Joseph a couple of times a week probably. We know what's going on with them all, he's good like that.

"We're a bit different to most owners because we've run our own operation, we're used to being very hands-on so all the little things that go on in the training regime are things that interest us and programming of the horses is something that we're very keen to be a part of. We like to think that we think it all through and so, without second guessing him, we like to be involved."

With "35 to 40" horses with Joseph O'Brien, there's little doubting their involvement at the young trainer's Owing base; a family heirloom of sorts that is referred to simply as "The Hill" by those in the know. Because, well, if you know, you know.

"Joseph's got an absolutely super facility at 'The Hill' and the horses do well there," says Williams. "It's been successful over three generations of trainers, not to take anything away from [Joseph's] ability, but some places have success and some places don't. That's obviously a place that has good horse after good horse, there's no doubt over it, whether it be trained by his grandfather, his mother, his father or himself, the horses do well there which I think is a big help."



Degraves | *Racing Post*

A Strategic Approach

There are a few less hills at Australian training centres which is one of many differences between the two racing nations. Another prominent contrast is prizemoney; Australia's being very good and Ireland's perceived as poor in comparison.

Some might think it financial folly then to be shifting one's focus to Europe where owners often look on with envy at the prize pots in other jurisdictions around the world, none more so than Australia? Williams disagrees.

"The prizemoney in Europe is very poor day to day but--and this is what surprises me about the rush of speed horses in Europe--the prizemoney for those good middle distance races is pretty good. We were lucky enough to win the Irish Derby in 2018 and, particularly with the way the Aussie dollar goes, that's a good money race for us, it's a big pot.

"We've taken the view," continues Williams, "that if the horses are good enough to be Group 1 horses over [in Ireland] then obviously we'll leave them there because they can do very well and get plenty of prize money. But if we've got horses that are a level below with Joseph, we'll probably bring them down here and week-to-week they can earn plenty of money."

"What we're really doing is, rather than just putting them all on a plane and bringing them out here willy-nilly, we're establishing what horses we think are suited here and what horses are suited there and trying to have a bit of a strategic approach to it."

Businessmen to the bone, there seems to be strategy in everything the Williams team do, and Nick maintains that if a deal makes financial sense, anything can be traded.

"One thing that we're renowned for in Australia," says Williams, "is that no-one's ever scared to make an offer for a horse that we own because we're sellers. Everything we own is for sale and everything's got its price in the horse business."

Whether it's our best horse or our worst horse, they're all for sale, it's just a question of dollars."

When it comes to their best horses, Williams lists off a few. There appears to be no shortage of ammunition going into the Irish flat season and one in particular that may have Classic credentials is juvenile Group 3 winner **Degraves (Ire)** (Camelot {GB}) who, incidentally, shares a few characteristics with another decent horse in their string--the Irish Derby winner, Latrobe.

Both are sons of Camelot (GB), both were purchased at the Tattersalls October Yearling Sale for under 100,000gns and, even if Degraves does not go onto be as good as his stablemate, both represent serious value; just the type of sound investments that Williams was looking for in his move towards the European market.

"In the Northern Hemisphere, we have two great hopes that aren't necessarily obvious I suppose," says Williams. "The first is a horse called Degraves who has good 2-year-old form and he's on a Derby path. Which Derby we're not sure yet but obviously he'll tell us as the season goes on. Touch wood, if he comes back well, he'll be a very nice Camelot colt."

"The other is a very nice Australia (GB) horse called **Buckhurst (Ire)** who's just turned four. Joseph thinks he's really come along

over the winter and we're hoping he'll be competing in those good mile and a quarter, mile and a half races so those two are very exciting.

"Then obviously we've got **Master of Reality (Ire)** (Frankel {GB}) and Latrobe over there but people already know about them. Master of Reality will probably go to the Melbourne Cup at the end of the season but Latrobe, being a Derby winner who's just turned five, could be heading to stud. A few races this season will probably see him out and I think he'll make a very good stallion."

"We've also got a lot of 2-year-olds with Joseph," continues Williams, "and a lot of 2-year-olds just turned three. Some of them have raced, some haven't and we have some that we've got some pretty high hopes for. So we've got our fingers crossed that we can unearth another decent horse. Certainly, that Degraves who won the Group 3 at Leopardstown, he's a really nice horse."

"We've taken the view, that if the horses are good enough to be Group 1 horses over [in Ireland] then obviously we'll leave them there because they can do very well and get plenty of prize money."

Nick Williams

Australia Still Part of the Future

The Emerald Isle might sit at the core of Williams's new game plan but he's keen to stress that they haven't turned their back on racing in Australia by any means and it still plays a big part in their future plans.

"We'll still have plenty of runners in Australia," he confirms, "you'll just be seeing a bit more of our colours in Europe too."

Indeed, their colours have already enjoyed success at the highest level at some of the greatest race meetings that Europe has to offer, but for the loyal Melbournians nothing beats a win on home turf and there's still a gaping hole in their trophy cabinet.

"Over the last fifty years," says Williams, "our family has been fortunate enough to win nearly all the big races in Australia, and of course we love the Melbourne Cup--it's bred into our psyche. But there's still one glaring omission from the mantelpiece and that's the Cox Plate. I think we've run second in it five or six times but haven't managed to win it. So even though it would be wonderful to have winners at any of the great race meetings around the world, I think if I could only win one more race in my lifetime, it would have to be the Cox Plate."

So it seems that even though Ireland, on occasion, might take the man out of Melbourne there is certainly no taking Melbourne out of the man.



IN HONG KONG:

Amazing Beats, g, 4, **Epaulette**--Ouachita, by Canny Lad. Sha Tin, 2-23, Hcp. (\$407k), 2000m, 2:00.84. B-Darley (NSW).

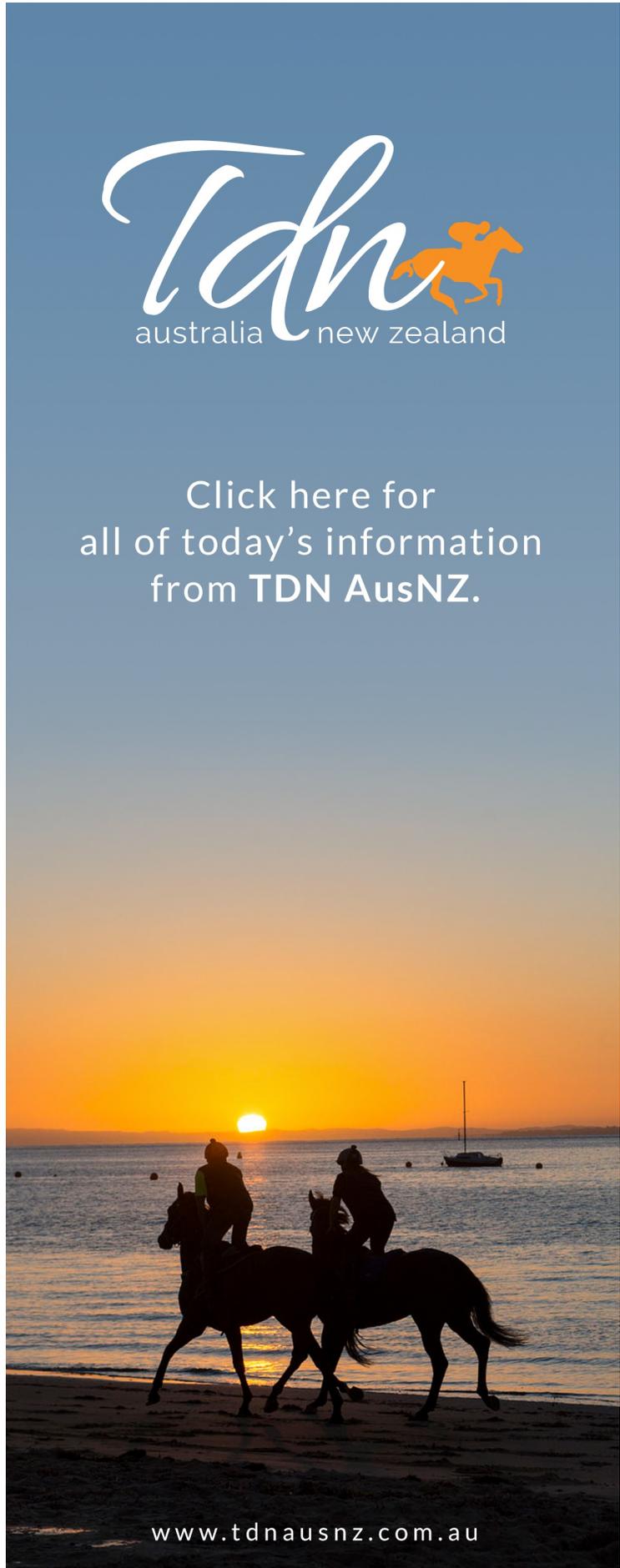
*Formerly Cossetot. **SW & MGSP-Aus. ***1/2 to Kiamichi (Sidestep), Ch. 2yo Filly & G1SW-Aus, \$2,350,850. **VIDEO**

Best For You, g, 4, **Not A Single Doubt**--Frenchs Forest, by French Deputy (USA). Sha Tin, 2-22, Hcp. (\$188k), 1400m, 1:22.67. B-Arrowfield Pastoral Pty Ltd (NSW). *Formerly Forestville. **\$200,000 RNA 2yo '17 INGRTR. **VIDEO**

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- [Te Akau Shark Favourite for Chipping Norton](#)
- [Fifty Stars/So Si Bon to Do Battle](#)

AUSTRALIAN GROUP 1 RACES – 2020		
Date	Race	Track
Feb. 29	G1 Australian Guineas	Flemington
	G1 TAB Chipping Norton S.	Randwick
	G1 Surround S.	Randwick
Mar. 7	G1 Newmarket H.	Flemington
	G1 Australian Cup	Flemington
	G1 Mostyn Copper Randwick Guineas	Randwick
	G1 Canterbury S.	Randwick
Mar. 14	G1 Coolmore Classic S.	Rosehill
Mar. 20	G1 William Reid S.	The Valley
Mar. 21	G1 Longines Golden Slipper S.	Rosehill
	G1 The Agency George Ryder S	Rosehill
	G1 Ranvet S.	Rosehill
	G1 The Galaxy S.	Rosehill
	G1 Sky Racing Rosehill Guineas	Rosehill



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