

THE KENTUCKY DERBY

	WINNER	SIRE
2019	Country House	LOOKIN AT LUCKY
2018	JUSTIFY	SCAT DADDY
2016	Nyquist	UNCLE MO
2015	AMERICAN PHAROAH	Pioneer of The Nile

COOLMORE AMERICA

WITH CHANCE IT, JOSEPH CLOSE TO FULFILLING DERBY DREAM



Click the photo above to watch our video on Chance It

When Saffie Joseph, Jr. arrived in the U.S. from Barbados in 2011, the then 24-year-old didn't come here to be just another trainer. He wanted what racing in Barbados could never offer him, a chance to prosper on a big stage and to become one of the top trainers in the sport. Some nine years later, he's on his way, capturing training titles at Gulfstream and Gulfstream Park West and winning graded stakes with horses like GI Pennsylvania Derby winner Math Wizard (Algorithms). This year alone, he's won six stakes, four of them graded.

Now, Joseph is hoping to take the next step, to win the GI Kentucky Derby. After focusing mainly on claimers throughout his first seven years here, he has come up with a horse who could be his ticket to Churchill Downs and all the fame that goes with having a Derby starter. Coming off a win in the Mucho Macho Man S., **Chance It** (Currency Swap) will be tested for class when he goes next in Saturday's GI Fasig-Tipton Fountain of Youth S. at Gulfstream.

"It would mean everything to have a horse in the Derby," Joseph said. "I came from Barbados for these dreams, to try to get to the Derby and, hopefully, one day win it. We're on the way. We're pretty close."

A Florida-bred, Chance It lost his first start, but recovered with an easy maiden win in June over state-breds.

Cont. p3

GLADIATOR KING ON THE ROAD AGAIN

by Jessica Martini

Gladiator King (Curlin), winner of the 2019 GIII Hutcheson S. for trainer Jaime Mejia and his Thoroughbred Champions Training Center, was purchased privately and relocated to Dubai last summer. After scoring back-to-back group wins at Meydan in January for new owner Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid Al Nuaimi and trainer Satish Seemar, the 4-year-old ex-pat ships to Riyadh to face off against the speedy American Imperial Hint (Imperialism) in Saturday's Saudia Sprint.

"Gladiator King arrived to us in July," Seemar, who will also send out Saudi Cup contender **North America (GB)** (Dubawi {Ire}), said. "Our plan was to start him in the Dubai World Cup Carnival where he got off the mark winning the Jan. 2 G3 Dubawi S. and he remained unbeaten in his next race four weeks later in the G3 Al Shindagha Sprint—both at Meydan Racecourse." **Cont. p4**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

STRONG EURO CHALLENGE ON SAUDI CUP CARD

Magic Wand (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) and **Benbatl (GB)** (Dubawi {Ire}) lead a strong European contingent for Saturday's Saudi Cup card. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

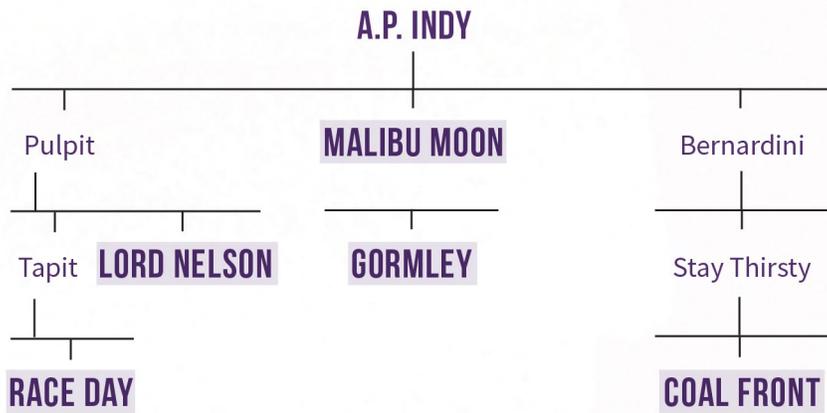
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Wednesday, February 26, 2020



'TDN Rising Star' Charlatan (Speightstown) works 4f in a bullet :47.80 with Drayden Van Dyke up at Santa Anita on Tuesday morning. | Horsephotos

SCHUMER ON THE NOMINATION STRUGGLE

7

Bloodstock agent Chad Schumer shares his thoughts as part of our ongoing series seeking solutions for the difficulties of finding mares for stallions in their third year at stud. "If it were me, I would probably underprice these horses instead of aggressively pricing them," he says. "That way, you really get to pick the mares and make some better decisions."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: KIRK ROBISON

9

Prominent owner/breeder Kirk Robison pens a letter to the editor discussing the financial difficulties of owning racehorses. "When a business or sport (horse racing) model has expenses that are about double potential income (purses) we are in deep trouble," he says.

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Chance It cont. from p1

“Second time out, we were hoping that he would run like how we thought he could,” Joseph said. “You still never envision something as impressive as that was. You couldn’t get much better than that. At the quarter pole, I turned to my mom, who likes to come to the races, and I said, ‘He’s everything we dreamed of.’”

Chance It was a dominant force in state-bred races all last year and capped off the season with a win in the \$400,000 FTBOA Florida Sire In Reality S. Joseph knew that the next step had to be a race against open company, a race that would tell him whether or not he had a legitimate contender for the Triple Crown races. Joseph picked the Jan. 4 Mucho Macho Man S. and while Chance It was not dominant, he did show that he’s a fighter. He was passed by As Seen On TV (Lookin At Lucky) in the stretch, but battled back to win by a head.



Saffie Joseph, Jr. | Coglianese

“I thought he showed a lot of guts and determination,” Joseph said. “I thought he was going to get beat. But he re-rallied and did so after a layoff. Off the layoff, I didn’t think he was going to be at his best. But he found a way to win. I thought that was very impressive.”

With Chance It having passed a big test, Joseph began to plot his course to Churchill Downs. He decided to sit out the GIII Holy Bull S. because it awarded only 10 Kentucky Derby points to the winner. The winner of the Fountain of Youth receives 50 points.

“The reason we waited for the Fountain of Youth was the 50 points,” Joseph said. “If we were to win the Fountain of Youth, it guarantees him a spot in the Derby. The Holy Bull meant coming back in four weeks and for only 10 points. So even if he won the Holy Bull, he would still have to basically go and do it again. That was a deciding factor.” **Cont. p4**

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Chance It cont.

Joseph continued, “He ran in the Mucho Macho Man after a four-month layoff. To bring him back in four weeks for only 10 points, we thought it was more worthwhile to wait until the Fountain of Youth.”

The Fountain of Youth will be a stiff test for Chance It. Headed by beaten GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile favorite Dennis’ Moment (Tiznow), it looks like it will be the toughest Kentucky Derby prep run so far this year. But Joseph will go into the race loaded with confidence.

“Chance It, as far as his attributes and ability, from the time he came in, he’s basically shown that he was a classy horse,” he said. “Each time, he keeps wowing you and wowing you with everything he does. He’s always shown that he has a special ability. Since I’ve been in America, he’s the best horse that we’ve ever had. I don’t think we’ve ever had a horse close to him in ability.”

Joseph hasn’t committed to any race after the Fountain of Youth, even the GI Florida Derby. He’s hoping that Chance It earns enough points that he will be guaranteed a spot in the Kentucky Derby field, which would mean he might not start again until the first Saturday in May.

“If all goes well in the Fountain of Youth, then we start dreaming towards how we get to the Derby,” Joseph said.

The dream is not yet a reality. But a talented horse from one of the hottest barns in the country figures to make his presence felt on the way to the Kentucky Derby. If not, there’s always next year. Joseph’s goal is to be the type of trainer who always has Derby prospects, and, yes, he’s on his way.

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Gladiator King cont. from p1

Gladiator King was making his first start in nine months when he went postward as a 10-1 outsider in the six-furlong Dubawi S. and he gutted out a neck victory over Ibn Malik (Ire) (Raven’s Pass) (ERA video).

“After his first race we were on the fence about his abilities as he doesn’t show much at home,” Seemar admitted. “We thought it might have just been beginner’s luck.”

The trainer was more impressed by his charge’s second outing in Dubai, where the chestnut colt wore down the Doug O’Neill-trained Truck Salesman (Can the Man) to win by a length (video).

“After he won the Al Shindagha Sprint, we saw what he is capable of,” Seemar said. “It is very rare to see sprinters quicken up and change gears from the front like he does. And the feedback from [jockey] Mickael Barzalona was very positive.”

Cont. p5

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Gladiator King cont.

Imperial Hint, winner of last year's GI Vosburgh S. and GI Alfred G. Vanderbilt H., is the expected headliner in Saturday's Sprint, but Seemar is confident Gladiator King will put his best foot forward.

"He has been shaping up really well and we are confident," Seemar said. "I do feel that we have an edge against the other competitors as our journey is only a two-hour flight to Riyadh. This gives us an advantage as our horses won't need time to recover after a long journey."



Gladiator King | DRC/Erika Rasmussen



Satish Seemar waves to the crowd as he leads Group 1 winner North America into the winner's circle | DRC/Erika Rasmussen

As head trainer at Zabeel Racing Stables, Seemar oversees some 130 horses in training. A native of India, his route to Dubai took him through the United States where he worked with horseman Monty Roberts and served as a farm manager at Taylor Made Farms. He was recruited by Sheikh Mohammed in 1990 and was part of a team tasked with putting Dubai on the international racing scene. **Cont. p6**

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Bill Oppenheim on SOLOMINI

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-Bill Oppenheim

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Gladiator King cont.

Based in Dubai since the nascent days of the Dubai World Cup, Seemar has a unique perspective as Riyadh's King Abdulaziz Racecourse welcomes a glittering array of international racing stars for its first Saudi Cup.

"As a horseman, training in Dubai for the last 30 years, it was music to my ears when I heard the announcement of the Saudi Cup," Seemar said. "It is a huge compliment to racing in this part of the world. I hope other countries in the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] can follow this as we can only progress and it is great to see horses from all over the globe congregating in the Middle East for events such as The Saudi Cup and Dubai World Cup."

While he will be busy saddling runners at Meydan Thursday, Seemar is eagerly awaiting his first in-person look at King Abdulaziz Racecourse.

"I have not been to the track myself yet, but from what I have seen on TV and social media, it looks like a world-class facility and the organizing team seem to have done a great job," Seemar said. "I will not be arriving in Saudi Arabia until the 28th as we have runners at Meydan on Thursday evening, but my assistant trainer Bhupat Seemar and the rest of the team from Zabeel will be there bright and early on the 26th."

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SAUDI CUP COVERAGE ON FS1

Live coverage of the inaugural \$20-million Saudi Cup from the King Abdulaziz Racetrack in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia airs Saturday, Feb. 29 at noon Eastern on FS1. Featuring a strong U.S. presence with Maximum Security (New Year's Day), Midnight Bisou (Midnight Lute), McKinzie (Street Sense), Mucho Gusto (Mucho Macho Man) and Tacitus (Tapit) scheduled to compete, the nine-furlong event is the world's richest race.

FOX Sports is the exclusive broadcast provider of The Saudi Cup in the United States, where the telecast will air from noon-1:00 p.m. Eastern with limited commercial interruption made possible by Runhappy. Hosted by Nick Luck and Michelle Yu, the international broadcast will originate from King Abdulaziz Racetrack and include analysts Emma Spencer and Tom Stanley. Scheduled post time for the Saudi Cup is 12:40 p.m. Eastern.

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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.

Chad Schumer, Schumer Bloodstock

I think there appears to be nearly unlimited demand for viable first-crop stallions. From what I hear, farms look at between 300 to 400 applications for any stallion that's really worth the money that first year based on the commercial market.

The question is how to sustain that in years two, three, and four. It seems to me that there are certain "recession-proof" horses, sons of intensely popular stallions like Curlin, Into Mischief, and Tapit, that can maintain their demand in years three and four. When people can't get into those big-name stallions, they can use their sons. So those types of stallions can sustain themselves through those years.

But for the other stallions, horses that are still worth the money, there is a massive drop-off. I think the solution, in terms of the free market, is to massively drop the price. In other words, if a horse stands for \$20,000 in his first season, drop him to \$10,000 to \$7,500 in years three and four. Some will argue that the people in years one and two paid a lot more, but they paid for a different product.

Many people have woven The Jockey Club book cap into their response, and I think that's an important factor. The idea of limiting book size obviously changes the market dramatically. I have very mixed feelings on this because, while I think it's a great idea in that it's good for the breed and good for the industry, we are in a free market. As a stallion owner, I don't love the idea of someone telling me how many mares my stallion can breed. So if we could all come to some common agreement, that would probably be better than changing the rules.

If you play along with the free market, slashing prices in years three and four could really move the needle up in terms of the number of mares bred. It might even produce a whole new way of looking at it. People might start targeting third- and fourth-year stallions knowing that the price will be a lot lower and taking a gamble. If those 2-year-olds come out and run, they're really going to hit the jackpot.

If I like a certain bottle of wine but the price is too high, I probably wouldn't buy it too often. But if the price were to be slashed, I would buy a lot of it. So I think that's true for everyone for a lot of things, including stallion seasons. If a horse is worth \$20,000 in year one and you're struggling in later years, why not slash the price and see what happens? This will force the market to pay attention.

There needs to be some incentive to breeders for these year three and four horses instead of asking breeders to pay the same price in years three and four when the real advantage is in years one and two.



Chad Schumer | Keeneland Photo

If it were me, I would probably underprice these horses instead of aggressively pricing them. That way, you really get to pick the mares and make some better decisions. Some of these first-crop weanlings and yearlings are showing up at the sales with not two blank dams, but three. That's probably not great for the stallion. Of course, a good horse can come from anywhere, as we've seen many times. But in terms of trying to establish a stallion, you want to get the biggest and best book that you can.

In terms of the moderately-priced, proven stallions, I don't think there are many of them left. As a guy that buys a lot of stallions for export, I see horses that should be able to attract a big book of mares but they can't. As an industry, we don't have nearly as many breed-to-race breeders as we have had in the past.

When I first started, there were a lot of people that bred to race. I had one partner who would breed 10 to 15 mares a year to race, and I just don't think people do that anymore. Because of that, it has so dramatically changed the product that's out there. There used to be a larger pool of horses that went into training for everyone involved, whether for people that bred to race or bred to sell. That has changed dramatically. **Cont. p8**



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Schumer cont.

I think it's tougher for those types of stallions to muster large books because there aren't enough people out there breeding to race. Because of that, the moderately-priced, proven stallion is becoming a unicorn.

One other point: there is also a decline in the number of stallions who are syndicated. I think if you own a share, you are far more likely to make sure that season is used because you actually have an ownership interest.

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ANNUAL KEEP DAY TO BE HELD MAR. 12

The Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) will host the fourth annual KEEP Day in Frankfort Thursday, Mar. 12, it announced Tuesday. KEEP Day in Frankfort provides KEEP grassroots members, industry leaders and breed associations an opportunity to share with state legislators the importance of horses to their districts and to the state's economy. The event will take place from 8:30-10:30 a.m. in Room 125 in the Capitol Annex.

“KEEP Day in Frankfort is a great opportunity for legislators to connect with the horse industry to learn exactly what makes this industry so special and important to the state,” said Elisabeth Jensen, KEEP's Executive Vice President. “Each year, KEEP Day brings representatives of all facets of the industry to Frankfort and we expect that this year will be our biggest yet. Kentucky's horse industry continues to lead the nation and KEEP is proud to be part of that success.”

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NYRA REMOVING PADDOCK TENT AT SARATOGA

The New York Racing Association will increase the amount of green space available to fans by removing the group hospitality tent positioned alongside the paddock at Saratoga, it announced Tuesday. The removal of the Paddock Tent, which has been a permanent fixture at Saratoga for more than a decade, will return 240 square feet of picnic space to fans where they can enjoy an unimpeded view of the historic Saratoga paddock.

The Paddock Tent will be eliminated prior to the start of the 2020 summer meet at Saratoga Race Course, which will begin Thursday, July 16 and run through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7.

“A great deal of what makes Saratoga so special is the ability to see both the horses and jockeys up close. We are removing the Paddock Tent in order to offer more fans the exciting opportunity to watch these incredible athletes as they parade through the paddock prior to each race,” said NYRA CEO and President Dave O'Rourke.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KIRK ROBISON

I have some thoughts on why fewer people want to own racehorses and why existing owners are shrinking their operations or getting out altogether.

I breed to race about 15-20 mares in California, Kentucky and New Mexico. I buy 5-10 yearlings each year. I run in about 200 races per year, winning about 20% with 50% in the money. I have licenses in at least 10 states each year. I hire respected and successful trainers. I lose money on my racing operation. Lots of it. In years when I sell a mare at the conclusion of her career, I might break even or show a small profit. Last November I sold Grade II winner Vertical Oak for \$700,000. She is in foal to Into Mischief.

Horse owners invest the most and lose the most. Consistently. Owners leave the racing business. Who else does? Multiple sources have put it very simply--purses are about \$1 billion per year in the U.S. and in the aggregate owners' expenses are about \$2 billion per year. Any questions? **Mr. Gary Falter's letter to the editor failed to mention** the only possible remedy for attracting more owners. Many politicians have said, "It's the economy, stupid." For us in racing, change that to, "It's the purses, stupid." When a business or sport (horse racing) model has expenses that are about double potential income (purses), we are in deep trouble. There is no solution to what ails this ownership issue except much, much higher purses at all levels and at all tracks. The numbers don't lie.

Kirk Robison
El Paso, TX

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As Track Makes Headlines for Horse Deaths, City Eyes Santa Anita Potential *As horse racing at the iconic Santa Anita Park faces new scrutiny, the city of Arcadia is pushing to come up with a master plan for the 300-acre site, a city official told Bisnow. The privately owned track has weathered a barrage of headlines related to horse injuries and deaths at the site over the last two years, and the city has been asking the track owner, The Stronach Group, to work with it on development plans, with or without horse racing. Joseph Pimentel, Bisnow Los Angeles*

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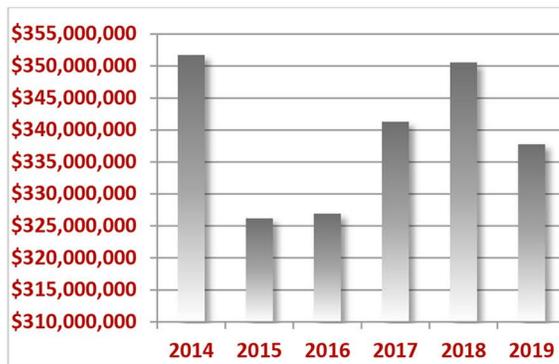
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MIXED SALES RESULTS 2014 - 2019

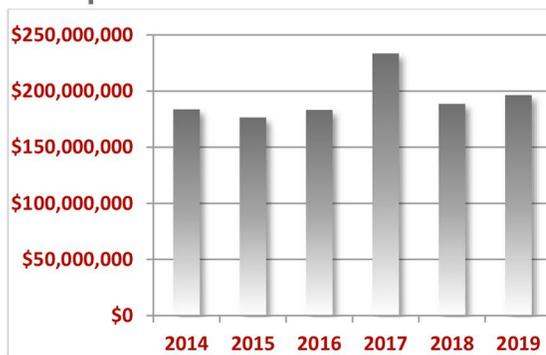
North America



“Mixed winter sales are exactly that: mixed. Nor is the diversity of catalogs confined to the discrete categories they contain: in-foal mares, fillies off the track, short yearlings. In any given auction, turnover will also be volatile according to year-to-year differences in the quality of headline offerings. As such, extrapolating trends from the overall behaviour of the market is always perilous.

REGION	YEAR	CAT	OUT	% OUT/CAT	RING	SOLD	% S/R	GROSS	AVE
NA	2014	9853	1867	18.94	7986	6022	75.4	\$351,750,677	\$58,411
NA	2015	10205	2118	20.75	8087	5954	73.62	\$326,190,291	\$54,785
NA	2016	10288	2254	21.9	8034	5681	70.71	\$326,936,308	\$57,549
NA	2017	9428	1902	20.17	7526	5512	73.23	\$341,305,873	\$61,921
NA	2018	9639	2068	21.45	7571	5563	73.47	\$350,584,884	\$63,021
NA	2019	9848	2339	23.75	7509	5730	76.3	\$337,797,229	\$58,952

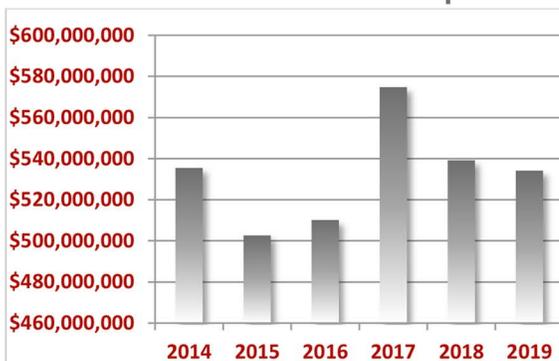
Europe



What a remarkable coincidence, then, that a transatlantic market routinely worth over \$500 million should have levelled off into such perfect stability. Though it has spiked both up and down by around \$30 million in between, its value this winter shows a virtually imperceptible contraction of 0.25 percent compared with 2014. (The average hip, moreover, also remained pretty similar at 2.2 percent higher this year.)

REGION	YEAR	CAT	OUT	% OUT/CAT	RING	SOLD	% S/R	GROSS	AVE
EU	2014	8069	1305	16.17	6764	5242	77.49	\$183,731,687	\$35,050
EU	2015	8615	1491	17.3	7124	5304	74.45	\$176,478,526	\$33,273
EU	2016	9853	1685	17.1	8168	5967	73.05	\$183,168,017	\$30,697
EU	2017	9907	1711	17.27	8196	6164	75.2	\$233,462,138	\$37,875
EU	2018	7775	1523	19.58	6252	4726	75.59	\$188,597,643	\$39,906
EU	2019	8495	1374	16.17	7121	5260	73.86	\$196,360,875	\$37,331

North America and Europe



In the local markets, perhaps the most striking factor is a stronger clearance rate in North America than in the two previous years—during which time, again uncannily, the volume of traffic through the ring has remained virtually identical. Given that scratchings also went up, then perhaps shrinkage in both turnover and average simply reflects the routine variability in content noted above.

If people are both leaving more horses at home, and buying more, then morale must remain reasonably good. Hardly a surprise, given that these sales produce the raw materials for other sectors of a bloodstock market that has generally been in such robust health over the past decade. ”

- Chris McGrath

REGION	YEAR	CAT	OUT	% OUT/CAT	RING	SOLD	% S/R	GROSS	AVE
All	2014	17922	3172	17.69	14750	11264	76.36	\$535,482,364	\$47,539
All	2015	18820	3609	19.17	15211	11258	74.01	\$502,668,817	\$44,650
All	2016	20141	3939	19.55	16202	11648	71.89	\$510,104,325	\$43,793
All	2017	19335	3613	18.68	15722	11676	74.26	\$574,768,011	\$49,226
All	2018	17414	3591	20.62	13823	10289	74.43	\$539,182,527	\$52,404
All	2019	18343	3713	20.24	14630	10990	75.11	\$534,158,105	\$48,604

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IN ORDER OF PURSE:

MARDI GRAS S., \$75,000, Fair Grounds, 2-25, 4yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2fT, 1:03.99, fm.

1--**PLAY ON, 122, f, 4, Country Day--Vote Early (SW, \$230,512), by More Than Ready.** O-Klein Racing; B-Richard & Bert Klein (KY); T-Brad H. Cox; J-Shaun Bridgmohan. \$45,000. Lifetime Record: 10-5-2-0, \$212,883. *Full to Will Call, GSW, \$354,911.

Foaled & Raised at Clarkland Farm for Klein Racing

2--**Hotshot Anna**, 122, m, 6, Trappe Shot--Avalos, by Holy Bull. (\$20,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP). O/T-Hugh H. Robertson; B-Paul Tackett (KY). \$15,000.

3--**Eyeinthesky**, 118, f, 4, Sky Mesa--Ruliontome, by Lion Heart. (\$22,000 Ylg '17 OBSOCT). O-Gary Barber; B-Rusty Kindratiw (FL); T-Mark E. Casse. \$7,500.

Margins: HD, 1 1/4, HF. Odds: 4.00, 3.20, 6.70.

Also Ran: Unbridled Class, Change of Control, A Thousand Reasons, Bell's the One, Lake Local, Aiken to Be, On Probation. Scratched: Break Even, Lunar Approach, Spectralight (Ire).



Play On | Hodges Photography

Play On finished just a head shy of Hotshot Anna after leading throughout in the Richard R. Scherer Memorial S. at Fair Grounds Nov. 30, but was able to turn the tables this time around. The Klein homebred sat a stalking trip on the outside in third through an opening quarter in :21.68, set her sights on the

leader as they straightened for home, took over shortly thereafter, and had enough left in the tank to get the money. Play On, winner of the local Pan Zareta S. Dec. 28, entered off a second-place finish in the Nelson J. Menard Memorial S. Jan. 25. The winner's dam had a Stay Thirsty colt in 2018 and a filly by Due Date in 2019. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**



IN ORDER OF PURSE:

2nd-Fair Grounds, \$41,440, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 2-25, 3yo, 5 1/2fT, 1:04.41, fm.

RACE DRIVER (c, 3, Distorted Humor--Driven, by Forestry), a maiden winner at third asking in the Churchill slop Nov. 23, crossed the wire fourth and was elevated to third via disqualification in a local optional claimer last time Jan. 18. Making his grass debut here, the 2-1 chance raced in sixth in the early stages, was tipped out three deep in the stretch and got rolling late to run down favored Kingpin (Quality Road) by 3/4 of a length. Race Driver is a half-brother to Glamoride (Ide), MSP, \$201,720. The winner's dam is also represented by the 2-year-old colt Drive for Fun (Distorted Humor); and a yearling colt by Exaggerator. She was bred to Practical Joke for the 2020 season. Sales history: \$245,000 RNA 2yo '19 OBSMAR; \$290,000 2yo '19 OBSOPN. Lifetime Record: 6-2-1-1, \$111,022. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** O-John C. Oxley; B-Russell L. Reineman Stable, Inc (KY); T-Mark E. Casse.

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Play On (Country Day) holds on in the Mardi Gras S. at Fair Grounds.



SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

Amira's Prince (Ire) (Teofilo {Ire}), Pleasant Acres Stallions
 35 foals of racing age/4 winners/0 black-type winners
 5-Sam Houston Race, Aoc 5 1/2f, RIKKI'S GIFT, 20-1
 \$12,000 RNA TTA APR 2yo

Bayern (Offlee Wild), Hill 'n' Dale Farms, \$15,000
 157 foals of racing age/29 winners/0 black-type winners
 5-Sam Houston Race, Aoc 5 1/2f, CEDAR HALL, 10-1
 \$18,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$140,000 KEE SEP yrl

Cigar Street (Street Sense), Sandringham Farm, \$5,000
 20 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners
 7-Mahoning Valley, Alw 5 1/2f, WILLISTON WAY, 5-2

Danza (Street Boss), Fair Winds Farm, \$2,500
 140 foals of racing age/14 winners/2 black-type winners
 1-Mahoning Valley, Msw 6f, DANCING GRACE, 15-1
 5-Charles Town, Msw 4 1/2f, NEW BEGINNING, 10-1
 \$4,000 KEE JAN wnl; \$10,000 FTK OCT yrl

Medal Count (Dynaformer), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm,
 \$2,000
 81 foals of racing age/7 winners/0 black-type winners
 7-Mahoning Valley, Alw 5 1/2f, APPLETON SPECIAL, 8-1
 \$3,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$8,000 OBS OPN 2yo



ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

5th-Fair Grounds, \$48,000, (S), Opt. Clm (\$35,000), 2-25, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:09.75, ft.

MAGEEZ (h, 7, Musket Man--Spaseeba, by Spectacular Bid)
 Lifetime Record: MSW, 46-9-14-8, \$558,430. O-Double Dam Farm LLC; B-James A. McGehee (LA); T-Delmar R. Caldwell.
 *1/2 to McGehee's Mercy (Afleet Alex), SW, \$170,242; Poppa Duke (Golden Gear), MSP, \$160,877.

7th-Fair Grounds, \$47,000, (NW2X)/Opt. Clm (\$40,000), 2-25, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:09.34, ft.

EARLY MISCHIEF (g, 4, Into Mischief--Sugarinthemorning {MSW & MGISP, \$560,554}, by Candy Ride {Arg}) Lifetime Record: 10-4-1-1, \$126,057. O-REV Racing LLC; B-Dixiana Farms LLC (KY); T-James E. Baker. *\$50,000 RNA Ylg '17 KEESEP.

6th-Fair Grounds, \$43,000, Opt. Clm (\$80,000), 2-25, 4yo/up, 1 1/16mT, 1:43.97, fm.

EMMAUS (IRE) (h, 6, Invincible Spirit {Ire}--Prima Luce {Ire} {GSW-Ire, \$154,565}, by Galileo {Ire}) Lifetime Record: SW-Eng & GSP-NA, 15-5-3-0, \$240,205. O-M and J Thoroughbreds LLC & Riverside Bloodstock, LLC; B-Kilcarn Stud (IRE); T-Conor Murphy. *€580,000 Ylg '15 GOFORB; 190,000gns 4yo '18 TATAHI.



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Agents Jason Litt (left) and Alex Solis II pose with LNJ Foxwoods' GSW Fancy Dress Party (left) and dual champion Covfefe at Gainesway Farm | Photos by Z

9th-Parx Racing, \$42,000, (S), 2-25, (NW1BX), 4yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:19.19, my.

LUCKY HERO (g, 5, Partner's Hero--Leigh's Last Power, by Power by Far) Lifetime Record: 9-3-1-0, \$77,090. O/B-Barbara Geraghty (PA); T-Armand W. Correnti.

4th-Mahoning Valley, \$25,000, (NW3X)/Opt. Clm (\$25,000), 2-25, 3yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:44.37, ft.

ESKENDULCE (g, 8, Eskendereya--Dulce Realidad {MSW, \$221,300}, by Sweetsouthern saint) Lifetime Record: 57-18-13-5, \$259,237. O-Premier Stables Unlimited; B-Eric A. DelValle (KY); T-Alejandro Murillo Rodriguez. *1/2 to Sounds Delicious (Yes It's True), SW, \$240,100.

1st-Mahoning Valley, \$23,500, 2-25, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m 70y, 1:45.24, ft.

MEET ME HALF WAY (m, 5, Warrior's Reward--After Tea, by Boston Harbor) Lifetime Record: 31-6-11-1, \$100,628. O-Danielle Agnello; B-Sparks View Farm (KY); T-Jeffrey Skerrett. *\$2,400 RNA Ylg '16 KEEJAN; \$4,500 Ylg '16 FTKOCT.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Boston Light, g, 3, **Bernardini**--Harbor Mist (SW, \$262,529), by Rockport Harbor. Parx Racing, 2-25, (C), 5 1/2f, 1:07.61. B-WinStar Farm, LLC (KY).

Zurlin, f, 4, **Curlin**--Zapper Belle (SW & GSP, \$144,586), by Ghostzapper. Fair Grounds, 2-25, 1 1/16mT, 1:45.43. B-Robert & Lawana Low (KY).

Kid Tejano, g, 5, **Kentucky Dane**--Adella, by Tejano Run. Mahoning Valley, 2-25, (S), 6f, 1:16.27. B-Divine Intervention Farm (OH). *Full to Isadella, SW, \$169,462.



BERNARDINI, Boston Light, g, 3, o/o Harbor Mist, by Rockport Harbor. MCL, 2-25, Parx Racing

COUNTRY DAY, Play On, f, 4, o/o Vote Early, by More Than Ready. Mardi Gras S., 2-25, Fair Grounds

CURLIN, Zurlin, f, 4, o/o Zapper Belle, by Ghostzapper. MSW, 2-25, Fair Grounds

DISTORTED HUMOR, Race Driver, c, 3, o/o Driven, by Forestry. AOC, 2-25, Fair Grounds

ESKENDEREYA, Eskendulce, g, 8, o/o Dulce Realidad, by Sweetsouthern saint. AOC, 2-25, Mahoning Valley

INTO MISCHIEF, Early Mischief, g, 4, o/o Sugarinthemorning, by

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- Candy Ride (Arg). AOC, 2-25, Fair Grounds
- INVINCIBLE SPIRIT (IRE)**, Emmaus (Ire), h, 6, o/o Prima Luce (Ire), by Galileo (Ire). AOC, 2-25, Fair Grounds
- KENTUCKY DANE**, Kid Tejano, g, 5, o/o Adella, by Tejano Run. MSW, 2-25, Mahoning Valley
- MUSKET MAN**, Mageez, h, 7, o/o Spaseeba, by Spectacular Bid. AOC, 2-25, Fair Grounds
- PARTNER'S HERO**, Lucky Hero, g, 5, o/o Leigh's Last Power, by Power by Far. ALW, 2-25, Parx Racing
- WARRIOR'S REWARD**, Meet Me Half Way, m, 5, o/o After Tea, by Boston Harbor. ALW, 2-25, Mahoning Valley

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STRONG EURO CHALLENGE ON SAUDI CUP CARD



Magic Wand & Ryan Moore in Hong Kong | Racingfotos.com

By Emma Berry

The venue may be largely unfamiliar on the world stage but many of the runners lining up at King Abdulaziz racecourse in Riyadh on Saturday afternoon are well known across the world of racing and they include, of course, a strong challenge from Europe.

The main event, the \$20-million Saudi Cup over nine furlongs on the dirt, has attracted a highly competitive American contingent, including Maximum Security (New Year's Day) and Midnight Bisou (Midnight Lute), and they will be taking on two seasoned campaigners from Europe headed by the well travelled **Magic Wand (Ire)** (Galileo {Ire}) for Aidan O'Brien and the Coolmore team. The 5-year-old mare was last seen running second to Zulu Alpha (Street Cry {Ire}) in the G1 Pegasus World Cup Invitational S. following a year in which she was campaigned in America, Dubai, Britain, Australia and Hong Kong as well as her native Ireland.

Godolphin's **Benbatl (GB)** (Dubawi {Ire}) may be listed as a runner for the UAE but so familiar is he to European racing fans that success for him would feel like a 'home' win. Following his easy victory in the G2 Al Maktoum Challenge, his major target will be to give Saeed Bin Suroor a 10th win in the G1 Dubai World Cup in a month's time. The winner now of 10 of his 20 starts in Britain, Germany, Australia and Dubai, the 6-year-old should be given the utmost respect on Riyadh's acclaimed dirt track. [Cont. p2](#)

HALF TO GISW SLUMBER HIGHLIGHTS DONCASTER BREEZE UP CATALOGUE

The catalogue for the Goffs UK Doncaster Breeze Up Sale, featuring a Kodiak (GB) half-brother to GI Manhattan S. victor Slumber (GB) (Cacique {Ire}) (**lot 154**) from Grove Stud, is now **online**. A total of 165 juveniles will aim to follow in the hoofsteps of 2019 Royal Ascot scorer A'Ali (Ire) (Society Rock {Ire}) who saluted in the G2 Norfolk S. and last year's £450,000 sale topper Al Raya (GB) (Siyouni {Fr}), who went on to claim the G3 Prix d'Arenberg at Chantilly in August. The breeze-up portion of the sale will take place at Doncaster Racecourse beginning at 11 a.m. on Apr. 22, with the sale starting at the same time one day later at the Doncaster Sales Complex.

The catalogue boasts offspring from a variety of sires including Invincible Spirit (Ire)'s son Kingman (GB) who has one juvenile--a Gaybrook Lodge Stud-consigned colt as **lot 31**. [Cont. p5](#)

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

JOSEPH CLOSE TO DERBY DREAM WITH CHANCE IT

Saffie Joseph, Jr., who dreams of winning the GI Kentucky Derby, fields **Chance It** (Currency Swap) in the GII Fountain of Youth S.

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Strong Euro Challenge on Saudi Cup Card Cont. from p1

"He won well on the dirt in Dubai, so we know that isn't a problem," said Saeed bin Suroor on Monday when confirming Benbatl for the race. "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."

Longines Turf H.

Worth \$2.5 million, making it the most valuable race on the under card, this contest over a mile and seven furlongs features plenty of European stayers, a number of whom will likely travel onwards for the G2 Dubai Gold Cup.

Last year's winner of that race and also the 2018 Melbourne Cup, **Cross Counter (GB)** (Teofilo {Ire}), is a strong contender for Godolphin and he will take on some familiar rivals from last year's Melbourne Cup, including runner-up **Prince Of Arran (GB)** (Shirocco {Ger}) and the Joseph O'Brien-trained pair of **Twilight Payment (Ire)** (Teofilo {Ire}) and **Downdraft (Ire)** (Camelot {GB}), both of whom represent Australian owners in Lloyd Williams and OTI Racing, respectively.

Charlie Appleby is looking forward to the return to the track of his staying star Cross Counter, who finished eighth at Flemington in November, and said, "I was very pleased with his run in Melbourne. He put up a good performance despite the traffic problems and the weight, and he galloped out strongly. He travelled straight from Melbourne to Dubai and he has wintered well there. His preparation has gone very well and I'm expecting a big run from him on Saturday. If he brings his A-game he's the horse they all have to beat. We're not giving the weight away like we are in Melbourne, it's a condensed handicap really."

The hardy campaigner **Dee Ex Bee (GB)** (Farhh {GB}) has left Mark Johnston's stable to be trained in Dubai by Salem bin Ghadayer and has had one run at Meydan on Jan. 30 since his third-place finish in the G1 Prix du Cadran last October.

Johnston will be represented, however, as he has entered **King's Advice (GB)** (Frankel {GB}), who posted an impressive eight wins from nine starts in five months last season.

One place ahead of Dee Ex Bee when they met at Meydan last month was **Mekong (GB)** (Frankel {GB}), an expensive purchase by Khalid Mishref last autumn when he moved from Sir Michael Stoute to Jamie Osborne, for whom the 108-rated 5-year-old is making his second start.

Willie Mullins may have his mind more on the Cheltenham

Festival at this time of year, and though his globetrotting mare **True Self (Ire)** (Oscar {Ire}) boasts more of a National Hunt pedigree she has proved herself a very capable Flat campaigner on the international circuit, highlighted by her G3 Queen Elizabeth S. victory at Flemington last November.

She is the second of two challengers in the race for OTI, whose principal Terry Henderson said, "We take the opportunity to support these international meetings where they present. We had a French

horse running in Doha last weekend and now we have True Self and Downdraft in the 3000-metre race in Riyadh. They are both in pretty good order and Frankie [Dettori] will ride True Self and Ryan [Moore] will ride Downdraft, so that's not going to do us any harm. We're really looking forward to being there."

The French-trained duo of Group 2 winner **Called To The Bar (Ire)** (Henrythenavigator) and **Call The Wind (GB)** (Frankel {GB}), who has been first and second in the last two runnings of the G1 Prix du Cadran, complete a strong challenge from European stables.

Mohamed Yousuf Naghi Motors Cup

Deirdre (Jpn) (Harbinger {GB}) may be Japanese-bred, -owned and -trained but she has spent so long in Newmarket in the last year that we will claim her as a semi-European winner should she prevail in this mile-and-five-furlong contest on the grass.

Cont. p3



Cross Counter | Horsephotos

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IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

TODMAN NEXT FOR TAGALOA

G1 Blue Diamond S. her **Tagaloo (Aus)** (Lord Kanaloo {Jpn}) will start next in the G2 Todman S. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.](#)

Strong Euro Challenge on Saudi Cup Card Cont.

She'll be taking on **Intellogent (Fr)** (Intello {Ger}), trained in Chantilly by Fabrice Chappet, who celebrated a winner at Qatar's major Emir's Trophy meeting last weekend, and the former French-trained **Trais Fluors (GB)** (Dansili {GB}), who switched from Andre Fabre to Ken Condon in Ireland at the end of last season.

The beautifully-bred **Mount Everest (Ire)**, a son of Galileo (Ire) and Six Perfections (Fr), is Aidan O'Brien's challenger for the race for his breeders the Niarchos family in partnership with Coolmore, while multiple group winner **Royal Youmzain (Fr)** (Youmzain {Ire}), flies the flag for Germany and Andreas Wohler.



Intellogent | Scoop Dyga

The STC 1351 Cup

Glorious Journey (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}) has already shown some decent form for Charlie Appleby in Dubai this year with a convincing win in the G2 Al Fahidi Fort on Jan. 23. The 5-year-old heads to Saudi along with stablemate **Mubtasim (Ire)** (Arcano {Ire}), who was third behind him last month, for this 6 3/4-furlong sprint.

"He's a typical Dubawi and just gets better with age," said Appleby of Glorious Journey, who will have the services of William Buick in the saddle while James Doyle will ride Mubtasim. "He's found his niche in these seven-furlong races-through it's a bit less for this race-but that's a perfect trip for him on a turning track, it's sharp enough round there, a bit like Santa Anita, and I think it will suit him. I was delighted with his last run and he's come out of that race well."

He continued, "We've got to wait for the draw yet, and that will be key round there, but Mubtasim is a very forward-going horse and he's definitely come out for that run in the Al Fahidi."

Cont. p4

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Strong Euro Challenge on Saudi Cup Card Cont.

Added Appleby, "He'd been off the track for some time but he's come out of that well. We're very excited to be there. Unfortunately we don't have a runner in the big race but Saeed has his runner [Benbatl] and it will be exciting to watch."

Five British-trained runners look set to stand their ground, with **Suedois (Fr)** (Le Havre {Ire}) representing David O'Meara, **Sir Dancealot (Ire)** (Sir Prancealot {Ire}) making the trip for David Elsworth, and **Momkin (GB)** (Bated Breath {GB}) and **Royal Intervention (Ire)** (Exceed And Excel {Aus}) representing William Haggas and Ed Walker, respectively.

Graignes (Fr) (Le Havre {Ire}), will be making his first start for George Baker having been sold at Arqana's Arc Sale for €600,000 the night before he finished fifth in the G1 Prix de la Foret.

"I'm looking forward to it very much. It will be a fantastic experience," said Baker. "The form lines are there and he's in very good order. The very good horses are always the ones who travel well and he's travelled without turning a hair. So that's one big tick in the box because if they travel to these far-flung posts and enjoy it and take it well, that is a massive part of the

battle. My sense is that 6 3/4 furlongs on quickish ground is going to be a little bit sharp for him, particularly with a couple of American speedsters in there, but you don't turn down invitations like that and we'll know a lot more about him afterwards."

Speak In Colours (GB) (Excelebration {Ire}), whose best performances have tended to come on ground with a bit of give, is another contender in Riyadh for Joseph O'Brien, while the consistent 12-time winner **King Malpic (Fr)** (King's Best), who took the G3 Prix de Ris-Orangis at Maisons-Laffitte last summer, represents France and the Thierry Lemer stable.

The Saudi Derby

The John Gosden-trained and Coolmore-owned **Cherokee Trail** (War Front), a dual winner last September in the UK, will be tested on the dirt in the Saudi Derby against Godolphin's dual Group 2-placed **Final Song (GB)** (Dark Angel {Ire}), whose win at Meydan on Jan. 2 came at the expense of **Down On Da Bayou** (Super Saver). The latter is also in the line-up following her easy G3 UAE Oaks win last week. [Cont. p5](#)



'TDN Rising Star' & G2 Coventry S. hero Calyx (GB) (Kingman {GB}) stands his first season at Coolmore this spring. Click above to find out more as Alayna Cullen chats with Coolmore's French Representative Hermine Bastide.

Strong Euro Challenge on Saudi Cup Card Cont.

On the eve of the Saudi Cup card, the racecourse hosts the Kingdom Day STC International Jockeys Challenge, featuring 14 top riders from around the world. The seven female jockeys taking part on Friday are Mickaëlle Michel, Sophie Doyle, Nicola Currie, Sibylle Vogt, Emma-Jayne Wilson, Coralie Pacaut and Lisa Allpress. They will be joined by Frankie Dettori, Yutaka Take, Ryan Moore, Olivier Peslier, Mike Smith and two Saudi Arabian jockeys, including Adel Alfouraidi and another yet to be named.

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Doncaster Breeze Up Catalogue Cont. from p1

He is a product of the SP Asaawir (GB) (Royal Applause {GB}) and is also a half-brother to GSPs Marsh Hawk (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) and Hairy Rocket (GB) (Pivotal {GB}). French sire Siyouni (Fr) has a filly (lot 61) also slated to self from Gaybrook Lodge. The latter is out of an Oasis Dream (GB) half-sister to Group 3 winner Pincheck (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}).

Kingman's crop-mate No Nay Never has four entered, one a colt from Mocklershill's draft as lot 83 from the extended family of G1 Prix Jean Prat winner Zelzal (Fr) (Sea The Stars {Ire}). Among Dark Angel (Ire)'s juveniles is a Yeomanstown Stud-consigned filly (lot 120) out of MGSW New Providence (GB) (Bahamian Bounty {GB}), while Al Raya (GB)'s Muhaarar (GB) half-sister (lot 64) hails from the Longways Stables draft. Awtaad (Ire) is the sire of record for a brown colt (lot 80) out of Holda (Ire) (Docksider) and thus a half-brother to Grade I winner Blond Me (Ire) (Tamayuz {GB}) from Tally-Ho Stud. Longways Stables offers a Lope de Vega (Ire) colt out of Abbagnato (GB) (Green Desert), herself a half-sister to G1SW Field of Hope (Ire) (Selkirk) as (lot 23).

U.S. Champion First-Season Sire American Pharoah is represented by two colts: Oak Tree Farm's lot 65, a son of GIII Santa Ysabel S. heroine and GI Santa Anita Oaks third Final Fling (Bertrand); while four lots later Star Bloodstock offers lot 69, a bay colt out of MSW and GI Garden City S. third-place finisher Gitchee Goomie (City Zip).

The 2015 Triple Crown winner is not the only U.S. sire represented. CH Thoroughbreds' Blame colt out of Inventing Paradise (Mr. Prospector) is offered as lot 84, a SP daughter of the blue hen Miesque (Nureyev). Tally-Ho Stud's draft includes a Dialed In colt (lot 128) out of MSW Plaid (Deputy Commander), already the dam of GSW and GI Preakness S. third Senior Investment (Discreetly Mine). Lot 5 is a colt by Distorted Humor out of a full-sister to GI Frank E. Kilroe Mile H. hero Ring Weekend (Tapit) from the draft of Mocklershill.

In 2019, 111 2-year-olds sold (84%) of 130 offered for a gross of £5,078,250, averaging £45,750 (+16%) with a median of £26,000 (+5%).

"This sale has had an exceptional year with another Royal Ascot winner in A'Ali heading a very smart group of five stakes winning 2-year-old graduates," said Goffs UK Managing Director Tim Kent. "Combined with what was a strong 2019 sale--consignors have really backed us and have sent some outstanding horses. The result is a catalogue among the strongest produced in the sale's 43-year history.

"As per previous years, all horses are eligible for the Swedish Derby and Oaks Series which has proven a big success for the sale with Red Cactus (Hard Spun) winning the Swedish Derby last year. The global appeal of this sale continues to grow and we look forward to welcoming a large domestic and international audience to Doncaster on Apr. 22-23."

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A'Ali | Healy Racing Photography

20 / 20 VISION

CHARLIE VIGORS

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

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

CV: Mehmas (Ire) has an obvious chance because he has the numbers and they looked precocious types. We would also expect Awtaad (Ire) and Territories (Ire) to make a big impression.

TDN: Have you bought/sold any by Mehmas, Awtaad or Territories?

20/20 Vision Cont.

CV: We sold yearlings by both Mehmas and Awtaad who looked like they would make 2-year-olds. We also bought an Awtaad foal so hope he does well! Although we haven't had any of Territories's progeny we have been impressed by what we have seen of them and what trainers have been saying about them. We are sending one of our best mares to him this season.

TDN: Hope for the 2020 flat season?

CV: Plenty of winners! We have some potentially exciting graduates to follow as well as four of our own in training.

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

CV: Havana Gold (Ire) for £10,000 at Tweenhills. He had a great first season and his current large crop of yearlings have been bred on the back of that. Anyone with a foal by him or who breeds to him this year could look shrewd once these yearlings hit the track.

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The Vigors family | Hillwood Stud

EUROPEAN NEWS

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FANCY BLUE CAMP MULLS 3YO BOW IN GUINEAS

Donnacha O'Brien may consider a direct route to the G1 QIPCO 1000 Guineas for **Fancy Blue (Ire)** (Deep Impact {Jpn}). Formerly in the care of O'Brien's father Aidan, the daughter of Deep Impact won both her starts as a juvenile--at Naas and The Curragh--and she is as short as 25-1 for the Guineas at Newmarket.

O'Brien, who got off the mark as a trainer with his first winner at Dundalk last Friday, admits he is still on a learning curve as to Fancy Blue's potential and best distance.

"She's in good form," he said. "I'm not sure where we'll go with her yet, whether we'll start her in a trial--or there is the chance she might go straight to the Guineas.

"I don't know if she's that good, but it might just work out to run her there--and maybe if that doesn't work, go for an Oaks trial or something."

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JAMES FRANK GSSA EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

James Frank of Hascombe and Valiant Stud was named as the 2020 Employee of the Year at the Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards at The Underglobe on London's South Bank on Monday night. James, who also won the Stud Staff Award, was presented with with the perpetual Godolphin Trophy by special guest presenter Oisin Murphy alongside Ed Chamberlin at an event hosted by the British Horseracing Authority. He also took home a total of £20,000 in prize money, with the same amount being shared amongst the staff at Hascombe and Valiant Stud.

Brough Scott, chair of the judging panel, said, "The panel's job was as tough as ever this year with some remarkable stories of commitment, hard work and dedication amongst this year's finalists. However, we had to reach a final decision and James is a hugely deserving winner for his years of perseverance and outstanding service to the breeding industry."

Kevin Skelton from Bryan Smart's team landed the David Nicholson Newcomer Award and Kim Bailey Racing's Mat Nicholls take home the Leadership Award. Hayley Ashcroft from Tom Dascombe's Manor House Stables was successful in the Rider/Groom category and Andy Stringer, whose years of service in racing most recently with John Gosden, was given the Dedication Award. [Cont. p7](#)



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James Frank | GSSSA

British GSSSA Cont.

Also honoured was Simone Sear who landed the Rory MacDonald award for her work at Racing Welfare.

Brough Scott's 15-tenure as chair of the judging panel also came to an end on Monday. Scott was presented with a memento for his years of service by 2019 Employee of the Year Catriona Bissett. Broadcaster Nick Luck will now take over the role of chair.

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CORONAVIRUS STEERING GROUP IN PLACE

The British Horseracing Authority is prepared to act--if the need arises--regarding any potential coronavirus impact on fixtures, including the Cheltenham Festival. BHA chief executive Nick Rust has confirmed an industry steering group is in place to consider the implications of the virus.

Rust, speaking on a *Betfair* podcast, said, "We have an industry group in place that has been and continues to work on the potential impact of the coronavirus on the horse racing industry as a whole.

"The BHA executive met with the team at Cheltenham Racecourse on Monday morning to discuss final plans for the Festival, and the coronavirus was discussed at that meeting."

The PA News agency understands the steering group--comprising the BHA, Racecourse Association and horsemen--sees no need as yet for new contingency plans other than to continue to liaise with the Government.

Rust added, "In terms of potential ramifications for the Festival, any decision that impacts on it taking place will not be a decision that racing makes, but rather the Government.

"In the event that the Cheltenham Festival was postponed, either in its entirety or in part for any reason, there are contingencies already in place to re-stage it later in the season."

The Cheltenham Festival, which begins on Mar. 10, and Aintree Grand National meeting are among the high-profile events in the racing calendar this spring.

While some international sporting events have been postponed, principally in Asia, the virus is becoming more prevalent in Europe--with Italy especially taking extra precautions and six Serie A football matches played behind closed doors. At present, the 2020 Olympics--due to be held in Tokyo in July and August--remain scheduled to go ahead as planned.

A Jockey Club spokesman for Cheltenham issued a statement on Tuesday evening, which read, "It remains full speed ahead for The Festival(TM) presented by Magners in a fortnight's time. Racing continues to liaise closely with the Government to stay on top of the situation, and we are looking forward to four fantastic days of racing at Cheltenham."

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G1SP Mission Impassible (Ire) (Galileo {Ire})'s first foal is a colt by Juddmonte's Kingman (GB). The G2 Prix de Sandringham victress and GI Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup S. bridesmaid will be covered by European highweight Almanzor (Fr) (Wootton Bassett {GB}) at d'Etream in 2020. | Haras d'Etream

BRITAIN

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Alveda (GB), f, 3, **Archipenko**--Alizadora (GB), by Zilzal. Lingfield, 2-25, 7f 1y (AWT), 1:25.25. B-Kirsten Rausing (GB). *1/2 to Madrileno (GB) (Sir Percy {GB}), Horse of the Year-Spa, Ch. 3yo Colt-Spa, Ch. Grass Horse-Spa, Ch. Older Horse-Spa, MSP-Fr & Spa, \$231,470.

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FRANCE

Monday's Results:

3rd-Chantilly, €28,000, Cond, 2-25, 3yo, 8f (AWT), 1:38.82, st. STANZO (GB) (c, 3, Speightstown--Viva Rafaela {Brz} {G1SW-Brz & GISP-US, \$246,353}, by Know Heights {Ire}), a Dec. 12 debut runner-up going 7 1/2 furlongs at this venue last time, recovered from a slightly awkward start to track the pace in second here. Looming large once into the straight, the 31-10 second choice was shaken up to lead soon after passing the quarter-mile pole and kept on well under continued coaxing in the latter stages to hold Anobar (Fr) (Anodin {Ire}) by 3/4 of a length. Half to a 2-year-old filly by Frankel (GB) and a yearling filly by Sea the Stars (Ire), he is the second foal and winner out of G1 Grande Premio Diana (Brazilian Oaks) heroine and GI Flower Bowl S. third Viva Rafaela (Brz) (Know Heights {Ire}), herself the leading performer produced by G1 Grande Premio Marciano de Aguiar Moreira victress Linda Rafaela (Brz) (Bin Ajwaad {Ire}). Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, €19,400. **Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** O/B-Wertheimer & Frere (GB); T-Carlos Laffon-Parias.

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

6th-Chantilly, €19,000, Cond, 2-25, 4yo/up, 15f (AWT), 3:14.14, st. BELLARIVA (FR) (f, 4, Myboycharlie {Ire}--Lady Millon {Ire}, by Kheleyf) Lifetime Record: 9-3-1-1, €38,220. O-LG Bloodstock; B-Gerard Laboureau (FR); T-Christophe Ferland. *1/2 to Rovigo (Fr) (Deportivo {GB}), SP-Fr.



Almond Eye | DRC/Neville Hopwood

“Both fillies are planning on coming,” Kunieda said. “Almond Eye was tired after her Arima run, but she has rebounded well and will be coming back to Miho [Training Centre] this week. We never really thought of the Sheema Classic [with her], as the Turf suits her so well. We will prep her the same as we did last year.”

“Curren Bouquetd’or came out of her race last week well,” he continued. “The winner just loved the ground, though our filly can run on any ground. She is best on counter-clockwise courses like Tokyo and Dubai, so I’m not worried about her ability to run well in Dubai. She came out of her race in good order and she will train together with Almond Eye once she gets to the training centre.”

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WORLDWIDE NEWS

ALMOND EYE PREPS TOWARD DUBAI RETURN

2018 Japanese Horse of the Year and six-time Group 1 winner **Almond Eye (Jpn)** (Lord Kanaloa {Jpn}) is in good form as she prepares to defend her G1 Dubai Turf title at Meydan on Mar. 28. The Silk Racing colourbearer will return to trainer Sakae Kunieda’s base at Miho this week before contesting the \$6-million 1800-metre feature over the grass in Dubai. Successful in the 2018 Japanese Filly Triple Crown and G1 Japan Cup that same year, the 5-year-old was most recently ninth in the G1 Arima Kinen at Nakayama on Dec. 22. She will be joined by stablemate **Curren Bouquetd’or (Jpn)** (Deep Impact {Jpn}), placed three times at the highest level. Racing for Takashi Suzuki, the 4-year-old, a bridesmaid in the G2 Kyoto Kinen in her seasonal bow on Feb. 16, is targetting the 2410-metre \$6-million Longines Dubai Sheema Classic also over the Meydan sod.



DID YOU KNOW?

G1 Darley Prix Morny winner Lady Aurelia (Scat Daddy) was tabbed as a “TDN Rising Star”

Visit the **TDN Rising Stars** section on our website!

Thursday, Meydan, UAE, post time: 8:50 p.m.

NAD AL SHEBA TROPHY SPONSORED BY MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM CITY-DISTRICT ONE-G3, \$300,000,

NH 4yo/up & SH 3yo/up, 2810mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Dubai Horizon (Ire)	Poet's Voice (GB)	Soumillon	bin Suroor	125
2	Secret Advisor (Fr)	Dubawi (Ire)	Buick	Appleby	125
3	Charles Kingsley (GB)	New Approach (Ire)	Barzalona	bin Ghadayer	125
4	Koeman (GB)	Dutch Art (GB)	Egan	Channon	125
5	Dubhe (GB)	Dubawi (Ire)	Doyle	Appleby	125
6	Spanish Mission 	Noble Mission (GB)	Spencer	Simcock	121
7	Gifts of Gold (Ire)	Invincible Spirit (Ire)	Cosgrave	bin Suroor	125
8	Massif Central (Ire)	Arcano (Ire)	Whelan	Halford	125
9	Dubai Future (GB)	Dubawi (Ire)	Bentley	bin Suroor	121

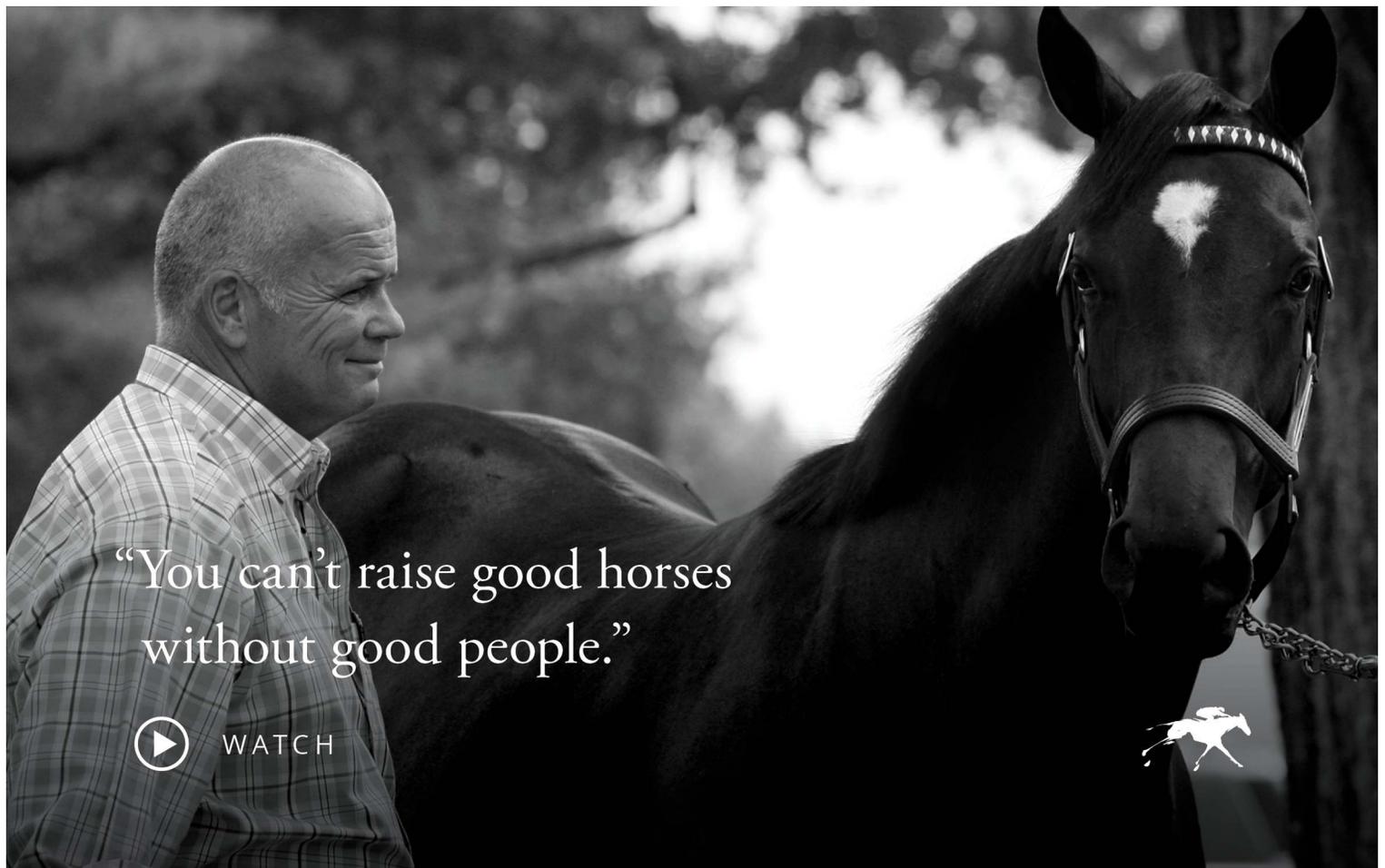
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WATCH





TODMAN NEXT FOR TAGALOA



Tagaloa | Bronwen Healy

By Paul Vettise

Trent Busuttin will follow a tried and true path to the G1 Golden Slipper S. for boom colt **Tagaloa** (Lord Kanaloe {Jpn}).

Busuttin and partner Natalie Young celebrated their first elite level winner from their Cranbourne base when the youngster overcame a wide run to claim top honours in the G1 Blue Diamond S. at Caulfield.

Now, they are setting their sights on an even bigger 2-year-old prize with Tagaloe, who was purchased out of Arrowfield Stud's Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale draft for \$300,000.

"He'll more than likely run in the Todman S. and it's always good to have a run the Sydney way of going," Busuttin said. "I think Sepoy was the last Diamond winner to win a Slipper and he ran in the Todman, but got beaten by Smart Missile on a wet track."

Busuttin said there was further improvement to come from Tagaloe, who has won two of his four starts.

"He's doing it now and we've got to figure out the best way now to maximise his value. We just have to make sure everything is done the right way with such a valuable colt."

While Tagaloe didn't have the easiest of runs in the Blue Diamond, sitting three wide without cover to the turn, came through the race without incident.

"He came through the run super. He pulled up well, his legs were cold, his shins were cold and he ate up. He's a very happy horse so we'll push on forward to Sydney," Busuttin said.

While Tagaloe wasn't strongly fancied in the market, those closest to the colt approached the Blue Diamond with confidence following his lead-up run for fourth in the G3 Blue Diamond Prelude.

"We knew he would run well and we knew he had improved. He was soft first-up and the horses that finished in front of him had all had a run or two under their belt, whereas he was first-up," Busuttin said. "He needed the run and felt the run and was always going to strip a lot fitter. Luckily, he stuck his head out at the right time."

Sidestep Staying Put

By TDN AusNZ

Darley and Telemon Thoroughbreds have announced champion 2018-19 first-season sire **Sidestep** will continue his stallion career in Queensland.

"When Darley originally allowed us to offer the horse, the formalities of that arrangement extended to two seasons," Telemon's Dan Fletcher said. "With the Magic Millions QTIS Sale just around the corner and the Queensland breeding community set to come together, the market has been seeking some clarity as to the future plans for Sidestep. We are absolutely thrilled we're able to continue to stand Sidestep."



Kiamichi | Bronwen Healy

Sidestep, who covered 112 mares in 2019 including a number of Godolphin's elite broodmare band, has produced five stakes performers with his flagship representative the G1 Golden Slipper S. winner Kiamichi.

"Sidestep has had excellent support from Queensland breeders, particularly last season, and we are delighted to continue our association with Telemon this season," Darley's Head of Sales Alastair Pulford said.

Click [HERE](#) to read today's edition of 
 Highlights Include:

O'Shea Looking to Turn Back the Clock

Standout Has Group 1 Target

Slipper Dream for Siyouni's See You Soon

Catalyst and Alligator Blood to Clash

2020 Australian Group Races

Date	Race	Track
Feb. 26	G3 Vamos S.	Launceston
Feb. 29	G1 Australian Guineas	Flemington
	G3 Shaftesbury Avenue H.	Flemington
	G2 Blamey S.	Flemington
	G3 Frances Tressady S.	Flemington
	G3 Lord Reims S.	Morphettville
	G1 Chipping Norton S.	Royal Randwick
	G1 Surround S.	Royal Randwick
	G2 Guy Walter Proven Thoroughbreds S.	Royal Randwick
	G2 Sweet Embrace S.	Royal Randwick
	G2 Skyline S.	Royal Randwick
	G3 Liverpool City Cup	Royal Randwick
Mar. 6	G3 Newmarket H.	Newcastle
Mar. 7	G2 Sires' Produce S.	Flemington
	G3 TBV Thoroughbred Breeders S.	Flemington
	G2 Kewney S.	Flemington
	G1 Newmarket H.	Flemington
	G1 Australian Cup	Flemington
	G3 Matron S.	Flemington
	G1 Randwick Guineas	Royal Randwick



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