

MARCHING ON THROUGH UNCERTAIN TIMES



Session-topping Hip 598 | Photos by Z

by Steve Sherack & Brian DiDonato

With the Dow Jones Industrial Average dipping below 20,000 as the stock market continues to plummet, it was no surprise that the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's March 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale concluded its two-day run with sharp, across-the-board decreases as the COVID-19 outbreak continues to wreak havoc throughout the world.

This year's two-day sale grossed \$27,902,500, good for an average of \$95,885 (-34%), a median of \$50,000 (-38%) and an RNA rate of 40%. The 2019 auction, held under dramatically different circumstances, grossed \$44,422,500, with a \$143,762 average, \$80,000 median and 24.4% RNA rate at the conclusion of business. A total of 14 juveniles brought \$500,000 or more at this sale last year; only six reached that barometer in 2020.

"Certainly, it was kind of a unique week with having to deal with all the external forces--it was kind of new territory for us, trying to hold a sale in the environment in which we're living right now," said OBS director of sales Tod Wojciechowski. "All in all, I think it went as good as it could go. There were bright spots throughout both days. We're happy that we were able to get done... We're just pleased that we were able to get the sale in--not for our sake, but for the horsemen's sakes."

Cont. p3

PRECAUTIONS TAKEN, BUT KENTUCKY BREEDING OPERATIONS KEEP CHURNING ENTERING CORONAVIRUS ERA

by Joe Bianca

The ever-growing threat to American life that is coronavirus COVID-19 has rapidly chipped away at horse racing's business after shutting down the affairs of all major sports. Only a handful of tracks are **choosing to stay open** without spectators as of this writing, and news of the **four-month postponement** of the GI Kentucky Derby drove home once and for all that the sport would not be unaffected by this crisis.

But deeper into the heart of Kentucky than the Twin Spires, are stallion and breeding farms. As much as racetracks, they are the backbone of the Thoroughbred industry, and as of now, they will press on with the business of the game during this mostly dark period with limited interruption. **Cont. p14**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

SEASON CONTINUES AMID UNCERTAINTY IN FRANCE

France was placed under a 15-day mandatory lockdown on Tuesday, but breeding sheds thus far are still running.

[Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)



ENGLISH CHANNEL

By Smart Strike

MEGA NICK!

ENGLISH CHANNEL X KITTEN'S JOY BROODMARES:

27% GSW'S

80% WINNERS

86% PLACED

% based on number of starters

NOTABLE PROGENY BASED ON THIS CROSS:

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G3SW ADMIRALTY PIER

G3SW ENGLISH BEE

G3SW SPOOKY CHANNEL

Bryna Reeves | Bryna@CalumetFarm.com | 706.825.3998

PUBLISHER & CEO

Sue Morris Finley @suefinley
suefinley@thetdn.com

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Gary King @garykingTDN
garyking@thetdn.com

EDITORIAL

editor@thetdn.com

Editor-in-Chief

Jessica Martini @JessMartiniTDN

Managing Editor

Alan Carasso @EquinealTDN

Senior Editor

Steve Sherack @SteveSherackTDN

Racing Editor

Brian DiDonato @BDiDonatoTDN

Deputy Editor

Christie DeBernardis @CDeBernardisTDN

Associate Editors

Christina Bossinakis @CBossTDN

Joe Bianca @JBiancaTDN

News and Features Editor

In Memoriam: Ben Massam (1988-2019)

ADVERTISING

advertising@thetdn.com

Director of Advertising

Alycia Borer

Advertising Manager

Lia Best

Advertising Designer

Amanda Crelin

Advertising Assistant/Dir. Of Distribution

Rachel McCaffrey

Advertising Assistants

Amie Newcomb

Kristen Lomasson

Photographer/Photo Editor

Sarah K. Andrew @SarahKAndrew
photos@thetdn.com

Social Media Strategist

Justina Severni

Director of Customer Service

Vicki Forbes
customerservice@thetdn.com

Marketing Manager

Alayna Cullen @AlaynaCullen

Director of IT/Accounting

Ray Villa
rayvilla@thetdn.com
accounting@thetdn.com

WORLDWIDE INFORMATION

International Editor

Kelsey Riley @kelseyrrileyTDN
kelseyrriley@thetdn.com

European Editor

Emma Berry
emmaberry@thetdn.com

Associate International Editor

Heather Anderson @HLAndersonTDN

Newmarket Bureau, Cafe Racing

Sean Cronin & Tom Frary
caferacing@thetdn.com

60 Broad Street, Suite 100
Red Bank, NJ 07701
732-747-8060 | 732-747-8955 (fax)

Thursday, March 19, 2020



Domani will spend just a few days in the stall at New Vocations named for the TDN's late News and Features editor, Ben Massam, as the Godolphin homebred by Bernardini will soon be shipping to his new home in Indiana where he's expected to excel in the dressage arena. Ben's Stall's previous inhabitant, Fairface (see video), was adopted by a hunter-jumper trainer in Ohio. To learn more about Ben's Stall, [click here](#).

NYRA TO PROHIBIT LASIX IN 2YO RACES

16

The New York Racing Association announced that race-day administration of Lasix will not be permitted in 2-year-old races at their tracks starting this year.

REPORT: HARNESS TRAINER DIES FROM CORONAVIRUS

17

According to a report on nj.com, harness trainer Carmine Fusco has died from coronavirus, five days after his wife passed away due to effects of the virus.

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OBS March recap cont. from p1

During Wednesday’s session, 146 head grossed \$14,893,000, good for a \$102,007 (-29%) average and a \$55,000 (-42%) median. The RNA rate for the session was 39.9%. During last year’s second session, 147 juveniles changed hands for gross receipts of \$21,291,000 at an average of \$144,837 and a median of \$95,000 before post-sale transactions were reported.

With prestigious meetings like the Keeneland spring stand already canceled and the uncertainty surrounding the remainder of the juvenile sales season or racing season, for that matter, the 2020 OBS March Sale, not surprisingly, lacked breakout horses and featured a number of higher-priced RNAs who likely would’ve changed hands at past March renewals.

“One of the things we did as a company to try and unburden the horsemen this week was that we didn’t charge an RNA commission for this sale,” Wojciechowski noted. “That probably contributed to some of the RNAs that we saw--I’m sure that elevated the RNA rate.

The auction was topped by a daughter of Triple Crown winner American Pharoah, who brought \$650,000 from Northern Farm’s Katsumi Yoshida from the Wavertree consignment during Monday’s opening session.

Seven juveniles brought more than that figure in 2019, led by the \$2-million record-setting Chestertown (Tapit), who lines up in Saturday’s \$1-million GII TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby at Fair Grounds, and an unraced \$1.2-million Pioneerof the Nile colt.

Ciaran Dunne’s Wavertree Stables led all consignors at OBS March with 22 juveniles sold for gross receipts of \$3,777,000. Bloodstock agent Mike Ryan was the sale’s leading buyer, purchasing five head for \$1,620,000. **Cont. p4**



Photos by Z



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SEPTEMBER YEARLING**

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FILLY by WEST COAST



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A colt from the first crop of Upstart registered a final bid of \$600,000 from **Mike Ryan** to top the second and final day of trade in Ocala. The :21 breezer was consigned by Woodford Thoroughbreds, Agent I.

“For the better horses, it’s better than I thought it was going to be. There are horses getting moved, and that’s vital for the health of our economy in this town,” said consignor Eddie Woods.

There remains plenty of uncertainty as to what to expect for the rest of the traditional 2-year-old sales season. Fasig-Tipton **has announced** tentative changes to its auction schedule, but OBS must now sit down and determine if and how to reposition its April sale (Apr. 21-24) and June sale (June 10-12).

“I don’t think we can have any expectations at this point—we can just have a lot of hope,” Woods said. “We don’t know when we’re going to have another sale and there are some places that don’t know when they’re going to have another race meet. Those two go hand in hand. That’s especially affecting the middle-of-the-road market here. These guys don’t know when they’re going to get to run a horse again, so why do they need to own another one?”

Bloodstock agent Jacob West echoed similar sentiments.

“I definitely do think there were some horses here bought at a discount compared to what you would’ve assumed they

would’ve brought had they been in a sale like this last year,” West said. “When you look up and see where the stock market’s at right now and the world, people’s primary focus right now is their family and themselves and their health. I hate to say it, but they don’t necessarily need to come down here right now and spend hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars on horses. There are real problems going on right now. But, the horse racing world is very resilient. We feel like we constantly get our backs put up against the wall from multiple angles, but we always come out fighting and swinging. You just have to batten down the hatches and weather the storm, and in a couple of weeks or months this thing’s going to turn around and it’ll give some people a bit more confidence buying and selling horses later in the year.”

Wojciechowski said an announcement about OBS’s 2-year-old sales schedule would likely come next week.

“We’ll get together early next week,” he said. “There’s still a lot of news on the horizon, and still a lot of things in turmoil in the world... We’ve been asked quite a bit. For right now, our answer is that the April sale is on the books, but certainly we have to look at everything that’s going on and try to come up with a plan that works well for everyone.”

Cont. p5

1:31.23

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OSCAR PERFORMANCE

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

Ryan Finds Second Coming of Structor...

Prominent agent Mike Ryan seems to have a particular affinity for, and track record with, purchases who remind him of horses off his long list of past successes. In Wednesday's session-topping \$600,000 Upstart colt (hip 598), he saw shades of Structor (Palace Malice), who he purchased for \$850,000 here 12 months ago for hip 598's new owners, Jeff Drown and Don Rachel. Structor, unbeaten in three starts last term including the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf, will soon be joined in the Chad Brown barn by hip 598.

"It was quite extraordinary how much he reminded me of Structor--same size, quality, strength," said Ryan. "He had an aura about him. I felt he was the best horse in the sale... About 20 minutes after I bought him, David Hanley of WinStar, who were the underbidders, came up and said to me, 'He's just like Structor isn't he?' So, I wasn't alone on my feeling. He's a very special horse."



Mike Ryan | Photos by Z

A \$220,000 KEESEP yearling purchase by John and Susan Sykes's Woodford Thoroughbreds, hip 598 breezed in :21 flat at last Saturday's breeze show session. The Feb. 12 foal is out of a winning half-sister to MSW and MGSP Brigand (Flatter) and SW Sky Music (Sky Mesa). Brigan was a \$925,000 OBSMAR grad himself in 2011.

"The crosses worked--there's a stakes winner by Flatter and a stakes winner by Sky Mesa under the second dam, so the A.P. Indy line has been very successful with this female line," Ryan noted. "Plus, with his performance on the racetrack, the way he breezed, he's a two-turn horse but he's still got plenty of pace. He galloped out in :32 1/5 and :46 1/5. There's a lot of Quiet American in him, too [via his second dam], which I like. Quiet American was the

broodmare sire of [Ryan-purchased Horse of the Year] Saint Liam... I knew he was going to be expensive. I'm hoping he's good enough to be on the front of the catalog next year like Structor was this year." **Cont. p6**

OUTSTANDING

first-crop 2YOs at OBS March

Hip 134--colt (shown)

\$380,000

Breezed in :20 ⁴/₅

Buyer:
Mike Ryan

Consignor:
Pike Racing

Breeder:
Vincent Colbert

Other prices at
OBS March include:

\$190,000

\$125,000

OUTWORK

\$15,000 S&N

Uncle Mo - Nonna Mia, by Empire Maker

WINSTAR

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Ryan made five purchases at the March sale for a combined \$1.62 million, four of which were by first-crop sires--he bought another Upstart colt, **hip 359**, for \$280,000; a \$380,000 Outwork colt (**hip 358**); and a \$170,000 colt by Speightster (**hip 322**).

"I'm not opposed to buying freshman sires," he said. "Structor was by Palace Malice, [GI Kentucky Derby] winner Nyquist, who we bought as a yearling, was by Uncle Mo. If they're good physicals, it doesn't really matter to me.

Ryan added, "I was very impressed with both the Outworks and the Upstarts. I bought a yearling by Outwork last year, but I didn't buy any by Upstart--I hadn't seen too many of them. It became very evident to me watching the breeze show live that every one of them moved well. They're good, easy movers. They have a low-to-the-ground action. Then, when I went back to the barn and looked at them, I was impressed with them physically. I'm sure there will be a great demand for people wanting to breed to the horse now on that \$10,000 stud fee. He's not an expensive horse, but he's sure breeding quality."

Upstart, a stakes winner and MGISP at two and GSW at three and four, stands at Airdrie Stud.

As for the market this week, Ryan said: "I know there are an awful lot of horses who didn't find new homes, but I think it was good for the very nice horses. I'd say, under that, it was tough. It certainly seems like it was all or nothing." --@BDiDonatoTDN

Stonestreet Swoops in for Bernardini Filly...

Barbara Banke's Stonestreet Stables swooped in Wednesday to take home the day's top-priced filly, a daughter of Bernardini offered by Eddie Woods, Agent XVIII as **hip 424**. The \$250,000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga grad covered a quarter in **:21 flat** last week.

"Three weeks ago, yes, I thought she'd bring a lot of money because of the style of her, the way she looks, the way she works, etc. Then, you run into negativity here. Because of everything that's going on, you get concerned," Woods said when asked if the price was what he expected given current market forces. "Yesterday, I still wasn't so sure, but as this morning went on with the action she had I was pretty certain she was going to sell well. Did I think she'd bring \$575,000? No."

The May 2 foal was a \$400,000 in utero purchase by Machmer Hall at the 2017 Keeneland November sale. Her dam is an unraced full-sister to MGISW Old Fashioned (Unbridled's Song). Second dam Collect Call (Meadowlake) was a graded stakes winner herself and was third in the 2001 GI Kentucky Oaks. This is also the family of GISW Mitterand (Hold Your Peace) and her speedy GSW and sire son French Deputy (Deputy Minister).

"She's very elegant, she's beautiful," Woods said of hip 424.

Cont. p7



THEY'RE GOING DOWN A STORM

Storm Cat: the only stallion ever to sire more \$500k+ two-year-olds than **the amazing Bernardini** whose 25th half-a-mill juvenile sells for \$575,000 to the bid of Stonestreet.



Making history: *it takes foresight*

Darley

“She’s still a bit immature--her butt’s still in the air, so she’s got to grow again a little bit. But she moves beautifully. She’s a lady; she’s a really classy-acting, quiet filly.”

Stonestreet has done very well with daughters of Bernardini, including GISWs Cavorting and Rachel’s Valentina. --

@BDiDonatoTDN

O’Neill Bringing Home the ‘Best’...

Bidding on behalf of longtime client and two-time GI Kentucky Derby-winning owner J. Paul Reddam, bloodstock agent **Dennis O’Neill** signed for a \$550,000 Constitution colt and a \$340,000 Uncle Mo filly at OBS March Wednesday. Both juveniles will be trained by his younger brother Doug O’Neill.

“I really wanted the Constitution and I really wanted the Uncle Mo,” said Dennis O’Neill, who selected Reddam’s aforementioned Derby winners I’ll Have Another (Flower Alley) (\$35,000 OBS April) and Nyquist (Uncle Mo) (\$400,000 Fasig-Tipton Florida) as 2-year-olds in training. “I thought she was the best filly in the sale and he was the best colt. I got those two, so I’m very happy and Doug will be even happier.”

Constitution has gotten off to a scorching start at stud, led by Triple Crown hopefuls Tiz the Law, Independence Hall and ‘TDN Rising Star’ Gouverneur Morris.

Consigned by Wavertree Stables, Inc. (Ciaran Dunne), Agent I,

as **Hip 386**, the son of Constitution breezed a quarter in :20 4/5 at the under-tack show (**ThoroStride Video Inspection**). Bred in Kentucky by J Stephen McDonald, he was a \$95,000 KEESOP yearling purchase by Red Wings. The bay was produced by a Smart Strike-winning daughter of MGSW Roshani (Fantastic Light). **Cont. p8**



Dennis O’Neill | Photos by Z

Fastest

Biggest

Best

Frosted

@DarleyAmerica 

Two-year-olds sell for \$420k and \$180k and are winning wide acclaim from judges.



Making history: it takes foresight...

Darley

“Obviously, Constitution is on fire right now,” O’Neill said. “[Hip 386] had the look. He’s a gorgeous horse—nice size, and very correct and we absolutely loved his breeze. We bought [Gill Nashua S. winner and Gill Sam F. Davis S. runner-up] Independence Hall [to pinhook as a 2-year-old for \$100,000 at Keeneland September] last year as a yearling. I’ve turned into a big Constitution fan. Strongconstitution [\$220,000 OBS April purchase and last November’s Gill Bob Hope S. runner-up] is coming back and doing really well. Doug is real high on him. I tried to buy quite a few last year and got shut out on a bunch. They are just gorgeous horses. Boy, is he stamping them.”

The Uncle Mo filly, consigned as **Hip 443** by Paul Sharp, Agent VI, and bred in Kentucky by Joseph Allen, covered an eighth in **:10 1/5** at the breeze show. She was a \$150,000 yearling purchase by Timber Stables at last year’s FTSAUG sale.

The half-sister to European stakes-placed runners Romeo Lima (Medaglia d’Oro) and Camp Courage (War Front) is out of three-time winner Storybook (UAE) (Halling), herself a half-sister to G1 Dubai World Cup winner African Story (GB) (Pivotal {GB}). Hip 443’s third dam is 1994 GI Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup S. heroine Danish (Ire) (Danehill).

“I kept telling Paul that she was my female Nyquist,” O’Neill said. “She’s real racey and athletic looking. I just loved her breeze and she galloped out *really* good. She looks like she’ll run

all day. She’s a very classy filly. The big thing with her was—I take them out two–three times at the barn—and she never had a lip chain on or anything like that. We’re really excited to get her in the barn.”

O’Neill’s other OBS March purchases included: **Hip 169**, a \$100,000 Blame colt (consigned by de Meric Sales, Agent XI; **:10 1/5**); and **Hip 364**, a \$70,000 Speightster colt (consigned by Golden Rock Thoroughbreds, Agent VI; **:10 2/5**).

“It is bizarre,” O’Neill said of the current market in these extenuating circumstances. “There were quite a few horses like the Constitution colt that I thought would sell for a bit more. Guys bid \$300,000-\$400,000 and they start getting shaky. I think a lot of these agents have been told by owners that they don’t want to get too crazy this year. The lower end has just been horrible. Horses for \$20,000-\$60,000 were probably \$80,000-\$100,000 last year. It just seems like there’s not enough people here for that lower market.” —@SteveSherackTDN

Tapizar Colt Heading to Japan...

A well-related 2-year-old colt by Tapizar from a deep Allen Paulson family is heading to Japan after bringing \$500,000 from Emmanuel de Seroux’s Narvick International at OBS March Wednesday.

Cont. p9

FIRST-CLASS 2YOS

“ He’s a very quick horse who handled his breeze and gallop out well. He has a lot of similarities to his sire and if he’s half as nice we’ll all be happy ”

– Steve Young, Buyer

Hip 620
\$145,000
 colt at OBS March

Purchased by Steve Young
 Consigned by de Meric Sales
 Bred by Don Alberto Corporation

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The **:10 flat** breezer out of the unraced Storm Cat mare Allencat was consigned by Brick City Thoroughbreds, Agent III, as **Hip 550**. He went through the ring two previous times as a yearling, realizing \$60,000 at KEEJAN and \$135,000 at FTKJUL.

Bred in Kentucky by Kendall E. Hansen, M.D. Racing, he is a half-brother to MSW Miss Frost (Curlin) and SP Prizefighting (Smart Strike). His second dam is GI Santa Ana H. heroine Pharma (Theatrical {Ire}) and his third dam is four-time champion Committed (Hagley). Both were campaigned by Paulson.

Koichi Nishikawa's unbeaten **Cafe Pharoah** (American Pharoah), currently leading the way on the Japan Road to the GI Kentucky Derby with an impressive come-from-behind victory in the Hyacinth S. at Tokyo Racecourse, brought \$475,000 from Narvick International at this sale last year. Hip 550 was purchased for a different Japanese owner, per de Seroux.

"He's a beautiful horse who had a great temperament," said de Seroux, a longtime former advisor to the late Paulson. "He was walking around like he owned the place. He never got nervous about anything, and on the track, he had a beautiful action. We

liked everything about him. He comes from one of Allen Paulson's great female lines, so I was very familiar with the family. We're very happy to have him."

Narvick International also acquired:

Hip 229, a \$150,000 Mineshaft colt (consigned by Hawk's Nest; **:10**);

Hip 300, a \$200,000 Upstart colt (consigned by Brick City Thoroughbreds, Agent X; **:21 2/5**);

Hip 552, a \$160,000 More Than Ready filly (consigned by Wavertree Stables, Inc.; **:20 4/5**);

and

Hip 568, a \$350,000 Medaglia d'Oro colt (consigned by Sequel Bloodstock, Agent IV; **:10 1/5**).

Cont. p10



Hip 550 in the ring | Photos by Z

CONGRESS PASSES EMERGENCY CORONAVIRUS AID LEGISLATION; OTHER MASSIVE EMERGENCY AID PACKAGES IN THE WORKS

Following House passage earlier this week of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201), the Senate on Wednesday passed the emergency legislation as well. Specifically, H.R. 6201 provides paid leave, establishes free testing, protects public health workers and provides important benefits to children and families for those impacted by the novel coronavirus.

"The Families First Coronavirus Response Act is welcome and much-needed legislation that offers protections to those who fall ill and to their family members," said NTRA president and CEO Alex Waldrop. "Individuals who work in the horse racing industry, whether at a racetrack or on a farm, for example, may now have some peace of mind when dealing with the financial effects of the virus."

Protections for the employers of affected workers also are included in the legislation in the form of tax credits to offset the costs of providing emergency sick leave. Additionally, H.R. 6201 requires insurers, Medicare, Medicaid and other federal health programs to fully cover testing and related services for the virus.

President Trump is considering other emergency measures, including a major stimulus package for industries impacted by the coronavirus that could offer up to \$1 trillion in emergency aid. The NTRA will be engaging with allies on the Hill to make certain horse racing's interests are considered in the ultimate stimulus package.

Additionally, the Trump administration is asking Congress for \$45.8 billion in emergency funds that includes resources for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and local health departments.



“There are some very nice horses here,” said de Seroux, adding that the More Than Ready filly was purchased for a client in California. “It’s just a pity what’s happening, but we all have to deal with the situation and hope it’s going to work out as soon as possible.” --@SteveSherackTDN

West Lands Frosted Colt for Repole...



Jacob West | Photos by Z

Bloodstock agent Jacob West went to \$420,000 Wednesday to secure a Frosted colt (hip 456) on behalf of Mike Repole from Kings Equine, Agent XIV. The \$115,000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga grad breezed in :10 flat.

He is half to GSP Der Lu (Orb) and SP Smartly Agree (Smart Strike), and his second dam is GISW Dream of Summer (Siberian Summer), who produced GISWs Creative Cause (Giant’s Causeway) and Destin (Giant’s Causeway) and GSW Vexatious (Giant’s Causeway).

“When OBS sent out the catalog and you were flipping through it, his page was one you’d turn down--he had arguably one of the best pedigrees in the sale,” West said. “From a stallion perspective, Frosted was an incredible horse and there’s a female side of the pedigree there as well. When you saw him breeze in :10 flat and gallop out the way that he did, he was a horse that was easy to get excited about.

“He’s a strong horse out of a Forestry mare--a very good broodmare sire. He had all the stuff you look for and hope to see when they breeze good and you go back to the barn. All of the things we’re looking for, he had. We’re just excited about getting him.”

When asked if he’d secured other members of Frosted’s first crop last term as yearlings, West said, “I didn’t get to buy that many of them [at the yearling sales] because the ones we

wanted and the ones we chased were just too expensive. I have a lot of respect for the horse. He was arguably one of the most talented horses of that crop and of generation--I think those were some real horses he was running with and holding his own against them.”

West confirmed that hip 456 would be trained by Todd Pletcher. --@BDiDonatoTDN

Productive Session Start to Finish for Pikes...

Wednesday’s OBS March session kicked off with a bang for Al Pike’s Pike Racing. The Louisiana-based consignor first sold an Anchor Down colt (hip 347) for \$270,000 to Peachtree’s John Fort, and quickly followed up with a \$380,000 son of Outwork (hip 358) who went to Mike Ryan.

“We knew we had some nice horses--they did their job on the track, they came back and were clean; really nice individuals,” said Pike’s son Colt. “We had a pretty good idea that they would go over well.”

Hip 347, a \$47,000 Fasig-Tipton October yearling from his sire’s first crop, shared the :9 4/5 bullet during last week’s under-tack previews. He is a grandson of Florida MSW Devilish Brunette (Diablo), making his debut-winning dam a half to GSW Devilish Lady (Sweetsouthernstaint).



Al & Salley Pike | Photos by Z

“I think people were thinking he was going to be a little too big even then, but he had all the right parts,” Pike said of the grey’s yearling price, which was above the Gainesway resident’s average and median but well below his top sellers last season. “We loved him and decided to take a shot.”

Cont. p11

As for how the colt has blossomed since then, he said, “He’s about 16.3—he’s a really big horse, but he just moves so well. He worked in :9 4/5, and just has a really big stride. Some people were telling us that he looked really good on stride analysis. For a big horse to work that fast is kind of special.”

Hip 358 covered a furlong in :10 flat. He hails from the deep family of Stuart Janney III-bred and campaigned GSWs Onus (Blame), Ironicus (Distorted Humor), On Leave (War Front), Norumbega (Tiznow), Hunting (Coronado’s Quest) and Quiet Harbor (Silver Deputy), et al.

“He’s just been a barn pet—he’s got a great mind on him,” Pike said. “Really easy to deal with, and he seems pretty special as well.”

Colt paid \$45,000 for the Apr. 19 foal as a Keeneland November weanling, and AI signed the \$155,000 ticket on him as a KEESEP yearling.

“I bought him with some clients as a weanling,” Colt said. “I fell in love with him at November. He was a really little guy, and he was really fuzzy, but he was well put together and looked fast to me. Plus, he had a really good pedigree underneath him, so we took him home and he grew into a monster. I’m really happy that my dad was able to get him.”

When asked about fellow freshman Outwork, he said, “My dad has a couple of Outworks back at home that he thinks can run as well, so he’s been very impressed with them. Since we’ve had this horse, I think I’m going to start sending more client mares to Outwork. If they’re anything like him, I think they’re going to run at the track.”

The Pikes finished up their day by selling the last horse in the catalog, **hip 681**, for \$260,000 to Steve Landers. The :10 flat breezer was a \$125,000 Fasig-Tipton October yearling and is the first foal out of a Munnings daughter of stakes-winning juvenile Hurricane Bernie (Sea of Secrets). Two-time GI Breeders’ Cup Turf Sprint heroine Mizdirection (Mizzen Mast) is under the third dam.

“He’s gone over just as well as the other two, so we have high hopes for him,” Pike said after hips 347 and 358 sold. “He’s a little bit different type—he’s not as big as the other two, but he has one of the best walks maybe on the sales grounds. He’s all muscle; he’s got a great hip and shoulder. Then once they see him walk, they fall in love with him.”

Pike Racing has consigned most of its horses at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sale and at regional sales in Louisiana and Texas in recent years. This was their first time selling at OBS since 2015.

“I’ve been coming down here and working for some people on the buying side—helping guys like Raymie Lightner and Peter Miller,” Colt noted. “We have a bunch of client horses at home, and my dad hadn’t been coming down to OBS. But we’re looking to expand our business and we have a new pinhooking syndicate

with a really good group of guys, so I said, ‘Dad, we’ve got a bunch of really nice colts this year. We can’t have them all going to the same sales. We’re going to have to spread them out.’ So we picked out the early ones, and Chad Johnson with OBS—he’s got a great eye—said, ‘You bring me these, and I promise you if they do their job you’re going to make a lot of money.’”

--@BDiDonatoTDN

Meah/Baltas Re-Fuel at OBS...

A juvenile half-sister to the ultra-talented filly Gas Station Sushi (Into Mischief) from the first crop of GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Turf winner Hit It a Bomb will be heading to the Southern California stable of trainer Richard Baltas after bringing \$200,000 from Meah/Lloyd Bloodstock at OBS March.

Gas Station Sushi, a \$240,000 purchase herself by bloodstock agent David Meah on behalf of a partnership group at this same sale from the Old South Farm consignment three years ago, won three of four career starts for Baltas, headed by visually impressive victories after missing the start in Keeneland’s GIII Beaumont S. and a runaway front-running decision in her career finale in the Beverly J. Lewis S. at Los Alamitos.

Gas Station Sushi brought \$675,000 from her breeder Spendthrift Farm at the 2018 FTKNOV Sale. The 5-year-old had a colt by Lord Nelson this year and will be bred back to Omaha Beach for 2021.

Consigned by Harris Training Center LLC, Agent III, as **Hip 63**, the Hit It a Bomb filly breezed an eighth in :10 1/5 at the OBS March under-tack show. Bred in Kentucky by Spendthrift Farm, she was previously a \$95,000 Keeneland September yearling purchase by Boomer Bloodstock on behalf of Solana Beach Sales.

Hip 63 is out of SW & GSP Five Star Daydream (Five Star Day), also the dam of the highly regarded Starlit Daydream (Can the Man), who finished third as the favorite in her unveiling for Todd Pletcher at Gulfstream last month. **Cont. p12**



David Meah | Photos by Z

“We were very impressed with how she breezed, but a bit partial because of the family,” Meah said. “I was underbidder at Keeneland September on her. She went to Robbie Harris here in Ocala and that’s where we send nearly all of our babies. I had actually seen her a couple of times throughout the winter and I was there to see one of her last breezes before the sale. She did everything right. She was one that we really zoned in on. Richie liked her a lot, too.

Meah continued, “She’s a strong-bodied filly, just like Gas Station Sushi. There were a lot of similarities. She’s a bit darker in color, but other than that, physically, the same. Sushi went :10 flat when she breezed here and this filly went in :10 1/5. This work was a little bit easier on the eyes, not that Sushi didn’t look good, she looked great when she worked, too. I just thought this filly was very efficient with how she moved, maybe even more so than Sushi. We believed Gas Station Sushi was a legitimate Grade I filly. She was actually too fast for her own good.” --

@SteveSherackTDN

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SESSION TOPPERS

OBS MARCH-WEDNESDAY'S TOP COLTS

HIP	SIRE DAM	PRICE (\$)
598	Upstart–Blue Beryl (\$220,000 yrl '19 KEESEP) Breeder: Lantern Hill Farm (Ky) Consignor: Woodford Thoroughbreds, Agent I Purchased by Mike Ryan, agent	600,000
386	Constitution–Screwgie (\$95,000 yrl '19 KEESEP) Breeder: J Stephen McDonald (Ky) Consignor: Wavertree Stables, Inc. (Ciaran Dunne), Agent I Purchaser: Dennis O'Neill	550,000
550	Tapizar–Allencat (\$135,000 yrl '19 FTKJUL; \$60,000 yrl '19 KEEJAN) Breeder: M.D. Racing (Ky) Consignor: Brick City Thoroughbreds, Agent III Purchaser: Narvick International	500,000
456	Frosted–Taboo (\$115,000 yrl '19 FTSAUG) Breeder: Merriebelle Stable (Ky) Consignor: Kings Equine, Agent XIV Purchaser: West Bloodstock, Agent for Repole Stable, Inc.	420,000
640	Daredevil–Chapellerie (Ire) (\$30,000 yrl '19 FTKOCT) Breeder: Certavi Trading F Z E (Ky)	400,000

Consignor: Wavertree Stables, Inc. (Ciaran Dunne), agent
Purchased by Carolyn Wilson

358	Outwork–Riding Point (\$155,000 yrl '19 KEESEP; \$45,000 wnlg '18 KEENOV) Breeder: Vincent Colbert (Ky) Consignor: Pike Racing, Agent I Purchaser: Mike Ryan, agent	380,000
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OBS MARCH-WEDNESDAY'S TOP FILLIES

HIP	SIRE DAM	PRICE (\$)
424	Bernardini–Song Collection (\$250,000 yrl '19 FTSAUG; \$400,000 i/u '17 KEENOV) Breeder: Machmer Hall & D & J Stables (Ky) Consignor: Eddie Woods, Agent XVIII Purchaser: Stonestreet Stables LLC	575,000
443	Uncle Mo–Storybook (UAE) (\$150,000 yrl '19 FTSAUG) Breeder: Mr. Joseph Allen (Ky) Consignor: Paul Sharp, Agent VI Purchaser: Dennis O'Neill	340,000
381	War Front–Sarah Lynx (Ire) (\$250,000 RNA yrl '19 KEESEP) Breeder: Haras Don Alberto (GB) Consignor: Kings Equine, Agent IX Purchaser: Team Casse, agent	335,000
454	Union Rags–Sweet Success (\$240,000 yrl '19 KEESEP) Breeder: G. Watts Humphrey, Jr. and W.S. Farish (Ky) Consignor: Woodford Thoroughbreds, Agent I Purchaser: Jun Park, agent	300,000
607	Not This Time–Breaking Promises Breeder: New Cal Stable (Ky) Consignor: Eddie Woods, Agent XXX Purchaser: K. S. I., Ben McElroy, agent	250,000



Keeneland 'Life's Work' Oral History Project, No. 5: Gus Koch

It was at Claiborne, for 31 years, that Koch ran perhaps the most potent breeding shed in Turf history, having been hired as manager soon after the young Seth Hancock had taken the reins.

"Secretariat, of course, was the hype name for non-horse people," Koch says. "Then we had Danzig, Mr. Prospector, and Nijinsky. Sir Ivor, Damascus. The stallions we had in that barn were just unbelievable."

So begins Chris McGrath's fifth in the Keeneland Life's Work Oral History project on Gus Koch, the longtime farm manager at Claiborne Farm.

NOTHING BUT NET



OBS MARCH – WEDNESDAY

HIP	SEX	SIRE	DAM	PRICE (\$)
359	colt	Upstart	Ridingwithedevil	280,000

(\$140,000 yrl '19 FTKJUL)

B-Aschinger Bloodstock Holdings (Ky)

Consigned by de Meric Sales, Agent XXII

Purchased by Mike Ryan, agent

De Meric Sales purchased this colt from the first crop of multiple graded stakes winner Upstart for \$140,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton July sale. The youngster worked a quarter in :20 4/5.

369	colt	Orb	Rosy Humor	165,000
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(\$67,000 yrl '19 KEESEP; \$225,000 i/u '17 KEENOV)

B-Ron & Fran Stolich (Ky)

Consigned by L.G., Agent I

Purchased by Meah/Lloyd Bloodstock, Agent for Matt Dohman

Gina Fennell, who sold a son of The Big Beast for \$450,000 at last year's OBS March sale, purchased this colt by Orb for \$67,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale.

397	filly	Liam's Map	She Be Keene	170,000
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(\$70,000 yrl '19 FTKJUL)

B-Nancy Mazzoni (Ky)

Consigned by Harris Training Center LLC, Agent IV

Purchased by Lance Gasaway

Chris Johnson purchased this filly, out of a half to champion She Be Wild (Offlee Wild), for \$70,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton July sale. She worked a furlong in the co-bullet :9 4/5.

443	filly	Uncle Mo	Storybook (UAE)	340,000
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(\$150,000 yrl '19 FTSAUG)

B-Mr. Joseph Allen (Ky)

Consigned by Paul Sharp, Agent VI

Purchased by Dennis O'Neill

Timber Stables acquired this filly for \$150,000 at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale.

456	colt	Frosted	Taboo	420,000
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(\$115,000 yrl '19 FTSAUG)

B-Merriebelle Stable (Ky)

Consigned by Kings Equine, Agent XIV

Purchased by West Bloodstock, Agent for Repole Stable, Inc. Raul Reyes's King's Equine purchased this colt from the first crop of Grade I winner Frosted for \$115,000 at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale. Already a half to graded stakes place Der Lu (Orb), the 2-year-old's half-sister Charoite (Uncle Mo) broke her maiden in Japan Saturday.

486	filly	Not This Time	Tremendamente Loca	140,000
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(\$20,000 yrl '19 KEESEP)

B-Glendalough (Ky)

Consigned by Mason Springs (Marcus & Crystal Ryan)

Purchased by L. E. B., agent for West Point & Winandy & Spadele

Marcus and Crystal Ryan's Mason Springs purchased this filly from the first crop of GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile runner-up Not This Time for \$20,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale.

550	colt	Tapizar	Allencat	500,000
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(\$135,000 yrl '19 FTKJUL; \$60,000 yrl '19 KEEJAN)

B-M.D. Racing (Ky)

Consigned by Brick City Thoroughbreds, Agent III

Purchased by Narvick International

J.R. and Katie Boyd's Brick City Thoroughbreds purchased this colt for \$135,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton July sale.

559	colt	Malibu Moon	Ameristralia (Aus)	300,000
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(\$130,000 yrl '19 KEESEP)

B-Spendthrift Farm (Ky)

Consigned by McKathan Bros. Sales, Agent III

Purchased by John C. Kimmel, agent

4th Quarter was the name on the ticket when this colt sold for \$130,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale.

585	colt	Upstart	Bear It	190,000
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(\$62,000 yrl '19 KEESEP; \$60,000 wnlg '18 KEENOV)

B-Brereton C. Jones (Ky)

Consigned by Parrish Farms, Agent I

Purchased by Shepherd Equine Advisors, Agent for Larry Hirsch Stanley Dunn purchased this colt for \$62,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale.

640	colt	Daredevil	Chapellerie (Ire)	400,000
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(\$30,000 yrl '19 FTKOCT)

B-Certavi Trading F Z E (Ky)

Consigned by Wavertree Stables, Inc. (Ciaran Dunne), agent

Purchased by Carolyn Wilson

Ciarne Dunne's Owls Bloodstock purchased this colt for \$30,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October Sale.

The youngster zipped a quarter-mile in :20 3/5 during last week's under-tack show.

645 colt Mucho Macho Man Chasida 155,000
 (\$25,000 yrl '19 FTKOCT; \$13,000 i/u '17 KEENOV)

B-Equus Farm (Ky)

Consigned by de Meric Sales, Agent XVII

Purchased by Keith Dickey, Agent for Columbine Stables

Ocala horseman Danny Pate purchased this colt for \$25,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October sale. Pate enjoyed a banner day at the 2017 OBS March sale when selling a Super Saver colt for \$625,000 after acquiring him for \$30,000 the prior fall.

679 colt Commissioner Cry the Blues 175,000
 (\$55,000 yrl '19 KEESEP; \$23,000 wnlg '18 KEENOV)

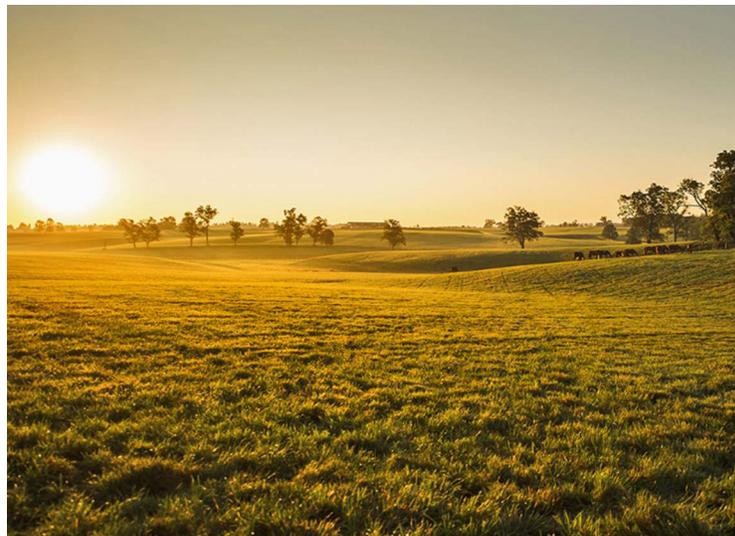
B-Brent & Beth Harris (Ky)

Consigned by Wavertree Stables, Inc. (Ciaran Dunne), Agent IV

Purchased by Carolyn Wilson

Ciaran Dunne's Spartan bloodstock partnership purchased this chestnut for \$55,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale.

Breeders Press On During Coronavirus cont. from p1



Horses graze in the distance at Lane's End Farm | Lane's End

"None of this is easy, because it's so fluid," said Mike Cline, Farm Manger for Lane's End Farm. "There are so many things to take in seemingly every hour with more closings, but we're trying to take the sensible approach to things."

That includes similar steps to what most businesses in America are doing right now as they try not to interrupt operations: allowing work to be done remotely, providing sick or vacation days, stepping up sanitary measures. But farms have their own sets of challenges, with both an office environment as well as a massive agricultural component to manage.

"From an office standpoint, we've offered some people to work remotely if their particular job allows for that to be the case, and everybody's doing the simple things, washing their hands, trying to stay out of clusters like in the lunchroom, keeping their work area wiped off and clean," said Cline. "On the farm, we've been forced to gear back on all the tours and visitation things we have. We've slowed all that down to where it's just the people that work here, no guests."

"No stallion shows," Sean Tugel, Director of Bloodstock at WinStar Farm, added. "Anything we can do to cut foot traffic down, and limit who can come in and out."

"In our office we've got everybody who's able to work from home is working from home, in-house staff are able to spread out and keep away from each other and we stepped up our cleaning services and procedures," said Ned Toffey, General Manager at Spendthrift Farm. "The care of the horses is essential, and the nice thing is so much of that takes place outside, which I think is a much safer environment."

The core of the stallion industry occurs, of course, in the breeding shed, already an area where sanitation is emphasized, according to Tugel.

Cont. p15



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SPONSORS OF THE FOLLOWING SALES SUMMARY:

OBS MARCH SALE

SESSION TOTALS	2020	2019*
• Catalogued	341	289
• No. Offered	243	202
• No. Sold	146	149
• RNAs	97	53
• % RNAs	39.9%	26.2%
• No. \$500K+	4	5
• High Price	\$600,000	\$900,000
• Gross	\$14,893,000	\$21,462,000
• Average	\$102,007 (-29.2%)	\$144,040
• Median	\$55,000 (-42.1%)	\$95,000

CUMULATIVE TOTALS	2020	2019*
• Catalogued	681	577
• No. Offered	485	409
• No. Sold	291	306
• RNAs	194	103
• % RNAs	40.0%	25.2%
• No. \$500K+	6	14
• High Price	\$650,000	\$2,000,000
• Gross	\$27,902,500	\$44,248,500
• Average	\$95,885 (-33.7%)	\$144,603
• Median	\$50,000 (-37.5%)	\$80,000

*2019 figures include the addition of post-sale transactions.

“Breeding sheds are a place where sanitation and cleanliness has always been a high priority,” he said. “If there’s a place where hand sanitizers and wipes and stuff like that are already being used, that’s one.”



WinStar Farm | WinStar

Beyond their usual disinfecting procedures, farms are taking precautions that include making sure only horses can come in from outside the property, that written paperwork is replaced with online forms and that the shed work is isolated from the rest of the farm.

“We’re not actually letting anyone come into the breeding shed,” Cline said. “If you bring a mare, you have to hand her to us at the door, and we hand her back to you at the door on the way out. No more paperwork and passing that all around, we ask everyone to email their paperwork the day before. Our guys that work the shed don’t go onto the main farm, people that work the office don’t go to the shed. That way if we were unlucky enough to have someone test positive or someone with symptoms, there wouldn’t be cross contamination. We’re really trying to pay attention to that. I’m lucky because I’ve got a shed full of guys who have been there years and years and years, and they understand how important it is what they’re doing.”

“We have 40-50 vans coming in and out of our shed every day,” Cline continued. “We’re stopping them, unloading the mare, bringing her to the door, and they remain outside in the parking lot or their truck outside the shed.”

Spendthrift has instituted similar policies. “We’re basically eliminating as much human contact as possible, particularly with regard to our breeding shed,” Toffey said. “When folks bring their mares in, paperwork is now being done digitally and we’ve asked people to limit one person accompanying the mare to the shed when they come in so that outsiders are limited coming in and there’s minimal contact between them and our staff.”

Cline noted that Lane’s End and other farms are taking these precautions because the alternative, stopping business in the

middle of the breeding season, would be disastrous.

“You hope it wouldn’t ever come to having to quarantine at the shed or stop traffic in and out of the farm,” he said. “That’s something that we hope by doing these common sense things we can avoid. It’s just hard to know the exact right thing to do, but I’m sure everybody’s being very thoughtful about all that stuff. It’s a strange time.”



Mike Cline | Matt Goins

That much is undeniable. While the coronavirus had been in the news for several weeks, it wasn’t until last Wednesday, when it started to impede the reliable backdrop of sports in our society and culture, that it truly became an apparent threat to American life. First, the NCAA decided to conduct its basketball tournaments without fans, then the NBA suspended its season after one of its players tested positive. Steadily, the news trickled in as the NHL followed suit, major golf tournaments, March Madness and the baseball season were postponed.

“It’s eerie not having any kind of sporting events to watch,” Cline said. “No Masters, no NCAA Tournament, spring baseball, take your pick.”

Tuesday, the postponement of the Derby was obviously on the minds of the racing public, and it brought to a crashing halt any notion that the sport could avoid the major interruptions of this crisis.

“If anyone was unsure about the seriousness of this situation, that ought to illustrate it for them,” Toffey said. “The first Saturday in May is a pretty sacred date in this business and this is the first time in my lifetime it won’t be run then. Is it what we’d all like to see? Obviously not, but I would commend Churchill Downs on saying that they don’t want to give up a great tradition, but they also recognize they’ve got to make some changes because we’ve got a very serious issue going on worldwide.”



**Ned Toffey (r) with Spendthrift owner B. Wayne Hughes
Keeneland**

"I'm sure there was a lot of thought put into that, I'm sure somebody out there knows why they picked Sept. 5," Cline said. "It's going to be interesting to see what they do with the [Derby qualifying] points races, they'll probably have to add some more."

"Trainers are telling me the hardest part of it is that they're always training up to a race," Tugel said. "So it's hard not knowing when they're going to run again. By moving the race, it's not the Derby as we know it, but it's still going to be a hell of a horse race at the end of the day. It's probably going to be a better race because the 3-year-olds are going to be more mature and better horses come then."

Ultimately, the unfolding story of the coronavirus in America is going to be bigger than any one industry or business, and it will likely impact basically every facet of our society in some way. The toll it takes on all of us will be large, mentally if nothing else, and the uncertainty of when things will return to normal weighs on everyone. Cline is already feeling the effects personally, being unable to visit his mother in her nursing home right now, and he made a plea to the responsibility we all have to those most vulnerable in our communities during these dark hours.

"I think people have to understand that it's no time to be reckless right now," he said. "The stuff people are telling you to do, you should do. Someone said the other day, 'Pretend like you have the virus and act accordingly.' Pray for all the older people and everyone that's affected. Everyone else has a responsibility to those people to act prudently."

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NYRA TO PROHIBIT RACE-DAY LASIX IN 2-YEAR-OLD RACING



Adam Coglianese

The New York Racing Association, Inc. will prohibit the use of Furosemide (Lasix) within 48 hours of racing for all 2-year-olds with the start of juvenile racing in April at Aqueduct Racetrack. The initiative will begin this year, with NYRA prohibiting Lasix in all 2-year-old races at all three NYRA tracks across Aqueduct, Belmont Park and Saratoga Race Course. Beginning in 2021, the same prohibition will extend to all horses participating in stakes races at NYRA tracks.

Following the launch of this program in 2-year-old maiden special weight races in April, the first juvenile stakes race contested under these new conditions is slated to come at Belmont with the Astoria S. June 4. The first juvenile stakes event at Saratoga will be the GIII Schuylerville S. July 16.

The New York State Gaming Commission's current rule that prohibits the use of Lasix, which is used to treat exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage, 48 hours before the scheduled post time of the race in which the horse is to compete--unless a waiver is obtained for the horse to race with the medication--will remain in effect. No waivers will be granted for 2-year-olds this year and, starting in 2021, will also apply to all horses entered in stakes.

"I think this is the right thing to do in 2-year-old races and next year in black-type races," said Christophe Clement, who said he does not usually administer Lasix to his 2-year-olds. "My percentage of winners with 2-year-olds has been as good as ever. I think you have an edge of running without Lasix because I think the horses will take their races better, especially when you're running short [distances] and early in the year, because they will lose less weight and it's easier on them, physically and mentally."

Conversely, trainer Todd Pletcher, a winner of more than 30 individual meet titles on the NYRA circuit, generally races his 2-year-olds on Lasix, and uses it as needed when he breezes horses.

"I do believe that we've seen horses of all ages bleed, so it's not an age issue, it's an industry-wide issue," Pletcher said. "But at the same time, there is movement towards [doing away] with race-day medication and this is the first step towards what I think we will eventually see as no race-day medication of any kind, anywhere. You can draw some positives that this is easing its way into what is going to be in the future, as opposed to going cold turkey. It's going to give people some time to sort through it. We will just take it on a horse-by-horse basis and deal with it accordingly."

For more information on NYRA safety and integrity measures, please visit <https://www.nyrainc.com/about/nyra-safety>

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REPORT: HARNESS TRAINER FUSCO DIES OF CORONAVIRUS



Yonkers

by Bill Finley

According to *nj.com*, harness trainer Carmine Fusco has died of the coronavirus. Fusco passed away Wednesday, five days after his sister Rita-Fusco Jackson passed away from the effects of the virus. Four other members of the family are in critical condition.

Fusco's stable has campaigned primarily at Pocono Downs in Pennsylvania since February, but he has started several horses this year at Yonkers Raceway. Fusco is the second individual with ties to Yonkers who has died due to the virus.

On March 10, **John Brennan**, a representative of the Standardbred Owners Association of New York Director, representing Yonkers horseman, passed away due to the virus. Brennan was a frequent visitor to the Yonkers paddock, and,

according to a Yonkers press release, was last in the paddock Feb. 28. Fusco started two horses at Yonkers that night, but it is not known if he was in attendance.

After receiving news of Brennan's death, racing was halted at Yonkers and no date has been announced as to when it will re-open.

Fusco has won 2,531 races in his career as was four-for-48 in 2020. He was born in 1964.

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NBC TO AIR TVG'S TRACKSIDE LIVE



Hodges Photography

NBC Sports will partner with TVG beginning this weekend as NBCSN simulcasts TVG's Trackside Live Saturday, Mar. 21 and Sunday, Mar. 22 from 4-8 p.m. ET. Anchored by TVG host and NBC Sports reporter Britney Eurtion, TVG's Trackside Live offers live horse racing from various tracks across the country. The biggest race of the weekend--the GI Louisiana Derby from Fair Grounds Race Course in New Orleans--will air on NBCSN Saturday at 5 p.m. ET, and will be part of the Trackside Live coverage. NBCSN will also simulcast Trackside Live the following weekend--Mar. 27 through Mar. 29 from 4-8 p.m. ET on all three days, including the GI Florida Derby on NBCSN Mar. 28 at 6 p.m. ET--if horse races continue to be held.

The winner of the Louisiana Derby will receive qualifying points toward the GI Kentucky Derby, which will be contested Sept. 5. Previously run over nine furlongs on dirt, the Louisiana Derby will be 1 3/16ths miles Saturday.

Coverage of the Louisiana Derby will be streamed live on NBCSports.com and the NBC Sports app.

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New JOB OPENINGS

A listing of career opportunities in the Thoroughbred industry

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MAR. 18 WRITERS' ROOM PODCAST NOW AVAILABLE

It's hard to talk about anything else these days. Just a week after what we thought was the biggest story in horse racing history, the Coronavirus outbreak has overshadowed the horse doping scandal. Today, Joe Bianca (from home), along with Bill Finley and Jon Green (six feet apart in the studio) talk about how the pandemic has stopped racing in many places around the world, how others are persevering, and what will become of the Triple Crown. In this special podcast with host Joe Bianca calling in from home, we talk about the things everyone else is talking about. [Click here to listen.](#)

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NYRA OFFERS EXPANDED WEEKEND TV COVERAGE

The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA) will offer an expanded weekend broadcast schedule for America's Day at the Races, presented by Runhappy, Claiborne Farm and America's Best Racing. Produced by NYRA in partnership with FOX Sports, America's Day at the Races will air Friday from 1:30-3:00 p.m. EST on FS2 and 3:00-6:30 p.m. EST on FS1. Saturday and Sunday's coverage will air on FS1 from 1:30-6:30 p.m. The 15-hours of weekend coverage will include stakes action and live racing from Aqueduct Racetrack, Oaklawn Park, and Tampa Bay Downs.

"During these uncertain times, our goal this weekend is to provide some normalcy for sports fans and horseplayers," said NYRA Chief Revenue Officer Tony Allevato. "Thoroughbred racing is an economic engine across the country that sustains good paying jobs and hourly workers. These shows are an expression of support for an entire industry."

Hosted by Greg Wolf, this weekend's broadcast team includes Richard Migliore, Gary Stevens, Michelle Yu, Laffit Pincay III, Nancy Holthus, Tom Amoss and Jonathon Kinchen.

For more information regarding the broadcast, visit www.nyra.com/aqueduct/racing/tv-schedule.

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LEGISLATION TO PAY FOR REBUILD OF PIMLICO, LAUREL CLEARS ANOTHER HURDLE

The Racing and Community Development Act of 2020, which authorizes \$375 million to pay for the rebuilding of Pimlico and the refurbishing of Laurel, was passed Wednesday by the Maryland General Assembly, reports the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association.

The bill will now go to Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, who is expected to sign it. If signed by Hogan, the Act will go into effect June 1. It has sailed through both Maryland houses. The House passed the conference committee version of the bill by a vote of 113-14 a short while after the Senate voted 44-1 to approve it.

Under the legislation, the Maryland Stadium Authority will issue up to \$375 million in bonds to pay for the project.

"I would like to thank Maryland's policy makers for the passage of the legislation that paves the way for an enhanced Preakness in Baltimore, the revitalization of year round racing at Laurel Park and reinvestment in the many communities of interest near and related to the racing industry," The Stronach Group chairman and president Belinda Stronach said. "Their tireless efforts, particularly as they work to prioritize the health and well-being of Maryland's citizens during these difficult times, is highly commendable."

The Racing and Community Development Act of 2020 came about after a tug of war between state and Baltimore City politicians regarding the fate of the Preakness. The Stronach Group, the owners of Pimlico and Laurel, had made it clear that they wanted the Preakness to leave Pimlico and Baltimore and be run at Laurel. The back-and-forth included a lawsuit filed by the City of Baltimore to keep the race at Pimlico. That lawsuit has been dropped.

The two sides eventually came together and worked on a compromise, which was the beginnings of the legislation. Under the plan, Pimlico will be completely rebuilt with a new grandstand replacing the current one, which, all agree, is no longer fit to hold a Triple Crown event. Much of Pimlico's property will also be rebuilt to accommodate a community center, playing fields and new housing. Laurel will also undergo a major facelift.

"The passage of the Racing and Community Development Act of 2020 is a defining moment for the thoroughbred horse racing industry in this State," said Alan M. Rifkin, counsel to the Maryland Jockey Club and the Preakness Stakes and the Firm's managing partner.

It is significant that lawmakers were able to get the bill passed Wednesday as it was the final day of a legislative session that has been cut short due to the coronavirus. **Cont. p19**

Donate today to help us save the lives of racetrack cats who need food, medical care and loving homes.



Caring for racetrack cats



According to the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, the refurbishing of Laurel will be the first priority and that the timeline for the rebuilding of Pimlico has yet to be determined.

On a busy day for Maryland politicians, lawmakers also passed a stripped-down version of a sports betting bill. The bill calls for voters to decide on the fate of sports betting in the November election. The new bill does not specify which companies would be allowed to conduct sports betting. An earlier version of the bill listed most racetracks, all casinos and four non-casino off-track betting facilities as eligible for sports betting licenses.

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KEENELAND BETTOR REACHES OUT TO HELP PER-DIEM EMPLOYEES

by Bill Finley

In every crisis, it's possible to find examples of kindness and generosity, of people reaching out to help total strangers out of the goodness of their heart. To focus attention on the many people in the industry who have stepped forward to help those who have been impacted by the coronavirus, the TDN has launched a series that we hope will put a smile on your face during these difficult times. We'll do our best to bring you a little bit of good news every day.



Jim Goodman
@KeenelandJim

A Keeneland patron reached out yesterday to ask if a couple of his fave employees would have work during our shutdown. When told no he Venmo'd me a substantial sum and I passed along to my employees. Please consider doing the same today to those in your life that need help.

10:21 AM · Mar 18, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

When it was announced that Keeneland would not be holding its spring meet due to the coronavirus, people were justifiably worried about where they might race their horses, the loss of the GII Blue Grass S. and the overall impact the track's closing would have on the sport.

A Keeneland horseplayer had other thoughts. He worried about the road ahead for two of Keeneland's workers who had

taken such good care of him on his visits to the track. As per diem employees who work only during the race meets, they would be losing a sizeable amount of income due to the shutdown.

"This is someone we always knew was a very nice person," said Jim Goodman, Keeneland's director of wagering development.

Goodman won't release the name of the customer. "He doesn't want to be identified," he said. But he was happy to tell his story.

The customer called Goodman Tuesday and he asked about two Keeneland employees in particular as he was worried about them. Goodman explained that, yes, they would not be working at Keeneland again until racing resumed there and that it was true that the two would be losing much-needed income.

"We hire between 1,200 and 1,500 people who work for us when there is racing," Goodman said. "That includes the cooks, the bartenders, the servers. These are all people who won't be working. He wanted to do something for these two employees."

Goodman and the unnamed fan made arrangements to have money transferred via Venmo. Goodman then turned around and gave it to the two employees, who he described as Keeneland hospitality employees. He would not say how much the customer had contributed but in a Tweet wrote that it was a "substantial sum."

"This came out of the blue and it was a good amount of money," Goodman said. "It will certainly help them out. It was an incredibly selfless gesture."

The two workers, both women, were the type of racetrack employees who largely go unnoticed but play such a big role in the daily operations of a racetrack. A surly or incompetent worker can ruin a customer's experience at the track and keep them from coming back. But these two, Goodman said, always had a smile on their faces and went above and beyond to make the unnamed horseplayer feel special.

"This shows what our people mean to our customers," Goodman said. "Keeneland is one of the best racetracks in the world and that is because we hire good people. Our people care about how our customers are treated. When people talk about Keeneland they always talk about our employees. We are very proud of them."

Goodman said it was an emotional phone call when he reached out to the two employees to tell them that they would be receiving the donation.

"They were ecstatic," he said. "One of them cried."

Goodman's job entails working with Keeneland's biggest bettors and said the individual fell into that category even though he might attend the races no more than a two or three days during each meet. He said he is not from the Lexington area. **Cont. p20**

“Like I said, I always knew he was a nice person, but this gesture has elevated him to a status above even that,” Goodman said.

While the bettor did not want to be identified, Goodman was eager to get the story out in hopes that it will encourage others to help out those in horse racing who are suffering financially because of the coronavirus.

“He doesn’t want any credit, but I wanted to use this as an example of how people can pay it forward,” he said. “We have to do that. Just think about all the people in the horse racing business who are out of work because of this. We all have to figure out a way to help them. This came out of the blue and it’s really going to help these two get through this. What an incredible gesture.”

Do you know of an individual or an organization that is helping others in racing during this time of need? If so, please let us know. Bill Finley can be reached at wnfinley@aol.com

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first-crop sire will be **Speightster**. I could name at least half a dozen off the top of my head that the consignors in Ocala like. They are “win first out,” early types that will likely be hard to out-sprint.

That being said, in terms of progeny earnings by the end of 2020, my choice would be Frosted. I’ve seen plenty of quality individuals throughout Ocala by this son of Tapit (who has started to show signs of becoming a quality sire of sires). Some are heading to the 2-year-old sales and some were purchased strictly for racing. They are showing signs of brilliance early, but are meant to go on and develop into two-turn horses.

My under-the-radar stallion will be **Laoban**. There’s been some buzz surrounding him by the breeze-up consignors. He will be given plenty of opportunities with progeny in the state-bred races in New York, which means they will be at premier locations with capable trainers. He’s by Uncle Mo, which should help with precocity, and he has the numbers. I think he has a chance to be a premier stallion in New York going forward.

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SO... WHO'S THE LEADING FIRST-CROP SIRE OF 2020?

It's time for our annual favorite question. We surveyed some top judges on who their leading first-crop sire is, and asked them to give us some under-the-radar picks as well.

JUSTIN CASSE



Speightster is Justin Casse's pick | Sarah Andrew photo

I think that in terms of number of winners in 2020, the leading

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In light of recent events impacting global health, perhaps it is time to review two controversial proposals in our industry. The first, seemingly backed by The Jockey Club, is a limit on stallion books. The second, seemingly forever opposed by that same august regulatory body, is some well designed use of artificial insemination.

One could reasonably suggest that the two would work best in tandem. Limits on stallion books would, at least in the short term, begin the process of promoting diversity in the thoroughbred gene pool by giving slightly lesser quality (perceived) male stallion prospects the “working economics” to become viable on more than a regional setting—at least theoretically increasing the demand for these males “down the line” to auction sales, where the perception of marketability in yearlings has narrowed in sync with that of the lesser stallion prospect. Allowing AI will help eliminate the term “regional” from our stallion nomenclature altogether, and greatly reduce our need to “over-transport” our breeding females and-for non-Kentucky resident mares- their young foals, at their most vulnerable stage of life, creating a much healthier outlook for overall hardiness of the breed. Shipping semen carries no known risk at all.

The “integrity” issue of AI disappeared with the arrival of DNA testing, leaving only the “Kentucky factor” as a major hindrance.

Cont. p21

I would argue that, given the Commonwealth’s proven environmental advantages over most other states, along with the presence of arguably the most powerful auction companies (and their facilities) in the world, AND (in years without war or pandemic) the first class racing at Keeneland and Churchill Downs (with our most famous race), a mass exodus of breeding stock would be highly unlikely, and any expansion of breeding in other states would inherently increase the economic impact in those areas, enhancing our sport’s political prospects moving forward (imagine an expanding foothold in Georgia?).

Our current model requires dangerous levels of transportation of mares, foals-and humans-during the mad rush of the breeding season, and is now even threatened by further travel restrictions during this pandemic. Could this be the final element in a transformation of our business model that makes it safer for all? We’ve heard arguments pro and con for these issues-how about the two together? Of course, international governing bodies would have to agree, but given the near nightmare(pun intended) scenarios in other thoroughbred countries at the moment, it might not be such a hard sell. I remain philosophically committed to allowing market forces to guide our business decisions. I remain even more in favor of making sure we have a viable market, and a thriving sport.

Sincerely,
Frank Shipp
Upperville, VA

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NEW KY DERBY MUSEUM WEEK SCHEDULE

Following the rescheduling of the Kentucky Derby Week in September, the Kentucky Derby Museum has rescheduled its Derby Week museum events.

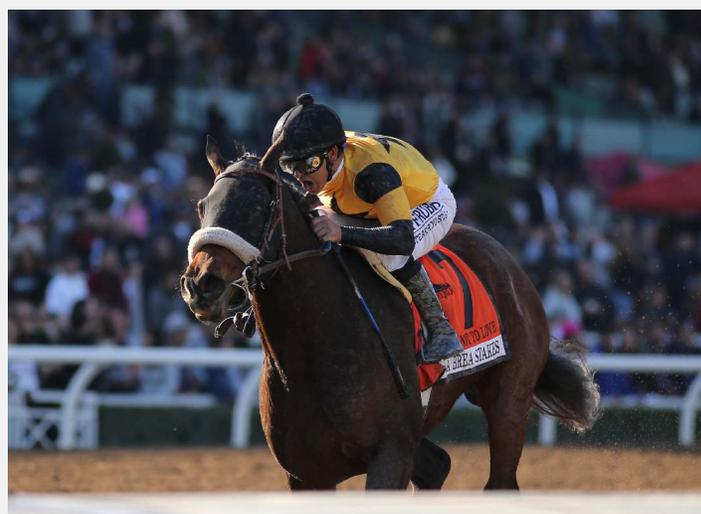
- **Big Brims and Fancy Trims Hat Sale** – Aug. 6
- **Fan Fest** – Aug. 16 (Official Kentucky Derby Festival Event)
- **Kentucky Derby Museum Gala** – Aug. 28
- **Biscuits and Bourbon** – Sept. 2
- **Thurby VIP Lounge** – Sept. 3

Originally slated to open Apr. 19, Kentucky Derby Museum’s new exhibit, “Right to Ride”--paying tribute to female jockeys and their journey in Thoroughbred racing--is currently under construction and an alternate launch date will be announced.

“This has been an unprecedented time for the museum and we are thankful for the support of the community,” said Patrick Armstrong, CEO of the Kentucky Derby Museum. “We know that Kentucky Derby week will be a celebration unlike anything this community has seen before and we look forward to our events being a part of this historic moment.”

The Kentucky Derby Museum is currently closed to visitors due to COVID-19. The closure affects all exhibits, tours, educational programs and outreach, as well as the gift shop and ‘Derby Café Express’. They will remain closed for at least two weeks.

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DID YOU KNOW?

GISW **Hard Not to Love** (Hard Spun) was tabbed as a “TDN Rising Star”

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

2020 Leading General Sires YTD by Earnings

for stallions standing in North America through Tuesday, Mar. 17

Earnings and Black-type represents North American & European figures & stud fees are for 2020

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	Into Mischief <i>(2005) by Harlan's Holiday FYR: 2010 Crops: 9 Stands: Spendthrift Farm KY Fee: \$175,000</i>	11	25	4	8	--	--	189	46	300,000	3,030,743
2	Curlin <i>(2004) by Smart Strike FYR: 2010 Crops: 9 Stands: Hill 'n' Dale Farms KY Fee: \$175,000</i>	6	13	3	7	--	--	149	45	188,700	2,131,553
3	Mucho Macho Man <i>(2008) by Macho Uno FYR: 2016 Crops: 3 Stands: Adena Springs KY Fee: \$10,000</i>	1	2	1	2	1	1	39	12	1,662,000	2,032,712
4	Uncle Mo <i>(2008) by Indian Charlie FYR: 2013 Crops: 6 Stands: Ashford Stud KY Fee: \$125,000</i>	5	11	5	7	--	--	126	41	277,400	2,012,413
5	Munnings <i>(2006) by Speightstown FYR: 2012 Crops: 7 Stands: Ashford Stud KY Fee: \$30,000</i>	5	8	4	5	--	--	124	35	300,000	1,940,490
6	Paynter <i>(2009) by Awesome Again FYR: 2015 Crops: 4 Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$10,000</i>	4	7	1	2	--	--	115	38	135,600	1,681,779
7	Blame <i>(2006) by Arch FYR: 2012 Crops: 7 Stands: Claiborne Farm KY Fee: \$35,000</i>	2	6	1	5	--	--	74	19	753,000	1,581,630
8	Tapit <i>(2001) by Pulpit FYR: 2006 Crops: 13 Stands: Gainesway Farm KY Fee: \$200,000</i>	5	12	5	11	--	--	129	23	200,000	1,579,945
9	The Factor <i>(2008) by War Front FYR: 2014 Crops: 5 Stands: Lane's End Farm KY Fee: \$17,500</i>	4	6	2	4	--	1	141	37	129,040	1,443,430
10	Speightstown <i>(1998) by Gone West FYR: 2006 Crops: 13 Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$70,000</i>	3	3	1	2	--	--	104	36	160,000	1,441,422
11	Candy Ride (Arg) <i>(1999) by Ride the Rails FYR: 2006 Crops: 13 Stands: Lane's End Farm KY Fee: \$100,000</i>	1	6	--	3	--	1	117	32	135,985	1,397,948
12	Congrats <i>(2000) by A.P. Indy FYR: 2008 Crops: 11 Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$10,000</i>	1	5	--	2	--	--	145	39	81,000	1,385,542
13	Quality Road <i>(2006) by Elusive Quality FYR: 2012 Crops: 7 Stands: Lane's End Farm KY Fee: \$200,000</i>	3	8	1	4	--	--	114	30	124,000	1,335,144
14	Twirling Candy <i>(2007) by Candy Ride (Arg) FYR: 2013 Crops: 6 Stands: Lane's End Farm KY Fee: \$40,000</i>	2	3	2	3	--	--	116	42	101,800	1,323,112
15	Malibu Moon <i>(1997) by A.P. Indy FYR: 2001 Crops: 18 Stands: Spendthrift Farm KY Fee: \$60,000</i>	2	4	--	--	--	--	122	28	120,000	1,294,697

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Saturday, Fair Grounds, post time: 5:49 p.m. EDT

TWINSPIRES.COM LOUISIANA DERBY-GII, \$1,000,000, 3yo, 1 3/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Major Fed	Ghostzapper	Lloyd Madison Farms, IV LLC	Foley	Rosario	122
2	Mailman Money	Goldcents	Allied Racing Stable, LLC	Calhoun	Saez	122
3	Wells Bayou 🌿	Lookin At Lucky	Gasaway, C & L, Madaket Stables & Wonder Stables		Cox	Geroux
4	Chestertown	Tapit	West Point Thoroughbreds, Broman, Sr., C & M, Woodford Racing, Siena Farm, & Masiello, Robert	Asmussen	Velazquez	122
5	Social Afleet	Northern Afleet	Valene Farms LLC	Stewart	Beschizza	122
6	Shake Some Action 🌿	Into Mischief	Rupp Racing	Cox	Hernandez	122
7	Sharecropper	Pioneerof the Nile	Spendthrift Farm LLC	Stall, Jr.	Mena	122
8	Royal Act 🌿	American Pharoah	C R K Stable LLC	Eurton	Cedillo	122
9	Portos	Tapit Wertheimer and Frere	Pletcher	Ortiz, Jr.	122	
10	Enforceable 🌿	Tapit John C. Oxley	Casse	Leparoux	122	
11	Ny Traffic	Cross Traffic	Fanelli, J, Cash is King, LC Racing & Braverman, P	Joseph, Jr.	Saez	122
12	Lynn's Map 🌿	Liam's Map	HRH Prince Sultan Bin Mishal Al Saud	Casse	Gaffalione	122
13	Silver State 🌿	Hard Spun	Winchell Thoroughbreds & Willis Horton Racing	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	122
14	Modernist	Uncle Mo	Wygod, Pam and Martin	Mott	Alvarado	122
15	Mr. Big News	Giant's Causeway	Allied Racing Stable, LLC	Calhoun	Albarado	122
16	Farmington Road	Quality Road	Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, Chrysalis Stables, and LaPenta, Robert V.	Pletcher	Castellano	122

Breeders: 1-Lloyd Madison IV, LLC, 2-TK Stables LLC, 3-Knowles Bloodstock, Inc., 4-Chester Broman & Mary R. Broman, 5-Tom Curtis & Wayne Simpson, 6-Edgar Scott Jr. & Jane MacElree, 7-WinStar Farm, LLC, 8-Stonehaven Steadings, 9-Wertheimer et Frere, 10-Clearsky Farms, 11-Brian Culnan, 12-Alastar Thoroughbred Company, LLC, 13-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 14-Wygod Family, LLC, 15-Don Alberto Corporation, 16-Chrysalis Stables

Saturday, Fair Grounds, post time: 4:10 p.m. EDT

NEW ORLEANS CLASSIC S.-GII, \$400,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/8m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Lone Sailor 🌿	Majestic Warrior	G M B Racing	Amoss	Graham	118
2	Sonneteer	Midnight Lute	Calumet Farm	Desormeaux	Murrill	118
3	Fearless 🌿	Ghostzapper	China Horse Club International & WinStar Farm	Pletcher	Ortiz, Jr.	118
4	Chess Chief	Into Mischief	Estate of James J. Coleman, Jr.	Stewart	Mena	118
5	Tenfold	Curlin	Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC	Asmussen	Velazquez	118
6	Silver Dust 🌿	Tapit	Tom R. Durant	Calhoun	Hernandez, Jr.	122
7	Captivating Moon	Malibu Moon	Lothenbach Stables, Inc.	Block	Leparoux	118
8	By My Standards	Goldcents	Allied Racing Stable, LLC	Calhoun	Saez	118
9	Gun It 🌿	Tapit	Whisper Hill Farm LLC and Three Chimneys Farm	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	118

Breeders: 1-Alexander - Groves - Matz, LLC., 2-Calumet Farm, 3-Helen K. Groves Revocable Trust, 4-Morgan's Ford Farm, 5-Winchell Thoroughbreds, LLC, 6-Don Alberto Corporation, 7-Lothenbach Stables Inc, 8-Don Ladd, 9-Three Chimneys Farm, LLC and Besilu Stables, LLC

Saturday, Fair Grounds, post time: 5:15 p.m. EDT

TWINSPIRES.COM FAIR GROUNDS OAKS-GII, \$400,000, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Antoinette	Hard Spun	Godolphin, LLC	Mott	Alvarado	122
2	French Rose	Raison d'Etat	Calumet Farm	Desormeaux	Murrill	122
3	Tempers Rising 🌿	Bayern	Stanley, Mark H. and Stanley, Nancy W.	Stewart	Leparoux	122
4	Bonny South	Munnings	Juddmonte Farms, Inc.	Cox	Geroux	122
5	Stop Shoppin Tammy 🌿	Tapit	Rigney Racing, LLC	Bauer	Lanerie	122
6	Finite	Munnings	Winchell Thoroughbreds, Reiman, Thomas, Dickson, William and Easter, Deborah A.	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	122

Breeders: 1-Godolphin, 2-Calumet Farm, 3-Dr. Bryan Boone DVM, 4-Juddmonte Farms Inc, 5-My Meadowview LLC, 6-Winchell Thoroughbreds, LLC

Saturday, Fair Grounds, post time: 4:42 p.m. EDT

MUNIZ MEMORIAL CLASSIC S.-GII, \$300,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/8mT

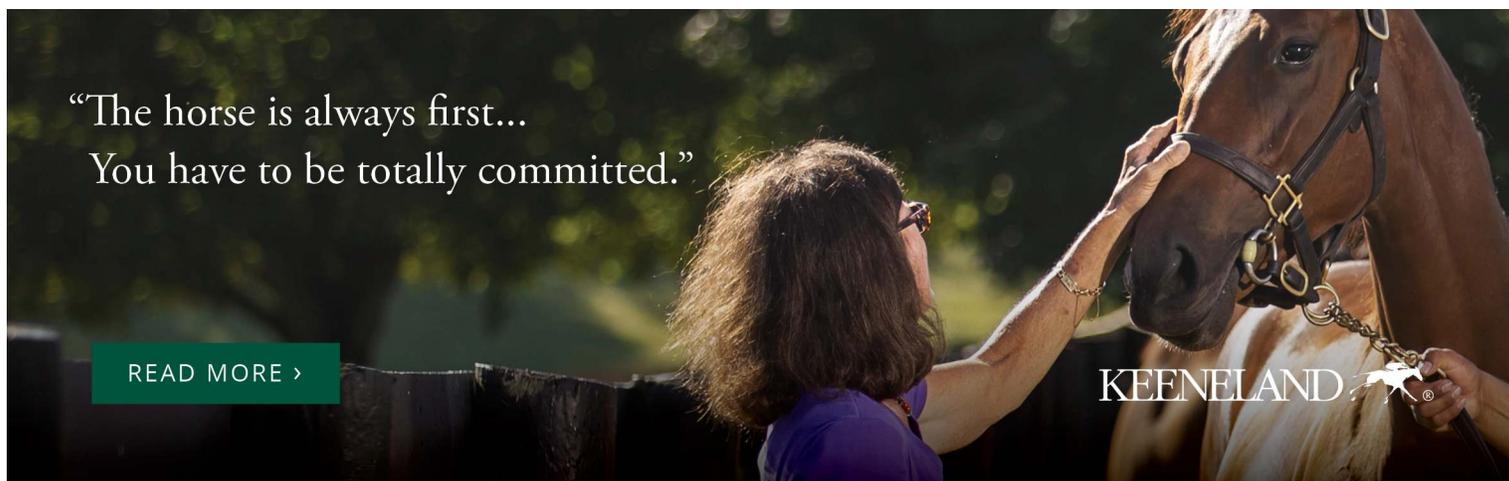
PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Dot Matrix	Freud	Ten Strike Racing	Cox	Geroux	122
2	Aquaphobia	Giant's Causeway	Paradise Farms, Staudacher, D & Hooties Racing	Maker	Gaffalione	122
3	Dontblamerocket	Blame	AJ Suited Racing Stable, LLC	Casse	Leparoux	122
4	Rockemperor (Ire)	Holy Roman Emperor (Ire)	Madaket Stables, Dubb, M, Wonder Stables, Kisber, Michael E. and Bethlehem Stables LLC	Brown	Rosario	118
5	Captivating Moon	Malibu Moon	Lothenbach Stables, Inc.	Block	Hernandez, Jr.	118
6	Instilled Regard 🌿	Arch	OXO Equine LLC	Brown	Ortiz, Jr.	124
7	Henley's Joy	Kitten's Joy	Bloom Racing Stable LLC	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	118
8	Channel Maker 🌿	English Channel	Joey Gee Tbreeds, Wachtel Stable & Barber, G	Mott	Alvarado	118
9	Factor This 🌿	The Factor	Gaining Ground Racing LLC	Cox	Bridgmohan	122
10	Secretary At War	War Front	AJ Suited Racing Stable, LLC	Casse	Beschizza	118
11	Marzo 🌿	Medaglia d'Oro	Three Diamonds Farm	Maker	Saez	118
12	Synchrony	Tapit Pin Oak Stable	Stidham	Bravo	118	
13	Bundibunan 🌿	Ghostzapper	Haras Interlagos	Correas, IV	Lanerie	118

Breeders: 1-Truxton Stables, 2-Mr. & Mrs. M. Roy Jackson, 3-Whitham Thoroughbreds, LLC, 4-Haras du Mezeray, 5-Lothenbach Stables Inc, 6-KatieRich Farms, 7-Kenneth L. Ramsey & Sarah K. Ramsey, 8-Tall Oaks Farm, 9-Maccabee Farm, 10-Mr. Joseph Allen LLC, 11-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 12-Pin Oak Stud, LLC, 13-Michael Perlman

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Saturday, Santa Anita, post time: 5:30 p.m. EDT

SAN SIMEON S.-GIII, \$100,000, 3yo/up, 5 1/2fT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Sparky Ville 🌿	Candy Ride (Arg)	Del Secco DCS Racing	Bonde	Velez	121
2	Bound for Nowhere 🌿	The Factor	Wesley A. Ward	Ward	Garcia	121
3	Murad Khan (Fr)	Raven's Pass	R3 Racing LLC, Calara Farms and Rothblum, Steve	O'Neill	Bejarano	121
4	Cistron 🌿	The Factor	Hronis Racing LLC	Sadler	Espinoza	123
5	Surrender Now 🌿	Morning Line	Rockingham Ranch	Miller	Prat	116
6	Voodoo Song	English Channel	Barry K. Schwartz	Mandella	Rispoli	121
7	King of Speed 🌿	Jimmy Creed	Del Secco DCS Racing	Bonde	Franco	121

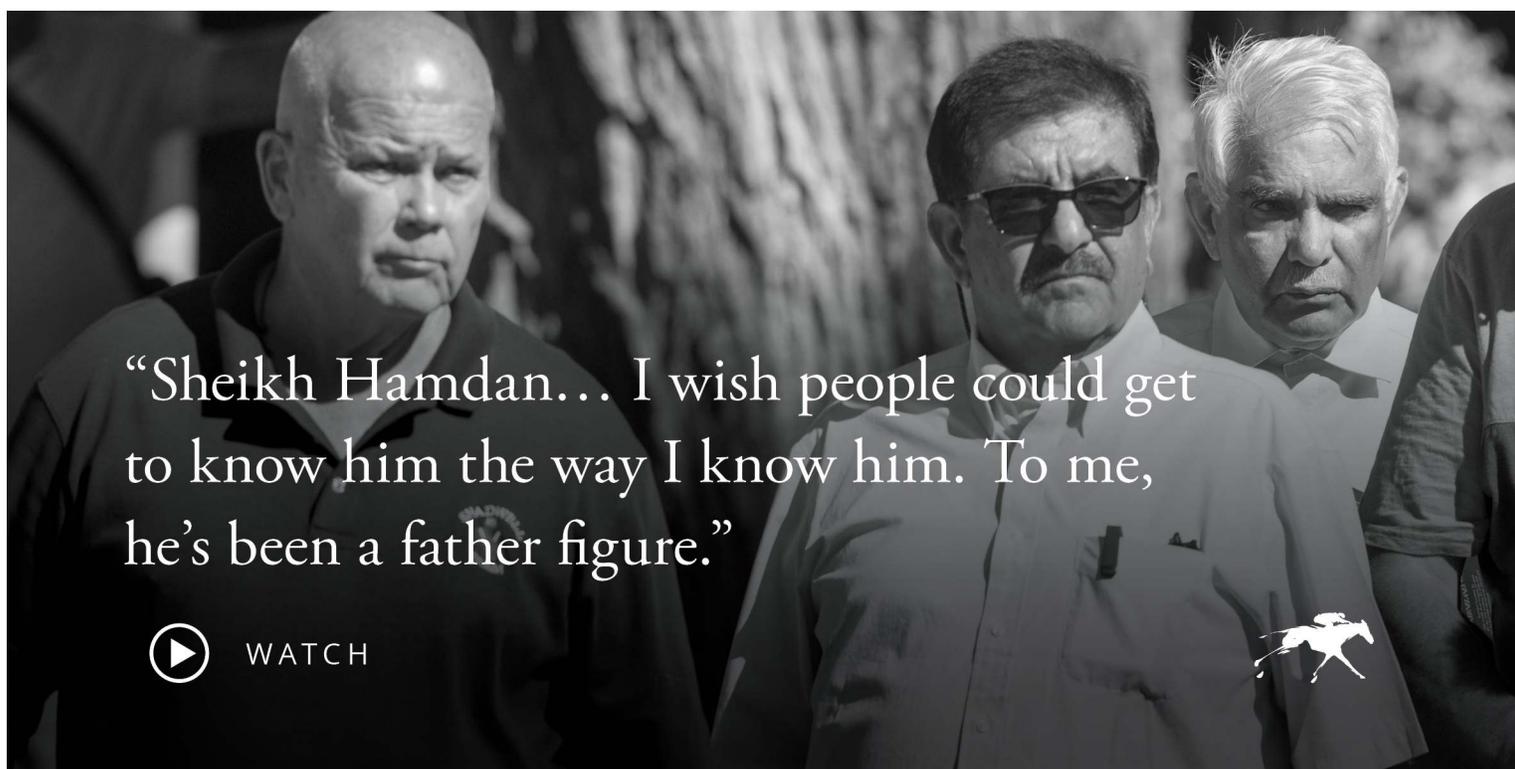
Breeders: 1-Aaron & Marie Jones LLC, 2-Wayne Lyster, Gray Lyster & Bryan Lyster, 3-S.C.E.A. Haras de Manneville, 4-St. George Farm, LLC, 5-Elaine Macpherson, 6-Stonewall Farm, 7-Newaukum Racing Stables LLC

Saturday, Santa Anita, post time: 6:30 p.m. EDT

SAN LUIS REY S.-GIII, \$100,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/2mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Swamp Souffle	Bodemeister	Knapp, Steve R., Romo-Zolotas, Sabina and Zolotas, Steven	Knapp	Gutierrez	120
2	Camino Del Paraiso	Suances (GB)	Paradise Road Ranch, LLC	Jauregui	Pereira	120
3	Ashleyluvssugar	Game Plan	Alesia, Sharon, Bran Jam Stable & Ciaglia Racing	Eurton	Blanc	120
4	Oscar Dominguez (Ire)	Zoffany (Ire)	Messineo, Nancy and Sands, Bruce	Baltas	Rispoli	124
5	Go for a Ride 🌿	Candy Ride (Arg)	DA Meah Racing, Rising Star Farm and Henson, Michael R.	Meah	Maldonado	120
6	Ward 'n Jerry	Lucky Pulpit	Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Larry D.	Puype	Prat	120
7	French Getaway 🌿	Giant's Causeway	Schroeder Farms LLC	Hess, Jr.	Bejarano	120

Breeders: 1-Craig L. Wheeler & Barry Berkelhammer, 2-Red Baron's Barn LLC, 3-Estate of Alesia, BranJam Stables & Ciaglia Racing, LLC, 4-Whisperview Trading Ltd, 5-Bell Tower Thoroughbreds, 6-Mr. & Mrs. Larry D. Williams, 7-Flaxman Holdings Limited



GOLDENCENTS FILLY GIVES NEW MEANING TO 'BIG EASY', BECOMES TDN RISING STAR



Ain't No Elmers | Hodges Photography

Sent out at 70 cents on the dollars to follow up on a 6 1/2-length success over track and distance Feb. 15, **Ain't No Elmers** (Goldencents) decimated a field of first-level allowance company by nine lengths Wednesday to become the newest **'TDN Rising Star'** at the Fair Grounds.

Content to drop back off a fast early quarter mile after taking them wire-to-wire first time out, Ain't No Elmers was trapped out four wide, but traveled into it nicely with cover as they approached the top of the lane. Switched out with about a quarter-mile to travel by Adam Beschizza, she quickly descended on those fighting it out on the front and shot well clear while hopping onto her incorrect lead at about the sixteenth pole, with the race already in safe keeping.

The winner's dam is responsible for the 2-year-old colt Mr. Wireless (Dialed In) and a yearling filly by the same sire. She was most recently covered by Street Sense.

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NEW
TDN
RISING STAR

7th-Fair Grounds, \$46,000, Alw (NW1X), Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 3-18, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:10.11, ft.

AIN'T NO ELMERS, f, 3, by Goldencents

1st Dam: Voussoir, by Arch

2nd Dam: Blu Spur, by Northern Spur (Ire)

3rd Dam: Seeking the Blue, by Seeking the Gold

Sales history: \$37,000 RNA Ylg '18 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$57,600. O-John E & Iveta Kerber & Jon Lapczenski; B-John Kerber (KY); T-W Bret Calhoun. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton. Click for the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree.**

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THURSDAY'S INSIGHTS: SUPER DERBY WINNER GETS BACK TO WORK by Alan Carasso

Sponsored by Alex Nichols Agency

8th-OP, \$92K, Alw/Opt. Clm. (\$50K), post time: 5:51 p.m. ET

Winchell Thoroughbreds homebred **ROTATION (Tapit)** faces the starter for the first time since posting a 3/4-length victory in the GIII Super Derby S. last September. A son of Free Spin (Olympio), the gray is a full-brother to MGSW & GI Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile runner-up and current Darby Dan stallion Tapiture; SW & GSP Retap; and to MSW Remit, whose daughter Finite (Munnings) has won the Silverbulletday S. and GII Rachel Alexandra S. this season to earn the top spot on the **TDN Kentucky Oaks Top 10. TJCIS PPs**

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Ain't No Elmers (Goldencents) smashes FG allowance rivals to become a 'TDN Rising Star.'

**IN ORDER OF PURSE:**

9th-Gulfstream, \$45,000, Alw (NW2\$X), Opt. Clm (\$62,500), 3-18, 4yo/up, f/m, 5fT, :55.16, fm.

JAKARTA (m, 5, Bustin Stones--T's Stormy Wit, by Stormello) took a Penn National allowance in front-running fashion for Joe Beseker Nov. 27, then was scooped up by these connections for \$35,000 out of the same owner's dispersal at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December Mixed & HORA Sale two weeks later. Trying the turf for the first time as the 12-5 second choice here, Jakarta set a strong pace beneath Tyler Gaffalione and drew clear through the final furlong to score by 2 3/4 lengths. Sales history: \$35,000 4yo '19 EASDEC. Lifetime Record: 10-5-2-1, \$114,416.

Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

O-Three Diamonds Farm; B-Arrowwood Farm (PA); T-Michael J Maker.

**IN ORDER OF PURSE:**

2nd-Sam Houston Race, \$36,000, Msw, 3-18, 3yo, f, 1m, 1:40.65, ft.

LIGHTNING BUG (f, 3, Midnight Lute--Heat Sweep, by Latent Heat) was a well-bet 16-5 for her sloppy track-and-trip debut Jan. 20, but faded after attending the pace to finish a distant seventh. Quickly away from the inside gate, Lightning Bug took back into second while holding her spot at the fence throughout. Stablemate and 1-5 chalk Lady Laura (Quality Road) pushed away from the fence after a ground-saving trip and looked to have all the momentum in upper stretch, but Lightning Bug counterpunched and fought on gamely for a half-length success as the 33-10 second favorite. The duo put 7 1/2 lengths on pacesetter Lemon Roses (Lemon Drop Kid) in third. Lightning Bug has a 2-year-old half-sister named Intervene (Outwork) and a yearling full-sister. Heat Sweep most recently visited Cairo Prince. Sales history: \$15,000 Wlg '17 KEENOV; \$85,000 Ylg '18 FTKJUL; \$150,000 2yo '19 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$21,640. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#).**

O-Bloom Racing Stable LLC (Jeffrey Bloom); B-Fergus Galvin & Hill 'n' Dale Farms (KY); T-Steven M Asmussen.

10th-Sam Houston Race, \$36,000, (S), Msw, 3-17, 3yo, 1mT, 1:38.55, fm.

JOHN DOUGH (g, 3, Court Vision--I Am Jane Dough {MSW, \$169,457}, by My Golden Song), a 53-10 chance at first asking, drifted back to sit midfield from his rail draw for the opening five-eighths of a mile. Checked off heels nearing the quarter pole with the better part of a seven-length deficit to bridge, the homebred split rivals once into the clear and charged through between runners late to score by two lengths going away. The winner's treble stakes-winning dam is responsible for John Dough's 2-year-old full-sister Rosie Jane and was most recently bred to Dialed In. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$21,180. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#).**

O/B-Rose Mary Chandler (TX); T-Danny Pish.

U.S.-BRED/SIRED RUNNERS IN JAPAN

In this continuing series, Alan Carasso takes a look ahead at US-bred and/or conceived runners entered for the upcoming weekend at the tracks on the Japan Racing Association circuit, with a focus on pedigree and/or performance in the sales ring. Here are the horses of interest for this weekend, with a holiday Friday providing three days of racing (still spectator-free) at Nakayama and Hanshin Racecourses. The latter hosts the Listed Wakaba S. Saturday in which the promising American Seed (Tapit) makes his black-type debut:

Friday, March 20, 2020

4th-NKY, ¥13,830,000 (\$127k), Allowance, 3yo, 1800m

AINOA (f, 3, Blame--Summer On the Lawn, by First Defence) was unplaced in a pair of turf starts to begin her career, but made a smooth transition to the dirt last time, graduating narrowly in a 1600-meter event at Tokyo Feb. 15 ([video](#), gate 15). A \$185K Fasig-Tipton NY-Bred yearling and \$150K OBS April breezer, the Mar. 19 foal is out of a half-sister to three-time graded winner and GI Juddmonte Spinster S. runner-up Summer Applause (Harlan's Holiday). B-Fred Hertrich III, John D Fielding & Robert L Tribbett (NY)

Saturday, March 21, 2020

6th-HSN, ¥9,680,000 (\$89k), Maiden, 3yo, 2200mT

BONDING TIME (c, 3, Kitten's Joy--Imagistic, by Deputy Minister) is one of four winners--all full-siblings--from six to race, including SW & MGSP Gentleman's Kitten. The Maryland-bred is out of a winning half-sister to GSP Instrumentalist

(Bernstein) and was purchased in utero for \$30K at KEEJAN in 2017 before fetching \$65K as a KEENOV weanling and \$210K at KEESEP the next fall. *B-Country Life Farm & Imagistic LLC (MD)*

11th-HSN, Wakaba S.-Listed, ¥38,000,000 (\$350k), 3yo, 2000mT AMERICAN SEED (c, 3, Tapit--Sweet Talker, by Stormin Fever)

has yet to finish worse than second in his three starts to date, following a debut victory at this track Dec. 8 ([video](#), gate 5) with runner-up efforts at Kyoto Jan. 5 and at Tokyo Feb. 22, both over this trip. Don Adam's Courtlandt Farm acquired this dam for \$1.15 million at KEENOV about a month after her victory in the 2005 GI QE II Challenge Cup and has since bred from her SW & GSP Sweet Tapper (Tapit) and MGSP Perregaux (Distorted Humor). An \$825K KEESEP yearling, American Seed is out of a half to MGSW Silver Medallion (Badge of Silver) and the deeper female family includes GISWs Sam's Sister (Brother Derek) and Check the Label (Stormin Fever). *B-Courtlandt Farm (KY)*

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IN AUSTRALIA:

Kentucky Tornado, m, 5, **Mizzen Mast**--Somerset West, by Gone West. Sandown (Hillside), 3-18, Hcp. (\$29k), 2400mT, 2:29.06. B-Dr John A Chandler (KY). *Full to Seaspeak, GSW, \$270,262; and Innovation Economy (Dynaformer), SW, \$272,503. **Formerly Bluegrass Blizzard. ***\$27,000 Ylg '16 KEESEP; €45,000 RNA 2yo '17 ARQMAY.

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ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

1st-Fair Grounds, \$41,000, (S), Opt. Clm (\$30,000), 3-18, 3yo, 5 1/2ft, 1:05.19, fm.

KEYS TO THE PALACE (g, 3, Palace--Heavenly Alibi, by Closing Argument) Lifetime Record: 5-2-0-0, \$53,700.

O-William & Carolyn Kline; B-Morning Line Thoroughbreds LLC (LA); T-Joe O Duhon. *\$17,000 Ylg '18 ESLYRL; \$30,000 RNA 2yo '19 OBSAPR.



6th-Sam Houston Race, \$37,000, 3-18, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10.36, ft.

KATS SECOND SILVER (g, 5, Silver City--Red Thread, by Devil His Due) Lifetime Record: SP, 30-5-7-4, \$124,627. O-Zachary Roush; B-Wayne Sanders & Larry Hirsch (TX); T-Karl Broberg. *Full to Kat's Infatuation, SW, \$103,324.

2nd-Mahoning Valley, \$31,300, (S), 3-18, (NW2L), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:13.26, ft.

DA DUDE (g, 3, Big Atlantic--Becky Becky Becky, by Pioneering) Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-1, \$39,500. O/B-Richard L Alderson (OH); T-Larry E Smith. *Full to Kelly's Pride, SW, \$128,301.

4th-Mahoning Valley, \$31,300, (S), 3-18, (NW2L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:14.26, ft.

CHECK OUT LINE (f, 4, Line of David--Check the Math, by Unaccounted For) Lifetime Record: 12-2-2-2, \$59,461. O-Holly Delaney; B-Lowell F Allen (OH); T-Richard Zielinski. *1/2 to Ridge Defense (Cactus Ridge), SP, \$241,552.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Instafamous, c, 3, **City Zip**--Tara Court, by Giant's Causeway. Sam Houston, 3-18, 1mT, 1:38.99. B-Keene Ridge Racing LLC (KY). *\$170,000 Wlg '17 KEENOV; \$220,000 Ylg '18 KEESEP.

Promises Forever, f, 3, **Girolamo**--Apleasantnight, by Pleasant Tap. Mahoning Valley, 3-18, 5 1/2ft, 1:07.20. B-Joe & Jim Dodgen (MD). \$22,000 Ylg '18 FTKOCT. *1/2 to Mary n' Eileen (Indy King), MSW, \$228,979.

Guilty Lady, f, 3, **Guilt Trip**--Hot Talent (SW, \$387,850), by Alphabet Soup. Fair Grounds, 3-18, (S), 7 1/2ft, 1:35.13. B-Montgomery Equine Center (LA). \$8,500 Wlg '17 ESLMIX. *1/2 to Hot Zapper (Ghostzapper), SW, \$166,285; 1/2 to Big Game Baby (Gold Tribute), SW, \$106,822.

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My City Girl, f, 3, **My Golden Song**--City Girl Pearl, by City Street. Sam Houston Race, 3-18, 6f, 1:12.83. B-Reynaldo A Sandoval & Emilio Govea (OK). *Won in dead heat.

Speed On Tap, f, 3, **Tapit**--Speedinthruthecity (MSW & MGSP, \$402,751), by City Zip. Sam Houston Race, 3-18, 6f, 1:12.83. B-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC (KY). *Full to Nitrous, SW & MGISP, \$412,246. **Won in dead heat.

Kashears, g, 4, **Euroears**--Gabby Wears Gucci, by Montreal Red. Sam Houston Race, 3-18, (S), (C), 1mT, 1:39.23. B-Kaylafarms LLC (TX).



- BIG ATLANTIC**, Da Dude, g, 3, o/o Becky Becky Becky, by Pioneering. ALW, 3-18, Mahoning Valley
- BUSTIN STONES**, Jakarta, m, 5, o/o T J's Stormy Wit, by Stormello. AOC, 3-18, Gulfstream
- CITY ZIP**, Instafamous, c, 3, o/o Tara Court, by Giant's Causeway. MSW, 3-18, Sam Houston
- COURT VISION**, John Dough, g, 3, o/o I Am Jane Dough, by My Golden Song. MSW, 3-17, Sam Houston
- EUROEARS**, Kashears, g, 4, o/o Gabby Wears Gucci, by Montreal Red. MCL, 3-18, Sam Houston
- GIROLAMO**, Promises Forever, f, 3, o/o Apleasantnight, by Pleasant Tap. MSW, 3-18, Mahoning Valley
- GOLDENCENTS**, Ain't No Elmers, f, 3, o/o Voussoir, by Arch. AOC, 3-18, Fair Grounds
- GUILT TRIP**, Guilty Lady, f, 3, o/o Hot Talent, by Alphabet Soup. MSW, 3-18, Fair Grounds
- LINE OF DAVID**, Check Out Line, f, 4, o/o Check the Math, by Unaccounted For. ALW, 3-18, Mahoning Valley
- MIDNIGHT LUTE**, Lightning Bug, f, 3, o/o Heat Sweep, by Latent Heat. MSW, 3-18, Sam Houston
- MY GOLDEN SONG**, My City Girl, f, 3, o/o City Girl Pearl, by City Street. MSW, 3-18, Sam Houston
- PALACE**, Keys to the Palace, g, 3, o/o Heavenly Alibi, by Closing Argument. AOC, 3-18, Fair Grounds
- SILVER CITY**, Kats Second Silver, g, 5, o/o Red Thread, by Devil His Due. ALW, 3-18, Sam Houston
- TAPIT**, Speed On Tap, f, 3, o/o Speedinthruthecity, by City Zip. MSW, 3-18, Sam Houston

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SEASON CONTINUES AMID UNCERTAINTY IN FRANCE



"We're managing through it." - Aga Khan Studs manager Georges Rimaud (pictured left) | Zuzanna Lupa

By Kelsey Riley

With France on Tuesday placed under a mandatory 15-day lockdown, whereby all but 'essential' outings are prohibited, the likelihood of the Thoroughbred breeding season continuing during the COVID-19 pandemic has been called into question. Though government directives are changing day-to-day—and rumours are spreading as quickly as the coronavirus itself—as of Wednesday afternoon it was business almost as usual at major studs in the Normandy region.

"Things tend to change very quickly and there is a certain amount of [speculation] going around on Twitter and elsewhere suggesting the breeding season should stop and that the vets should not do repro work, but we haven't received any official notice of anything as such," said Georges Rimaud, manager of the Aga Khan's studs in France. "If you read what is on the internet and Twitter, you'd think everything is going to close down, but we've had no indication of it officially, and I try to not listen to all the rumours and try to stick to the rules. We've had no indication that we should stop the breeding season at this stage."

Cont. p2

IRELAND TO RACE ON WITH RESTRICTIONS

Irish horse racing has been given the go-ahead to continue behind closed doors with "greater restrictions" and without any overseas runners.

Citing the need to maintain income and employment for people working in the industry, the board of Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) came to the decision during a meeting on Wednesday afternoon.

"These are unprecedented and sombre times and we are seeking the best ways to support the racing community and industry throughout what lies ahead," said Nicky Hartery, chairman of Horse Racing Ireland. "Health and welfare of employees and industry participants is the prime consideration and within that context, we have introduced protocols which can allow racing to continue and thousands of families who rely on the sector to maintain a livelihood. This will be kept under review on a daily basis and we are also planning measures for reprogramming fixtures as it becomes required. Changes to the programme will be separately announced." **Cont. p6**



Racing in Ireland continues at Dundalk on Friday | Racing Post

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

UPSTART COLT TOPS OBS WEDNESDAY

A colt by Upstart brought \$600,000 to top the second session of the OBS March 2-Year-Old Sale on Wednesday. **Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.**

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Season Continues Amid Uncertainty In France Cont. from p1

“We’re managing through it,” Rimaud said. “Mares are being covered as we speak. We’re a little bit tense because we’re probably going to have some different rules tonight or maybe the next day--more specific rules regarding the breeding season and whether we’ll be allowed to keep taking mares to the breeding shed. I don’t know what will happen.”

Nicolas de Chambure, general manager of Haras d’Etreham, said he is hopeful the current protocol will last through the initial 15-day lockdown.

“I think those sorts of decisions [closing breeding sheds] might be made after the first 15 days when they’ll have to decide how long [the lockdown] continues and if it has to go to a stricter level or not,” he said. “But this could also change from today to tomorrow.”



“As of [Wednesday] afternoon, it looks like we’re still going to be able to take our mares to the shed.” - Nicolas de Chambure | Zuzanna Lupa

De Chambure said stud farms had consulted last week to come up with an agreed list of protocols for safely navigating the breeding season, including the completion of paperwork electronically and drivers and visiting personnel remaining in their vehicles. He admitted it has been “a little bit difficult” because of what he described as mixed messages from government.

“The government says we need to try to keep working and keep businesses running as much as we can, and some others are saying we need to close everything that isn’t essential,” de Chambure said. “There are different messages going around and I think that’s what scares people a bit, is not really knowing what is legal to do and what isn’t. It’s been 48 hours of questioning

and trying to adapt. But as of [Wednesday] afternoon, it looks like we’re still going to be able to take our mares to the shed and the vets will still be able to do their work.” **Cont. p3**

IN THE EYES of the EXPERTS

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Season Continues Amid Uncertainty In France Cont.

The lockdown has meant that horse van drivers are required to carry paper work explaining their movements.

“We’re still able to move the horses to the breeding sheds and back under special regulations; you need to fill out forms and be ready to show them to the police if you’re stopped,” Rimaud said. “Some people have been stopped and when they show the forms there is no problem at all. That’s the case for the moment, but this could change tonight. This is all as of today.

“We’re taking a lot of drastic measures here when they arrive on the farm. The drivers are not allowed to get out of the truck.

We take care of the mare, and we ask people not to bring the foals with the mares so we can avoid having too many staff working around them. We’ve limited the number of staff because we have some staff that can’t come to work; because of the lockdown they have to keep their children at home and for many reasons can’t come to work. So we have about two-thirds of the normal staff on the farm.”

The Order National des Veterinaires on Tuesday issued a notice advising veterinarians to suspend any non-emergency reproductive procedures on equines—a recommendation that, if followed, would hugely impact routines of monitoring mares’ cycles. Rimaud said, however, that has not been made a directive by the government or by the industry’s governing bodies.

“I’ve spoken with our vets about this,” Rimaud said. “They have asked the different regulating agencies—the vets’ associations, the breeders’ associations. There is another body in France, what we used to call the national stud which is now called IFCE, and it’s the body

that controls the breeding season in terms of administrative terms. We tend to follow their guidelines and they’re more or less the state body that’s governed by the minister of agriculture. They will tell us whatever we need to do. At the moment we’ve had absolutely no restrictions or specifics given to us as to how we should operate.”

EVERY DAY WE FEEL IT MORE AND MORE IN THIS COUNTRY. IT IS SERIOUS AND NOT SOMETHING TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.

Georges Rimaud

Cont. p4

IN THE EYES of the EXPERTS

“We are really happy with the filly. She is a good size for a first foal and has a lovely eye. Hopefully she will inherit some of the natural speed and ability of her sire.”

TIM GREDLEY, STETCHWORTH & MIDDLE PARK STUDS
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JUDDMONTE

Season Continues Amid Uncertainty In France Cont.

Rimaud was philosophical about such a challenge as dealing with an absence of vets for routine work.

“Whether the vets will stop repro work and come only for emergencies, we’ll see,” he said. “If that’s the case, that’s the case. We’ll deal with it. I’ve been at this job long enough to know how to operate without a vet. We might be able to still cover our own mares on the farm and we’ll see how it works. But hopefully it won’t get to that. We’re in close contact with the vets—at least on the phone—to know exactly how we’re going to operate the next day and so on and so forth.”

While the pandemic does threaten to close borders between countries and even stud farms themselves, the timing of it does mean that many mares are already where they need to be. Etreham stallions Wootton Bassett (GB) and Almanzor (Fr) will

each cover mares based across Europe, and de Chambure said most of those are already securely in France.

“Most of the mares coming from England, Ireland and Germany are here at this stage, and those that are not here yet, at this stage they’re still coming,” he said. “We have a couple coming next week from England. This could change by next week but at this stage we’re still receiving those mares, and the transport companies have taken great measures as well; all the paperwork is done now electronically. Everybody is trying to adapt their routine to reduce contact as much as possible.”

The Aga Khan’s Siyouni (Fr) will also cover an international book, and Rimaud concurred that has not yet been significantly impacted.

“I’ve only had one person who has a mare foaling late in England that has canceled, this morning actually, which I can understand fully,” he said. **Cont. p5**



Haras d’Etreham’s Almanzor. Coronavirus has thus far had little impact on stallions’ books | Haras d’Etreham

IN THE EYES of the EXPERTS

“The Expert Eye colt out of Daring Life is a lovely individual with great presence and conformation. He also has definite markings like his sire and grandsire.”

PAUL CASHMAN, RATHBARRY STUD
2020 b c Expert Eye - Daring Life (Cape Cross)

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JUDDMONTE

Season Continues Amid Uncertainty In France Cont.

He added, “But it’s normal to lose one or two mares throughout the year because they have issues and can’t be bred. We’ve already bred over 85 mares so we’re well on the way. I actually had some mares leave for Ireland this morning and some mares yesterday morning that left for England, so there doesn’t seem to be restrictions on shipping mares from France to England or Ireland at this stage, but that is as of today. That could change tomorrow.”

Some shifts in mare bookings is not unusual in the slightest during even the most routine breeding seasons, and Rimaud reminded that the current situation is not dissimilar to 2019, when Europe was affected by an outbreak of equine influenza.

“Even if they don’t close the borders, some breeders [outside France] might change their plans and say, ‘let’s just forget about [shipping] this year,’” he said. “Last year when we had the equine flu around during the breeding season, we lost a few mares; breeders just didn’t take a chance shipping them to France not knowing when they’d be able to get back. We’ve come across this regularly, but this could be more serious if there’s a complete lockdown of movement between countries, although I don’t think it will get to that extent.”

Rimaud admitted that while Irish and English breeders are more spoiled for choice of stallions, French breeders would be hard hit if mares were not allowed to leave the country.

“It would be traumatic for our breeding season,” he said. “In France we have a lot of mares go overseas for the breeding season. We do have some good stallions but we don’t have everything we need, so we do have mares going back and forth. If that was to stop, that would be a problem, but we’ll deal with it as it comes.”

All racing in France was cancelled on Monday through Apr. 15, and while such cancellations in France, England and Germany are not yet set to affect the Classics directly, that could still change. De Chambure said he hopes the major European racing nations will convene—from a safe social distance, of course—soon enough and be proactive in designing contingency plans in the event that the Classic season needs to be resurrected.

“We just hope that France, England, Ireland and Germany will get together as soon as possible to set up a plan for when racing

resumes to try to adapt a bit, like **what has been done with the Kentucky Derby**—to see if we can redo our Classic season from June, July or August,” he said. “Hopefully [in the event that Classics are affected] there will be talk to adapt and to give the Classic generation a chance to have their season a bit later, but at least to not lose the season for a whole generation.

“For the 2-year-olds it’ll be fine if they only start running during the summer—that’s ok, we can manage that—and the older horses as well, but it’s more for the 3-year-old crop. If we can stage those races a bit later in the year that would be a plus.”

While the situation is changing on a daily basis or more, Rimaud suggested the best thing to do is carry on how rules and regulations allow.

“We have to observe the rules that are set as we go along, because this is a serious problem,” he said. “Every day we feel it more and more in this country; it is serious and not something to be taken lightly. But we’re trying to still live through it.”



A sign denoting an isolation area | Camille Vercken

Biosecurity and Balance

The Thoroughbred industry is nothing if not a tight-knit community, and a common consensus is that stud farms have come together to enact protocols in an effort to combat the spread of coronavirus during the covering season.

The most talked-about measures include completing paperwork electronically; allowing handlers from the

covering shed to handle mares and requiring van drivers and visitors to remain in their vehicles, and in some cases leaving foals at home to reduce the number of personnel required in the shed.

Camille Vercken advises stud farms on biosecurity measures through her French-based company Equiways, and she suggests some additional measures we can all take to ensure the safety of those around us. Social distancing means conducting more business by phone or email, and she advises to remember to disinfect phones and keyboards, too.

She suggests sending just one person on a breeding shed run, and for the stallion farms to disinfect all handles on the horse box after loading the mare.

Running a farm requires constant visits by farriers, veterinarians and various suppliers, and Vercken suggests keeping deliveries only to what is necessary at this time. **Cont. p6**

Season Continues Amid Uncertainty In France Cont.

"We're suggesting to reduce deliveries and suppliers to a minimum," she said. "Farriers, vets, feed and medication delivery, and basically that's it. If you can avoid delivery of anything, avoid it, because each delivery is a risk for your staff."

Vercken suggests making infographics with government-supplied information readily visible to workers.

"Misinformation can play such a bad role," she said. "What I would advise is posting infographic information from the government on every barn entrance. That way employees can have good information about good practices. That's always a positive thing to do when you're a manager; tell your employees, from a government source, what they can do, what are the first signs and everything."

While we are working against the unknown, especially not knowing how long the coronavirus can live on an animal, Vercken cautions against being overcautious.

"We are applying the principle of precaution," she said. "We don't want to make silly rules, like disinfecting your mare or something like that. We are trying to have a good balance between the amount of information we have, what we can do without completely freezing our activities and business and have a good balance between them. I'm pretty confident that the virus wouldn't be very resilient on a horse, but I don't have any scientific publication to rely on.

"For me, it's all about balance: how can you protect yourself efficiently without doing something completely unnecessary like fully disinfecting all your barns. Keep some disinfectant for when you have equine flu or something like that. There are people calling me saying, 'you should see, I've disinfecting all my barns.' I say, 'don't do that, there's no point. When you get strangles you're going to need your disinfectant.'"

"It's common sense," Vercken said. "Avoid any unnecessary circulation of suppliers. Tell your people to stay at home if they feel sick—don't be a warrior."

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Ireland To Race On With Restrictions Cont. from p1

As the season progresses, those changes will reflect the fact that Wednesday's decision includes the fact that no evening or double meetings will be allowed take place, the maximum of one meeting per day designed to reduce the impact on medical resources. No owners will be allowed to attend and jockeys' weight allowances will be increased by 2lb from Friday owing to the fact that they will not be allowed to use racecourse saunas.

Hartery added, "We have consulted with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine throughout this process and we will continue to strictly adhere to the Government and HSE advice. We have made it clear at all times that our medical

facilities and personnel will be available for the Government to use if necessary—that will take precedence above any other consideration."

On Monday, France and Germany had followed the example set by Italy and Spain in bringing racing to a temporary halt as those countries brought in stricter restrictions for residents. Britain adopted the same policy on Tuesday, stopping all racing until at least the end of April. At present, racing in France and Germany is off until mid-April.

"This is clearly a rapidly changing situation and Horse Racing Ireland will continue to liaise with the relevant Government Departments and with our health advisors," said HRI chief executive Brian Kavanagh. "The executive sub-committee of Horse Racing Ireland and the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board is meeting daily to assess the situation, and the Board of Horse Racing Ireland will continue to convene as required.



Brian Kavanagh | *Racing Post*

"Racecourses by their nature offer opportunities for social distancing that few other workplaces can. Nothing in Irish life is as it was a week ago, and in the same way, these are not race fixtures as we previously knew them, they are big open-air sites with very few people present and nobody on site if they are not involved: once a jockey or trainer has finished their business for the afternoon, they are required to leave. Furthermore, we have carried out risk assessments according to each individual racecourse facility, and some fixtures may be subject to greater restrictions and limitations to ensure social distancing is easily achievable and maintained."

He added, "The board paid tribute to the flexibility shown by stable staff, jockeys, trainers, owners and employees of the IHRB, HRI, the media and broadcasters. Strict measures were imposed on them almost immediately last Friday but their actions, care and vigilance have ensured that social distancing is being observed and racecourses continue to be a safe working environment." [Cont. p7](#)

Ireland To Race On With Restrictions Cont.

The next racing fixture in Ireland is an eight-race all-weather meeting at Dundalk on Friday evening, while the turf season will start on Sunday at Naas, which gets underway with the first 2-year-old race of the year in Europe.

Irish Fixture Schedule Changed

After it was **confirmed that racing would go on in Ireland**, a new fixture schedule was released by Horse Racing Ireland. The following meetings were rescheduled through Mar. 29:

1. Mar. 20: Dundalk (afternoon)
2. Mar. 21: Thurles
3. Mar. 22: Downpatrick
4. Mar. 23: Naas (from Mar. 22)
5. Mar. 24: Clonmel
6. Mar. 25: Dundalk (afternoon from Mar. 27)
7. Mar. 26: Cork
8. Mar. 27: Navan (from Mar. 28)
9. Mar. 28: The Curragh (from Mar. 29)
10. Mar. 29: Limerick

Trainers are advised that entry and declaration dates for the rescheduled meetings are likely to have changed. For more information, go to www.hri.ie.

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CORONAVIRUS: THE VIEW FROM HQ

By Emma Berry

NEWMARKET, UK—It's hard not to feel like Christmas has just been cancelled. The Flat turf season doesn't revolve around Newmarket, of course. There are more than 14,000 horses in training in Britain and only about 2,500 of those are based in the East Anglian town, but that does make it the busiest training centre and, as the place where it all began, Newmarket lays claim to being the sport's unofficial HQ.

Having emerged from the wettest and windiest of winters with the start of the turf now just days rather than months away, this is usually the time of year when spring isn't just in the air but in the step of every trainer in town. But, with one month to go before Newmarket should have burst back into action for the Craven meeting, with its informative Classic trials held in tandem with the Tattersalls Craven Breeze-up Sale just up the road, all hopes of a return to action on the Rowley Mile, and on any racecourse in the country for the next six weeks, have now been dashed.

Trainers are, by nature, singular creatures. But in this situation, whether it's the champion trainer John Gosden with a string well into three figures or one of the town's many 'boutique' trainers, there is very much a sense of all for one and one for all.

And let's not forget, this isn't an equine flu outbreak, like that

which brought British racing to a temporary halt in early 2019. This is a virus with, as yet, no vaccine. One which has already brought great swathes of the world to a standstill, grounding flights, turning usually lively cities into ghost towns.

In many respects, the training fraternity has to be thankful that the behind-the-scenes preparation can continue with a workforce that is largely healthy and conducting outdoor work in which social distancing is not too much of a problem. Because the show must go on. Once the tapes fly for an albeit belated start to the Flat season, horses and jockeys must be fit to bounce straight back into action, whether it's the Guineas meeting, the Derby, Royal Ascot or, God forbid, beyond.



Trainers James Fanshawe and William Haggas socializing from a distance on their hacks | Emma Berry

From sun up at around 6 a.m. on Wednesday, the morning after Britain joined France, Germany, Italy and Spain in putting a stop to all race meetings for the time being, horses start to filter from the many stables in town onto the Heath. On Warren Hill, Nick Patton, managing director of Jockey Club Estates which owns the 2,500-acre training grounds in Newmarket, is already deep in conversation with James Tate, whose string is making its way out for the first canter of the day.

"For us it's business as usual, although of course we are taking precautions and asking the team working on the Heath to keep apart from each other," says Patton. "Many of them are on their own in tractors anyway but we are taking every precaution. If the worst comes to the worst we will switch to the protocols we have in place for extreme weather and we will have to close parts of the Heath but at the moment everything is running as normal."

Trainers come and go from the hill, some in four-wheel drives, others on four-legged friends. Michael Bell is always mounted, usually on a robust hack which doubles as a hunter for use across the hedges of the Cottesmore country. **Cont. p8**

Coronavirus: the View From HQ Cont.

This morning it's the solid grey Miller, who pauses obligingly for the trainer to share his thoughts on the situation.

"It's a bit surreal really because we've got all these horses ready to run and now we've got to mark time," Bell says. "So it's very frustrating, but in the bigger picture we're a small cog in the works so we've just got to bide our time and hope that we get back to racing as soon as possible."

Ed Vaughan is another out watching his string and as he casts his eye over last season's G2 Darley Prix de Pomone winner Dame Malliot (GB) (Champs Elysees {GB}) having an easy canter on Long Hill, he is philosophical about the situation.

He says, "Like everyone, I hope we're back racing soon but one of the few positives is that I was watching a news clip about Venice and suddenly everything looks cleaner. The air has improved with few planes flying and maybe one good thing to come out of it is that the world is given a bit of a detox."

On the business of racing, however, Vaughan expresses concern in the short term for those working in the breeze-up sector with likely disruption to the forthcoming sales, and for trainers like himself who sell horses on to race abroad.

Like many hoteliers and pub landlords, jockeys have suddenly found themselves with little to do. Plenty of them are keeping both fit and busy by riding out in Newmarket. James Doyle is in William Haggas's string, while Jamie Spencer is aboard one of David Simcock's horses.

Referring to one of Godolphin's mainstays, who also forged a Classic-winning partnership with his former stable star Sea Of Class (Ire), Haggas says, "We've had James Doyle in this morning and I think it's going to be tough for

someone like Charlie [Appleby] who has the 6-4 favourite for the 2000 Guineas [Pinatubo] and not knowing whether it's going

to be run on May the whatever; it could be run in August, it may not be run at all."

While Bell opts for a sturdier chariot, Haggas and his neighbour James Fanshawe both have former racehorses as hacks, Cape Classic (Ire) for the former, and 18-year-old Buster Hyvonen (Ire) for Fanshawe, who has joined the debate and chimes in with, "I used to have [G1 Prix du Cadran winner] Invermark as my hack and he was so naughty, he'd bury me every day."

After pausing to watch Fanshawe's treble Group 1 winner The Tin Man (GB) (Equiano {Fr}) breeze past, it's back to the serious conversation, and Haggas is concerned by the already significant disruption to the American Classics with the Kentucky Derby having been postponed until September, fearful of a similarly long delay for Britain's big races.

He says, "It's difficult because there's so much uncertainty but we've got to carry on. Of course it's going to suit the horses who were a bit behind and they will be trained as normal because they wouldn't be ready until May anyway, but with the ones who were ready to go we will just have to slow down a bit and not work them for a fortnight and see what happens."

Haggas continues, "These are very unusual circumstances and nobody really knows how it is going to evolve. The fact that the

Kentucky Derby has been put back to September, I mean we are all trying to read between the lines to see the signs and that's not a good sign because it completely disjoints [the American] programme. But they clearly think that racing may not be going to happen until July or August until the earliest. I don't know what's going to happen to the Derby, to Royal Ascot—who knows?"

Pragmatism abounds, however, and David Simcock has decided not to travel to Dubai to oversee **Desert Encounter (Ire)**

(Halling) and **Spanish Mission** (Noble Mission {GB}) on World Cup night. **Cont. p9**



Click above to view Emma Berry chatting with several trainers on the coronavirus.



Jenny Simcock and Jamie Spencer lead David Simcock's string | *Racing Post*



Michael Bell's string on Warren Hill | Emma Berry

Coronavirus: the View From HQ Cont.

Instead, his focus is on keeping his Newmarket stable ticking over until racing can resume. "It's a big change for us," he admits. "We would normally still have an all-weather team running and we've had to pull up stumps with them. Not a lot is going to change in the yard. We'll take precautions and measures with a lot of sanitising material but the horses will train as normal, they will use the Heath as normal. We will probably cut down a little bit on their exercise but hopefully we can carry on and we'll be ready to start the Flat season in a month, six weeks, two months, whenever. But this is just something that we have to deal with and there's a lot worse going on in the world."

While trainers can continue with their daily routines up to a point, the immediate future is on hold for Newmarket Racecourse, which should have been welcoming its first racegoers through the gates for 2020 on Apr. 14 for the start of the three-day Craven meeting.

Amy Starkey is the regional director for the east region of the Jockey Club Racecourses portfolio, meaning she is in charge of jumps tracks Huntingdon and Market Rasen as well as Nottingham and Newmarket, which is home to two racecourses and to Starkey herself.

"We are doing everything we can to be ready when we do return to racing and in the meantime we are trying to work with the racing industry and our community," she says. "For me personally, I absolutely love the place. Newmarket is not only my home but it also feels like it is the home of Flat racing and we are a family. We all have to pull together at challenging times to get through things and that's kind of how it feels to me at the moment."

She adds, "It's an ever-evolving picture and it is very challenging. As and when we are in a position to stage racing again we will be absolutely at the forefront to serve our industry

but in all of this, public health must come first and we can't race without medical provision."

It is the 'when' which has most racing people understandably anxious in the current situation, as the end of April is by no means a definitive deadline for the current shutdown. As BHA chief executive Nick Rust said when announcing the decision to stop racing, it is one which will be "under constant review". The general consensus from Newmarket on Wednesday morning was that racing could be off for significantly longer, bringing not just race-planning headaches but also the very real fear that the significant economic damage that the country will suffer will impact upon the ownership ranks.

A more positive note on which to end came courtesy of Tom Clover, leading his second lot out to exercise on his hack. "We just have to keep smiling, don't we?" he said, with a smile, as he rode past.

Yes, we do.

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What They're Saying on Coronavirus

JOHN O'CONNOR, Ballylinch Stud

Obviously it's a concerning time for everyone in the industry. This is a very rapidly changing and volatile situation. What might be valid for today what might not be valid tomorrow or next week so I think we can only deal with the situation as we find it.

Obviously this is a very busy time on stud farms anyway, being a very crucial time with foaling and covering of mares. It's important that we adopt policies and procedures that minimize the risk of having an outbreak amongst any of the staff on any of the farms. As farm managers we have a responsibility for both the staff who work on the farms and the horses they take care of. It's a significant responsibility. [Cont. p10](#)



John O'Connor | Tattersalls

John O'Connor Cont.

Interestingly I think stud farms may be uniquely prepared to deal with this challenge because we're used to implementing biosecurity measures in relation to the horses on stud farms. I think these can be relatively easily extended to reduce the risks to staff. Most stud farms also have their stabling facilities dispersed over a wide area, thus allowing staff to be segregated into smaller groups. I think that would be helpful in reducing the risk of a major outbreak in the breeding industry.

It's difficult to be too prescriptive about the situation because it's changing so rapidly, and it's certainly a volatile situation that parameters can change very rapidly.

DAVID COX, Baroda Stud

I was at the Irish National Stud, Kildangan and Morrinstown Lattin today and a staff member was in Coolmore. The studs had strict rules that you could not leave your vehicle. Their staff were wearing gloves, they unloaded the mares, covered them and put them back in the box. It was good to see this implemented as the sooner we stop spreading the virus the sooner things will get back to normal. Hopefully the movement of horses will continue so the breeding season can continue to roll on. I feel for the breeze-up men and women as they are in no man's land at the moment.

DAVID REDVERS, Tweenhills Stud

On the cancellation of British racing: "I hope that it does seem to have been an extreme measure, in retrospect, in three weeks' time. But, at this stage, I don't think there was any option but to cease activities. There are massive concerns for horse racing and for the breeding industry insomuch as early 2-year-olds won't get the opportunity to run, possibly. And obviously there are the breeze ups, and there are an awful lot of people under an awful lot of financial pressure.

"I'd rather hoped that they would take a slightly lighter touch and rather than setting a definite date that we would review on a fortnightly basis, so as to enable there to be hope. But, that is as it is. In the meantime, we can all look forward to the Guineas meeting in the beginning of May as, hopefully, an opportunity to start again.

"I would like to think that if the news doesn't worsen, we might be able to look at possibly pushing on one or two flat meetings in the run up to that, where early 2-year-olds get the opportunity to have a jump out and about, and what have you. But I can understand, with the stress of accident over hurdles and fences, that extra strain where possible shouldn't be put on the health services. So, I can understand that being a concern about continuing jump racing, until things become more apparent.

On the movement of horses: "there has been lots of discussion over the last week about options in the event that suddenly an all-out ban on movement goes in. But at the moment we've actually done a bit of shifting around the country, and in between France and here, with mares that we have booked in to stallions out there, and back here, so as to try and make as few changes to what had been planned in advance, as possible.

"I think the greater concern seems to be the commercial concerns and pressures that are being put on breeders who don't have the luxury of their own stallions and know full well that, if they can't get their mare covered, they're going to be in a very, very difficult place if they have to miss a year."

EUROPEAN NEWS

BRITISH RACING TO SEEK GOVERNMENT AID

The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) will lead a submission to government seeking financial support for those within the racing industry who are affected by the sport's suspension during the coronavirus pandemic.

Amid fears that many of those working in racing and subsidiary businesses, such as jockeys, race day support workers and transport companies, will face hardship as racing grinds to a halt, a number of the sport's senior executives met to discuss ways in which racing can benefit from the pledged financial package unveiled by Chancellor Rishi Sunak on Tuesday. The BHA has been in daily liaison with the government and on Wednesday its chief executive Nick Rust took part in a conference call with the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. [Cont. p11](#)



Nick Rust is in liaison with government | *Racing Post*

British Racing to Seek Government Aid Cont.

The NTF's Rupert Arnold, David Armstrong from the RCA, and Charlie Liverton representing The Horsemen's Group and the ROA attended a meeting with BHA chief executive Nick Rust and they later issued a joint statement, which read, "We know these are anxious times for everyone in our industry. Whilst everyone is worrying about the health of their families, we now face this huge disruption. We know people are worried about their jobs and the survival of their businesses. We are working round the clock to present the most powerful case we can to the UK and devolved governments.

"People will have many, many questions as a result of this uncertainty. We cannot answer them all at present and must focus on preparing a case that sets out clearly and carefully the issues we face as an industry. The need to look after the 14,000 horses in training and the many more who are part of the breeding industry will be central to that case. Their welfare must be maintained. We pride ourselves on the high standards of care for horses in racing and we will not let those drop.

"We would ask all those in racing to keep in touch with the organisations that represent their part of the sport. Questions from employers or employees should be directed through representative bodies, using existing contacts or new ones created where those exist. The BHA and senior executives, supported by the Industry COVID19 group, will offer support as appropriate.

"As we present our case, we also know that there will be a point at which racing can return. We want to ensure the industry remains ready to resume whenever that's possible. That will start money flowing back to the businesses that support us and to the rural economy. We know that's well understood by government."

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FRENCH CLASSICS COULD BE RESCHEDULED

Officials at France Galop are already considering the possibility of having to reschedule this year's Classics due to the coronavirus pandemic. The ruling body of French racing on Monday announced the suspension of all meetings between Mar. 17 and Apr. 15, as the country attempts to get to grips with the outbreak of Covid-19. The French 2000 and 1000 Guineas at ParisLongchamp are not due to be run until May 10, with the French Derby and French Oaks at Chantilly even later in the calendar--scheduled for May 31 and June 14, respectively.

However, France Galop's chief executive Olivier Delloye is keen to plan ahead in case a further delay is required. Asked whether those major races could be rescheduled if required, Delloye told *Sky Sports Racing*, "Yes, most likely. That's the sort

of work that is being done with the team at France Galop. They are building some different scenarios, depending on when racing can resume--and at what date we can set the main Classics in the calendar, and what sort of races we could introduce.

"It's being worked out. I can't tell you more at the moment, because it is at the preliminary stages, but that is one of the priorities on the table at the moment."



ParisLongchamp, home of the French Guineas | *Scoop Dyga*

Delloye admits that like their counterparts in Britain and Ireland, trainers, owners and breeders in Ireland are concerned about the financial impact of the cancellation of racing.

He added, "We suspended racing until mid-April as it corresponds to the dates that have been indicated by the French Government, when it decided to close down all the bars and restaurants and public activity. Obviously we don't know whether we be able to resume racing at that stage. Only the coming days and weeks will give us a proper indication of our ability to resume racing.

"There is a mix of understanding and also worry [from horsemen]. People need to have their horses race and people are not necessarily in a healthy financial situation, so every day without racing is a day where people lose money--and they cannot really afford it. People are worried about the length of the crisis and wondering when racing can resume.

"There is no negative reaction to the racing authorities as everybody understands there is no other choice but to stop racing for the moment, but they are very much worried for their own situation."

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DAM OF MARSHA DIES OF COLIC

Elite Racing Club's **Marlinka (GB)** (Marju {Ire}), the dam of champion and MG1SW Marsha (Ire) (Acclamation {GB}), sustained an attack of colic and, although she underwent emergency surgery, she could not be saved, the club tweeted. Her Showcasing (GB) filly was also lost.

Bred and raced by the Elite Racing Club, the 12-year-old was a daughter of the Barathea (Ire) mare Baralinka (Ire). A listed winner at two in France, the bay's first foal was the G3 Coral Charge Sprint S. victor Judicial (Ire) (Iffraaj {GB}), and the outstanding sprinter Marsha was her second. Successful in the G1 Nunthorpe S. and G1 Prix de l'Abbaye, Marsha also filled the frame in a further two top-flight contests, before being knocked down to Coolmore's MV Magnier for 6,000,000gns during the Tattersalls December Mares Sale in 2017. Marsha foaled a filly by Galileo in January.

Marlinka has the winning Excelebration (Ire) mare Marseille (Ire) to her credit, too, as well as the 5-year-old horse Magistrate (Ire) (Cape Cross {Ire}), the placed 4-year-old filly Loretta (Ire) (Iffraaj {GB}), the unraced sophomore filly Lady Angela (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}) and a yearling colt by Frankel (GB).

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Marsha | *Racing Post*



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COOLMORE'S TRIPLE THREAT



Piero | Coolmore

By Bren O'Brien

With **Justify (USA)**, **American Pharoah (USA)** and **Piero** on its Australian roster, Coolmore is well-accustomed to the concept of the Triple Crown, but as things stand the global powerhouse could give that phrase a whole new meaning in Australia, with Coolmore stallions currently leading the way in each of the three major categories.

Piero's amazing two-week run of success, including the wins of Shadow Hero in the G1 Randwick Guineas and Regal Power in the All-Star Mile, has seen him leap to the top of the General Sires table ahead of Yarraman Park's **I Am Invincible** and Arrowfield's **Snitzel**.

Rubick, meanwhile, has extended his advantage at the top of the Champion Second-Season Sires Table and he looks certain to claim that title, some \$6.3 million ahead of his nearest rival, Newgate's **Deep Field**.

And in the first season sires ranks, **Pride Of Dubai** has a clear lead of \$370,000 with six individual winners and a stakes winner to his credit in what has been an impressive campaign from his first crop.

Looking back through the history books, the achievement of one stud sweeping the 'Triple Crown' of Australian Sires table is rare and possibly unprecedented.

It is also a vindication of Coolmore's strategy of identifying local stallion prospects from the racetrack and giving them their best opportunity at stud. All of that trio Piero, Rubick and Pride

Of Dubai, raced under different ownership before being identified and purchased by Coolmore to stand at Jerrys Plains in the Hunter Valley. Significantly all are by Champion Australian Stallions.

Piero Ascends to the Top

Piero was always expected to ascend to the role of leading contender to be Australia's Champion Sire but his place at the top of the sire rankings has probably come quicker than most would have anticipated.

As the last horse to win Australia's 2-year-old Triple Crown of the G1 Golden Slipper S., the G1 Sires Produce S. and the G1 Champagne S., Piero was a clear priority for Coolmore, who amid strong competition got the deal done with owner Greg Kolivos to stand the son of Lonhro.

"Everyone has been watching Piero after what he did as a 2-year-old," Coolmore Australia Principal Tom Magnier said at the time. "He is one of the best 2-year-olds we have seen in over 30 years and he trained on to win Group 1 races as a 3-year-old.

"Coolmore is lucky to be standing this horse--it is very exciting for all of us involved."

Standing at \$77,000 (inc GST) in his first year, Piero got a huge book of 199 mares. Being an outcross to the Danehill (USA) line, he also attracted some top quality mares from that bloodline. To this point of his career, he has had particular success with the daughters of Redoute's Choice, with that nick producing 28 winners, including seven stakes-winners.

It was not surprising that given his own record and the quality mares he received, that he would finish as the Champion First-Season Sire of 2016/17, with seven winners, including his first stakes winner Tulip.

He then went on to dominate the Second-Season Sires race the following season, thanks to a weight of quality horses, something that has become his hallmark. He had 64 winners and eight of them won at stakes level as his progeny won over \$8.5 million. That included his first Group 1 winners, Pinot in the G1 VRC Oaks and Levendi in the G1 Australian Derby, underlining the versatility of the stock he was producing.

With another 107 winners and eight stakes winners in 2018/19 with three crops at the track, he continued to build and while his trajectory was headed skywards, it was expected he may take a couple of more years to overhaul the big two current Australian stallions, Snitzel, a triple champion, and his chief rival I Am Invincible.



Rubick | Coolmore

Less than two weeks ago, we did an article on the battle between these two stars for honours in 2019/20, with a reference to Pierro as a possible contender but an amazing run of results have changed the shape of the Sires' race.

Tracking Lonhro

It wasn't so much of a surprise to Coolmore, which has been tracking his trajectory closely, in particular in comparison to his own sire **Lonhro**, who was the Australia champion in 2010/11.

"Pierro has firmly established himself as one of the very best sires in the Australian racing. Thanks mainly to Shadow Hero and Regal Power in recent weeks he is now the leading sire in Australia, which has put him in a position to emulate his own sire by claiming Champion Sire honours in his fourth season with runners," Coolmore's Marketing and Nominations Tom Moore said. "In fact, at the exact same stage of their respective stud careers Pierro and Lonhro have both notched 21 stakes winners. What sets Pierro apart however, is his ability to consistently produce elite performers.

"He has produced 15 group winners and seven individual Group 1 winners, compared to Lonhro's nine group winners and one Group 1 winner at the same stage of his career. Additionally, over 30% of Pierro's stakes winners are Group 1 winners and all of his eight stakes winners this season are group winners, which are incredible statistics."

If Pierro was to maintain his lead all the way to the end of the season, at 10, he would become the youngest Champion Sire in Australia since barnmate Fastnet Rock in 2011/12, who did it at the same age. In recent times, only Redoute's Choice, who was nine when crowned champion in 2005/06, was younger.

Rubick Streets Away

Speaking of young sires, Rubick looks well poised to be challenging those top sires in the near future after an amazing

second season. The Everest victory of Yes Yes Yes (incidentally owned by Coolmore and set to feature on its roster in 2020), has certainly helped, but even without the \$6.6 million earned through that win, he would still be contending for leading Second-Season Sire.

The son of Encosta De Lago has had 32 winners in all in his second season, including Yes Yes Yes and Rubisaki at stakes level.

Pride of the Freshmen

That a Coolmore sire leads the way in the first-season sires battle is not surprising, but it is perhaps a little unexpected that it is Pride Of Dubai that is on top rather than **Vancouver**.

Both were elite 2-year-olds, with Pride Of Dubai, a son of Street Cry (Ire), a G1 Blue Diamond winner and Vancouver, who is by Medaglia D'Oro (USA) victorious in the G1 Golden Slipper S. Vancouver was the probably top seed from when they both went to stud in 2016, each standing at \$55,000, with Vancouver covering 200 mares compared to Pride of Dubai with 177.

Vancouver's progeny certainly proved more desirable at last year's yearling sales, with an average of \$180,886 and a median of \$125,000, while Pride Of Dubai averaged \$108,732, with a median of \$80,000.

But so far on the track, it has been the progeny of Pride Of Dubai that have been getting the job done. He has the advantage of having had more runners to the track, 18 in all (compared to Vancouver's 11), but he has also had a consistent flow of winners, with six in Australia and one in New Zealand.

Tanker set the scene with an early-season stakes win, while he has also had two stake placegetters in Bella Nipotina and Dubai Star.

Vancouver, who has had two winners, as well as three stakes-placegetters, is also well placed to be a top sire in Australian in the near future.



Pride of Dubai | Coolmore

When you consider that American Pharoah's first Australian crop hits the tracks in 2020/21 and Justify's two seasons later, plus the wealth of other emerging world class stallions it has on its Australian roster, Coolmore is well-poised to continue its domination for some years to come.



IN HONG KONG:

Sunshine Warrior, g, 5, **Pierro**--Keep The Peace (NZ) (MG1SW-NZ, US\$486,372), by Keeper. Happy Valley, 3-18, Hcp. (\$321k), 1650m, 1:39.96. B-SF Bloodstock LLC (NSW). *NZ\$170,000 Ylg '16 NZBJAN. **VIDEO**



IN HONG KONG:

Amazing Star, g, 5, **Darci Brahma**--Bright Abyss (USA) (SP-US, \$355,483), by Royal Academy (USA). Happy Valley, 3-18, Hcp. (NZ\$468k), 1200m, 1:09.09. B-Mrs H G & W G Bax. *\$30,000 Ylg '16 NZBJAN. **VIDEO**

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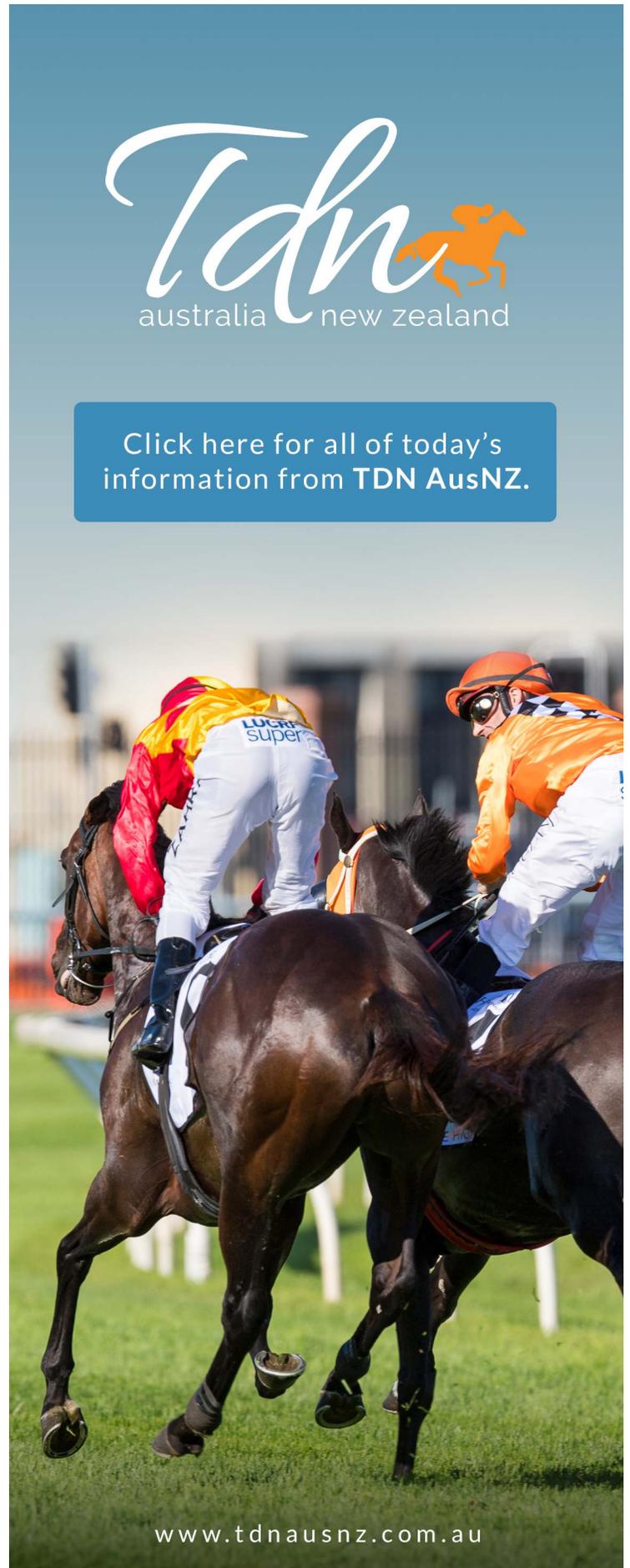
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