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## ILIUM BREAKS INTO RACING



In the winner's circle at Kentucky Downs | *Coady Photography*

by *Jessica Martini*

A lifelong racing fan, Angelo Freda decided to make his dream of racehorse ownership into a reality and, along with his son James, started Ilium Stables with the purchase of two yearlings at the 2018 Keeneland September Yearling Sale. Already with a stakes winner on its resume, the stable added a daughter of Into Mischief purchased for \$200,000 at last week's OBS March sale.

"This is something that I always had a dream about doing," Angelo Freda said. "But I didn't want to do it alone. My son does a lot of riding and I asked him if he wanted to get involved with me and he did. So we both decided to go ahead and do it."

The father-son team enjoyed quick success with one of those initial purchases at Keeneland in 2018. They acquired Jezebel's Kitten (Kitten's Joy) for \$40,000 and under a year later, the filly became the stable's first stakes winner when she came home 4 3/4 lengths in front in the \$500,000 Exacta Systems Juvenile Fillies S. at Kentucky Downs ([video](#)).

"Jezebel's Kitten has turned out to be a real hero for us, she's great," Freda said. "And she's got a great personality."

Asked what it was like to watch his first stakes winner, Freda admitted, "We were kind of in shock at the time."

For the Fredas, the day at Kentucky Downs had already been a win before the Brad Cox-trained Jezebel's Kitten even stepped out on the track.

**Cont. p3**

## OBS MOVES APRIL & JUNE SALES

The Ocala Breeders' Sale Company has rescheduled its 2020 Spring and June Sales of 2-Year-Olds in Training in response to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. The Spring Sale, originally scheduled for Apr. 21-24, will now be held June 9-12. The June Sale, which was slated for June 10-12 will now be held July 14-17.

The Spring Sale under tack show will be May 31-June 6 and the June under tack show will be July 6-11. The Spring Sale catalog will stay as is and entries will be accepted from the June Sale through May 4.

"As we all continue to deal with the current circumstances," said OBS Director of Sales Tod Wojciechowski. "We need to balance a sense of social responsibility with providing our consignors the best opportunity to market their horses and give buyers the best place to obtain them."

In an effort to provide another opportunity to buy and sell 2-year-olds, OBS is considering adding a 2-Year-Old in Training session to the October Yearling Sale, presently scheduled for Oct. 6-9.

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## IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

### FRESHMAN SIRES: THE DANZIG INFLUENCE

Emma Berry examines the first-season sires tracing to Danzig. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

**1:07<sup>65</sup>**

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Wednesday, March 25, 2020



*Red Right Hand (Lookin At Lucky), a track record holder at Delaware Park, romps during downtime earlier this month at Hogan Equine in Cream Ridge, NJ. | Sarah Andrew*

**FONNER SOLIDERS ON IN THE FACE OF CORONAVIRUS** 6

*Fonner Park, a relatively unknown little racetrack in Nebraska, forges on with racing through the coronavirus pandemic.*

**COVID-19 UPDATES** 9

*TDN continues to provide COVID-19 related updates. The latest include the delay of the Churchill Downs stable opening and the start of Woodbine's Thoroughbred meet.*

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**Ilium Breaks Into Racing cont. from p1**

“We had heard so much about Kentucky Downs, with the European-style track and being partial to turf racing, we really wanted to go,” Freda said. “We just enjoyed our experience at Kentucky Downs. We loved the people there. It was just a great day. And then we got around to the race and we said, ‘As long as she makes a good showing for herself, that’ll be fine.’ About halfway through the race, we thought that she had just given up because she fell back to sixth place from second place. So we were getting pretty well resigned that she wasn’t going to do so well. Then all of a sudden, she bolted out and past everyone. It was an amazing race and we were so happy.”

Freda, a financial advisor born in Italy, raised in the Bronx and now based in Connecticut, and his son, an attorney and Judicial Affairs Officer at the United Nations, enjoy the racing, but have even bigger plans for their

fledgling stable.

“We wanted to build a stable for not only racing, but also breeding,” Freda explained. “And we also want to have a retirement farm for these horses. So we want to do the whole thing. Racing is our way to start learning what these horses are all about. But it’s not the only plan that we have. The breeding side and taking care of these horses is also what we want to do.”

The nine-horse Ilium Stables is currently spread out between three trainers.

“We have a few horses with Catherine Day-Phillips--we have a couple of Ontario-breds, including a Union Rags colt (hip 1022 at KEESEP), and we have a couple of fillies she wants to take on,” Freda said. “So she’s

going to have a total of four horses for us. Then we brought on Bill Mott and he is going to be training some yearlings that we bought last year. **Cont. p4**



**Jezebel's Kitten** | Coady Photography

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**Ilium Breaks Into Racing cont.**

We bought a More Than Ready filly (hip 1324) and a Malibu Moon colt now named Ascending Moon (hip 1071) and he'll be taking them on. Brad has Jezebel and he also is taking on this Into Mischief filly that we just bought. Who I guess reminds him of [Cox-trained champion] Covfefe because she looks just like her."

The goal is ultimately for the stable to have between 20 and 25 horses, with a plan to buy four or five per year to start out. Whether the majority of those will be bought at the yearling sales or 2-year-old sales is still up in the air.

"We really don't know where the best place to buy is yet," Freda said. "When we speak to some trainers, they would prefer that we buy yearlings because they feel they can train them and imprint them the way they want. Our game plan is to try some at the 2-year-olds in training sales and try some at the yearling sales and see where we have

the best results. And then we will go from there."

When he headed south for last week's OBS March sale, Freda had a mandate from his son.

"We are always looking for the best athlete, with a bias

towards the fillies," Freda said. "At the OBS auction, I was under strict orders from my son to not come back with a colt. At the yearling auction, I ended up with two colts and I was supposed to end up with two fillies. But the colts were so beautiful, I couldn't turn them down. But this time, I was under strict instructions, 'You are not to come back with a colt.' So we got a filly."

With the help of advisor Suzanne Smallwood of EQUIX, Ilium added a daughter of Into

Mischief (hip 501) to its roster with a final bid of \$200,000 last week. Freda thinks the uncertain climate surrounding the auction made the purchase possible.

**Cont. p5**



**Hip 501 | Photos by Z**

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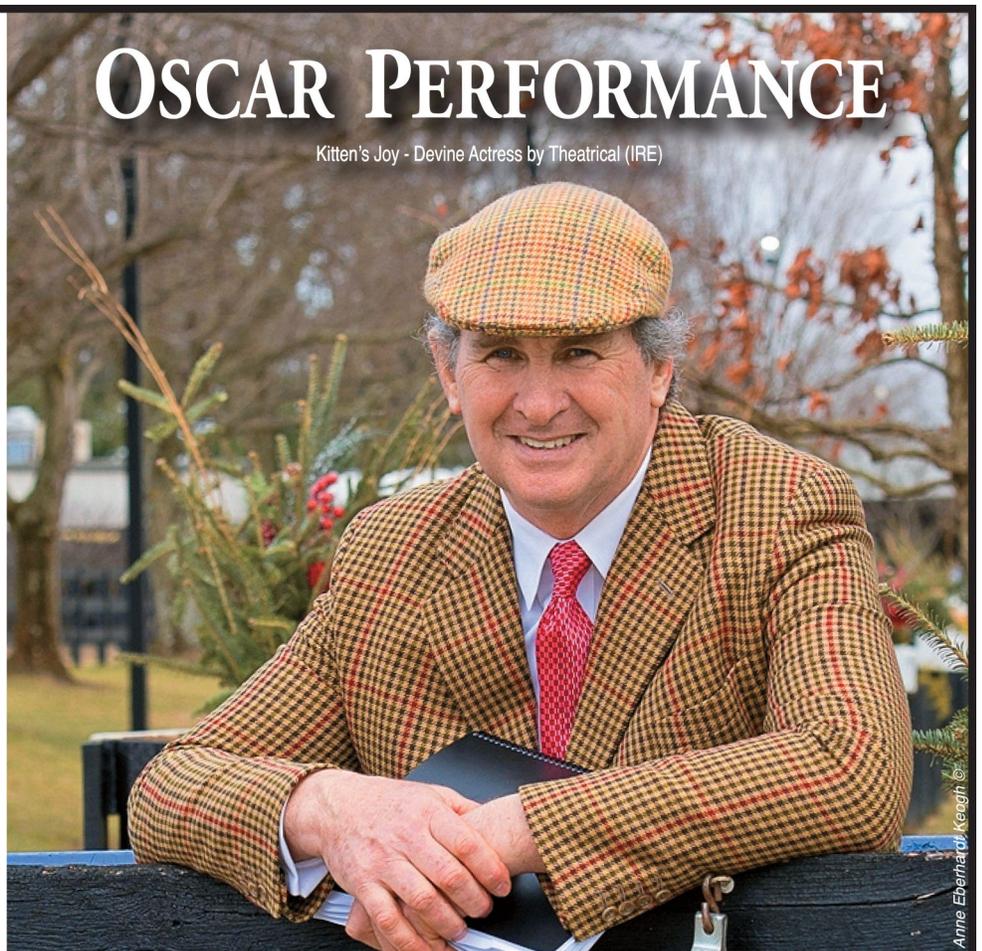
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***Ilium Breaks Into Racing cont.***

“Into Mischief was always my target from the first day,” Freda said. “When I told Suzanne the budget, she said, ‘It’s not going to happen. It’s just not.’ But this time around, Suzanne said, ‘Based on the way the market is going, I think this one is going to fall in your budget. She is worth a lot more than what you’ll pay for her.’ So this was my opportunity to get one. When I saw her, I was in love with her. And that was it. She’s beautiful. We are thrilled with her.”

While still building his racing and breeding knowledge, Freda credits his team of advisors for helping get Ilium Stables off the ground.

“I always think I know everything, but I do have advisors,” he said with a chuckle. “I like Suzanne because she can put me in my place, which I really need. But she is really great and we’re really happy with her. And then we give them to Paul Sharp to break and then we move them on to the race trainers. I think we have a good team around us to help us.”

A key component of attracting, and keeping, new owners in the game is education, according to Freda.

“At first, we didn’t know what we were doing,” he said. “But we are getting better. The frustration is, with some of these

trainers, they just don’t take the time to teach owners what they are doing. I don’t know why that is. It seems to be an industry-wide problem. And we want to learn. We really want to learn. We’re getting there. We ask a lot of questions. We show up at the barn and we talk to the grooms, we talk to everyone. They are all hard workers. And we know how hard they work keeping these horses there.”

Freda concluded, “I wish the general public could go out there and see how hard these people work and how much they really want to take care of these horses.”

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**Racing may have halted in Britain, but the training of racehorses goes on. Alayna Cullen interviews trainer Julie Feilden on what training is like when you have no races to point for. Click on the photo above to watch the video.**

## LITTLE FONNER PARK SOLDIERS ON IN FACE OF CORONAVIRUS



Fonner Park | Fonner Park photo

by Bill Finley

Perhaps the most off-the-beaten-track racetrack in horse racing, Fonner Park, sits isolated in Grand Island, Nebraska, unknown to most horseplayers and having to get by without any casino subsidies. Yet somehow it has survived, racing every year since it opened in 1954. The goal now is to make it another 36 days.

As one track after another announces the cancellation of live racing due to COVID-19, Fonner is still going. Considering the obstacles, that doesn't seem possible, but horsemen and management came together last week with a plan they hope will mean racing can continue at the meet through the scheduled closing day, May 2.

"This is a track where we've always gotten by scratching and clawing," Fonner CEO Chris Kotulak said.

Just last week, management told horsemen that the meet was going to be suspended. Coronavirus meant that the stands had to be empty if racing was going to continue and there didn't appear to be any way to make ends meet without on-track customers. Fonner, a five-furlong bullring, is a rarity in this day and age in that it relies more on on-track than off-track business. On Saturdays, the crowds typically reach 6,500.

It's a hardship on trainers and owners any time a track closes down, but the situation figured to be dire for Nebraska horsemen if the Fonner meet ended. The purses may be small at Fonner, but they are a lifeline for the typical Fonner stable.

"If Fonner shut down we'd have a lot of horsemen who would be in a situation where, within a couple of weeks to a month, they'd have to sell their horses," said Nebraska HBPA President Bob Moser, Jr. "A lot of these guys don't have anywhere else to go. We don't have any racing in the winter, so they've spent all

their money getting their horses ready for the Fonner meet."

After consulting with horsemen, Fonner management changed course and agreed to stay open during a two-week trial period that began Monday. The plan's success depends on a dramatic increase in the daily average handle at Fonner, which management and horsemen hope can be achieved by racing Monday through Wednesday rather than the normal Friday-through-Sunday schedule. By doing so, Fonner has found a spot on the simulcast calendar where there is little to no competition. The first part of Monday's card went up against Will Rogers Downs, and Fonner was the only game in town from races seven through nine.

"We are hopeful America will take note of the great racing we have in Nebraska and enjoy betting on our races," Moser said.

The results were impressive. Fonner handled \$1,340,067, an all-time record. On Mar. 15, the last time Fonner had racing prior to Monday, the total handle was just over \$200,000.

But that was not enough to guarantee that racing would continue beyond the two weeks, as the track's cut from out-of-state bets is far less than what it gets when a bet is made on track. Kotulak said Fonner needed to handle \$1.5 million or more a day for the track to keep going.

"We cannot afford, and I mean afford in every sense of the word, to be a welfare office for people in the stable area," Kotulak said. "That doesn't mean I don't want to."

Sensing that handle may fall short of Kotulak's goal, the HBPA has agreed to compensate Fonner for any shortfall in the purse account during the two-week trial. The total purses Monday were \$49,540.

"There was the news they would be closing down and that was really hitting everyone hard," Moser said. "So we were trying to work with Fonner to find a way to make this work and to keep everything open. Even if we don't handle anything, the HBPA is guaranteeing the purse structure for the first two weeks."



Fonner Park grandstand | Fonner Park photo

**Fonner cont.**

Moser continued, “We’ll keep our eye on the handle. If we have to cut purses, we’ll cut purses. If we have to cut days, we will cut days. We will make those decisions later.”

Kotulak is dealing not only with keeping the race meet going, but trying to keep horsemen and track personnel safe.

“Ten days ago, people were still snickering about social distancing,” Koutlak said. “Now, just about every other sentence out of my mouth is reminding people about social distancing.”

In one scene you won’t see at any other racetrack, a few pickup trucks wandered onto the apron and were allowed to stay as long as the people didn’t leave their vehicle. The people inside the trucks were betting the Fonner races on their smart phones.



**Fonner Park** | *Fonner Park photo*

“It was a strange day, no doubt about that,” Kotulak said.

Horsemen’s Park in Omaha is scheduled to run once Fonner closes, but Moser doesn’t see them being able to open because the coronavirus has hit that part of Nebraska more so than other sections. He said he hopes the racetrack in Columbus might be able to open to fill the void. In the meantime, he is relatively optimistic Fonner can stay open through the first weekend in May.

“It’s 50-50, maybe a little bit better,” he said.

Kotulak may not be ready to call the trial period a success, but he is well aware how much the horsemen rely on Fonner’s racing and the impact closing down would have on them. Like Moser, he does not want to see a shutdown.

“The purse structure has not changed from what is in the condition book to what we are offering,” he said. “We’ll do that as long as we possibly can. My primary goal is that horses are fed and so too are the people who are feeding them.”

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**IRON ‘CONSTITUTION’ IN FLORIDA DERBY**



**Tiz the Law winning the GIII Holy Bull S.** | *Adam Coglianese*

*By Christina Bossinakis*

With racing already halted at several venues around the country, Gulfstream Park forges ahead with it’s season anchoring marquee test for 3-year-olds, the GI Florida Derby. Highlighting the nine-furlong test is Grade I-winner **Tiz the Law** (Constitution), one of three runners by the young stallion in Saturday’s race. The colt was last seen winning the Feb. 1 GIII Holy Bull S. at the Hallandale oval.

“It really hasn’t changed anything,” said Sackatoga Operating Manager Jack Knowlton of the effect of the colt’s training regime due to the Coronavirus pandemic. “We had targeted this for our next race after the Holy Bull early on. Everything that [trainer] Barclay [Tagg] has done to get him prepared for this race hasn’t changed. This has been the race that we were hoping would get us enough points to put us in the [GI] Kentucky Derby. We’re still hoping that, even though the Kentucky Derby has now been moved four months.”

A first-out winner against fellow New York-breds in Saratoga last summer, Tiz the Law followed up with a sharp four-length score in Belmont’s GI Champagne S. in October. Favored in the Nov. 30 GII Kentucky Jockey Club S. at Churchill Downs, the flashy bay caught a sloppy track and checked home third behind Silver Prospector (Declaration of War), subsequent winner of the GIII South West S. last month.

“We felt he was a very special horse, not only when he won the Champagne, but also when he broke his maiden at Saratoga,” said Knowlton. “Unfortunately, we just hit a race that things just didn’t go our way at Churchill. As the day went on, the track got sloppier, and he got stuck down inside and it really wasn’t the best of trips for him. Basically, that was a race we just ran a line through it, even though he only got beat by three-quarters of a length.” **Cont. p8**

**Florida Derby cont.**

Knowlton continued, "What it really prevented was that he might have gotten the Eclipse Award as a 2-year-old if he had won that race. Fortunately, he came out of that race in good order and Barclay did a great job getting him ready for the Holy Bull."

Settled just off the pace in Holy Bull, favored Tiz the Law overtook pacesetter Ete Indien (Summer Front), subsequent winner of the GII Fasig-Tipton Fountain of Youth S., after six furlongs and drew clear to score by three lengths.

"In [the Holy Bull], he really went beyond expectations," said Knowlton. "We were confident and he was a horse that could win that race, but to win it as impressively as he did, was very rewarding for us. It validated the fact that he is one of the horses that should be in the starting gate the first Saturday, now, in September."

In 2003, New York-bred Funny Cide (Distorted Humor) gave the Sackatoga team the ride of a lifetime when he won the Kentucky Derby and the GI Preakness S. before finishing third behind Empire Maker in the GI Belmont S. He was named champion 3-year-old colt for the 2003 season.

"When Funny Cide retired in 2007, never did I expect that Sackatoga would have another horse that could even be thinking about another Derby," admitted Knowlton. "We buy one or maybe two horses a year, and we don't spend a lot of money. We always buy New York-breds, so we're not in the game to try and get a horse to go to the Kentucky Derby. What we're hoping for is a horse that can run in the New York-bred stakes. If we're successful in that, we see that as the top level of our expectations. The parallel really between Funny Cide and Tiz the Law is they both came from first crop sires that turned out to be tremendous sires. And we got the opportunity to buy them [\$75,000 for Funny Cide; \$110,000 for Tiz the Law] and you can't get horses from established sires for those kinds of prices. We've been extraordinarily fortunate two times with first crop sires."

**Pletcher Tries for Sixth Win**

A five-time winner of the Florida Derby, trainer Todd Pletcher attempts to add win number six with Team Valor and WinStar Farm's **Gouverneur Morris** (Constitution) Saturday. The grey is a member of the first-crop of WinStar stallion Constitution, who was led to victory by Pletcher in the 2017 renewal of the race. Pletcher previously won the Kentucky Derby with Super Saver (Maria's Mon) in 2010 and Always Dreaming (Bodemeister) in 2017.

Victorious in his first start at Saratoga last September, the colt finished second behind Maxfield (Street Sense) in the Oct. 5 GI Breeders' Futurity S. at Keeneland. He marked his sophomore



**Gouverneur Morris** | C Bossinakis

debut with a win in a Tampa allowance Feb. 14.

"One of the things we felt coming into the spring was we were making all of the plans assuming the Derby was going to be run the first Saturday in May," explained Pletcher. "Based on his development, coming into the Kentucky Derby in his third start was going to be the best way to prepare him for his best effort. We decided to go to the Tampa allowance race which we have had success before. Always Dreaming and Super Saver both made starts there as 3-year-olds. We put ourselves in the position at that point that we will only have the opportunity to run in one race that he will get points, so it was something we talked about with Team Valor and WinStar and everyone felt comfortable with that plan. We felt if he got to the Florida Derby, the [GI] Bluegrass S. or the [GI] Wood [Memorial] and he finished in the top two, that would be enough to get in and if he didn't, he probably needed a little more time to get there. That was the plan, and as always, you have to be prepared to make some adjustments along the way."

In preparation for the Florida Derby, Gouverneur Morris recorded a five-furlong move in 1:01.65 (3/12) at Palm Beach Downs Mar. 21.

"We figured, based on his last breeze, he's ready to go," said Pletcher. "The Florida Derby is right in front of us and in uncertain times like this, we felt we needed to go ahead and take what's in front of us now rather than wait for something else."

When asked about the change in date to the Kentucky Derby, which has now been pushed back to early September, Pletcher added, "We're not looking beyond the next race on Saturday. The biggest concern is for all the participants, your employees, your family and the rest of the world. There are much bigger things going on right now other than horse racing."

**Cont. p9**

**Florida Derby cont.**

Pletcher continued, "But this is what we do, and we will try to execute our game plan as best we can. But it's certainly not a time to be thinking about too much what you're going to be doing a month or two months from now. You just do the best you can."

**Return of Independence**

**Independence Hall winning the GIII Nashua S. | Chelsea Durand**

Two for two in 2019, including an eye-popping 12 1/4-length route in Aqueduct's GIII Nashua S., **Independence Hall** (Constitution) looks to return to that form Saturday following his first career defeat last time out in the Feb. 8 GIII Sam F. Davis S. at Tampa.

"We were hoping for a little bit of a better results," admitted trainer Mike Trombetta. "He had a few excuses that we can build on. It was his first two-turn race. It was also a very lively pace, and he chased that pace, and probably paid for it a little bit at the end. For what's it's worth, he lost a shoe in the race, which is something we can't control, but we would rather not have that happen. We looped him on down to Gulfstream, he did get a breeze over the track [4f, :48.31 7/67, Mar. 22] and he seems to be doing well."

A debut winner going seven furlongs at Parx last September, the dark bay was given plenty of time until his runaway Nashua win Nov. 3. He returned to take his 2020 debut in the one-mile Jerome S. on New Year's Day.

"The Nashua was just a super race for a horse and that early in his career," said Trombetta. "He was really unlikely to come back and duplicate that kind of performance. He did come back well enough to win [the Jerome], but he didn't run quite as fast as he had in the Nashua. I'm hoping with this time and continued training, he can in fact find that form that he had in the Nashua."

Obviously high on the lightly-raced colt, Trombetta remains

confident that there is more to come from his star pupil this season.

"I just don't know how far he's going to take us," he said. "He has so much upside to him. He's handled everything real well to this point. For any horse that has had four races at the level that he has and he's only had one defeat, I still believe there is a huge upside and I look forward to seeing it out."

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**CHURCHILL DELAYS REOPENING STABLE AREA**

Churchill Downs Inc. will delay the reopening of its stable areas at both Churchill Downs Racetrack and the auxiliary training center Trackside until Tuesday, April 14. The decision was made after ongoing consultation with public health officials amid public health concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Churchill Downs' stable areas have been closed since Dec. 31 for annual winter renovations and were originally scheduled to reopen Tuesday, March 17.

"Together, we are in the midst of an unprecedented global health crisis and every tough decision we make is made with the best real time information we have from government officials and public health experts," said Kevin Flanery, President of Churchill Downs Racetrack. "We understand how trying the impact of this decision is on our horsemen, but we will continue to work tirelessly with public health experts toward a satisfactory resolution so our horsemen and their horses can return home safely as soon as possible."

Churchill Downs' 38-day Spring Meet is scheduled for April 25-June 27. With respect to postponing the opening of the Spring Meet, a decision will be made closer to that date using the most recent information while working with and seeking guidance from public health experts and authorities.

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**WOODBINE POSTPONES OPENING OF THOROUGHBRED SEASON**

Woodbine Entertainment has suspended the opening of its Thoroughbred meeting indefinitely following the announcement that the Government of Ontario is mandating all non-essential businesses closed by 11:59 p.m. Tuesday. Woodbine's backstretch will be limited to only essential care for horses and regular training operations will not be permitted.

"Considering we will only be allowing for the essential care of the horses on our backstretch, we will not be in a position to open the season as scheduled Apr. 18," said Jim Lawson, CEO, Woodbine Entertainment. **Cont. p10**

**Woodbine cont.**

“As previously communicated, we are currently in discussions with government agencies to help provide the support needed for horsepeople and the horses during this time of no racing.”

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**CHARLES TOWN CANCELS LIVE RACING**

Charles Town has suspended its live racing program following West Virginia Governor Jim Justice's statewide “stay at home” order which will shut down non-essential businesses as of 8 p.m. Tuesday.

The track will remain open in the mornings for horsemen on the grounds to continue with light training.

As of Monday evening, West Virginia had 20 confirmed COVID-19 cases.

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**OLD FRIENDS STATEMENT ON DEATH OF WAR EMBLEM**

Michael Blowen, founder and President of Old Friends, released the findings of the necropsy report regarding the recent passing of dual Classic winner **War Emblem**. The 21-year-old was found deceased at Old Friends Mar. 11 after what was initially perceived to be a fatal paddock accident. A full medical report was pending at that time.

The following statement was issued by Old Friends resident veterinarian, Dr. Bryan Waldrige of Park Equine Hospital in Versailles, KY:

"After War Emblem's sudden death, a complete necropsy was performed at the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The cause of death was ruptured small intestine. The cause of the tear in his small intestine could not be determined by anatomic or microscopic examination. No strangulation or displacement of the small intestine was present. Rupture of the small intestine without a predisposing cause is an uncommon and, unfortunately, fatal injury. "

"We were very proud to be given the opportunity to repatriate War Emblem when his stallion career came to an end, and we were lucky enough to have him with us for nearly five years," said Blowen. "His great speed, great beauty, intelligence, and distinct personality made him one of our most popular and beloved retirees, visited by hundreds of fans weekly, even in our off season.

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

*Even if most racing is delayed, we're all hoping it will get underway sometime this spring or early summer, if for no other reason than so we can all find out the answer to our annual favorite question. We surveyed some top judges on who their leading first-crop sire is, and to give us some under-the-radar picks as well.*

**JAMIE MCCALMONT**



**Nyquist** | Darley photo

My leading sire for this year would be **Nyquist**. I was connected with him in my role with Paul Reddam. It's quite rare that you see a 2-year-old win three Grade I races and then come back and win the Derby as an unbeaten horse.

My number two pick is **Air Force Blue**. He was a very good 2-year-old in Ireland and War Front seems to be a good sire of sires. My favorite horse at the sale at OBS March was Hip 27, a son of Air Force Blue out of Dreamy Maiden. He ended up selling for \$390,000.

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Listen to this week's podcast

March 18, 2020

**Writers Talk the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Crisis**






Op / ED Feedback

**DERBY MUSEUM OFFERS VIRTUAL TOURS**

The Kentucky Derby Museum is now offering virtual tours that are designed to let fans experience “Derby Day Everyday.” Through the tour, guests can view collections, exhibits and go on personal virtual tours of iconic Churchill Downs with a museum tour guide. The [online museum](#) is updated daily and each day curatorial experts bring visitors featured artifacts, fun facts, oral history videos, educational lessons, and activities they can do at home.

“Traditions provide an anchor for us in a constantly moving world,” says Chris Goodlett, Director of Curatorial Education for the Kentucky Derby Museum. “Since its inaugural running in 1875, the Kentucky Derby has served as such. This international sporting and cultural event brings people together at a specific place and time to share a unique experience with family and friends. As we move past a calamitous time, this tradition may become even more important, just as it did for those coming out of wartime in the 1940s.”

Patrick Armstrong, CEO of Kentucky Derby Museum added, “Our mission at the Kentucky Derby Museum is to engage, educate, and excite everyone about the Kentucky Derby experience. We take our role in the rich history and tradition of the Derby to heart. We feel this is more important to share than ever before--especially during these challenging times and we feel bringing this virtual museum online will help connect and educate the community and our visitors.”

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**KENT BARNES**

While Dan makes some good points regarding the many differences between running a race for 3-year-olds on the first Saturday in May compared to the first Saturday in September Derby (“[A Year Without a Derby Makes the Most Sense](#)”), I disagree with him about removing the name of the race. Perhaps history books will place an asterisk behind the 2020 winner, but there are too many players involved in this game, owners, breeders, trainers, jockeys, grooms, etc. who work tirelessly each year to produce a Kentucky Derby winner. For most, this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to be associated with a horse who gets to wear the garland of roses and have his name placed permanently in the paddock of Churchill Downs. Regardless of when the race is run, we should not deny them their due honor.

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**RON PARKER**

Some years back, when I was writing extensively about Dosage and the Kentucky Derby, a quote I included in an *American Turf Monthly* article (November 1990) from Dosage guru Dr. Steven Roman would certainly support Dan Liebman's proposal to simply cancel this year's Kentucky Derby (“[A Year Without a Derby Makes the Most Sense](#)”). Delaying it four months simply makes it another stakes race, not the challenge for young horses, some of which may not even have reached their actual 3-year-old birthday.

"It is critical to understand," Dr. Roman stated, "that the Derby mile and a quarter, because of its timing so early in the year coupled with a killing pace, is different from a mile and a quarter later in the year under other sets of conditions. Those horses which fail in May often succeed at the distance later in the year because of greater physical and emotional maturity. At Derby time, however, adolescent horses are thrown into a situation with enormous stress, perhaps never again matched in their lives, and in these circumstances only a very few can survive.

"After the Derby 'physical and emotional maturity' begins to occur in varying degrees for different horses, and fundamental handicapping assumes a greater importance. Some horses succumb to the stress of a Derby campaign, while others travel around for easier spots. Distances vary, the two sexes sometimes meet, the age of the combatants may be mixed, and weight can be a factor."

In other words, despite Churchill Downs's desire to perpetuate an event that brings over 100,000 fans through their turnstiles, a September race no longer relates to the historical challenge that a May date offers and thus has no business being called the Kentucky Derby.

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**RINALDO DEL GALLO, III**

I participate in a group called “Thoroughbred Horse Racing Discussion” on Facebook and I conduct polls with a large sampling rate. On Mar. 20, I put up a poll responded to by 176 people—a statistically significant pool of people very interested in the horse racing industry. Of these, 113 supported the current plan to have the Kentucky Derby Sept. 5. Only 40 supported having the Kentucky Derby on the first Saturday in May, but without a live audience, as the Louisiana Derby was run last Saturday. Two people said the Kentucky Derby should be kept on the first Saturday of May, with an audience, and one had no opinion.

But to the point of Dan Liebman’s Op/Ed of Mar. 24, entitled, **“A Year Without a Derby Makes Most Sense,”** only 20 people of the 176 people that voted, a minuscule 12%, favored completely cancelling the Kentucky Derby. In another poll started Mar. 17, 139 people said it was good to move the Kentucky Derby to Sept. 5, 65 said they should not have postponed it, but it should have been audience free, 46 people said that it was good to postpone it, but that it was postponed for too much time, and four had no opinion.

Of historical note, the Belmont S. was not run in 1911 and 1912 due to the Hart-Agnew Law that outlawed horse racing gambling. The Preakness was not run in 1891, 1892 and 1893. The Preakness ran 15 times in New York at Gravesend, New York for 14 years and at Morris Park in New York one year prior. But unlike the Preakness and Belmont, the Kentucky Derby has always been run, and now Dan Liebman would like this to be the first year not to have a Kentucky Derby.

In fact, the dates, locations, and distances have varied. From 1890 until 1925, 35 years, the Belmont was run at less than 12 furlongs. The Belmont was not run at Belmont until 1910 when Sweep won it. It used to be held at Jerome from 1867-1889, and at Morris Park from 1890 until 1904. Belmont didn’t open its doors until 1905. The race was named after the man, not the racetrack.

From 1875 until 1895, a span of two decades, the Kentucky Derby was 1 1/2 miles as it was modeled on the English Derby which is at that distance. When Gallant Fox took the Triple Crown, he won the Preakness first Friday, May 9. On May 17, 1930, the third Saturday in May, Gallant Fox won the Kentucky Derby. Gallant Fox won the Belmont June 7.

1945 is especially instructive. Hoop Jr. won the Kentucky Derby on June 9, 1945 in a race that almost didn’t happen because of World War II. There was a ban on horse racing from January 1945 to early May on V-E Day. The Kentucky Derby was rescheduled to June 9 when the ban was lifted. The Preakness was run a week later on June 16 and won by Polynesian (Native Dancer’s sire) and Hoop Jr. came in second. The Belmont was

run Saturday, June 23, 1945 and was won by Champion 2-year-old Pavot.

So too with the English Triple Crown. Because of World War I, the Derby was run at Newmarket and not Epsom Downs during 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1918. What happened during those years? In 1915, Pommern won the English Triple Crown. In 1916, the filly Fifinella won the English Derby and English Oaks and was the last time a horse took both races. And then Gay Crusader won the English Triple Crown in 1917 and Gainsborough in 1918. In fact, the St. Leger, which is usually ran at Doncaster, was also run at Newmarket. Could you put an asterisk next to these wins? I suppose. But our history is greater because they ran these races.

Under Mr. Liebman’s approach, these races would not have been run, and that would have been a mistake then, and a mistake now. A Derby and St. Leger in Newmarket is better than no Derby and St. Leger at all. A Preakness in New York is better than no Preakness at all. A Kentucky Derby in June because of World War II is better than no Kentucky Derby. And a Kentucky Derby in September because of the coronavirus is better than none at all, whatever asterisk needs to be put on that accomplishment.

The real debate, in my estimate, was whether to have the Kentucky Derby on its normal date without an audience, or postpone it to September, or some earlier date. I agree with Churchill Downs, that they should shoot for Sept. 5 with an audience. Those that I polled overwhelmingly agreed.

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## SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

### Best Act (Pulpit)

7 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners  
9-Will Rogers Downs, Msw 5 1/2f, MYSTICAL ACT, 12-1  
\$9,800 RNA OKC YRL yrl

### Dramedy (Distorted Humor)

29 foals of racing age/5 winners/1 black-type winner  
8-Will Rogers Downs, Alw 5 1/2f, CANEY'S GHOST, 5-2  
\$24,500 OKC YRL yrl



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### ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

**7th-Will Rogers Downs, \$26,400, (S), 3-24, (C), 3yo/up, 1m, 1:39.90, sy.**

### UNCAIL (g, 5, **Uncle Mo**--Double the Lead, by Bernardini)

Lifetime Record: 15-4-2-2, \$71,500. O-Cimarron TTT Farms LLC; B-Seagull Associates, LLC (OK); T-Scott E. Young. \*\$150,000 Ylg '16 KEESEP.

**3rd-Will Rogers Downs, \$22,154, 3-24, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 1m, 1:39.70, sy.**

**AFLEET SNIPER (g, 4, **Afleet Alex**--Border Slew, by Seneca Jones) Lifetime Record: 12-2-0-2, \$43,104. O/B-Suter Stables (OK); T-Jody Pruitt.**

### ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

**O S U Kickoff, g, 4, **Kick On**--Dane to Dream, by Proud Citizen.** Will Rogers Downs, 3-24, (S), 5 1/2f, 1:06.43. B-Lance Evans (OK).



**AFLEET ALEX, Afleet Sniper, g, 4, o/o Border Slew, by Seneca Jones.** ALW, 3-24, Will Rogers

**KICK ON, O S U Kickoff, g, 4, o/o Dane to Dream, by Proud Citizen.** MSW, 3-24, Will Rogers

**UNCLE MO, Uncail, g, 5, o/o Double the Lead, by Bernardini.** ALW, 3-24, Will Rogers



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## FRESHMAN SIRES: THE DANZIG INFLUENCE



Shalaa's first crop includes a filly out of Treve named Paris  
Zuzanna Lupa

By Emma Berry

Monday heralded the first day of perhaps the strangest turf season any of us will ever witness. From Wednesday, Ireland has gone from racing behind closed doors to joining the rest of the Europe in learning to cope with no racing action at all.

There is now uncertainty over when the next 2-year-old race will take place but three of this year's 30 first-season sires in Europe are already off the mark with a first runner, with Buratino (Ire), Prince Of Lir (Ire) and Markaz (Ire) each having been represented by debutants at Naas.

In this first of two instalments looking at the freshman sires with runners during what is likely to be a truncated 2020 season, we are focusing on those from the Danzig line, and that's almost half of the bumper crop this year. We'll start with the Danehill subset, which features four sons of Kodiak (GB) and another four by Australian-bred sons or grandsons of Danehill.

### The Kodiak Pack

#### Adaay (Ire)

Kodiak (GB)--Lady Lucia (Ire) (Royal Applause {GB}), Whitsbury Manor Stud

Adaay was bred on a speed on speed formula and, from his base at Whitsbury Manor Stud with its band of fast mares, he will have plenty of chances to replicate this in his own offspring.

Cont. p2

## HORSE RACING IN IRELAND SUSPENDED UNTIL APR. 19

All sporting events in Ireland have been suspended until Apr. 19, following an announcement from the Irish Government. Racing has been continuing to stage meetings **behind closed doors** since Mar. 13, as countries around the world try to limit the spread of the coronavirus. However, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar announced on Tuesday that all sporting events, even those without spectators, would be cancelled. Racing in Britain was suspended from last Wednesday, with no action anticipated before May 1 at the earliest.

Racing had been due to take place at Dundalk on Wednesday. The Board of Horse Racing Ireland will meet that same day and issue an update soon after.

County Tipperary trainer David Marnane said, "We're all in this together and we'll just have to do the best we can." **Cont. p6**

## IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

### ILIUM BREAKS INTO RACING

Jessica Martina speaks with Angelo Freda of Ilium Stables on his early success and long term goals. **Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.**

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**Freshman Sires Cont. from p1**

It's important to remember that speed is not always matched by precocity but in the case of Adaay, he was out early at two, winning his first two starts at Newbury and York over six furlongs. At three he stepped up to win the G2 Sandy Lane S., beating Limato (Ire) into second, and later that year he beat fellow freshman Coulsty (Ire) (also by Kodiatic) into second in the G2 Hungerford S. when stepping up to seven furlongs. He stayed in training at four, running six times that year and coming closest to another win when beaten a head by Breton Rock (Ire) in the G3 Criterion S.

He was given decent support in his first season and has 96 juveniles this year.

**Prince Of Lir (Ire)**

*Kodiatic (GB)--Esvuvia (Ire) (Whipper), Ballyhane Stud*

This breeze-up graduate hit the racecourse just a month after he was sold at Goffs UK, making a winning debut in beating The Last Lion (Ire), who was already a winner at that stage and later also finished second to Prince Of Lir in the G2 Norfolk S. at Royal Ascot. That was Prince Of Lir's final victory and he made just three more starts that season before being signed up for a stud career.

He, too, has plenty of speed in his pedigree. His half-brother Nitro Boost (Ire) (Dandy Man {Ire}) won the Listed Abergwaun S. last year over five furlongs, and their dam Esvuvia won over the minimum trip herself and is a half-sister to G3 Laurent Perrier Champagne Sprint S. winner Resplendent Glory (Ire) (Namid {GB}).

One of his 77 first-crop 2-year-olds has already run and, as long as racing can resume in Britain and continue in Ireland, it

will be no surprise if we see some more of Prince Of Lir's offspring out before too long.

**Kodi Bear (Ire)**

*Kodiatic (GB)--Hawattef (Ire) (Mujtahid), Rathbarry Stud*

Kodi Bear was second to Adaay on debut at Newbury in May and then not beaten far when fifth to The Wow Signal (Ire) in the G2 Coventry S. before getting off the mark in the Listed Winkfield S. back at Ascot in July. He closed out his juvenile campaign with a runner-up finish to Belardo (Ire) in the G1

Dewhurst S. A fruitful 3-year-old season saw the Clive Cox trainee land three more stakes wins, including the G2 Celebration Mile and G3 Sovereign S., but he was winless in four starts as a 4-year-old.

Out of an unraced mare, he traces back to a good Jim Joel family, with High And Dry (GB) as his third dam and more recent classy relatives including the treble Group 1 winner Esoterique (Ire). With 83 first-crop representatives he has a decent chance of making his presence felt.



Kodi Bear | Racing Post

**Coulsty (Ire)**

*Kodiatic (GB)--Haziium (Ire) (In The Wings {GB}), Rathasker Stud*

Coulsty will have 45 youngsters to go into bat for him this year, making this likely to be a relatively hard task for him to feature among the leading names as the year progresses. Trained by Richard Hannon, he won in each of the four seasons he was in training, including on debut at two at the end of May and with the highlight being his victory at three in the G3 Prix de Meautry over six furlongs in very soft ground. [Cont. p3](#)



# Tamayuz

## KEY FACTS

- Dual **Group 1** winning Champion and Classic sire of 4 individual **Group 1** winners
- Sire of **MUSTASHRY**, winner of the **Gr.1** Lockinge Stakes & the **Gr.2** Challenge Stakes in **2019**
- Other **2019** successes include **GAELIC CHIEFTAIN (Gr.2)**, **PRECIEUSE (Gr.3)**
- In **2019** his yearlings made up to **€122,000** and his foals made up to **€95,000**

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## Freshman Sires Cont.

Despite being out of an In The Wings mare who won at up to a mile and a half and was herself out of a mare by Caerleon, Coulsty followed the tendency of his sire's offspring to prefer sprint trips and did all his winning between five and seven furlongs.

## Australian Influence

### Buratino (Ire)

*Exceed And Excel (Aus)--Bergamask (Kingmambo), Kildangan Stud*

In this group we find a grandson and a great grandson of Danehill, both trained by Mark Johnston and both of whom won on debut in the first week of the season. In the case of Buratino, that victory came on Chelmsford's all-weather surface at the end of March but he was soon on turf, winning at Newmarket in mid-May. By the time he beat Air Force Blue in the G2 Coventry S. at Royal Ascot, he'd already run five times previously, including scoring a win on Derby day in the Woodcote. Group 1 placings in the Keeneland Phoenix S. and the Middle Park S. brought his juvenile campaign to an honourable conclusion.

Buratino was back out at three but failed to build on his busy 2-year-old season in five outings, starting with the 2000 Guineas, in which he was ninth. His dam Bergamask was listed-placed and won over a mile in France and the Danehill influence had already been seen to good effect in this family as she is out of a Sadler's Wells half-sister to Danehill Dancer (Ire).

Buratino, who has 88 juveniles to run for him, is the first freshman on the scoreboard with a placed runner as his son The Blue Panther (Ire) was third at Naas on Monday.

### Fascinating Rock (Ire)

*Fastnet Rock (Aus)--Miss Polaris (GB) (Polar Falcon), Ballylinch Stud*

Fastnet Rock is more typically associated with sireing sprinters in Australia but he's been represented by a number of classy middle-distance horses in the Northern Hemisphere and this Newtown Anner Stud homebred certainly fits that bracket.

Fascinating Rock made just one back-end start at two but put himself in the Classic picture the following spring when winning the G3 Derrinstown Stud Derby Trial. But he really came into his own as an older horse, winning the G1 QIPCO Champion S. at four and the G1 Tattersalls Gold Cup the following May, taking his tally of wins to eight from 15 starts, all of them coming on ground with plenty of give.

He won't be expected to be sireing early, fast horses but we can expect to see some of his 61 juveniles starting what should be progressive campaigns in the later part of this year. **Cont. p4**

## IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

INGLIS SYDNEY EASTER SALE BROUGHT FORWARD

The Inglis Sydney Easter Yearling Sale has been brought forward on the calendar due to coronavirus. **Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.**

**Freshman Sires Cont.**

**The Last Lion (Ire)**

*Choisir (Aus)--Mala Mala (Ire) (Brief Truce), Kildangan Stud*

It can never be considered satisfactory for a colt to retire to stud on the back of just one season but in the case of The Last Lion we certainly got our money's worth while he was in training. Ten starts, four wins, four seconds and two thirds reads his record, and what an admirable young colt he was.

So many times we'll see early-season maiden winners fade from view as the competition stiffens at the business end of the season. The Last Lion, however, bounced from winning the Brocklesby S. into runner-up finishes in group company at Royal Ascot and Glorious Goodwood. He then notched a third-place finish to Blue Point (Ire) in the Gimcrack before winning the G3 Sirenia S., finishing runner-up to Ardad (Ire) in the G2 Champagne S., and finally meeting Blue Point again in the G1 Middle Park S. and finishing three-quarters of a length in front of him in victory.

One can only guess at what he might have achieved in the older sprinting ranks, and sadly his stud career to date has been hindered by fertility issues, so he has a relatively small group of 45 juveniles to represent him. It will be no surprise if there are some useful sorts among them.



Fascinating Rock & Pat Smullen | *Racing Post*

**Scissor Kick (Aus)**

*Redoute's Choice (Aus)--Back Pass (Aus) (Quest For Fame {GB}), Haras d'Etreham*

An unfamiliar name when he started reverse-shuttling to Normandy but from a very familiar family to this part of the world.

A dual Group 3 winner at three and runner-up in the G1 Golden Rose S., Scissor Kick is a grandson of Skiable, the dam of Juddmonte's G2 Coventry S. winner Three Valleys (GB) and a half-sister Hasili (GB). That great matriarch's list of group-winning descendants grows year on year and includes the good stallion brothers Dansili (GB), Champs Elysees (GB) and Cacique (GB)—all sons of Danehill. Scissor Kick has 42 juveniles listed on the France Galop website.

**Green Desert Prominent**

Two sons and two grandsons of Green Desert account for six

of the names on the freshman sires' list this season including Kodiak's half-brother Invincible Spirit (Ire), who has two new sons and a grandson bidding to make a similar start to that made by Cable Bay (Ire) last season.

**Shalaa (Ire)**

*Invincible Spirit (Ire)--Ghurra (War Chant), Haras de Bouquetot*

Shalaa has already led his peers in the sales ring via the prices achieved for his first crop both as foals and yearlings. He was also the most expensive new stallion of his intake at a fee of €27,500.

Green on his racecourse debut in May when running last at Newbury's Lockinge meeting, Shalaa only took another fortnight to get the hang of racing, winning his maiden at Newmarket and then sailing through consecutive wins in the G2 July S., G2 Richmond S., G1 Prix Morny and G1 Middle Park S.

A pelvic injury delayed his return at three but he did finally make a comeback, winning the G3 Bengough S., before running down the field on his swansong in the G1 QIPCO British Champions Sprint.

Shalaa doesn't quite have the numerical firepower of some of his rivals, with 82 juveniles waiting in the wings, but there should hopefully be some

decent individuals among them as he has not lacked class mates. Chief among them is the queen of Al Shaqab's broodmare band, Treve (Fr). Her 2-year-old filly by Shalaa is named Paris (Fr) and is listed as in training with Andre Fabre.

**Territories (GB)**

*Invincible Spirit (Ire)--Taranto (GB) (Machiavellian), Dalham Hall Stud*

The winner of a conditions race at Chantilly on his second start, Territories was later third in the G3 Prix La Rochette and runner-up in the G1 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere. He won his Classic trial, the G3 Prix de Fontainebleau, in Paris before heading to the 2000 Guineas at Newmarket where he found only Gleneagles (Ire) too good for him. His Group 1 cap was earned in the Prix Jean Prat and he was also runner-up in the G1 Prix Jacques le Marois before returning at four to add another two Group 3 places to his record.



Awtaad | Derrinstown Stud

### Freshman Sires Cont.

He's from a family which has already produced some decent stallions. His fourth dam Helen Street (GB) is the dam of Street Cry (Ire) as well as his sister Helsinki (GB), later the dam of Shamardal. Both Street Cry and Helsinki are by Machiaevellian, the damsire of Territories, who has a decent chance with 110 first-crop representatives, a number of whom caught the eye of seasoned sales judges.

### Marcel (Ire)

*Lawman (Fr)-- Mauresmo (Ire) (Marju {Ire}), Anngrove Stud*

The G1 Racing Post Trophy winner started his stud career at the National Stud and was there for two years before transferring to Ireland's Anngrove Stud. Owned by the late Paul Makin, who took a keen interest in selecting his first book of mares, he has 20 juveniles this year, with David Evans, Tim Easterby and James Ferguson among their trainers.

Marcel suffered some knee trouble at three and made just one final start when finishing last in the 2000 Guineas. His dam is an unraced daughter of Absaar, a half-sister to Sheikh Hamdan's Melbourne Cup winner At Talaq.

### Awtaad (Ire)

*Cape Cross (Ire)--Asheerah (GB) (Shamardal), Derrinstown Stud*

Despite siring the likes of Ouija Board (GB) and Sea The Stars (Ire), Cape Cross was arguably never fully appreciated during his lifetime but he is responsible, as sire and grandsire, for two of this year's freshmen, both of them Classic winners.

Awtaad, trained by the legendary veteran of the Irish training ranks Kevin Prendergast, ran just twice at two, breaking his maiden on the second of those outings at Leopardstown in late October. He sustained that winning form to land the Madrid H. on the opening day of the following turf season before stepping

up to the listed Tetrarch S. and then on to glory in the Irish 2000 Guineas. In a vintage edition of the G1 St James's Palace S. he was third behind the English Guineas winner Galileo Gold (Ire) and French Guineas winner The Gurkha (Ire) before recording his final victory in the G2 Boomerang S. on Irish Champions Weekend.

He will have been well supported by his breeder Sheikh Hamdan and, with 93 juveniles, has a chance of keeping his name in the reckoning in the freshman sires' table.

### Harzand (Ire)

*Sea The Stars (Ire)--Hazariya (Ire) (Xaar {GB}), Giltown Stud*

Harzand gave Pat Smullen the most memorable day of a long and successful career in the saddle when winning the Derby for his breeder the Aga Khan and Dermot Weld.

He ran just once, unplaced, at two, but won a Cork maiden in the March of his Classic season before landing the G3 Ballysax S. Glory in the Irish Derby followed his Epsom success but that was to be his last win before midfield finishes in the Irish Champion S. and the Arc.

We can probably expect to see better things of his first crop once they turn three—though Sea The Stars' German Derby-winning son Sea The Moon (Ger) took many by surprise when his first juveniles emerged—and, with 72 juveniles, he has not received the numerical support given to some of his rivals.

### Charming Thought (GB)

*Oasis Dream {GB}--Annabelle's Charm (Ire) (Indian Ridge {Ire}), Dalham Hall Stud*

Another freshman this year for Darley is the Middle Park S. winner Charming Thought, who had won a maiden and a novice race before being plunged straight into Group 1 company. His nose victory over Ivawood (Ire) at Newmarket, with Muhaarar (GB) back in third, was to be his last win. [Cont. p6](#)



Harzand | The Aga Khan Studs

### Freshman Sires Cont.

He returned at three but was unplaced in three starts, and he has 50 2-year-olds to run for him this season.

His dam Annabelle's Charm was a listed winner over a mile as a 4-year-old and she is out of a sister to Group 1-winning juveniles Aristotle (Ire) and Ballingarry (Ire), both by Sadler's Wells. Their half-brother Starborough (Ire) (Soviet Star) won the G1 Prix Jean Prat.

### And Look out For...

The Danzig connection is also applicable for the American-based **Flintshire (GB)**, a son of Dansili (GB), and the War Front stallions **Air Force Blue** and **Hit It A Bomb**, all of whom are likely to have a smattering of first-crop runners in Europe this year.

We will bring you the second part of this first-season sire overview later this week.

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## EUROPEAN NEWS

presented by:  Destination Europe  
www.destinationeuropereading.com

### Horse Racing in Ireland Halted Cont. from p1

He added, "It's a devastating blow to us, but it is to everybody in the country. We're not the only ones. We'll have to knuckle down and get through this. We will get through this and come out the other side, however long it takes."

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## UK TRAINING TO CONTINUE AS NEW CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS ANNOUNCED

Trainers are being advised to continue gallops exercise, and adhere strictly to social-distancing requirements, following Prime Minister Boris Johnson's announcement of new measures to combat the spread of coronavirus. The Prime Minister spelled out, in a broadcast address to the nation on Monday night, that the vast majority of the public must stay at home until further notice. The only exceptions are one permitted piece of outdoor exercise per day, essential shopping for provisions or for medical attention--while observing social-distancing.

A list of key workers who are exempt has, however, already been published--and indications are that stable staff fall into the bracket of those also still allowed to travel to their place of employment.



a string trains on Newmarket heath | Emma Berry

The National Trainers Federation chief executive Rupert Arnold issued swift advice to members on the organisation's website about the implications understood for racing yards and their staff.

He wrote, "Within minutes of the Prime Minister's announcement of strict rules on the movement of people from 9 p.m. tonight, trainers began asking us whether horses could be exercised tomorrow. We have already sent a message to the industry Covid Group pointing out that in all European racing jurisdictions where severe restrictions on movement have already been implemented, racehorses are continuing to be exercised.

"Our advice to you is therefore to continue getting horses out on the gallops and other exercise areas, while observing the distancing rules with the utmost discipline."

The NTF guidance warns that trainers should take responsibility to stress to employees the strict arrangements under which they must work during the ongoing pandemic.

Arnold's briefing added, "Tell your staff that failure to observe the rules is a disciplinary offence. Make sure you, as their employer, lead by example and that all the necessary equipment and advice is available in the yard for them to wash and dry hands, clean surfaces and keep at least two metres apart.

"We are seeking confirmation that feed, bedding and other essential supplies and services such as vet, farrier and muck removal can continue."

The NTF intends to issue further advice following a conference call with racing's Covid Group on Tuesday.

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## BOOKMARK

<http://www.thoroughbreddailynews.com/getLatest.php>  
to download the latest edition of the TDN each day.

## BHA RELEASES GUIDELINES TO INDUSTRY DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

Following the UK government initiating a three-week lockdown protocol to combat the coronavirus on Monday, the British Racing Authority, Racecourse Association and The Horsemen's Group released a **guide** to assist racecourses, yards and studs during this period. According to the lockdown protocols, people must stay home except for very limited purposes, all non-essential shops and community spaces are closed and all gatherings of more than two people in public are not allowed. Tuesday's guidelines are as follows:

- Staff may travel directly to work to care for horses
- Staff who are essential to the care of horses in respect of the above, and who absolutely cannot work from home, should continue to travel to work during the period of these restrictions.
- Groundstaff may still travel to work to perform core outdoor duties on racecourses or other facilities, provided requirements around social distancing and gatherings of no more than two people are followed
- Horses should of course be cared for at all times-- including access to food and water, clean bedding and exercise. Staff are allowed to travel to work to provide this, however, the standard of care should be focused primarily on upholding their welfare, rather than their fitness to race.
- Any non-essential activity beyond this should be carefully considered and, where possible, avoided.
- Staff at yards must follow government advice relating to social distancing when outside--remaining at least two metres apart and avoiding gatherings of more than two people, apart from members of their own household, at any time.
- Suppliers of feed, bedding and appropriate veterinary medicines will remain open for business under similar government advice that allows pet shops to remain open for access to animal supplies.
- The Royal College of Veterinary surgeons has advised its members to reduce face-to-face veterinary consultations to focus on emergency appointments, fulfilment of urgent prescriptions and maintaining the food supply chain.
- The Farriers Registration Council (FRC)'s interpretation of the government guidance is that registered farriers can continue to provide essential services to equines, and they should continue to attend to equines using their judgement as to matters of priority and/or urgency, with provisos around hygiene and social distancing.

This current guidance, after liaising with Defra and the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport, will be updated as needed. For more details and the full guidelines, please go to [www.bha.co.uk](http://www.bha.co.uk).

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## TATTERSALLS OFFICES REMAIN CLOSED, FOLLOWING NEW COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

After the latest batch of coronavirus restrictions on Monday evening, the Tattersalls offices in Newmarket will remain closed, the sales company announced on Tuesday morning. The staff of Tattersalls, Tattersalls Ascot and Tattersalls Cheltenham are all working from home and are available via email or their mobile phones. This policy will remain under constant review and Tattersalls will continue to follow the latest government guidelines to safeguard the best interests of our clients and all employed by Tattersalls.

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## WORLDWIDE NEWS

### SOUTH AFRICAN RACING HALTED FROM MAR. 27-APR. 16

Horse racing in South Africa has been temporarily suspended from Mar. 27 to Apr. 16, after a presidential directive was issued on Monday. The upcoming suspension is part of a three-week coronavirus lockdown, as cases in that country hit 554 on Tuesday.

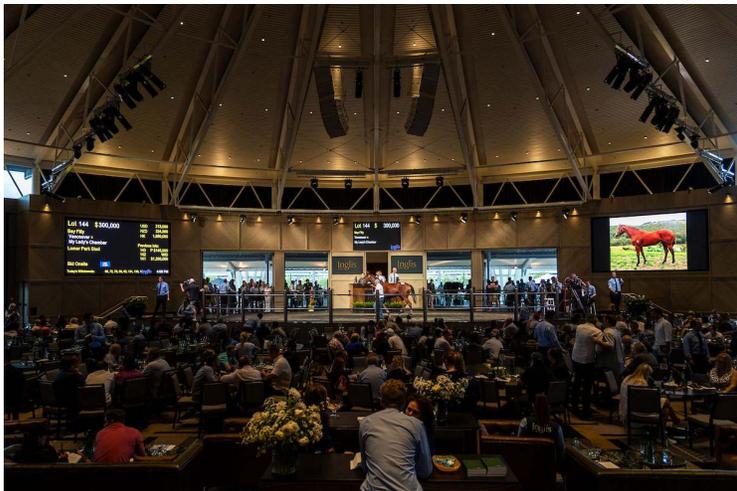
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Greyville Race Course from the air | Getty Images



## INGLIS SYDNEY EASTER SALE BROUGHT FORWARD



Inglis Riverside Auditorium | Bronwen Healy

By Paul Vettise

The Inglis Easter Yearling Sale has been brought forward two days and will now be held on Sunday, Apr. 5 and Monday, Apr. 6 with the sale to commence at 10 a.m. on both days. Attendance at the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale will be restricted and those looking to attend must apply to register by clicking the below link.

Click [here](#) to register. This link is to an application form and completion of the application does not guarantee registration. Only approved persons and their necessary associates will be registered to attend.

There will be no access by members of the general public and people are discouraged from looking to attend the sale complex without the necessary registration confirmation. Prospective buyers are encouraged to consider the online bidding facilities which have been in place for many years. If you are not a registered online bidder, you can register by following the below link. Click [here](#) for online bidding

Inglis agents will also be available to act on behalf of clients over the phone or subject to pre-advised instructions. An appointment of agent form will need to be completed in advance of the sale for any Inglis agent to act on behalf of a purchaser.

Please click [here](#) for an appointment of agent form.

The standard credit arrangements will need to be fulfilled in line with traditional Inglis auction protocol. Anyone looking to participate in the auction is encouraged to contact Andrew Munce ([andrew@inglis.com.au](mailto:andrew@inglis.com.au)) in advance of the sale.

Inglis is aware of the challenges posed by the outbreak of COVID-19 and has engaged a biosecurity consultant to assist in management of the sale while Inglis representatives are in regular contact with a senior official in the NSW Department of Health. Inglis will continue to make itself aware of developments in what is an evolving situation and will update our stakeholders in a timely manner as necessary.

### *Agent Reflects on First Deal*

By Paul Vettise

Sheamus Mills was in a small London pub a dozen years ago and facing tough times when he got his first deal over the line and the memories of that day have come flooding back following recent events.

Now a successful Victorian bloodstock agent, Mills didn't find it easy going when he went out on his own, but perseverance and a valued Australian contact came to his rescue when he was negotiating to buy a mare off famed Irish trainer Jim Bolger. The horse in question was Gaudeamus (USA) (Distorted Humor {USA}), who 12 years later has achieved broodmare fame as the dam of the Hong Kong Derby winner Golden Sixty (Medaglia D'Oro {USA}).

"She was the first horse I ever bought and I had a bit of a chuckle looking back at it," Mills said. "I had left Mick Price as his Racing Manager and I moved to London a little bit ahead of my time."

Mills had a cunning plan in mind, but he quickly found there was one major flaw.

"I moved there with the idea of buying Northern Hemisphere horses and selling them back to Australia. Obviously, it's absolute common place now but that the time nobody was doing it and as I found out no-one was interested," he said. "I couldn't get one sold, but I've always been into the breeding side of things. One thing I did when I first got there was to get a list of all the trainers, the Directory of the Turf they call it.

"I started cold calling the good trainers asking them if they had any fillies that I could buy. One trainer I thought I would get a favourable response from was Jim Bolger."

Mills was banking on a family connection to open the door for him.



Sheamus Mills | TDN AusNZ

“With a name like Sheamus and my mother is Irish and uncles and aunties and I had an uncle who used to paint houses with Jim Bolger. They used to car poll together on those house painting jobs,” he said. “I rang Jim Bolger and said my uncle and you guys used to paint houses together and this, that and the other. He remembered and said he was a good fellow and then said, let’s cut to the chase and what are you ringing me for.”

Mills explained his reason and if Bolger had any fillies on the market.

“He said no, but then said he had one but a young fellow like me being wet around the ears wouldn’t be able to afford it. He said she was a Group 2 winning 2-year-old by Distorted Humor and I thought at the time he was the bee’s knees.

“He told me about her and I asked the price and he said that’s too expensive for you by far. I told him I was sure I could get a deal done.”

One of the first people Mills got in contact with was successful Australian breeder and owner Bob Scarborough, with whom he had dealings with in his time with Price.

“I rang Bob and he made an offer so I went back to Jim and he said something along the lines of, boy you need to clean your ears out, I told you the price. I went back to Bob with my tail between my legs.”

Scarborough was keen on Gaudeamus and upped his offer and a deal was subsequently done.

“It was the first commission I ever got paid. I was pretty much starving at the time and I was sitting in a little pub in Chiswick with about 10 people in it. When Bob said he would go ahead and buy the horse it’s needless to say the next round was on me,” Mills said. “The great shame for me was that she came over here and I wish she had done a better job for Bob. He had a

dispersal a few years ago of which she was part of and Element Hill bought her.

“She was my first purchase and I thought how easy is this job--I reckon it took me another 12 months to sell another horse. I quickly learned it was very much beginner’s luck.”

A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then with Mills now well-established among the leading echelon of bloodstock agents. With Golden Sixty now a star of Hong Kong racing, Mills can attest to the old maxim that everybody needs a bit of luck along the way.

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

**Paul Moroney Adapts Sale Routine**

**TDN AusNZ–Coronavirus Daily Update**

**Coolmore Jewel Shines in Ireland**

**Funstar/Probabeel to Renew Rivalry**

**Gailo Chop Plans Undecided**

AUSTRALIAN GROUP 1 RACES – 2020

Date	Race	Track
Mar. 28	G1 Tancred S.	Rosehill
	G1 Vinery Stud S.	Rosehill

THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Apr. 4	G1 The Star Doncaster Mile S.	Randwick
	G1 T J Smith S.	Randwick
	G1 Harrolds Australian Derby	Randwick
	G1 Inglis Sires’ S.	Randwick
Apr. 11	G1 Longines Queen Elizabeth S.	Randwick
	G1 Schweppes Sydney Cup	Randwick
	G1 Heineken 3 Australian Oaks	Randwick
	G1 Coolmore Legacy S.	Randwick
Apr. 18	G1 Schweppes All-Aged S.	Randwick
	G1 Moet & Chandon Champagne S.	Randwick
May 2	G1 TAB Classic (Robert Sangster S.)	Morphettville
	G1 Schweppes Oaks	Morphettville
May 9	G1 TAB Doomben 10,000	Doomben