



HANLEY'S WINNING EYE FOR EQUINE STARDOM



David Hanley | Horsephotos

by Chris McGrath

On the last day of 1990, T. Murray McDonnell made his regular call from the United States to Ireland.

"David," he said. "We're going to have the best year ever. I can feel it."

The next day, a call from McDonnell's son instead. They had found him that morning on the kitchen floor. David Hanley flew out for the funeral. He was reserved a spot in the second row, next to Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

McDonnell had never had the best of health, so his heart attack couldn't be the biggest of shocks; but he was only 68, and full of plans for the future. What a guy he had been: awarded two Bronze Stars during the war in France, he had turned over an inspiring new leaf after the collapse of the family's Wall Street firm in 1970.

And though Hanley's own career has meandered a good deal more than his many friends in the Bluegrass may realize--other, that is, than in sheer consistency of accomplishment--he doesn't hesitate in identifying his first meeting with McDonnell as the turning point.

Hanley had returned to his homeland, after stints in Holland and Germany, to assemble his own team of show jumpers and also to assist his original mentor, Iris Kellett.

Cont. p3

SPORT PRIMED FOR SPECTATOR-FREE RACING. BUT THEN WHAT?

The Week in Review, by T.D. Thornton

Horseplayers were up in arms last week over a controversial disqualification at previously under-the-radar Fonner Park during a \$4.1-million pandemic-inflated Pick Five sequence. Off-the-beaten-path Will Rogers Downs is flirting with \$10 million in weekly handle fueled largely by bettors who, prior to the coronavirus outbreak, would have had difficulty pinpointing that track on a map.

Amid the dystopia triggered by racetrack closures nationwide, such rapt attention and robust wagering on the five Thoroughbred tracks still running (Oaklawn Park, Gulfstream Park, and Tampa Bay Downs are the others) could be viewed as a proverbial silver lining for our industry while the ominous COVID-19 cloud darkens the world. Cont. p

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

SUPPORT OF TRIPLE CROWN WINNER JUSTIFIED

China Horse Club has quality foals on the ground both in the U.S. and Ireland from the first crop of its Triple Crown winner Justify. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

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Monday, April 13, 2020



Home schooling: Jonas Nance assists his father Jacob foaling a mare in Midway, Kentucky, Saturday morning. Jonas explained to his father that the placenta was completely normal. "This is how home schooling is done on a farm," said Susie Hart, who emailed the photo to the TDN, and who keeps her mares on the Nances' farm. "Jonas is getting quite an education." | Michelle Nance

FLATTER COLT LEADS HOME U.S.-BRED 1-3 IN HK 13

Sent off as the 11-2 fourth choice in a field of six for Sunday's Yau Ma Tei Plate, the first griffin race of the year in Hong Kong, **Sunny Star** (Flatter) flopped out of the gates, but came with a stinging rally inside the final 200 meters to open his account at first asking. **Chancheng Prince** (Carpe Diem) raced prominently throughout and stuck on gamely for third.

PRICEY PAYNTER FILLY WINS WELL FIRST OUT RR

Saratoga Affair (Paynter), cost three times as much as the next-priciest Paynter juvenile last term when she brought \$450,000 at OBSAPR, and she began repaying that investment Sunday with a good-looking off-the-pace debut score at Gulfstream for trainer Chad Brown.

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Hanley cont. from p1

She had supervised his evolution from talented adolescent to international show jumper and eventer, and now wanted his help with the instruction of the next generation. When Hanley found himself needing to rent more boxes, somebody took him to knock the door of this little American who had a farm up the road in County Kildare. They had a cup of tea and next morning McDonnell drove across and asked to see Hanley's horses. Was there one, perhaps, that he might ride during his stay?



Iris Kellett | Getty Images

"I said, 'Sure, why don't you come and ride out with me?'" recalls Hanley. "If I had said, 'No, I really don't have anything,' I would probably never have got into Thoroughbreds."

Quite a thought, for the general manager of one of the world's premier stud farms, WinStar. Especially when you consider the sheer diversity of the achievements with bloodstock that qualified this reflective, temperate County Mayo man for the role.

"So we went hacking around the farm," Hanley resumes. "Murray was already in his sixties, a little frail, but he arrived every day and we went riding together. I didn't have any idea who he was. [Or, for that matter, that McDonnell had married into the Anheuser-Busch family.] All the time he'd be asking, 'Tell me about this horse. What are his shortcomings? What makes this one good?' At the end of the two weeks his wife came to pick him up and said, 'You have no idea how much fun he's had.'"

Every time McDonnell came back for his fortnight in Ireland, twice a year, it would be the same: they'd ride out together every day. And then eventually McDonnell asked: "Did you ever think of doing anything with Thoroughbreds? I think with your horse knowledge, you'd do really well. Why don't you run my farm, come and manage my mares?"

Cont. p4

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|--|--|--|
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| <p>BUILD TO SUIT</p>  <p>CHAMPION MALE SPRINTER</p> | | |

Broodmare of the Year: TIZFIZ (dam of TIZ THE LAW)
Trainer of the Year: Linda Rice • Jockey of the Year: Manuel Franco
Breeders of the Year: Chester and Mary Broman

Hanley cont.

So, just as a sideline at first, Hanley started to prep the yearlings, breed the handful of mares; started to adapt the equine expertise he had been developing since boyhood. His father had trained the odd point-to-pointer, and had honed Hanley's eye with annual visits to the Dublin Horse Show. (And not just his eye: he was competing in the pony classes by the age of eight.)

McDonnell was so convinced that Hanley's skills were transferable that he even convinced him to train a couple of youngsters that had been spelled at the farm. One of them promptly won first time out at the Curragh, by four and a half lengths; the other one also won. McDonnell played up the winnings, and bought five yearlings for Hanley to train.

"All five won as 2-year-olds, and three were stakes-placed," remembers Hanley. "I remember John Oxx called at the end of

the year and said, 'I have a client who wants to buy a couple of 2-year olds rated above 100. Well, I see you've got three. I've only got one!'"

Things evolved from there. The next year he had 13 horses: all the 2-year-olds won again, and there were also big handicap wins at the Curragh and Galway. All this, just through playing on hills at the farm and vanning the workers to the Curragh.

Hanley's intuition, it would seem, was serving him better than the conventional Turf grounding of other trainers. Yes, he learned plenty from Brian Nolan, who had ridden for Jim Bolger and would meet him at the Curragh to work the horses. And Hanley had previously borrowed Ted Walsh's gallops to pre-train a couple of bumper horses for a client: no doubt he

had kept his eyes and ears open, in that very special environment.



David Hanley | Keeneland Photo

Cont. p5

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Fred Hertrich

Hanley cont.

But only an innate talent would have identified and maximised the potential of **Lidanna (GB)**.

She came along a couple of years after McDonnell's death, just around the time Hanley moved on to a yard on the Curragh. He bought her for two distant cousins, both priests, and their nephews: together they had 10 grand for a foal. (Some collection plate, that Christmas!) Hanley couldn't find anything he liked for that money, at the foal sales, but then he went to the one-day yearling sale at Tattersalls in December and fell for a filly by a hardy Danzig sprinter named Nicholas.

"We broke the budget for her: 13,000 guineas," Hanley recalls with a smile. "So I had to take a leg. I brought her back to Ireland, broke her, and started training her. She was third first time out at the Curragh, and was then a tick off the track record at Tipperary, eased down. One of the priests said: 'They bet the hell out of her!'"

Hanley bounced her out a week later to finish second in a Group race at the Curragh, and put her away.

"When she came out in the spring she won a Listed race at Tipperary despite a terrible trip," he recalls. "Missed the break, stumbled, and still got up and won. I mean, she was a tiger. Then I ran her in the [G3] Greenland S., against the colts. Mick

Kinane sat her at the back the whole way, she relaxed beautifully, and bolted in by three lengths. So she was the breakthrough filly for me."

Surely Hanley must have wondered what he had brought into the Thoroughbred game that other trainers were missing?

"Well, we had just a small bunch of horses and there was me and one other guy," he says with a shrug. "I knew how they went to the feed tub, how much they were leaving, how they were carrying their weight. We were watching their legs, and keeping them happy out for a pick of grass in the afternoon." **Cont. p6**



David & Ann Hanley | Horsephotos



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Hanley cont.

But it was never quite the same after the loss of McDonnell. He had called Hanley every evening from his 19th floor office on Fifth Avenue, and they'd go through the horses, one by one. He brought him out to see how American sales and farms went about things. In Ireland, too, he could introduce Hanley to new influences: he was a good friend of Dermot O'Brien, Vincent's brother and for a long time his right-hand man. They went to see the gallops at Ballydoyle, and lunched round Vincent's table.

Not that McDonnell himself really knew much about horses.

"I had a retired show jumper that I used to keep in the field as a pet for the mares," recalls Hanley. "One day we're out there with a man from the bank. We're looking at this old gelding and he's explaining to the banker what a good mare he was. I don't know how much he borrowed against that 12-year-old gelding, but the banker thought he was a broodmare and so did Murray. But he really was a wonderful guy. It was terrible that he passed when he did. He was loving it, putting together partnerships, planning to put more and more into the whole thing."

But one legacy, as we know, was already assured: McDonnell had recognized the ultimate vocation of this exceptional horseman. And another was secured when his widow offered Hanley the option to buy the Irish farm, Whitechurch. And that brand was gratefully retained, when Hanley moved to America a few years later.

In the meantime, he had outgrown his improvised training facilities and moved to Maddenstown Lodge on the Curragh. But then one spring the horses all got terribly sick: they were bleeding even if only breezed. Within the same 12 months, moreover, he lost both his parents. Then there were the bad payers, requiring Hanley to become as much of a trader as a trainer.

In 2001, however, there was at least the final flourish of **Golden Apples (Ire)** (Pivotal {GB}). Co-bred with James Egan, she won her maiden by eight lengths and, after an eye-catching third in Group company, was bought by Gary Tanaka to run in the GI Del Mar Oaks.

"She left my yard on the Monday, shipped to California, got out of quarantine, jogged two days, and bolted up in the Grade I in the name of Ben Cecil!" says Hanley with a smile. "He had only seen her the day before. In fairness, he then developed her

into an Eclipse Award winner. And they did send me the trainer's percentage!"

But Hanley would soon be following her over the ocean. He had developed a knack for pinhooking, first with a McDonnell syndicate and subsequently with partners of his own. GI Acorn S. winner **Forest Secrets** (Forest Wildcat) had been turned from a \$150,000 weanling to a \$425,000 yearling; and Hanley also had a leg in **Chief Seattle** (Seattle Slew), eventually sold to Sheikh Mohammed after finishing second in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile; while in the European market, together with James Egan, he had spotted elite producer **Cassandra Go (Ire)** (Indian Ridge {Ire}) and Group 1 winner **Rebelline (Ire)** (Robellino) as weanlings.

Now some American partners were embarked on a venture so much more ambitious than Hanley emigrated to Kentucky. And while the new farm did not last, he was here for good: with

45 acres on Iron Works Pike, he started over with seven or eight pinhooks a year.

Once again, he landed running. "We topped the [Fasig-Tipton] July Sale two years in a row [in 2007 and 2008], with foals I'd bought for \$85,000 and \$100,000," he recalls. "Then I brought three to Saratoga, and sold one for \$875,000, one for \$725,000, and the other for \$250,000."

It didn't seem to matter what he turned his hand to: his equestrian education appeared to have given Hanley a usefully

different prism through which to view Thoroughbreds. First and foremost, he emphasizes, he was privileged to be raised by a horseman as discerning as his father.

"But yes, while show jumpers can come in all shapes and sizes, all the good ones have to be balanced," he reflects. "So you do get a feel from the way a horse moves and carries himself, how they push off their hocks."

Similarly, moreover, with their mentality. Hanley perceives a common margin between all the different brands of horsemanship he has observed or cultivated.

"In show jumping, for example, if you know you're going to have to jump seven foot, you would never ask them to do so in training," he explains. "You practise over smaller obstacles, you build his confidence until he feels he's the best. When you ride into that arena, you're going to ask that horse to do something that pushes him to the limit. If there's any chink in his armour, if he's not confident he can do it, he won't. **Cont. p7**



Golden Apples | *Horsephotos*

Hanley cont.

"And I felt the same with training [Thoroughbreds]. You obviously have to challenge them. But you never want to push them so hard that they feel defeated. Of course there are many ways to train, but I believe Vincent would always have a lead for his good horses, so that they always finished their work on top. They didn't know what it was to be beaten. And I think when it feels good, when they're doing it with flair, they get better and stronger."

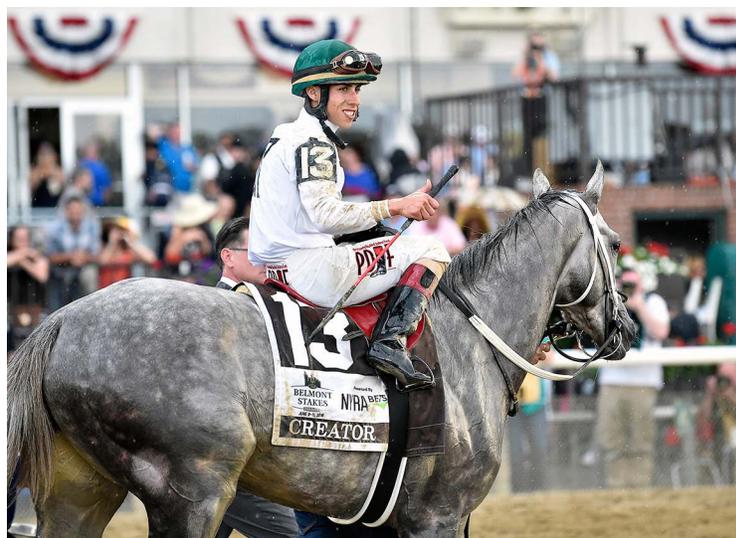
Though it is only six years since his arrival at WinStar, Hanley has in that time already been instrumental in identifying the apogee among Thoroughbreds: an undefeated Triple Crown winner, found at the Keeneland September Sale in 2016.

WinStar were partnering with China Horse Club and SF Bloodstock, whose representatives were naturally involved too. Farm president and CEO Elliott Walden asked Hanley to take a look at a son of Scat Daddy he'd seen in the Glenwood consignment.

"And what I saw was, well, an exceptional physical," Hanley recalls. "He was very big, but when he went to move! The way he stepped off his hind end and reached for the ground, the way he carried his head. It was just like, wow, what have we got here? This immature, massive horse moved like he was 15.2 hands. His balance, for such a big horse, was incredible: he was so light on his feet."



Justify as a Keeneland September yearling | Keeneland Photo



Creator | Sarah Andrew

"We were just talking about the horse with confidence; the horse that thinks he's the best. Well, I remember watching **Justify** come off the track the day before the Belmont and thinking, 'I'd hate to be running against him tomorrow.' He just walked off there like, 'I'm the man.' And Bob Baffert was part of his magic. I mean, yes, he trains these horses hard. But if you watch, he always sets his works up for the good horse. They always finish in front, and gallop out in front like a monster."

Hanley had already been integral to the discovery of a Classic winner in **Creator** (Tapit), while the following year GI Florida Derby winner **Audible** (Into Mischief)--now himself on the WinStar roster--was picked out at Fasig's Gulfstream 2-year-old auction.

"It's been an incredible run for three or four years," says Hanley, before adding wryly: "Came up dry this year, completely. But that's the way it goes. You can't win every year."

Modest as he is, there's clearly some kind of equine Midas touch at work in Hanley: from his equestrian career, which must be condensed here simply as world-class (he had a cracker of a ride lined up for Moscow, when shortlisted for the boycotted Olympics); to finding a 13,000gns champion sprinter; to a key role in the story of Justify.

And what is striking, now, is how Hanley is again adapting to a radically different task. In terms of scale, coming to WinStar was rather like asking a Swiss watchmaker to tune Big Ben. From having a dozen or so Whitechurch pinhooks to manage, he is now holding an umbrella over 400-500 head of horse. **Cont. p8**

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with Guest **Chad Brown**

Hanley cont.

"It's been quite an education, and at times a challenge," he admits. "The volume of work here is quite enormous. We work 10 sales a year, probably, and it just keeps going and going. But it's something I love to do. I mean, I'm a horseman. I love being around the horses. I love that we've got the training here, that I can go and watch the young horses develop, watch their soundness. I'm not a great office guy, or organizer. But here it's about the horses.

"And we have great staff. Every division, I've a connection with each of those guys and know what's going on. I can just slip in wherever: foals, yearlings, stallions, training, breaking, buying. You have to delegate, but you can oversee the picture. If something's not going right, you can pretty much zoom in and see what needs to be done."



Hanley with consignor Shack Parrish and WinStar owner Kenny Troutt (right) | Fasig-Tipton Photo

As someone who already knew the species backwards, Hanley has been fascinated to learn about horses in a fresh dimension--and, above all, to learn new business perspectives from farm owner Kenny Troutt.

Still learning, then, after all these years. Nobody, after all, will ever wholly master the unpredictability of Thoroughbreds. But that same unpredictability is perhaps one of their gifts to horsemen, attuning them the wider hazards of fortune. Just look what has happened to our business, since this conversation just a little while ago. Or, above all, consider the cruel fate that has in recent years pitched Hanley's wife Ann into a battle with Parkinson's Disease.

The warmth with which their adopted community has embraced the couple, and the generosity with which it has backed **Ann's research charity**, is a human boon that complements the gratification Hanley has always found in the company of horses.

"People have been incredible," he says. "She's amazing, how she has dealt with it all; and how she's got involved in research, and fundraising, and helping other people with the disease. It has been so humbling for me to observe the work Ann has been doing over the last five or six years, improving the quality of life for many people with Parkinson's, through her funding and support of patients at U.K. The letters of gratitude that come to her from these people are heart-warming. And we feel really honoured by the way that the horse community has got behind us. You get challenges in your life, but I really admire her positive attitude. I'm sure I wouldn't be able to do it."

And unpredictability cuts both ways. It gives as much as it takes away--above all with horses.

"I often wonder how it would have panned out, if I had stayed training," Hanley muses. "But life is full of twists and turns. It was only knocking on that American stranger's door, to see if I could rent some stalls, that got me here today."

At McDonnell's Memorial Mass, one of his sons read the Prayer of a Confederate Soldier. He'd found on a yellowing piece of paper in his father's briefcase. It concludes: "I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I hoped for." Perhaps, then, we can all learn from Hanley, one of the most remarkable horsemen in our midst--and always keep knocking at new doors.

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Ann Hanley accepts a \$25,000 donation from Keeneland for the Ann Hanley Parkinson's Research Fund in 2018 | Coady Photo



APP UPDATE

For those subscribers who have been having problems opening the TDN in the app, there is now an update in the App Store. Please update your app, which will fix the bug.

Week in Review cont. from p1

But it would be a mistake to take those captive-audience horseplayers for granted and expect that their currently voracious capacity for betting and future willingness to attend live races will automatically rise as more tracks get back to business.

This is racing's year of force majeure, not "if you open the gates, they will come."

And yes, that applies to the toney summer race meets at Saratoga and Del Mar, plus the rescheduled GI Kentucky Derby now penciled in for Sept. 5.

Although horse racing will enjoy an initial advantage over other sports in terms of being able to capably generate at least some revenue by running in front of grandstands that remain empty because of health protocols, the phase that comes after that--reopening races to the public on a limited basis--still looks like a dicey leap into the great unknown.

The big question facing the sport shouldn't be "When will tracks be fully open?" but rather, "Who will come when they are?"

As we approach the four-week mark since the start of widespread social distancing and self-quarantining, most of us are longing for the routine and camaraderie of a day at the races.

It's vitally important for our collective social health to have something like that to look forward to. But the day-at-the-races fantasy starts to break down when you impose the ever-changing "new normal" upon the situation.

Crowding around the walking ring to get a glimpse of the horses? No longer so appealing. Standing 10 deep in a betting line to make a face-to-face, money-exchanging transaction at a mutuel window? No thanks. Or using the fingerprint-smear touch screen of a self-service betting terminal? You've got to be kidding.

And when tracks do reopen, you can bet that the discarded mutuel tickets that traditionally cover the floor will be joined by those frightfully ubiquitous used vinyl gloves you now see littered everywhere.

A [poll](#) conducted Apr. 6-8 by the Stillman School of Business at Seton Hall University revealed that 72% of respondents said they would not attend games if sports leagues resumed play before the development of a coronavirus vaccine. Only 12% said

they would take in a sporting event in person if social distancing could be maintained.

The Glens Falls *Post Star* in upstate New York ran an [Apr. 8 story](#) that calculated the cost of a potentially tourism-free summer with no race meet in Saratoga Springs to be a \$979-million loss for the area's economy.

Right now, the racing season at the Spa is still slated to open as scheduled July 16. But as one of the owners of the Saratoga Casino Hotel put it bluntly in the *Post Star* story, "The question is how long, if ever, will we return to [the] same level we had before. It will take a long time because the habits people are forming now--with social distancing and lack of doing things in large groups and venues--won't change immediately."



Spectators watch the 2019 GI Runhappy Travers S. at Saratoga

Sarah Andrew

With that salient point in mind, what are some of the things that tracks and industry entities could and should be doing to ease the transition?

Coming up with some sort of all-in-one, easy-to-use, on-track mobile app that serves as a track program, betting interface, and food and beverage ordering service would be an enterprising start.

So, too, would lowering takeout rates as a form of economic stimulus.

And even though the numerous calls for "free data"

have for the most part fallen on deaf ears at Equibase, now more than ever is the time to underscore the main point that the [Thoroughbred Idea Foundation](#) wrote about in a study released almost exactly one year before COVID-19 blindsided our industry:

"The collection and distribution of racing data should be considered a marketing expense, used to attract and retain gamblers while also empowering owners to make educated decisions. It should be as free and open as possible. Equibase's success should not be measured in terms of data sales, but in the performance of racing's wagering markets."

Jeff Hwang, who covers the gambling sector, wrote an illuminating analysis titled "Why Re-Open the Las Vegas Strip?" that the financial news site *The Motley Fool* published Apr. 9. It's [well worth reading](#) from a Thoroughbred perspective--especially if you substitute "racing industry" for most references that Hwang makes to "Las Vegas," and "tracks" for most references he makes to "the Strip" (like I have done in brackets for the concluding paragraph of this column). **Cont. p10**

Week in Review cont.

“This is an excellent opportunity--while the whole planet is closed--to hit the reset button,” Hwang wrote. “This means ditching the nickel-and-dime approach to the customer... There is an opportunity here to reset and reinvent [the racing industry] and fix the mistakes of the past decade, and change our approach to the customer. We do this right--and this starts by not screwing up the coronavirus containment effort locally, and by not forcing [tracks] open before we are ready for visitors--and the customer will come back in due time.”

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FLATTER COLT LEADS HOME U.S.-BRED 1-3 AT SHA TIN *by Alan Carasso*



Sunny Star, with Chancheng Prince (gray) back in third | HKJC

Sent off as the 11-2 fourth choice in a field of six for Sunday’s Yau Ma Tei Plate, the first griffin race of the year in Hong Kong, **Sunny Star** (Flatter) flopped out of the gates, but came with a stinging rally inside the final 200 meters to open his account at first asking, defeating 6-5 favorite **Smiling Face (GB)** (Acclamation {GB}) by 2 1/4 lengths. **Chancheng Prince** (Carpe Diem) raced prominently throughout and stuck on gamely for third.

Sunny Star hopped in the air just as the gates flew and the son of Suzee Sunrise (Chester House) was detached from his five rivals for the opening quarter mile. Into the bit linking up with the course proper, he was taken hold of when short of room a furlong and a half from home, burst through three off the stands’ side rail at the eighth pole and streaked clear ([video](#)). Sunny Star is the first Hong Kong starter for his sire.

“I expected he could jump out together with the other horses, but he missed the kick a little bit--[jockey] Vincent [Ho] said it was because he sat down in the gate,” said winning trainer Francis Lui, who also saddled Chancheng Prince. “My horse is more mature than the others, his gallops have been very competitive. It’s a good start and I think we’ll stick to the griffin races for now.”

Consigned by Brookdale Sales to the 2017 Keeneland November Sale, Sunny Star was knocked down for \$90,000, but was RNAd for \$40,000 at Fasig-Tipton October the following fall. Mark Dwyer’s Oaks Farm Stables prepared the colt for last year’s Tattersalls Craven Breeze-Up sale, where he was hammered down to agent Dwayne Woods for 55,000gns (\$75,635). He earned roughly \$62,500 for his victory Sunday.

A half-brother to Grade III-winning turfer Golden Brown (Offlee Wild), Sunny Star is out of a daughter of SW Diane’s Birthday (With Approval), dam of French Group 3 hero Arcadia’s Angle (Aldebaran).

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MAXIMOVA, 10, Danehill Dancer (Ire)--Honorio (Ire), by Sadler’s Wells

Foal born Mar. 24, a filly by Street Sense
Will be bred back to Street Sense
Owned by and boarded at Gallagher’s Stud, New York
Accomplishments: SW & MGSP, \$334, 068

SHERIFFA, 9, Posse--Smileforamile, by Unbridled’s Song

Foal born Mar. 26, a colt by Flatter
Will be bred back to Nyquist
Owned by West End Thoroughbreds
Boarded at Edition Farm, New York
Accomplishments: MSW, \$469,684



ALLOWANCES

IN ORDER OF PURSE:

11th-Gulfstream, \$40,000, Alw (NW2\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$62,500), 4-12, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10.90, ft.

VARANASI (m, 5, Jimmy Creed--Yearly Report {MGSW, \$835,900}, by General Meeting) broke through here going 5 1/2 furlongs last May on the trainer change from Richard Mandella, and romped by five when stretched to a mile at Monmouth in June. Fourth in a Laurel optional claimer around a one-turn eight panels Aug. 4, the well-related mare was dismissed at 12-1 as her stablemate Guacamole (Flat Out) was backed as the 3-1 co-favorite. Taking up a good pocket spot inside of Guacamole and tucked behind the pacesetter, Varanasi came under a busy ride heading for home and lost ground on the top two as she shifted out for the stretch drive. She found another gear in midstretch once she finally switched leads, and ran down her stablemate late to prevail by a head. The winner is half to Checklist (Gone West), MGSP, \$169,184; and Condo Commando (Tiz Wonderful), GISW, \$758,600. Sales history: \$385,000 Ylg '16 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 8-3-0-2, \$97,425.

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

O-Bass Stables, LLC; B-Gainesway Thoroughbreds LTD & Brian Graves (KY); T-Todd A. Pletcher.

backside. She came into view entering the lane after a :45.12 half, and kicked past rivals down the center of the course to win by a comfy 1 1/2 lengths. GIII Forward Gal S. third Nikki and Papa (Mineshaft) took a tight photo for second. The winner has a yearling half-brother by Practical Joke. Sales history: \$50,000 Ylg '18 KEESEP; \$450,000 2yo '19 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$22,800. Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by [Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-Pick Five Racing, LLC; B-Falcon Wood Partners (KY); T-Chad C. Brown.

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Saratoga Affair | Lauren King



MAIDENS

IN ORDER OF PURSE:

4th-Gulfstream, \$38,000, Msw, 4-12, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11.78, ft.

SARATOGA AFFAIR (f, 3, Paynter--Mallory Street {SP, \$111,837}, by Street Sense) cost three times as much as the next-riciest Paynter juvenile last term when she brought \$450,000 at OBSAPR off a strong :10 flat breeze. She was given a 7-2 chance off an upbeat-looking worktab at Palm Meadows, and was spotting most of her well-bred foes a race or two worth of experience. Off towards the back of the pack, the bay was scrubbed on to sit midpack among a strung-out group down the

3rd-Gulfstream, \$41,000, (S), Msw, 4-12, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11.00, ft. WHISKEY SUNRISE (g, 3, Cajun Breeze--Clara Bow, by Way West {Fr}) hadn't been seen since finishing second here in his debut as an early-season juvenile almost a full year ago, but showed a pair of sharp three-furlong drills in preparation for this return and made up for lost time as the 7-5 second choice. Part of a three-horse duel while out in the clear through a :21.97 opening quarter, the homebred seized a clear advantage midway along the turn and was several lengths in front entering the straight as only favorite Victory Town (Speightstown) had any chance to catch him. Whiskey Sunrise never looked back, however, and continued on to prevail by a sharp 4 3/4 lengths. The winner is a full to Cajun Firecracker, SW, \$224,930; and half to Sparticle (Field Commission), SP, \$168,729.

Cont. p2

His dam, who hails from the extended female family of 1976 champion sprinter and 2019 Hall of Fame inductee My Juliet, has a 2-year-old sister to Whiskey Sunrise and was bred back to Cajun Breeze again for 2020. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$37,500. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.** O/B-Shadybrook Farm Inc. (FL); T-Michael Yates.



IN HONG KONG:

Sunny Star, c, 3, **Flatter**--Suzee Sunrise, by Chester House. Sha Tin, 4-12, Griffin Race (\$110k), 1000mT, :58.64. B-Esther de Jong (KY). *1ST TIME STARTER. **1ST HONG KONG STARTER FOR SIRE. ***\$90,000 Wlg '17 KEENOV; \$40,000 RNA Ylg '18 FTKOCT; 55,000gns 2yo '19 TATAPR. ****1/2 to Golden Brown (Offlee Wild), GSW, \$493,000.

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SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: MONDAY, APR. 13

Dramedy (Distorted Humor), Sau, private
 29 foals of racing age/5 winners/1 black-type winner
 7-Will Rogers Downs, Msw 6f, ROYALLY, 15-1
 \$1,600 OKC YRL yrl

Midnight Crooner (War Chant), Caines Stallion Station
 2 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners
 9-Will Rogers Downs, Alw 5 1/2f, MOONSHINE MILDRED, 30-1
 \$1,000 RNA COY RL yrl



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ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

9th-Gulfstream, \$41,000, (S), (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$16,000), 4-12, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11.19, ft.

CORY GAL (f, 4, **Corfu**--With Elan, by Offlee Wild) Lifetime Record: 19-3-5-2, \$127,467. O-OGMA Investments, LLC; B-Eric J. Wirth (FL); T-Gustavo Delgado. *1/2 to With Verve (Kantharos), SW, \$135,940.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Mylastfirstkiss, f, 3, **Flatter**--Maxinkuckee Miss (SP), by Langfuhr. Gulfstream, 4-12, 1m, 1:36.12. B-Builder's Mart, Inc. (KY). *\$85,000 Ylg '18 KEESEP; \$250,000 2yo '19 OBSMAR.



CAJUN BREEZE, Whiskey Sunrise, g, 3, o/o Clara Bow, by Way West (Fr). MSW, 4-12, Gulfstream

CORFU, Cory Gal, f, 4, o/o With Elan, by Offlee Wild. AOC, 4-12, Gulfstream

FLATTER, Mylastfirstkiss, f, 3, o/o Maxinkuckee Miss, by Langfuhr. MSW, 4-12, Gulfstream

JIMMY CREED, Varanasi, m, 5, o/o Yearly Report, by General Meeting. AOC, 4-12, Gulfstream

PAYNTER, Saratoga Affair, f, 3, o/o Mallory Street, by Street Sense. MSW, 4-12, Gulfstream

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SUPPORT OF TRIPLE CROWN WINNER JUSTIFIED



Justify at Coolmore's Ashford Stud | Coolmore

By Kelsey Riley

In times of incredible uncertainty, the arrival of new foals allows breeders the excuse to steal a few moments to hope and dream. This can be especially true when the first crop of new sires arrive on the scene, and one of the most anticipated stallions with first foals this year is the unbeaten American Triple Crown winner Justify, who has already had plenty of quality first-crop representatives pop up across the Northern Hemisphere.

Justify was raced by a powerhouse partnership including China Horse Club, and it was that group's silks that he carried in his Triple Crown-sealing GI Belmont S. victory. China Horse Club pledged to support Justify from the outset of his stud career, sending him some of its finest mares and buying yet more at the sales to support him, and their faith in the son of Scat Daddy has been rewarded with some excellent first foals on the ground in Ireland and the U.S.

China Horse Club spent \$850,000 at Fasig-Tipton November last year to take home the listed-winning **Easter Lily (Ire)** (Galileo {Ire})-- a daughter of the stakes-winning Danehill mare Chanting and a full-sister to the stakes-winning Circling (Ire)--in foal to Justify, and the 5-year-old mare delivered her first foal, a filly, at Baroda Stud earlier this season. [Cont. p2](#)

TATTERSALLS CRAVEN BREEZE UP SALE

featuring the £15,000 Tattersalls Craven Breeze Up Bonus
Wed. 27th May - Fri. 29th May



UNBEATEN RECORD KEPT INTACT

Daring Tact (Jpn) (Epiphaneia {Jpn}) had shown potential for brilliance prior to Sunday's G1 Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas), breaking her maiden in her lone start at two and winning the Listed Elfin S. in February by four lengths, and the first-crop daughter of G1 Japan Cup and G1 Kikuka Sho winner Epiphaneia followed through on that promise on Sunday with a win in the nation's first Classic of the season. Daring Tact is the first filly in 40 years to win the Oka Sho in just her third start, and the seventh filly to win the race while unbeaten.

Racing well out of it and on the rail early in the driving rain at Hanshin, Daring Tact moved to the outside of rivals rounding the final turn and had a good 10 lengths to make up at the top of the stretch. Meanwhile up front, race favourite and champion 2-year-old filly **Resistencia (Jpn)** (Daiwa Major {Jpn}) managed to wrestle the lead from the front-running **Smile Kana (Jpn)** (Deep Impact {Jpn}) for a stride or two, but by that point the race had clearly taken its toll. [Cont. p4](#)

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

HANLEY'S WINNING EYE FOR EQUINE STARDOM

Chris McGrath follows the career arc of David Hanley from show jumpers in his native Ireland to general manager of WinStar Farm. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

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In Newmarket
Wednesday 27th - Friday 29th May

GUINEAS BREEZE UP SALE:

Monday 6th - Tuesday 7th July

Support Of Triple Crown Winner Justified cont. from p1

“She had a nice filly down at Baroda Stud that we’re really happy with,” said China Horse Club’s Michael Wallace. “She’s a nice first foal with plenty of size, great depth of girth and width of shoulder. For a first foal it’s a very pleasing physical outcome. The mare goes back to No Nay Never.”

Also visiting No Nay Never this season is **Hourglass (Ire)**, another daughter of Galileo bought by China Horse Club last November, she for \$1.1-million at Keeneland. The 5-year-old Hourglass is a half-sister to Shamardal and also from the family of the late leading sire Street Cry (Ire). Wallace described Hourglass’s Justify colt, also born at Baroda, as “very robust and a great mover.”

China Horse Club spent \$3.38-million at the American breeding stock sales last November on five mares in foal to Justify. Those purchases also included **Media Mischief (Into Mischief)**, a 6-year-old half-sister to G1 Prix de Diane winner Nebraska Tornado (Storm Cat) and group/graded winners Burning Sun (Danzig) and Mirabilis (Lear Fan) for \$550,000. Media Mischief has produced a bay Justify filly at Baroda Stud, as has **C’Est Ca (Ire)** (Galileo {Ire}), a 5-year-old

daughter of G1 Frizette S. winner A Z Warrior (Bernardini) and full-sister to Irish stakes winner Key To My Heart (Ire) who cost \$600,000.

“They’re both bay fillies, both very attractive and well-marked,” said Wallace of the daughters of Media Mischief and C’Est Ca. “All the Justifys seem to have very good, broad heads on them. They’re going to be attractive yearlings. They were both foaled down at Baroda and we’re very happy with them. Both mares are visiting Siyouni (Fr) this year.”

The fifth mare of the group, the \$280,000 **Costa Del Sol (Istan)**—a full-sister to the G1 Haskell second Albano and a half to multiple graded winner Mark Valeski (Proud Citizen)—was left in the U.S. at Hunter Valley Farm. She produced a chestnut filly—“a very attractive filly and a good mover”—and the mare is now back in foal to another young China Horse Club stallion, Yoshida (Jpn), who is standing his first season at WinStar Farm.

Wallace said buying up those high-quality mares in foal to Justify served two purposes: to fulfill a plan to bolster the Club’s European broodmare band with some strong pedigrees, and to support its Triple Crown winner.

“We have options to move these horses around and it’s a

global market,” Wallace said. “People understand who Justify is regardless of whether you’re selling them in America or Europe. So you could sell them in either place and we haven’t made that decision as yet. The mares that were bought that went back to Europe had very good, strong European-type pedigrees. The intention for the year was to try to acquire a few of these nice European pedigrees for the long-term broodmare band in Europe. But also we wanted to get involved in Justify in quite a strong way, so this was a double-edged sword that allowed us to do both.”

Two mares that have already produced champions that have produced foals by Justify in Kentucky for China Horse Club are **Beatrix Potter (Ire)** (Cadeaux Genereux {GB}) and **Sambuca**



Justify filly out of Beatrix Potter | Asuncion Pineyrua

Classica (Cat Thief). China Horse Club last year sent Beatrix Potter (Ire) (Cadeaux Genereux {GB}) across the Atlantic to visit Justify, and she foaled a filly at Wood’s Edge Farm. The 15-year-old Beatrix Potter has produced not only the champion sprinter and G1 July Cup and G1 Sprint Cup winner Harry Angel (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}), but also ‘**TDN Rising Star**’ and G2 Mill Reef S. winner Pierre Lapin (Ire) (Cappella Sansevero {GB}), a leading threat for this year’s Classics.

“We couldn’t be happier with the product there,” Wallace said. “She’s a big, beautiful filly with a lot of quality, a great mover with good length and depth about her. Beatrix Potter goes to Medaglia d’Oro this year.”

Sambuca Classica, the dam of American champion 2-year-old colt and G1 Breeders’ Cup Juvenile winner Classic Empire (Pioneerof the Nile) and two other stakes winners has produced a “really good” Justify colt at WinStar.

“He is an outstanding type,” Wallace said. “We couldn’t be more pleased with such an elite broodmare putting down a colt like that, and we’re breeding her back to Justify. She has an elite pedigree, not just with Classic Empire. Her other foals are runners as well so she’s an exciting prospect that I’d love to get a filly out of.”

While much of the world has shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the life cycle of the Thoroughbred athlete rolls on, and while China Horse Club’s Justify foals are hitting the ground in the Northern Hemisphere, Down Under the Club had a very productive few days last week as both a buyer and a seller at the Inglis Easter yearling sale, which was conducted virtually for the first time.



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Support Of Triple Crown Winner Justified cont.

China Horse Club bred the A\$1.8-million sale-topping Snitzel (Aus) colt out of champion sprinter First Seal (Aus) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}), and sold each of its offerings as well as adding 12 to the stable.

The virtual sale has been widely deemed a success by participants and observers worldwide, and Wallace concurred.

“Everyone knows there was a great level of uncertainty surrounding it, but a couple days post sale it’s very clear that it’s a very robust industry and the market adjusted to the unique virtual experience very well,” he said. “A lot of credit has to go to the farms that offered the horses and Inglis for providing that platform and allowing people to do that.”

IT ALLOWS THE FURTHER AFIELD
 MARKETS TO BECOME A BIT MORE
 INVOLVED AND INTERACTIVE WITH
 THE HORSES THEY’RE LOOKING AT,
 HOW THEY CAN VIEW THEM AND THE
 INFORMATION THAT IS AVAILABLE.

Michael Wallace on the virtual sale process

With the horses spread out across the Hunter Valley and beyond and bidders conducting their business contained in their homes across the world, Wallace said it was naturally more difficult to gauge what a horse would bring before it entered the ring.

“It was an interesting experience being a seller, making it a little more difficult to judge who was really on your horses because you weren’t getting that one-on-one contact with a lot of people and getting those repetitive viewings,” he said. “You didn’t have the opportunity to read peoples’ body language, and all those little factors. That made it a little harder to judge, and the uncertainty of the market made planning and budgeting a little more difficult as well in the first hour or two of the sale.”

Rather than shying away from the new auction format and economic uncertainties, China Horse Club took the strategy of trying to capitalize on a slightly down market and weak Australian dollar.

“We ended up buying 12 horses, which probably wouldn’t have been our thoughts four or five months ago,” he said.

IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

A MIGHTY LEGEND REMEMBERED

Dual Australian Horse of the Year Might and Power has died aged 26. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.](#)

Support Of Triple Crown Winner Justified cont.

“We probably would have been considering fewer numbers, just because it’s such a hard market to buy horses in in general. But we took a very open view that there might be a slight softening through the middle part of the market. With such a large group of high-quality horses, we found those we really liked and we put budgets surrounding them. We’re just happy to have acquired them as they came through. Hopefully one or two of them will end up in the stallion barn down the track.”

Just because the market was down doesn’t mean the product was, and Wallace said those top-quality colts like the Snitzel son of First Seal are “almost recession-proof.”

“We knew we had a very special horse and we thought we had a chance of being right at the very pointy end of it, but with the uncertainty you just didn’t know,” he said. “If he turns out to be an elite racehorse, by the time he heads to stud COVID-19 will have passed and the market will have rebounded, and his value will hold true over a long period of time.”

Wallace acknowledged that while there are elements of a successful high-end yearling sale that cannot be replicated virtually, he suggested there are aspects of the virtual process that could be integrated into the traditional system to allow for greater reach.

“It offers a platform that allows people to be a bit more remote,” he said. “I don’t think you’re ever going to take away the necessity of people having first-hand experience of viewing the horses through their own eyes, because video just can’t replicate that at this stage. That’s always going to be a necessity. But it allows the further afield markets, the Asian buyers especially, to become a bit more involved and interactive with the horses they’re looking at, how they can view them and the information that’s available. The more audiences and eyes you can get [a horse] in front of, the better; there’s never a negative, because the more people that get involved, odds are the more people that will bid.”

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“I’m not worried about the added distance in the coming Japanese Oaks, but she does have issues to work on such as being relaxed.” Japanese racing has continued behind closed doors for the better part of 10 weeks, with even stricter sanitary measures enacted last week after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe declared a state of emergency. Matsuyama added, “I’m praying that the day we can race in front of the crowd again will come soon.”

Pedigree Notes

Daring Tact is the first stakes winner for the 2013 G1 Kikuka Sho and 2014 G1 Japan Cup winner Epiphaneia, who was the world’s top-rated distance horse in 2014 and who stands at Shadai Stallion Station. She is the second foal out of the unplaced Daring Bird (Jpn) (King Kamehameha {Jpn}), who has a 2-year-old full-sister to Daring Tact. The second dam is Group 3-winning Daring Heart (Jpn) (Sunday Silence), who is a half-sister to GI Super Derby winner and leading Korean sire Ecton Park (Forty Niner).

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Daring Tact | JRA/Horsephotos

Sunday, Hanshin, Japan

OKA SHO (JAPANESE 1000 GUINEAS)-G1, ¥235,350,000, Hanshin, 4-12, 3yo, f, 1600mT, 1:36.10, sf.

1--**DARING TACT (JPN)**, 121, f, 3, by Epiphaneia (Jpn)

1st Dam: Daring Bird (Jpn), by King Kamehameha (Jpn)

2nd Dam: Daring Heart (Jpn), by Sunday Silence

3rd Dam: Daring Danzig, by Danzig

1ST GROUP WIN. (¥12,000,000 yrl '18 JRHAJUL) O-Normandy Thoroughbred Racing; B-Hasegawa Farm; T-Haruki Sugiyama; J-Kohei Matsuyama; ¥130,095,000. Lifetime Record: 3-3-0-0.

Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree. Werk Nick Rating: C.

WORLDWIDE NEWS

Unbeaten Record Kept Intact cont. from p1

Daring Tact swept up alongside and past those two tiring fillies to post a 1 1/2-length victory under a hand ride. Jockey Kohei Matsuyama said, “I concentrated on her rhythm more than where to position her today. We were far behind the leaders and desperate in catching up but she responded beautifully and stretched incredibly all the way to the line.”

Oka Sho cont.

2--**Resistencia (Jpn)**, 121, f, 3, Daiwa Major (Jpn)--
Malacostumbrada (Arg), by Lizard Island. O-Carrot Farm;
B-Northern Farm; ¥49,170,000.

3--**Smile Kana (Jpn)**, 121, f, 3, Deep Impact (Jpn)--A Shin Cool D,
by Distorted Humor. (¥56,000,000 yrl '18 JRHAJUL)
O-Shigeyuki Okada; B-Kida Farm; ¥29,595,000.

Margins: 1HF, 1 3/4, 1. Odds: 3.20, 2.70, 34.50.

Also Ran: Cravache d'Or (Jpn), Miyamazakura (Jpn), Sanctuaire
(Jpn), Fiori Chiari (Jpn), Maltese Diosa (Jpn), Epos (Jpn), Ria
Amelia (Jpn), Chain of Love (Jpn), Magic Castle (Jpn), Cape God
(Jpn), Intermission (Jpn), Hiruno Malibu (Jpn), Woman's Heart
(Jpn), Nine to Five (Jpn), Yamakatsu Mermaid (Jpn).

**Click for the [JRA chart and video](#) or the [free Equineline.com](#)
[catalogue-style pedigree](#).**



Lashara (GB) (American Pharoah), an €850,000 yearling purchase at Arqana August in 2018 by Deuce Greathouse, broke her maiden at second asking on Saturday at Gulfstream Park for owners Cindy Hutson and Robert Masterson and trainer Mark Casse | *Zuzanna Lupa*

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A MIGHTY LEGEND REMEMBERED



Might and Power | *Bronwen Healy*

By Bren O'Brien

On Easter Sunday, the racing world woke to the news that at 26 years of age, Might And Power (NZ) (Zabeel {NZ}) had passed away following a severe bout of colic. It prompted an outpouring of memories of a horse that was famous for doing it his own way, and in doing so putting himself in the rarest of company.

In a whirlwind one year and one week in 1997 and 1998, Might And Power held a racing nation in thrall in a manner only the very best champions do.

The headline act for the son of Zabeel (NZ) was that in the space of those 372 days, he achieved what no horse had in 45 years and no horse has achieved since. He sits along Rising Fast (NZ) (Alonzo {GB}) as the only horse to have won Melbourne's three greatest races, the G1 Caulfield Cup, G1 Cox Plate and G1 Melbourne Cup.

But simply quoting the history books does not do justice to both the devastating and dramatic manner in which he won those races, as well as the four other Group 1 successes in that time period under the guidance of trainer Jack Denham.

His story starts out in New Zealand, with his breeder Nelson Schick of Windsor Park Stud. Schick had purchased his dam Benediction (GB) (Day Is Done {Ire}), along with three other mares at the 1990 Tattersalls Sale and brought her to Windsor Park.

She was initially mated with resident stallions Kaapstad (NZ) and Star Way (GB) and was then sent to Cambridge Stud's Zabeel in his second season. When a colt arrived in 1993, Schick was pleased enough, but observed he was far from the perfect article and would need time to develop.

The colt was sent to the 1995 Inglis Easter Yearling Sale, where Inglis' Jonathan D'Arcy noted he was a 'big colt, off-set in knee and rotated, fair walker, scopey colt'.

"The cannon bone came out of the knee at a slightly offset angle. That doesn't stop horses if they've got the heart, the will to win. But it certainly would have put some buyers off. He wasn't 100 per cent correct," D'Arcy told Helen Thomas in her 2007 book *A Horse Called Mighty*.

Set among Australia's best yearlings, it wasn't a total surprise to Schick that the colt was passed in, but soon after he went through the ring, Anthony Cummings offered \$40,000 for him. The deal was done, and while the circumstances of how he ended up in Nick Moraitis' ownership are contested, it was the well-known fresh produce businessman who ended up owning the horse.

After being gelded, Might And Power began his racing career with Cummings, where he won his first race at Randwick at his third start, but after his first campaign, the trainer and Moraitis fell out and the horse headed to the stables of Jack Denham, with his son Allan in support. He was clearly a horse of talent, but his high action made him awkward to manage.

Power in action

While he had shown a degree of his extraordinary ability as a 3-year-old, running second in a G1 Canterbury Guineas and fourth in a G1 AJC Derby before winning the G3 Packer Plate by 6l, it wasn't until Caulfield Cup Day 1997 that his champion qualities were put on show.

The atmosphere trackside that day when Jim Cassidy slipped Might And Power some rein around the corner and he kicked 4l clear of his rivals was one of a slowly dawning realisation that we were watching something truly special. The further he went, the further he was in front and at the line, the margin was 7.5l over legendary stayer Doriemus (NZ) (Norman Pentaquad {USA}). He stopped the clock at 2:26.20, setting a new track record, carrying 52.5kg.

The famous track had rarely witnessed such dominance in its greatest race, and the legend of Might And Power was born in the mind of the broader racing public.

Barrier to post

In many ways, his Melbourne Cup win of 1997 was as much about the margin of victory as was his Caulfield Cup win 17 days earlier. However, in this instance, it was the closeness of the margin between he and Doriemus on the line which further built his legend.

Might And Power was handed a 3.5kg penalty off his massive Caulfield Cup win, but that did not deter much of the nation from believing the hype and having him start a 7-2 favourite (\$4.50) in Australia's greatest handicap.

If Cassidy was to pull off a similar daring all-the-way win on the 4-year-old, he would have to defy history as the first horse to win both Cups having led from barrier to post. But the New Zealand-born jockey has never been the sort of figure to shirk at a challenge and he did not hesitate pushing forward from barrier two to lead the race.

In fact, Might And Power pulled his way up the straight the first time, Cassidy straining to keep him settled in what was his first test over the distance. He settled eventually and the jockey rode confidently as the field, headed by his brother Larry Cassidy on Linesman (NZ) (Touching Wood {USA}) swept up to him approaching the turn.

He shook off that challenge at the furlong marker, but closing was the 1995 Cups champ Doriemus. Desperate for the post, Might And Power fought doggedly, but his rival dived on the line. So confident was Greg Hall on the Lee Freedman-trained stayer, he rose high in his irons punching the sky in celebration. Cassidy would have the last laugh, as the photo went in his favour.

Might And Power became the 10th horse to win both Cups in the same year. To put the achievement in further context, only one horse, Ethereal (NZ) (Rhythm {USA}) in 2001, has done it since.



Jack Denham and Mick Dittman | Bronwen Healy

Building the legend

He resumed in the autumn with a trio of close-up placings in the G1 Orr S., G1 St George S. and G1 Ranvet S. before another brilliant front-running performance in the G1 Mercedes S., where he won by 5l. He then trounced his rivals in the G1 Queen Elizabeth S. by a record 10l, a simply amazing win, which further enhanced his legend.

He headed to Queensland, winning the G2 Hollindale S. by close to 6l and then winning the G1 Doomben Cup before being sent for a spell, with one race high on his spring agenda, the G1 Cox Plate.

A win in the G2 Chelmsford S. separated two surprising defeats in the G2 Warwick S., and G1 George Main S. but any concerns over his form were put to bed when he comfortably won the G1 Caulfield S., his final lead-up run to the Cox Plate.

Treble on a Plate

His Cox Plate win in 1998 was not of the epic nature of his Cups wins a year earlier, but he did it with style and class and in the process broke the track record for the new Mooney Valley track, some 2.2 seconds, or 13l, quicker than Sainly (Sky Chase {NZ}) two years prior. It would be 17 years before a horse, in that case Winx (Street Cry {Ire}), would run a faster Cox Plate.

Two weeks' later he romped to a 7l victory in the G2 Queen Elizabeth S. at Flemington. The crowd that day wasn't to know it, but it was to prove his final racetrack victory.

A tendon problem had become evident and Denham had called off a trip to the Japan Cup, although his famously frosty relationship with the media ensured that the extent of Might And Power's issues were not publicly known for several months.

After a long convalescence and recovery, a decision as made to try a comeback in the spring of 2000. The comeback never took flight and he was retired after two uncharacteristically poor performances.

He remained one of Australia's most popular horses and was inducted into Australian Racing Hall Of Fame in 2002. With Moraitis' blessing, he toured the country, helping raise money for charity and cheering souls. He suffered a near fatal bout of colic in 2004, and eventually took up residence at Living Legends, on the northern outskirts of Melbourne where a host of star former racehorses reside.

A tribute to a legend

It was there on Sunday morning at age 26, that his life came to an end.

Living Legends CEO & Veterinary Director, Dr Andrew Clarke, said he and the team were completely heartbroken to lose a very special horse.

“I am incredibly sad to have to let you know that Might And Power was euthanised in the early hours of this morning,” Dr Clarke said. “Our hearts are with owner Nick Moraitis and Bob’s many fans, and also to our wonderful staff who cared for him every day. Living Legends will never be the same without our treasured Might And Power. “A special thank you to Werribee Equine Centre for their efforts to save his life,” he said.

A Mighty legacy

The legacy of Might And Power is very much in the impact he made on racing fans around the nation, both in his brilliant career and in his time in retirement.

The legacy of his dam Benediction, imported to New Zealand all those years ago by Schick, also remains strong through her many descendants.

Her first foal, Miss Priority (NZ) (Kaaopstad {NZ}) produced two stakes winners. G1 Hong Kong Mile winner Lucky Owners (NZ) (Danahill {USA}) went onto become a sire, while his half-sister Miss Power Bird (Mukaddamah {USA}) was a Listed winner who went on to become an influential broodmare in her own right. She is the granddam of Group 2 winner and sire Time For War (Snitzel) and well as Group 3 winner Hiflyer (NZ) (Tavistock {NZ}).

Another of Miss Priority’s daughters, Sumehra (NZ) (Stravinsky {USA}) produced the four-time Group 1 winner Mosheen (Fastnet Rock).

Aside from Might And Power, Benediction produced two other stakes-winners, Matter Of Honour (NZ) (Casual Lies {USA}) and Bastet (Ire) (Giant’s Causeway {USA}).

Bastet carried on the family’s reputation in Europe, producing two stakes winners, including French Group 1 winner Beauty Parlour (Deep Impact {Jpn}).

There are a host of other winners across the world that owe their existence to Schick’s decision to purchase Benediction, and the subsequent deeds of her most famous son in putting the family’s name up in lights.

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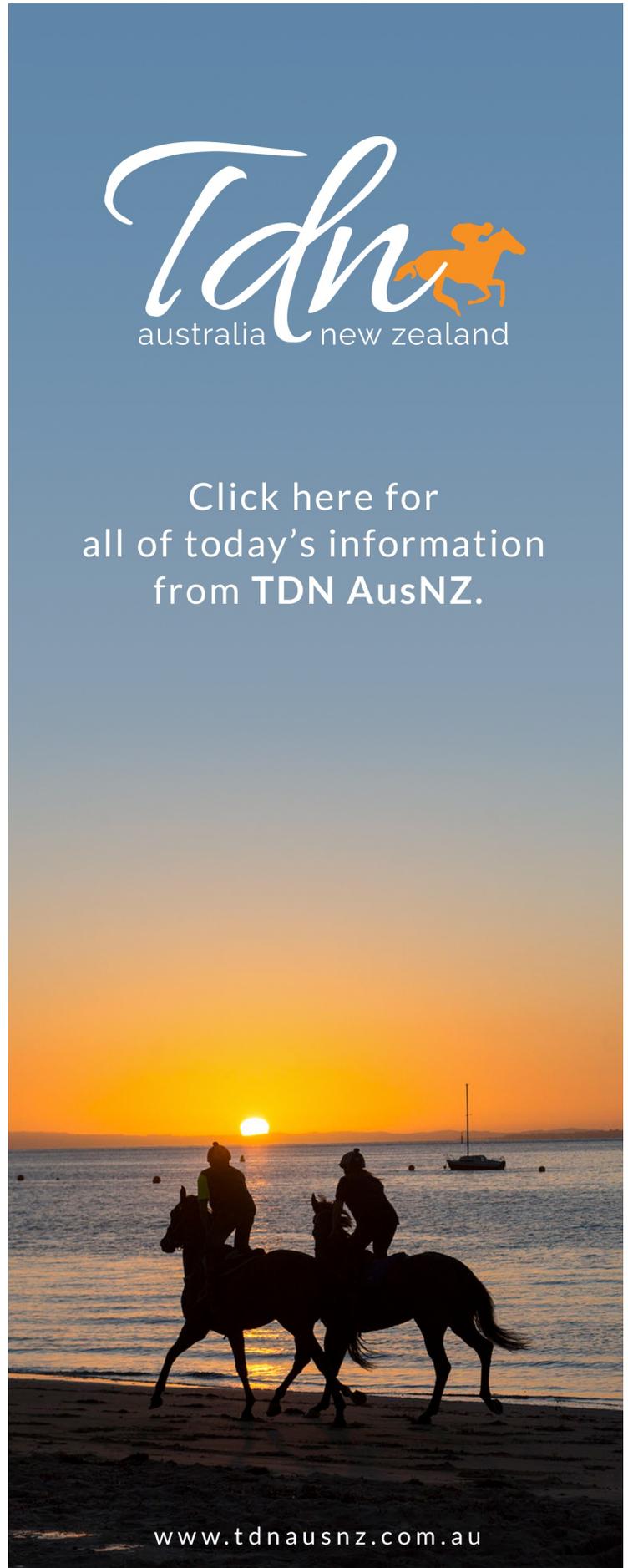
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