



BIG PEDIGREES SUPPORT OAKLAWN'S HEADLINE SOPHOMORES



Mr. Big News | Coady

by Chris McGrath

Poor old **Mr. Big News** (Giant's Causeway). He very quickly turned into yesterday's news, didn't he? The dust had barely settled on his breakout success, in the Oaklawn S. Saturday, when his trainer supplanted him with a rather less welcome headline of his own.

True, Bret Calhoun's Class B violation--reported in Wednesday's *TDN*--was a relatively modest affair. Though cannabidiol is the second most active ingredient in marijuana, it is evidently considered fairly innocuous. In view of his overall record, and mitigating circumstances, the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission stayed two-thirds of Calhoun's 30-day suspension; and otherwise confined themselves to a \$500 fine; together, of course, with the disqualification of the filly in question at Ellis Park last summer, who happens to be in the same Allied Racing Stable ownership as Mr. Big News.

Now it must be said that this colt--who now has an automatic slot in the GI Arkansas Derby, if he wishes to take it up--had already struggled for attention. Because whenever you see the frontrunners implode after contesting manic early fractions, the way they did in setting up this 46-1 shocker, it's hard to resist two equally uncharitable instincts. **Cont. p3**

FIPKE WAIVES STALLION FEES, AND BREEDERS ARE RESPONDING

by Bill Finley

Charles Fipke's announcement that he is waiving all fees on the stallions he owns for the remainder of the 2020 breeding season has been well received by breeders. Darby Dan Farm, where Fipke stands three horses, reports that since Fipke announced his plan Monday about 50 people have called and have signed up their mares to breed to Fipke stallions.

Fipke's roster at Darby Dan consists of Bee Jersey, Tale of Ekati and Tale of Verve. Bee Jersey and Tale of Ekati had been standing for \$5,000 and the stud fee for Tale of Verve was \$2,000. **Cont. p8**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

CLEMENT: PMU NEEDS "A BIT OF OXYGEN"

Nicolas Clement talks about some of the challenges facing French racing as authorities prepare to meet next Tuesday to plan a return to action. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)



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By Smart Strike

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Thursday, April 16, 2020



April Fools? A mare and her foal are undaunted by the 28-degree morning registered in Lexington Wednesday, and head out for a pick of grass at Ramsey Farm, frosted manes and all. | Jon Siegel

KENTUCKY OAKS TOP 10

9

It's been more than a month since the last TDN Kentucky Oaks Top 10, brought to you by Fasig-Tipton, appeared, and how things have changed in such a short period of time. Bill Finley has the latest.

TDN WRITERS' ROOM WITH BILL THOMASON

13

Keeneland President and CEO Bill Thomason joined the TDN Writers' Room presented by Keeneland Wednesday, calling in via Zoom from his home as the Green Group Guest of the Week to discuss what KEESEP could look like and much more.

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THIS SIDE UP

by Chris McGrath





Big Pedigrees cont. from p1



Giant's Causeway | *Coolmore*

One is to wonder why so many jockeys, for whom "a clock in his head" is supposed to be more or less a professional requisite, should appear to favor a sundial over a stopwatch. The other is to dismiss peremptorily the merit of those horses who--whether thanks to the superior timing of their riders, or simple incompetence to lie up with that kind of pace--swoop to pick up the pieces in the stretch.

Now we all know that the melodramatic acceleration apparently achieved by such horses is an optical illusion, exaggerated by the way those up front are slowing down. But that does not entitle us to treat them all with equal disdain. By rights, every horse sheltered from the pace might come crowding through late, yet, you tend to find that only two or three are responsive enough to pounce with real verve. So while the race is plainly set up in their favor, those that take advantage do showcase a legitimate brand of talent.

On Saturday, however, Mr. Big News not only "socially distanced" himself from a :22.07 opening split; he was also flattered by the misfortune of favorite Thousand Words (Pioneerof The Nile), who did the splits leaving the gate.



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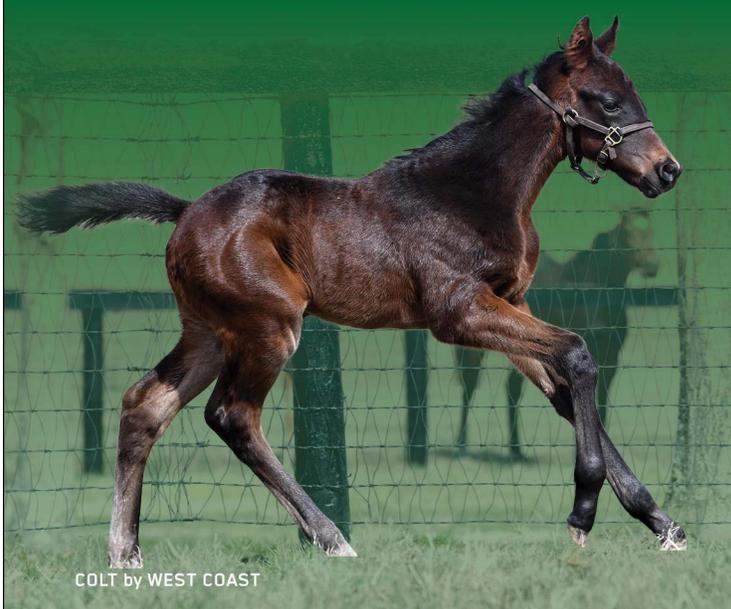
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SWEET MELANIA (TODD PLETCHER)
Winner of the G2 Jessamine S. & 3rd in G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf last out



CAFÉ PHAROAH (NORIYUKI HORI)
Unbeaten in 2 starts including the Hyacinth Stakes (Listed Race) in a canter



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Mr. Big News | Coady

You can only hope that Thousand Words didn't wrench anything too badly, the Albaugh Family Stable having endured adequate disappointment through a similar episode with Dennis' Moment (Tiznow) at the Breeders' Cup. But I still feel that Mr. Big News deserves a headline or two.

Yes, a lot of people see Farmington Road (Quality Road) developing into the more feasible contender, by such time as a race masquerading as the GI Kentucky Derby might be staged in September. He was bearing down on the winner late, after all, and he's a May 14 foal. Personally, however, I'd be wary of treating that lug in behind, deep in the stretch, as residual greenness. He may simply have been reacting to the kind of misuse of the stick that you see in too many high-profile American races.

Mr. Big News himself was at least given time to respond, which is an absolutely vital element in any humane regulation of whip use. That said, he was himself unbalanced by each and every strike, requiring his rider to switch the whip four times through the stretch. So while both these horses have a similar profile--requiring three and four starts respectively to break their maiden, before finishing on the heels of the protagonists in different divisions of the GII Risen Star S.--you can only hope they are mastering a vocation they will be allowed to love.

One thing is certain. If Mr. Big News can consolidate from here, then he has a pedigree that entitles him to a pretty exciting fulfilment of one kind or another. Whisper it, but if they can stage a GI Belmont S. at some point, he would already look an interesting type. Or he absolutely has grass as an option, down the road, if he doesn't quite make the top grade on dirt. And, either way, he has a lot more stallion eligibility than you might expect in a \$95,000 yearling.

For one thing, he represents a rare combination--and, on dirt, possibly a unique one--of two of the greatest triumphs of

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Coolmore's second empire (i.e. the one identified with a second genius named O'Brien). Mr. Big News is one of the few remaining legacies of the late Giant's Causeway, whose one-and-a-half remaining crops, after his present sophomores, represent books of just 31 and nine; and he's out of a Galileo (Ire) mare.

Now, don't worry, I'm not going to remount the soapbox to complain about people being too prescriptive about the presumed aptitude of particular bloodlines for particular surfaces. Nor am I even going to revisit the even more pernicious oversimplification, whereby pedigrees are defined more or less entirely through sire-lines.

Sure, with those two titans looming over his page, we can talk of stamina and turf. After all, the set-up of Saturday's race on the slop summoned from Mr. Big News the kind of finishing kick we traditionally associate with grass. (Note how that push-button turf finish is nowhere in Europe more common than in France, where, paradoxically, the other trademark is very often a slow pace.) But for now we can shelve all these possibilities with Mr. Big News and dwell instead on much the most conspicuous feature of his family tree: the replication, top and bottom, of a genetic powder keg.

For that Galileo dam of his, Unappeased, is out of a mare named Angelic Song--the only unraced sibling of four parented by Halo and the great broodmare Ballade. The other three all gained championship laurels: Saint Ballado, posthumously, as leading sire when his son Saint Liam was Horse of the Year in 2005; Devil's Bag, with an Eclipse Award as 2-Year-Old Male of 1983; and Glorious Song, who had won her Eclipse as Older Female three years previously, when also Canadian Horse of the Year. Glorious Song has proved no less significant a broodmare than her dam, most notably through her sons Singspiel (Ire) (In The Wings {GB}) and Rahy (Blushing Groom {Fr}). And Rahy's many distinctions as a broodmare sire include Mariah's Storm, the dam of Giant's Causeway.

As a result Mr. Big News has the full sisters Angelic Song and Glorious Song in harmony on his page, 2 x 4. Their dam Ballade is a key nexus in the family tracing to Skylarking II, who had already delivered a Classic winner in France when included in an exchange deal between John W. Galbreath and Prince Aly Khan for a number of mares to commute across the ocean every few years.

Skylarking II ended up staying in Kentucky, however, after the prince's death in a car accident in 1960. That same spring she foaled a filly by Swaps, who would become the Darby Dan foundation mare Soaring.

Though the branch under review actually left the farm soon afterwards, the European influences would continue: Soaring's first foal Miss Swapsco was by Mahmoud (Fr)'s son Cohoes;

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while her own first foal, in turn, was by the imported Herbager (Fr). (Herbager's dam, it's worth recalling, was extraordinarily inbred: both her parents were in the same crop of the same sire, a St Leger winner named Firdaussi (GB).) This was Ballade, who was sold as a yearling to E.P. Taylor for \$55,000 before winning a couple of races at a level too modest to indicate her subsequent prowess as a producer.

Darby Dan own's debt to Soaring instead came through other daughters, notably Far Beyond (Nijinsky), who produced the linchpin Wings Of Grace (Key To The Mint), dam of two Grade I winners including the cherished Soaring Softly (Kris S). Unfortunately another of Far Beyond's daughters was sold: the remarkable Battle Creek Girl (His Majesty), whose 15 winners included Tricky Creek, the sire of that modern matriarch Leslie's Lady. (Somehow, Tricky Creek's role in the background of Into

Mischief and the rest is always studiously overlooked.)

Anyhow, returning to Ballade; and, specifically, to her daughter Angelic Song. Unappeased, the dam of Mr. Big News, was her last foal in 2009, as well she might be, as her 16th in 17 years. No fewer than seven of these had been sired by Sadler's Wells, headed by Sligo Bay (Ire), a Group-placed juvenile for Ballydoyle. Sold to continue his career in the U.S., he earned his place at stud in Canada with his GI Hollywood Turf Cup success. (Sire of Canadian champion Lexie Lou, he was pensioned last year.)

Another of the Sadler's Wells litter was Wolfe Tone (Ire), whose light career was crowned when he plodded into fourth in the marathon G1 Ascot Gold Cup. But Angelic Song did have a degree of success in Japan, too. Her stakes-winning daughter Lady Ballade (Ire) (Unbridled) produced a smart runner in Danon Ballade (Jpn) (Deep Impact {Jpn}), who has returned to stud in his homeland after trying his luck in



Danon Ballade | Horsephotos

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Pneumatic | Coady

Europe for a couple of years. And while Unappeased herself proved unable to win through a handful of Japanese starts, her genetic distinction (and a Speightstown cover) nonetheless qualified her to raise \$675,000 from Don Alberto Corp. when sold through James Keogh at Keeneland November 2013.

She has been a bit slow to get going: her Speightstown filly made a solitary appearance, while a first Giant's Causeway covering produced Lalibela to win on debut at Gulfstream, only to disappear after two further starts. But there's no doubt that her ancestry allows Mr. Big News to build on his stakes breakthrough.

As we've already acknowledged, few will expect him to do so. Quite apart from the flattering set-up of Saturday's race, they will consider his limitations to have been exposed on his previous start, when fifth to Modernist (Uncle Mo) at Fair Grounds. But the pace that day, in contrast, was so congenial to the leaders that very little altered ahead of him; and he kept on very willingly.

If Mr. Big News declines the gate he reserved for himself in the GI Arkansas Derby, then Saturday's program also volunteered a couple who may be eager to fill the breach.

Winner of a local sprint in February, **Pneumatic** (Uncle Mo) produced a 'TDN Rising Star' display when stepped up to a mile in allowance company. (His form had already been reinforced earlier on the card, by an easy success for the horse he beat on debut.) He's a Winchell Thoroughbreds homebred, and how: his dam is by their titan Tapit, from the family of their foundation mare Carols Christmas. A daughter of Whitesburg, who extended a fast, indigenous American sire-line, Carols Christmas was the dam of Olympio; second dam of Cuvee (Carson City); and third dam of Pyro (Pulpit) and Tapizar (Tapit).

In fact Pneumatic is out of a stakes-placed three-parts sister to Pyro, who won the GII Louisiana Derby, but ultimately got his

Grade I in the Forego S. over seven furlongs. Certainly there's plenty of natural dash to Pneumatic: he was just the right side of "energetic" Saturday yet retained enough fuel to quicken with flair in the stretch. He looks a really imposing type, too, his air of superiority compounded by the way he ran with his tongue impudently lolling.

He clocked a virtually identical time to **Shooters Shoot** (Competitive Edge) in a similar contest an hour earlier, but at much greater leisure. As it happens, Shooters Shoot was an unrewarding weanling pinhook (sank from \$90,000 to \$70,000 as a yearling) for Winchell Thoroughbreds; doing much better in the next cycle when sold as a 2-year-old by Cary Frommer for \$300,000.

He's a slower burn than Pneumatic, more in the mould of Mr. Big News: he took five starts to break his maiden, and was thrashed by the exciting **Charlatan** (Speightstown) in the fourth of them, but is now unbeaten in both starts at a mile. He showed all the grit of champion Storm The Court (Court Vision)--they represent the same connections, and apparently worked in tandem last year--in dragging the runner-up a city block clear of the rest, despite clocking a half-mile only a tick behind the sonic boom of the Oaklawn S.

Whether or not these horses can get into the Arkansas Derby may hinge on a division. There's going to be no lack of demand, of course, but in principle this silver lining of a race would be a much better fit for the first Saturday in May without one. Having Charlatan on the margin is tricky, but can such a big decision turn on a single animal for now measurable only by the clock? (Rather than the aggregate of seven horses he has encountered in two starts.) It's a call for the guys at Oaklawn, to whom the industry is already indebted sufficiently to approve of whatever they decide.

Of course, some of these names won't remain big news for



Shooters Shoot | Coady

long, as and when we are restored to some kind of normality. For the time being, however, they together serve as another reproof to the complacency we have all now discovered in our past routines. True, these races are rather more competitive than usual, with opportunity so rare-as was most vividly apparent in the Oaklawn Mile on the same card, saturated as it was with authentic Grade I form. But I will never again take for granted any well-bred, improving sophomore, even when they are again daily spread from coast to coast. So let's respect each and every one of them, while we are where we are, as legitimately Big News.

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Fipke cont. from p1

Darby Dan Stallion Director Ryan Norton said that Bee Jersey has picked up an additional 25 mares and 10 new mares have been booked to Tale of Ekati. With the other 15 or so mares, it remains to be determined which Fipke stallion they will be bred to.

Fipke decided to waive stud fees on his stallions as a way to help small breeders, many of whom are facing difficult economic times due to the uncertainty the coronavirus has created in the racing and breeding industries.

"I am a small breeder myself and I know it's really tough out there for the small breeder," Fipke said. "To get a black bottom line is a dream to me. The people who breed to my stallions are small breeders and I like to help them because they have helped me. It's a team effort."

Fipke said he had no idea what to expect when making his announcement.

"I had no idea but I understood that small breeders needed help," he said. "Everything has been stripped from us right now and it is really tough. I wanted to pitch in and help. I hope some of those small breeders get Group I winners out of this."

Darby Dan has received several messages from breeders expressing their thanks to Fipke.

"I think that the opportunity that Mr. Fipke is sharing is amazing given the tough time folks in the breeding business are having," Dominic DeBellis wrote in an email. "We have no place to sell, or race or even go celebrate. This gesture was kindness that is rarely seen in this industry, especially to the little guy."

Lance Dyer wrote in an email to Darby Dan: "When I saw the kind gesture from Mr. Fipke, I was completely blown away. I am so grateful for the offer and will graciously accept it. With so much recent negative press about Thoroughbred racing, I am happy to know that there are more wonderful kind people associated with the sport."

Norton said he wasn't surprised that Bee Jersey was attracting

the most attention among breeders looking to take advantage of Fipke's offer.

"He is a good-looking horse in his second year, and is a Met Mile winner," he said. "If he had announced this a month ago when things were just getting started, this horse would have easily done 100 to 120 mares."

At Daehling Ranch in California, where Fipke stands Jersey Town, the phone is ringing again.

"When all the stay at home orders came down, the phone literally stopped ringing," said Farm Manager Julia Daehling-Oldham. "As soon as he announced this we got four or five phone calls right away. Everybody said they heard about the free breeding and wanted to get more information. In February, we weren't busy. In March, things completely stopped. A lot of people were going to skip this year because of the uncertain times. If you're not sure what's going to happen with your job at least now you know you don't have to come up with that stud fee."

Fipke has two stallions, Danish Dynaformer and Perfect Timber, at Colebrook Farms in Ontario. They also reported an increase in interest in the Fipke stallions.

"The small breeders in Ontario are ecstatic about this and we have gotten a very good response," said Colebrook's Nancy Wheatley, who was not able to give an estimate as to how many breeders have come on board since Fipke's announcement. "People are very receptive and are grateful."

Wheatley said stallion owner Ben Hutzel has also decided to let people breed to his stallion, Passion For Action, which stands at Colebrook, for free. His stud fee was \$3,000.

At Hidden Springs Farm in Indiana, there have also been several inquiries regarding Fipke's stallion Forever d'Oro, said farm owner Dale Berryhill.

"We think this is a great thing and we have gotten a lot of positive responses," Berryhill said. "People really appreciate it, especially the smaller breeders, and we have had quite a few calls. With tracks not open, people don't know what to do. Things had stagnated for us. We had quite a few people who asked for contracts not send them back. With Forever d'Oro being available for free, this is getting people interested again."

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TOP KENTUCKY OAKS CONTENDERS

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THE TDN KENTUCKY OAKS TOP 10 FOR APRIL 16 by Bill Finley



Venetian Harbor | Benoit

It's been more than a month since the last TDN Kentucky Oaks Top 10 appeared, and how things have changed in such a short period of time. The GI Kentucky Oaks will not be run May 1 but, hopefully, Sept. 4. The road to the Oaks is filled with uncertainty as, with so many racetracks closed, there is no clear path to the race. The only traditional prep for the Oaks that is left on the schedule is the May 1 GIII Fantasy S. at Oaklawn, a race that is going to be loaded with 3-year-old filly stars who have no place else to run. Trainers who were gearing their horse to peak in early May must now figure out how to keep them going and be ready for a top effort in early September. Two traditional preps were run, the GII Gulfstream Park Oaks and the GII Fair Grounds Oaks, and each was won by a longshot as longstanding members of this Top 10 took a step backward. Noting that this is subject to change drastically before the Oaks is actually run, here is our current Top 10:



1) **VENETIAN HARBOR** (Munnings--Sounds of the City, by Street Cry {Ire})

O-Ciaglia Racing LLC, Highland Yard LLC, River Oak Farm & Dominic Savides. B-Colts Neck Stables LLC (KY). T-Richard Baltas. Sales History: \$110,000 yrl '18 KEESEP; \$205,000 RNA 2yo '19 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: GSW, 3-2-1-0, \$163,400.

Last Start: 1st **GII Las Virgenes S.**, SA, Feb. 8

Next Start: GIII Fantasy S. OP, May 1

EquineLine PPs. KY Oaks Points: 10.

Jesse Hoppel Horse C 352-207-2772

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Trainer Richard Baltas had hoped to run his fleet filly in either the GI Ashland S. or the GII Santa Anita Oaks, two races that were not held due to coronavirus shutdowns. Now, she hasn't had a race since romping to a 9 3/4-length win in the Feb. 8 Las Virgenes S. at Santa Anita, but Baltas has said that she will go in the Fantasy. Because it has no competition, it's a race that should attract a stellar field and will be a good test for the lightly raced filly. A win would make her the clear leader of the division, albeit with four months to go before the Oaks. Where can Baltas race her after the Fantasy? It's anyone's guess. In the most recent version of the Kentucky Oaks Future Wager, she was 4-1, second favorite behind only the mutuel field.

2) **DONNA VELOCE** (Uncle Mo--Coin Broker {Ire}, by Montjeu {Ire})

 'TDN Rising Star' O-Kaleem Shah, Susan Magnier, Michael Tabor & Derrick Smith. B-Coin Broker Syndicate (KY).

T-Simon Callaghan. Sales History: \$450,000 yrl '18 KEESEP; \$800,000 2yo '19 FTFMAR. Lifetime Record: GSW & MGISP, 4-2-2-0, \$490,000.

Last Start: 1st **GIII Santa Ysabel S.**, SA, Mar. 8

Accomplishments Include: 2nd **GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies**, 2nd **GI Starlet S.**

Next Start: To Be Determined

EquineLine PPs. KY Oaks Points: 62.

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Trainer Simon Callaghan was pointing his filly for the Santa Anita Oaks, but she's now in a holding pattern after her win in

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the Mar. 8 GIII Santa Ysabel S. An \$800,000 purchase at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton Florida Select 2-Year-Old Sale, she's a classy filly who was second in a pair of Grade I events at two, the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies and the GI Starlet S. Like many trainers, Callaghan is trying to figure out a workable route to the Oaks and says, for now, he is backing off on Donna Veloce and has no set plans so far as her racing schedule goes.

3) BRITISH IDIOM (f, Flashback--Rose and Shine, by Mr. Sekiguchi)

 O-Michael Dubb, The Elkstone Group, LLC (Stuart Grant), Madaket Stables LLC & Bethlehem Stables LLC. B-Hargus & Sandra Sexton & Silver Fern Farm LLC (KY). T-Brad Cox. Sales History: \$40,000 yrl '18 FTKOCT. Lifetime Record: Ch. 2yo Filly & MGISW, 4-3-1-0, \$1,441,250. Last Start: 2nd **GII Rachel Alexandra S.**, FG, Feb. 15. Accomplishments Include: 1st **GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies**; 1st **GI Darley Alcibiades S.** Next Start: GIII Fantasy S, OP, May 1. **EquineLine PPs.** KY Oaks Points: 50.



Trainer Brad Cox is planning on running British Idiom in the Fantasy, which may be a make-or-break race for his Eclipse Award-winning filly. She's run only once this year, finishing

second in the GII Rachel Alexandra S. at Fair Grounds. Though it wasn't a bad effort and Cox said she needed the race off a layoff, she was well beaten and showed some signs that she might not have improved from her 2-year-old year. It looks like the Fantasy will bring together a number of top 3-year-old fillies. With a win, British Idiom will jump right back to the top of the division. Previously based at Fair Grounds, British Idiom is in training at Oaklawn, where she has had three four-furlong works.

4) GAMINE (Into Mischief--Peggy Jane, by Kafwain)

 'TDN Rising Star' O-Michael L. Petersen. B-Grace Thoroughbred Holdings LLC (KY). T-Bob Baffert. Sales History: \$220,000 yrl '18 KEESEP; \$1,800,000 2yo '19 FTMMAY. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$33,000. Last Start: 1st **Maiden Special Weight**, SA, Mar. 7. Next Start: To Be Determined. **EquineLine PPs.** KY Oaks Points: 0.

Trained at Grand Oaks Equine Training Center LLC, Bobby Dodd Agent



Even though she had raced only one time and did not debut until Mar. 7, Gamine was considered a top threat for the Oaks before the race was rescheduled. That's how good she looked in

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Gamine | Benoit

a 6 1/4-length maiden win. Add in the facts that she is trained by Bob Baffert and cost \$1.8 million at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton Midatlantic 2-Year-Old Sale and it's easy to see why so many were so excited about her. Now, with the Oaks set to be run in September, she looks even better. As long as he can find races for her to run in, Baffert can take his time and let Gamine develop rather than rushing her into the Oaks. She could be peaking in September. Potential superstar.

5) FINITE (Munnings--Remit, by Tapit)

 O-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC, Thomas Reiman, William Dickson & Deborah Easter. B-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC (KY). T-Steven Asmussen. Sales History: \$200,000 2yo '19 FTMMAY. Lifetime Record: MGSW, 7-5-2-0, \$638,349. Last Start: 4th **GII Fair Grounds Oaks**, FG, Mar. 21 Accomplishments Include: 1st **GII Rachel Alexandra S.**; 1st **GII Golden Rod S.**; 1st **Silverbulletday S.**; 1st **Rags to Riches S.** Next Start: To Be Determined **EquineLine PPs.** KY Oaks Points: 80.

Hard to know what to do with a filly who had been on top of this list since its inception. She had won five straight, including a dominant win over champion British Idiom in the Rachel Alexandra. Then she was flat when facing what looked like, on paper, a weak group of opponents in the GII Far Grounds Oaks. Sent off at 3-10, she tired in the stretch to finish fourth. She has not had a workout since, so it looks like trainer Steve Asmussen has backed off on her. While, after one poor effort, it's too early to give up on her, she's going to need to post a strong race in her comeback to prove she's worthy of handling a challenge like the Kentucky Oaks.

6) BONNY SOUTH (Munnings--Touch the Star, by Tapit)

O/B-Juddmonte Farms (Ky). T-Brad Cox. Lifetime Record: GSW, 4-3-0-0, \$323,350. Last Start: 1st **GII Fair Grounds Oaks**, FG, Mar. 21 Next Start: To Be Determined **EquineLine PPs.** KY Oaks Points: 100.

At one point, Bonny South was no better than the third or fourth best 3-year-old filly in the Cox barn. But the Cox fillies just keep on winning. After an allowance win at Oaklawn, she upset Finite to win the Fair Grounds Oaks by 2 1/4 lengths. It was only her fourth career start and she appears to be improving with each outing. She is owned by Juddmonte Farms, which owned Taraz (Into Mischief), a highly regarded filly who broke down earlier this year when training and had to be euthanized. With so many good fillies and so few places to run them, Cox won't have an easy time plotting out a route to the Oaks for any of his horses.

7) HARVEY'S LIL GOIL (American Pharoah--Gloria S, by Tapit)

O-Estate of Harvey A. Clarke & Paul Braverman. B-Harvey A. Clarke (KY). T-Bill Mott. Lifetime Record: SW, 3-2-0-0, \$96,600. Last Start: 1st **Busanda S.**, AQU, Feb. 2 Next Start: **GIII Fantasy S.**, OP, May 1 **EquineLine PPs.** KY Oaks Points: 10.

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A filly with a lot of promise, but she remains a mystery. She's run only three times and all of them at Aqueduct and has not raced since winning the Feb. 2 Busanda S. Trainer Bill Mott had been planning on running her in the GII Gazelle S., but that race was scrapped as the NYRA tracks shut down due to the coronavirus. Plan B is the Fantasy. Co-owner Paul Braverman said there is a "high probability" she will run in the Oaklawn race. As with others who are aiming for that spot, the Fantasy will be a huge test for "Harvey."



Harvey's Lil Goil | Elsa Lorieul



8) SWISS SKYDIVER (Daredevil--Expo Gold, by Johannesburg)

O-Peter J Callahan. B-WinStar Farm (Ky). T-Kenneth G McPeck. Sales History: \$35,000 yrl '18 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: GSW, 5-2-1-1, \$197,980.

Last Start: 1st **GII Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream Park Oaks**, GP, Mar. 28.

Next Start: To Be Determined

Equine PPs. KY Oaks Points: 110.



A newcomer to the Top 10, she made her way onto the list with an upset win in the GII Gulfstream Park Oaks. Just a \$35,000 yearling purchase (at Keeneland September), she didn't appear to belong in the top echelon of the division entering the Gulfstream race. She had been fifth in the Gasparilla S. at Tampa Bay Downs and then a well-beaten third in the Rachel Alexandra. A filly who had been having problems getting out of the gate, she showed a new dimension last out, wiring the field in the mile-and-a-sixteenth race. In the process she beat a couple of well-regarded fillies in Tonalist's Shape (Tonalist) and Spice Is Nice (Curlin).

9) SHEDARESTHEDEVIL (Daredevil--Starship Warspeed, by Congrats)

O-Flurry Racing Stables LLC, Qatar Racing Limited & Big Aut Farms. B-WinStar Farm, LLC (KY). T-Brad Cox. Sales History: \$100,000 wlg '17 KEENOV; \$20,000 RNA yrl '18 KEESEP; \$280,000 2yo '19 KEENOV. Lifetime Record: GSW, 6-2-2-1, \$297,648.

Last Start: 1st **GIII Honeybee S.**, OP, Mar. 7

Next Start: GIII Fantasy S., OP, May 1

Equine PPs. KY Oaks Points: 50.



Still another from the Brad Cox barn. Probably didn't beat much when winning her first stakes race, the Honeybee at Oaklawn. But anything and everything that comes out of the Cox stable must be respected. She seems to be on the improve and may very well continue to climb in the rankings. Along with Swiss Skydiver, Shedaresthedevil is one of two horses in this top 10 who is by Daredevil, who now stands in Turkey after beginning his stallion career at WinStar.

10) AIN'T NO ELMERS (Goldencents--Vousoir, by Arch)

'TDN Rising Star' O-John & Iveta Kerber and Jon Lapczenski. B-John Kerber (Ky). T-W B Calhoun. Sales History: \$37,000 RNA yrl '18 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$57,600.

Last Start: 1st **Alw/Opt Clm**, FG, Mar. 18

Next Start: GIII Fantasy S., OP, May 1

Equine PPs. KY Oaks Points: 0.



Lightly raced filly shows up on the list not so much for what she has done but what she could accomplish. She broke her maiden in her debut, winning by 6 1/2 lengths and then came back in a Mar. 18 allowance at Fair Grounds to win by nine lengths. Both races were at six furlongs, so she's not only an unknown against stakes company but in route races. Like Gamine, she may have had a hard time getting ready for a May 1 Oaks because of her lack of experience. She has a lot of questions to answer and will get a chance to do so in the Fantasy.

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Hank Steinbrenner Remembered By Ocala Thoroughbred Industry

"Hank Steinbrenner was a lot of things--New York Yankees owner, Thoroughbred breeder, car enthusiast, secret philanthropist, rock 'n' roll guitarist--but to some who knew him in Ocala, he was simply a friend." **Carlos Medina, Ocala.com**

'We've Got to Get Horse Racing Going': Kentucky Senate Leader Lobbies for Racing to Resume

"With gamblers hungry for action and starving for live sports, the few racetracks still operating have been handling record wagers. Damon Thayer says Kentucky's tracks should be sharing in that surge." **Tim Sullivan, Louisville Courier Journal**

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.

KEENELAND CEO BILL THOMASON JOINS TDN WRITERS' ROOM

As an organization with enormous interests in both the racing and sales worlds, Keeneland has been quick to act in response to the coronavirus pandemic, canceling its April 2-Year-Old Sale and Spring Meet in the early days of the sport's shutdown. They also were quick to reassure nervous buyers and sellers of yearlings that this year's marquee September Yearling Sale would proceed as scheduled, Sept. 14-26. President and CEO Bill Thomason joined the TDN Writers' Room [presented by Keeneland](#) Wednesday, calling in via Zoom from his home as the [Green Group Guest of the Week](#) to discuss what that auction could look like and much more.

"We are counted on to bring two things together," Thomason said. "We bring these best horses in the world together in critical mass to a marketplace that people are going to be counting on. So the horses are going to be there. Now we start working on making sure that we add certainty to that marketplace to be able to bring the world to Keeneland. That's going to evolve in the coming months. We're in the process now of developing protocols. We know people are scared. They're scared for their health, they're worried about the economics of the marketplace, they want to take care of their families. We know those things are happening and we know the angst that's going on, but we've got to evolve. We've got to make sure that people can feel safe. We can say all we want to do, but the science is going to dictate where we go with this."

Thomason also spoke about the feasibility of Keeneland running its Fall Meet under normal circumstances, which for this year takes on added significance as it is scheduled to include the Breeders' Cup World Championships Nov. 6-7.

"The fall meet is being planned and we're planning for a routine October race meet," he said. "We're planning for an extraordinary Breeders' Cup, which we know that everybody's excited about coming to Central Kentucky again and coming back to Keeneland, but we can talk all we want about how we're going to plan for normal operations, the science is going to dictate where we are at. The deck is shuffled. We know that states are going to open back up, businesses are going to open back up on a state-by-state basis. We live in a state where the governor has taken a very aggressive approach to this virus, which we're proud of and we agree with, and we've had great communication with our governor and local officials and the public health employees that are involved in this and making those decisions, and we're going to continue to do that."

Elsewhere on the show, in the [West Point Thoroughbreds](#) news segment, the writers talked about the news of the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia withholding the purse of the Saudi Cup after winning trainer Jason Servis was indicted, reacted to owner

Joe Sutton calling out cheating, looked ahead to the GI Arkansas Derby and touched on Chuck Fipke's recent act of philanthropy. [Click here to listen to the podcast.](#)

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TRAINER MILTON WOLFSON PASSES AWAY

Milton Wolfson, a popular South Florida-based trainer and multiple graded-stakes winning conditioner, passed away Wednesday in Fort Lauderdale.

He was 87.

A native of Philadelphia, Wolfson was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force who graduated from the University of Illinois in 1959 with a Bachelor in Animal Science and later graduated from Temple University in 1972 with a Master of Education. He also was the founder and owner of Neshaminy Turf Supply in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Florida.

Wolfson saddled 548 winners in his career and was a respected horseman known for his kindness, spirit and good humor. The Florida Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association presented him with the Kent Stirling Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017.

One of Wolfson's top horses was The Judge Sez Who. A son of Judge T C, The Judge Sez Who won the 2002 GIII Oklahoma Derby and 2002 GIII Fred Hooper and finished second in the GIII West Virginia Derby and third in the GII Ohio Derby.

The Judge Sez Who was purchased originally for \$10,000 as a yearling, but returned due to a stifle problem. The Judge Sez Who went on to earn nearly \$1 million and was the subject of story picked up by *ESPN* "He's No Longer a Horse Nobody Wants."

Wolfson also trained 1996 GIII Sabin H. winner Lindsay Frolic, a winner of 11 of 24 starts and six other stakes races; 1994 GIII Tropical Park Derby winner Fabulous Frolic; and stakes winners Annabill, Elite Jeblar, Stormy Frolic, Frolic's Revenge, Bernie the Maestro Yourdreamsormine and several others.

In November he saddled Stirling Drive to victory in the \$75,000 Showing Up at Gulfstream Park.

Milton is survived by his wife, Katherine Davey; three daughters, Bari Wolfson (Jeff Leventhal) Ellen Wolfson (James Carter) and Rona Saunders (Brad); and; four grandchildren, Sophie, Emily, Kori and Brook. He was predeceased by his first wife Gail Wolfson (nee Pompian).

Private funeral services will be held at Beth David Cemetery, Hollywood, FL. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind.

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WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE HORSE?

The terms 'best' and 'favorite' are typically two subjective concepts when it comes the Thoroughbred racehorse. The TDN's Gary King reached out to key players from different facets of the industry to hear their thoughts. Email Gary King (garyking@thetdn.com) to have your say.

JOHN GREATHOUSE III, GLENCREST FARM



Honey Ryder | Horsephotos

Favorite: My favorite horse of all time was **Honey Ryder** (Lasting Approval). She's the reason I'm in the horse business. She took my family and I on one helluva ride around the world. She went to two Breeders' Cups, Dubai and won a Grade I in Canada. She gave me my first taste of what it's like to win at the highest level. Her Grade I Flower Bowl win might be the most exciting race I've ever watched live. She won two Grade I races and nine stakes races in 33 starts, and never missed a day. She was honest and tried every race.

Best: The best of all time? That's a tough one for me. I don't think it's fair for me to pick a horse that I never witnessed run in my lifetime. To me, **Frankel (GB)** (Galileo {Ire}) was probably the most dominant horse I've ever seen. The 147 Timeform rating is truly incredible. Hard to say who the best ever is but he's the best I've ever seen.

LAUREN CARLISLE, BLOODSTOCK AGENT

Favorite: **Wise Dan** (Wiseman's Ferry). I was able to witness many of his wins in person. He ran to the age of seven, and won on every surface. He had a huge heart and a will to win.

Best: **Alydar** (Raise A Native). One of the best horses in history that was never crowned a champion. He had such a great rivalry with Affirmed (Exclusive Native), and became an influential sire and broodmare sire.

CHRISTINA BLACKER, TVG HOST/ANALYST

Favorite:

My personal favorite is **Zenyatta** (Street Cry {Ire}). The moment she crossed the wire first in the Breeders' Cup Classic is still to this day the most overwhelmingly euphoric experience I've had at a racetrack. The collective joy of that crowd applauding is something that I hope I get to experience again. The eerie silence one year later when she lost at Churchill [to Blame in the Classic] brought me to tears, and was an outcome that I didn't want to believe for a very long time. The big moments made an impact but I remember so many little moments as well. Mornings at the barn watching her train, her personality and that dance that seemed to build and build over the years, her narrow victory at Del Mar when it looked as if the streak had been broken too soon. The list goes on and on.

Best: It has to be **American Pharoah** (Pioneerof the Nile). Quantifying this seems impossible but my all time best is AP. Many tried and failed in my lifetime and it started to seem like winning the Triple Crown wasn't going to be possible in modern racing. The ease with which he accomplished that feat is almost unbelievable when you look back on those three races now. And shockingly, he seemed to get better in the Haskell and Breeders' Cup Classic. He had it all, the mechanics of his stride were perfectly efficient and his kind and gentle nature was just the cherry on top. He was the ultimate racehorse.

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B.E.S.T. SEEKING ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO SUPPORT BACKSTRETCH WORKERS

The Backstretch Employee Service Team of New York, which operates the B.E.S.T. Health Center located on the Belmont Park backstretch, is seeking additional donations in support of its efforts to assist the local racing community during the coronavirus pandemic. Donations can be made [here](#).

B.E.S.T. is tasked with providing backstretch workers free health care, life insurance, drug and mental health counselling, as well as food and clothing. It is funded by the New York Racing Association, Inc. and the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, along with public donations and grants from private foundations.

"The public response to our recent fundraising call was deeply impactful and has allowed our organization to make certain improvements to our medical facility to enhance its effectiveness in responding to this pandemic," said B.E.S.T. Executive Director, Paul Ruchames. "B.E.S.T.'s medical and counseling staff have heroically put themselves on the front lines in this pandemic to protect the backstretch workers of Belmont Park. As we continue to navigate these uncertain times, additional donations will support our ongoing medical and counseling efforts to keep our community safe and healthy. We appreciate any amount and these donations will be used to expand our clinic service schedule."

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Backstretch workers experiencing symptoms of the coronavirus, or in need of other care, are directed to call the B.E.S.T. Health Center at 516-724-1497 to go through a screening process before arriving at the clinic. The B.E.S.T. Belmont Clinic is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is also an EMT service onsite, adjacent to the Dormitory Office at Gate 6, available as a complement to the B.E.S.T. Belmont Clinic which can provide evaluations and temperature checks. The EMT service is onsite seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Saturday, Oaklawn, post time: 6:16 p.m. EDT

APPLE BLOSSOM H.-GI, \$600,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Ollie's Candy 🌿	Candy Ride (Arg)	Eggert, Paul and Eggert, Karen	Sadler	Rosario	120
2	Coldwater	Hold Me Back	Janavar Thoroughbreds LLC	Eurton	De La Cruz	112
3	Awe Emma 🌿	War Front	Willis Horton Racing LLC	Stewart	Lanerie	115
4	Come Dancing	Malibu Moon	Blue Devil Racing Stable	Lukas	Geroux	120
5	Point of Honor 🌿	Curlin	Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners & Stetson Racing	Weaver	Van Dyke	119
6	Street Band	Istan	Francis, Ray, Jones, Cindy, Jones, J. Larry, Medallion Racing and MyRaceHorse Stable	Jones	Doyle	119
7	Queen Nekia	Harlington	Ken Copenhaver	Joseph, Jr.	Cohen	115
8	Saracosa 🌿	Bernardini	Chad Schumer	Contreras	Garcia	114
9	Horologist	Gemologist	There's A Chance Stable, Parkland Thoroughbreds, Medallion Racing and Abbondanza Racing, LLC	Baltas	Baze	116
10	Cookie Dough	Brethren	Arindel	Joseph, Jr.	Cedillo	118
11	Serengeti Empress 🌿	Alternation	Joel Politi	Amoss	Talamo	122
12	Go Google Yourself	Into Mischief	Jay Em Ess Stable	McGee	Hernandez, Jr.	120
13	Lady Apple 🌿	Curlin	Phoenix Thoroughbred III and KatieRich Stables	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	119
14	Ce Ce	Elusive Quality	Bo Hirsch, LLC	McCarthy	Espinoza	121

Breeders: 1-Paul Eggert & Karen Eggert, 2-Janavar Thoroughbreds, LLC, 3-Rhinestone Bloodstock, 4-Blue Devil Racing Stable, LLC, 5-Siena Farms LLC, 6-Larry Jones, Cindy Jones & Ray Francis, 7-Porter Racing Stable, LLC, 8-Meritage Ventures, Inc., 9-Holly Crest Farm, 10-Arindel, 11-Tri Eques Bloodstock, LLC, 12-Samantha Siegel, 13-KatieRich Farms, 14-Bo Hirsch LLC

Saturday, Oaklawn, post time: 5:14 p.m. EDT

COUNT FLEET SPRINT H.-GIII, \$350,000, 4yo/up, 6f

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Lexitonian	Speightstown	Calumet Farm	Sisterson	Beschizza	116
2	Flagstaff	Speightstown	Lane's End Racing and Hronis Racing LLC	Sadler	Rosario	122
3	Hog Creek Hustle 🌿	Overanalyze	Something Special Racing, LLC	Foley	Van Dyke	119
4	Bobby's Wicked One 🌿	Speightstown	Autumn Hill Farms Racing Stables, Inc.	Stall, Jr.	Mena	120
5	Wendell Fong 🌿	Flat Out	Gold Square LLC	Englehart	Cohen	115
6	Mr. Jagermeister	Atta Boy Roy	Boice, Kristin, Cummings, Leslie and Lund, Valorie	Lund	Thompson	117
7	Hidden Scroll	Hard Spun	Juddmonte Farms, Inc.	Mott	Garcia	117
8	Manny Wah	Will Take Charge	Susan Moulton	Catalano	Hill	115
9	Whitmore	Pleasantly Perfect	LaPenta, Robert V., Southern Springs Stables & Head of Plains Partners LLC	Moquett	Talamo	121
10	Share the Upside 🌿	Maclean's Music	Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings & Windsor Boys Racing	Asmussen	Geroux	117
11	Nitrous	Tapit	Winchell Thoroughbreds & Stonestreet Stables	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	118

Breeders: 1-Calumet Farm, 2-Summer Wind Farm, 3-Hargus Sexton, Sandra Sexton & SilverFern Farm, LLC, 4-Ramona S. Bass, LLC., 5-Nicholas M. Lotz, 6-Kristin Boice, 7-Juddmonte Farms Inc, 8-Martha Jane Mulholland & Modo Tesio Equine, LLC, 9-John Liviakis, 10-Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings, Inc, 11-Winchell Thoroughbreds, LLC

SECOND CHANCES: PIT BOSS

by Steve Sherack



Wayne Catalano | Coady

In this continuing series, TDN's Senior Editor Steve Sherack catches up with the connections of promising maidens to keep on your radar. In this edition, **Pit Boss** (Union Rags) is highlighted following a second-place finish on debut for trainer Wayne Catalano at Oaklawn Park last weekend.

Previous runners featured in this column include: MGISW and 'TDN Rising Star' Paradise Woods (Union Rags), GSW Backyard Heaven (Tizway), MSW and 'TDN Rising Star' Gidu (Ire) (Frankel {GB}), the highly regarded GII San Felipe S. runner-up Honor A. P. (Honor Code) and GII Fasig-Tipton Fountain of Youth S. runner-up Candy Tycoon (Twirling Candy).

Pit Boss (c, 3, Union Rags--Town Flirt, by Speightstown) caught the eye with a flashy rail run from out of the clouds to finish an encouraging second behind the highly regarded Earner (Carpe Diem) while taking on two turns in his unveiling at Oaklawn last Saturday ([video](#)).

Off at 9-1 for a barn not known for firing first out, the \$250,000 KEESEP yearling purchase hesitated at the start from his rail draw in the 1 1/16-mile maiden special weight and appeared to be climbing a bit beneath Tyler Baze passing the empty grandstand for the first time.

Second from last in 11th through a half mile in :46.96, the Gary and Mary West colorbearer still had his work cut out for him with three furlongs remaining. He began to get into the race as they straightened and leveled off nicely to get up for second while continuing to scrape the paint down the lane, cutting Earner's final margin of victory to 3 3/4 lengths.

Coming home in a field-best :31.95 clocking, Pit Boss continued on with a very strong gallop out, passing the winner on the clubhouse turn. The bay earned a 70 Beyer Speed Figure for the effort.

"We've always had high hopes for him all along," trainer Wayne Catalano said. "We thought he was going to be a nice colt, he just took a little while to get to the races. He was working well and doing everything we needed him to do. He's got the pedigree for two turns, that's why he was in there. He ran a nice race as everybody saw. If he broke, he might've been in it for the win."



Pit Boss in the ring at Keeneland September | Keeneland

Pit Boss breezed no fewer than 15 times for the "Catman" dating back to mid-November--14 works coming at his Fair Grounds base--prior to Saturday's debut run in Hot Springs. He was previously in training in Southern California as a 2-year-old last summer and was very highly regarded prior to suffering a minor setback, per Catalano.

"When he was in California, they thought he was one of the better 2-year-olds that Mr. West had," Catalano said.

As for plans moving forward, Catalano added, "There's not too many tracks open right now [due to the coronavirus outbreak], but we'll just see how he comes out of the race, give him a few days and talk it over with [racing manager] Benny Glass."

Bred in Kentucky by KatieRich Farms, Pit Boss was produced by four-time winner Town Flirt, a half-sister to stakes winner Financial Modeling (Street Sense). Town Flirt is also represented by a 2-year-old colt by Tonalist and a yearling colt by California Chrome. Pit Boss's third dam is 1994 GII Delaware H. winner With a Wink (Clever Trick).

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Takaful 107

Practical Joke 104

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SPENDTHRIFT



2nd-Tampa Bay Downs, \$20,000, Msw, 4-15, 3yo/up, 5fT, :56.12, fm.

MY ECLAIR (g, 3, Speightstown--Eclair de Lune {Ger} {GISW-USA, GSP-Fr, \$576,842}, by Marchand de Sable), backed to favoritism debuting over course and distance Jan. 10, showed sharp speed before settling for second, then couldn't quite stretch that early foot out when fourth going a local mile Feb. 12. Hammered down to 1-2 turning back to a sprint here, the homebred broke alertly and went on with it through a :21.03 quarter. Traveling comfortably into the lane, he shook loose once set down approaching the furlong grounds and coasted home 2 3/4 lengths to the good of Charlieendo (Shanghai Bobby). Out of 2010 GI Beverly D. S. heroine Eclair de Lune, the winner has a juvenile More Than Ready half-sister named Bruce's Girl, a yearling half-sister by Frosted and a Street Sense half-brother foaled Mar. 28. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-0, \$17,200. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O/B-Hill 'N Dale Farm (IL); T-Michael Stidham.

SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: THURSDAY, APRIL 16

Majestic City (City Zip), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions, \$3,500
62 foals of racing age/7 winners/0 black-type winners
2-Gulfstream, Msw 4 1/2f, SISTER AURORA, 20-1

Tapiture (Tapit), Darby Dan Farm, \$7,500
246 foals of racing age/38 winners/3 black-type winners
2-Oaklawn, Wmc 6f, COLD SMOKE, 7-2
\$15,000 KEE JAN wnl; \$37,000 FTK OCT yrl; \$50,000 EAS MAY 2yo
2-Oaklawn, Wmc 6f, MY NAME IS PHRED, 9-2
\$25,000 FTK JUL yrl; \$47,000 RNA OBS APR 2yo

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ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-Will Rogers Downs, \$25,080, (S), 4-15, (NW2L), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10.46, ft.

NINETHIRTYTURBO (g, 3, Notional--Whodoyoulikeboss, by Grand Slam) Lifetime Record: 3-2-1-0, \$31,262. O/B-Kirk Thoroughbreds LLC (OK); T-Kari Craddock. *\$1,200 RNA Ylg '18 OKCYRL.

3rd-Will Rogers Downs, \$23,320, 4-15, (NW2X), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:09.78, ft.

KARATE HOTTIE (f, 4, Bold Warrior--Bee Home Soon, by Home At Last) Lifetime Record: 19-7-6-3, \$135,316. O-End Zone Athletics, Inc.; B-Nancy Vanier & Lyda Williamson (KY); T-Karl Broberg.

6th-Will Rogers Downs, \$20,900, 4-15, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:38.65, ft.

CYPRESS POINT (f, 4, Quality Road--Cypress Isle, by Forestry) Lifetime Record: 13-3-3-2, \$73,053. O/T-Karl Broberg; B-Hinkle Farms (KY). *\$17,000 3yo '19 KEENOV.



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My Eclair (Speightstown), son of GISW Eclair de Lune (Ger) (Marchand de Sable), graduates on the Tampa turf



FIRST-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: THURSDAY, APRIL 16

Ride On Curlin (Curlin), Pleasant Acres Stallions, \$5,000
25 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
2-Gulfstream, Msw 4 1/2f, SOPHISTICURL, 10-1



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- BOLD WARRIOR**, Karate Hottie, f, 4, o/o Bee Home Soon, by Home At Last. ALW, 4-15, Will Rogers
- NOTIONAL**, Ninethirtyturbo, g, 3, o/o Whodoyoulikeboss, by Grand Slam. ALW, 4-15, Will Rogers
- QUALITY ROAD**, Cypress Point, f, 4, o/o Cypress Isle, by Forestry. ALW, 4-15, Will Rogers
- SPEIGHTSTOWN**, My Eclair, g, 3, o/o Eclair de Lune (Ger), by Marchand de Sable. MSW, 4-15, Tampa Bay



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CLEMENT: PMU NEEDS “A BIT OF OXYGEN”



Nicolas Clement oversees his string in Chantilly | Emma Berry

By Kelsey Riley

French racing authorities will on Tuesday meet with government officials to discuss the next steps in getting racing back under starters orders. Nicolas Clement, president of the French Trainers Association, said chief among the topics of discussion will be finalizing a plan for when racing can resume behind closed doors and potential funding aid for the PMU.

After holding all meetings behind closed doors from Mar. 13—and some as early as late February—all racing in France was suspended from Mar. 17 through initially Apr. 15 in response to the coronavirus outbreak. That return date was later extended. On Monday, French President Emmanuel Macron prolonged the country’s mandatory lockdown until May 11, and he has placed a ban on large public gatherings through at least July 11. As of Wednesday morning there were over 103,000 confirmed coronavirus cases in France, and 15,729 deaths.

Clement said all possibilities have been put on the table when it comes to what the resumption of racing might look like, but he said it all hinges on the outcome of Tuesday’s meeting between racing authorities France Galop and Le Trot and the government’s minister of agriculture Didier Guillaume and minister of public action and accounts Gerald Darmanin.

[Cont. p2](#)

RETURN OF BRITISH RACING DELAYED; DANTE MEETING CANCELLED

The suspension of British racing will continue beyond the initial May 1 target date for resumption, the British Horseracing Authority confirmed on Wednesday. The BHA did not provide a new objective start-up date, but said plans are in place to allow the sport to resume as soon as possible, and that its plans continue to allow for resumption in the month of May if possible.

Racing in Britain has been off since Mar. 18. With restrictions on mass gatherings likely to continue for some time, the BHA says racing with crowds will not be possible until June at the earliest.

The BHA’s Chief Executive Nick Rust said, "We stopped racing in March to protect the health and safety of the public and to limit demands on the NHS. It’s right to continue this suspension until the pressure on the NHS allows for a resumption and we can assure the safety of those taking part. We are in touch with government as part of our development of a responsible, coordinated plan for the return of sport when it’s appropriate to do so.

[Cont. p2](#)



A packed house enjoying last year’s Dante Meeting | Racing Post

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

BIG PEDIGREE ON OAKLAWN COLT

Chris McGrath takes a closer look at the prospects of Oaklawn sophomore Mr. Big News (Giant’s Causeway). [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

Clement: PMU Needs “A Bit Of Oxygen” cont. from p1

“We’re all very hopeful we could return to racing towards the end of the confinement, which is May 11,” Clement said, noting that extra races could be added to make up for lost time. “The plan could be, instead of eight races a day to run 10 races a day, and the [pattern] races are likely to be delayed a month, with the French Guineas’ being in early June and the French Derby and French Oaks in early July, and all the preps will be moved accordingly.”

Clement said the concept of keeping racing away from Paris, the home of the French Guineas and the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak in the country, had been floated, but that nothing was yet set in stone.

WE NEED FUNDING TO GET THE
MACHINE GOING AGAIN AND THEN I’M
CONFIDENT THE HORSE RACING
FAMILY WILL BOUNCE BACK.

Nicolas Clement

“All kinds of options have been discussed and one of those has been to stay away from Paris, but nothing has been decided,” he said. “The West has not been hit too hard and there could be more racing in Deauville, but there is no definite plan right now. But to be honest, we’ll adapt. We’ve always adapted and we will again. If there is no racing in Paris and they move races elsewhere, we’ll adapt. There are good guys working on this and there is good talk between the professionals and [France Galop] on what is a suitable program.”

“The main thing is to get going quickly. We have all these horses in training and we believe that with having an activity that is outside we can be very disciplined with social distancing and follow all the precautions. We can handle it in a safe way.”

A hurdle that the French industry will have to overcome is a sharp dive in betting revenue resulting from the cancellation of racing. Clement pointed out that 90% of bets taken through the PMU come at physical site like on the racecourse or in the many PMU shops located in cafes, bars and restaurants. Those options are, of course, right now unavailable, and even when lockdown and social distancing rules are eased, people will not flood immediately back into such places.

Clement said the ideal situation would be that the government would extend a two to three month lifeline to the PMU.

“We’re hopeful the government can provide some funding and there will be as small a cut [to purses] as possible,” he said. “If the government gave us two to three months’ income on betting, that would guarantee the purses through the end of the year at 100%, so that would be the ideal situation.”

Clement said online wagering on international racing has been bringing in around \$3-million daily during the shutdown, a drop in the bucket compared to the typical \$20- to \$25-million daily.

“There are around 10,000 flat and jumps horses in training and about 20,000 trotters in France,” Clement said. “Around 40% of these, especially the trotters, are owned by the trainers so the purses are the main income for a lot of those trainers. We’re not forgetting the owners, but we need a strong purse structure to support these people or there will be a lot of people in trouble. We need a positive message for the breeders, too, because we’re going to be buying their crops later in the year but we need a good message about the purse structure.”

“Next Tuesday is a very important meeting with the budget minister and the agriculture minister,” Clement reiterated. “I wish we could handle our future differently but at the moment we need a bit of oxygen to secure the purses. Betting is going to be low the first three or four months, so I’m reluctantly optimistic they’ll understand that the worst message would be running for very poor money. We need funding to get the machine going again and then I’m confident the horse racing family, as always, will bounce back. We have a good system in France and we want to get the show back on the road.”

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Return of British Racing Delayed; Dante Meeting Cancelled cont. from p1

Rust continued, “We’ll continue to develop a range of options drawing on the expertise of our participants and racecourses. But for now, we are all focused on supporting the national effort, maintaining social distancing restrictions and taking care of our people and our horses.”

In light of the latest development, York has cancelled its Dante Meeting originally set for May 13 to 15. The meeting would have featured two key events for 3-year-olds, the G2 Dante S. and G3 Musidora S.

A statement from York Racecourse read in part, “As the COVID-19 crisis has come to affect so many individuals and organisations, it will not be a surprise that racing, as both a sport and an important employer, has too suffered unprecedented consequences. Most recently, in following government advice, the British Horseracing Authority extended the suspension of horse racing nationwide, in front of a crowd, until Sunday, May 31.

Return of British Racing Delayed; Dante Meeting Cancelled cont.

Consequently, this means the cancellation of the four racedays scheduled for York Racecourse in May 2020, specifically the Dante Festival and Saturday, May 30. Whilst this is a disappointing decision for racegoers, racing professionals, all of us at York Racecourse and many in the wider city, we all appreciate that public health must be everyone's priority."

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ARQANA BREEZE-UP DELAYED

Arqana President Eric Hoyeau has stated that the company is leaving "no stone unturned" in finding a solution to staging its Breeze-up Sale, which should have taken place but on May 8 and 9 but now cannot following a lockdown extension by the French government.

With France remaining under strict constraints until May 11, the Arqana bloodstock team is now in liaison with vendors with regard to rescheduling the sale. The options include holding the breeze-up on its reserve dates of June 2 to 3 or 3 to 4, or merging it with the mixed Summer Sale, which is traditionally held in the first week of July.



Arqana's Breeze-up Sale could merge with the Summer Sale | Emma Berry

"Our endeavour is to offer the best possible working conditions for vendors and buyers despite the unprecedented level of uncertainty we are all confronted with," Hoyeau said. "The early June slot remains an option for our Breeze-up, however there is a risk that hotels and restaurants in Deauville might still be closed as well as travelling restrictions to and within Europe remaining in force. Therefore, and depending of how the situation pans out over the next few weeks in France

and abroad, we are alternatively considering merging the Breeze-up with the Summer Sale, which would then expand from June 29 to July 4, or postponing it to a later date in July."

He continued, "Regardless of the date, we will offer online bidding solutions. We are lucky that we already own an online sale platform, Arqanaonline.com, which we are adapting to the situation. We will also make as much information as possible available remotely to buyers."

Hoyeau is hopeful that the company's headline auction, the August Yearling Sale, will take place as scheduled on Aug. 15 to 17, followed by the V2 Yearling Sale on Aug. 18, though concedes that the company will remain flexible if further disruption to the sales calendar is required.

He added, "We are very aware of the trying times all industry players are faced with and how fast things are evolving. Should it become necessary, we will adopt a very outside-the-box approach to come up with the best possible date and logistical organisation for our flagship sale. Once again, I would like to extend my deepest compassion and support to all those who are suffering personal or professional hardship. More than ever, we are all living in hope."

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JCE CUTS NEWMARKET HEATH FEES



Newmarket's Warren Hill | Emma Berry

Jockey Club Estates (JCE) has announced that it will reduce the cost of its Heath fees in Newmarket by 10% for April, May and June to alleviate expenses for owners during the suspension of racing under coronavirus restrictions.

Presently, the owner of each horse in training in the town is charged £132.90 (+VAT) per month to use the training grounds. These include 50 miles of turf gallops, 14 miles of all-weather gallops and schooling facilities for National Hunt horses across the 2,500 acres owned by JCE.

"With racing fixtures suspended our gallops remain fully open to allow horses to receive the essential exercise they need," said Nick Patton, managing director of JCE.

"As we are fully operational our costs to maintain and run the training centres remain the same as normal so it has been a challenge to find a way to reduce fees to help owners and trainers during this incredibly difficult time. Trainers don't want us to reduce the service we offer. We have agreed a plan to cut fees by 10% for April, May and June and we will be keeping everything open. Any surpluses already go back into the training facilities so with less income we will have to review our projects and how we can be the best possible partner in the short term."

The town's Thoroughbred population generally falls between 2,500 and 3,000 horses at different times of the year and while many of them remain in full or reduced training, a number of horses have been turned out in the short term until racing resumes.

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MARQUAND FINED FOR CELEBRATION



Tom Marquand | *Racing Post*

British-based jockey **Tom Marquand**, who has been based in Australia through the winter and who partnered the William Haggas-trained Addeybb (GB) (Pivotal {GB}) to victory in the G1 Queen Elizabeth S. at Randwick last Saturday, has been fined A\$2,000 for breaching COVID-19 protocols when hugging stablehand Safid Alam after dismounting. Alam was fined A\$500.

Racing NSW sought medical advice on whether the breach should affect Marquand's eligibility to continue race riding. After considering medical advice and hearing that neither Marquand or Alam has displayed COVID-19 symptoms, stewards are satisfied that Marquand can continue to ride.

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RECORD ENTRIES FOR BALLYHANE STAKES

The inaugural renewal of the €200,000 Irish EBF Ballyhane S. scheduled for Aug. 3 at Naas has drawn 563 entries—an Irish record. Those include 345 Irish-based entries, 217 from Britain and one entry from a Wesley Ward-trained colt in America. The six furlong race for 2-year-olds is open to the progeny of sires whose yearlings averaged no more than €75,000 last year.

With racing off indefinitely, the forfeit stage has been postponed.

Jason Morris, Horse Racing Ireland's director of racing, said, "The level of initial entries for the Irish EBF Ballyhane S. has exceeded our expectations and demonstrates the popularity of this new concept. Once the picture becomes clearer over the timing and basis for a resumption of racing, we will evaluate the feasibility of increasing the prize money for the feature race and/or the creation of a consolation event. We can look forward to a very competitive and high-quality contest in what will hopefully be better times."

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HRI RAISES €50K FOR FEED THE HEROES



2019 Grand National winner Tiger Roll | *Racing Post*

An online auction promoted and managed by Horse Racing Ireland raised €50,000 for the Feed The Heroes, a not-for-profit voluntary organisation which feeds frontline hospital and emergency workers dealing with the COVID-19 health emergency. The auction generated €31,158, and HRI donated the balance to reach the final total of €50,000.

The 36 auction items included a Galway Festival course walk with Ruby Walsh, corporate hospitality at Longines Irish Champions Weekend, signed Al Boum Photo silks and a yard visit to Ger Lyons. The top lot was a Tiger Roll Aintree Grand National saddle cloth signed by Davy Russell and Gordon Elliott, which raised €4,100.

Cont.

“In these uncertain and worrying times, it’s brilliant to see such positivity and unity by everyone to support the amazing work of the frontline staff,” said Brian Kavanagh, CEO of HRI. “Horse Racing Ireland is delighted to top up the money raised to €50,000 and we hope this donation can, in some small way, give practical support to all the nurses, doctors and carers on the Covid-19 frontline to whom we are eternally grateful.”

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‘EQUESTRIAN RELIEF’ RAISES £250K FOR NHS CHARITIES



Tony McCoy | *Racing Post*

‘Equestrian Relief’, a fundraising effort launched by the team behind Bolesworth and Liverpool International Horse Shows, has raised £250,000 for National Health Service charities. Among the equine-related celebrities assisting the cause are champion jockeys Sir Anthony McCoy and Frankie Dettori, eventing world champions Ros Canter and Zara Tindall, and Olympic gold medallists Carl Hester and Scott Brash. The drive surpassed the £100,000 goal in 10 days.

“It has been an overwhelming fortnight--and we are delighted to be in a position to be donating over quarter of a millions pounds to the NHS Covid-19 Crisis Fund,” said Nina Barbour, Bolesworth managing director. "I would just like to extend a massive thank you to everyone from the equestrian world who has supported this fantastic cause in every way, and helped us achieve this great result."

Included in the effort was a charity auction, which amassed a total of £165,440. It was topped by a membership of a Nick Bradley Racing syndicate, which realized £7,501. Additionally, Tindall's painting from the Horse Drawn challenge raised £5,700; Dettori's signed breeches sold for £4,900 and a round of golf with McCoy and Oli Bell attracted a bid of £3,800.

"It was a pleasure to be involved and I'm really proud of everyone from the equestrian world for helping to raise a great sum of money for a cause that has touched everyone in recent times," said McCoy.

The celebrity horsemen and women were split into teams, with two team members taking part in a daily challenge from five categories, culminating in the ‘Dark Horse’ round, where teams shared their hidden talent. Team Eventing sealed victory with a comical parody of Netflix's hit series 'Tiger King' performed by Ben Hobday, with Team Polo taking second. Team Racing finished sixth of the seven teams.

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— THE GREAT RACING READ —

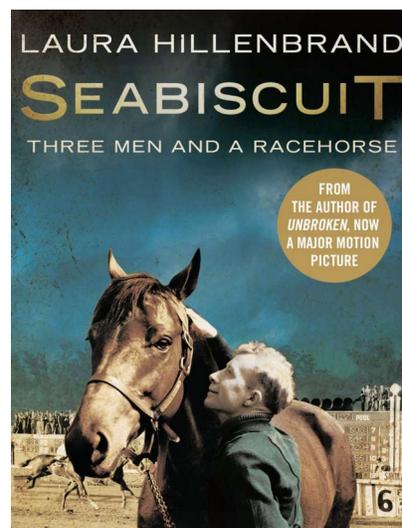
ROSS BIRKETT

Seabiscuit: Three Men and a Racehorse

by Laura Hillenbrand

While many of us will have watched the Oscar-nominated film adaption of the book which does no disservice to Hillenbrand's novel, you would truly be missing out if you didn't spend the time to read her excellent story.

Set in 1930s America, *Seabiscuit* is a true underdog story about a crooked-legged horse who was transformed by the mysterious



trainer Tom Smith, the half-blind jockey Red Pollard and overnight millionaire owner Charles Howard. Each character comes with their own fascinating story and Hillenbrand brilliantly draws all these together as they harness their unique talents to bring out the best in *Seabiscuit* as he conquers the horseracing world.

You can't help but love the characters. Yes, they

have their flaws but it is this human side to them that makes each one become a friend almost, including the eponymous plain-looking bay colt himself, as they bid to tackle the racing snobs of the east coast of America. But it is not just about the horse. This is about 1930s America, too. Adopting the accents of the time in words such as "hunnerd granner" and her masterly use of description, Hillenbrand transports you back to the time and puts you front and centre of the action. What can let a lot of horseracing books down is the description of the races

themselves but the hours of research Hillenbrand put into this side of the story shine through as once again you are put in the thick of the action and can feel every breath of each horse, each slap of the jockeys' whips and the blood, sweat and tears of the winner and all the losers.

I must have read this book four times over the years and with each reading comes the same pleasure as you immerse yourself in what is one of horseracing's best and most famous stories. Hillenbrand is an incredible writer and it is to our sport's benefit that she chose to immortalise this story for us all.

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WORLDWIDE NEWS

GOLDEN SIXTY TO MISS CHAMPIONS DAY



Golden Sixty (Aus) | HKJC

Stanley Chan Ka Leung's **Golden Sixty (Aus)** (Medaglia d'Oro) will not contest the G1 FWD QEII Cup Apr. 26, according trainer Francis Lui Wednesday. The winner of 10 of 11 career starts, the bay won his seven latest trips to post, including the Mar. 22 BMW Hong Kong Derby at Sha Tin.

"He's achieved a lot this season and we feel he needs a rest now to refresh his mind and let him develop," said Lui. "He'll have a summer break and then we'll prepare him for next season."

Following a trio of victories at Sha Tin last fall, Golden Sixty kicked off 2020 with a score in the G3 Chinese Club Challenge Cup Jan. 1 before annexing the Hong Kong Classic Mile Jan. 27. Prior to his recent Derby victory, he won the Hong Kong Classic Cup Feb. 23.

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INGLIS LEARNS FROM EVOLVING EASTER SALE



Inglis GM, Bloodstock Sales & Marketing, Sebastian Hutch
Bronwen Healy

By Bren O'Brien

While Inglis continues to sell yearlings offered as part of its historic virtual Easter Sale, it is also looking to parlay the learnings from the last week into its planning for the upcoming broodmare sales.

Seven days after the conclusion of the first ever virtual Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale, deals are still being struck, powering the overall aggregate up towards \$71 million and lifting the clearance rate.

A further 14 horses have sold since the conclusion of the sale last Wednesday, adding over \$2.6 million to the aggregate, with the overall clearance rate sitting at 66 percent, up four percent since the end of the Sale.

Inglis said that with the complicated nature of logistics around inspections, it expected to be continuing to sell yearlings for some weeks and that has borne out over the Easter break, with a steady flow of interest from buyers.

"The mechanics of this period meant that it was harder for people to inspect horses, so as a consequence, there might be people willing to inspect post sale, where that doesn't happen as often in the case of a conventional auction," Inglis' General Manager, Bloodstock Sales and Marketing, Sebastian Hutch said.

"I think there is an expectation that the gross can grow even further. The clearance has been positive across all jurisdictions,

but notably for horses that were catalogued for sale across Victoria and New Zealand."

While the overall average and mean were down on 12 months ago, the sale result has been widely acclaimed as remarkable given the economic uncertainty caused by the coronavirus public health crisis, and the fact it was staged as a virtual sale, with bidders either online or over the phone.

Inglis' agility in how it approached the planning of the Easter Sale certainly played in its favour as it addressed the challenges posed by ever-evolving government protocols. It has also offered vendors a second bite at the cherry to sell their Easter yearlings at Round 2 of the Sale which it intends to hold in a traditional format on Sunday, July 5.

Hutch said that plan remained in place, so long as it was possible under government protocols and the vendors remain supportive.

"The intention remains that it will be a sale of substance. We have scheduled the sale as a live auction on July 5, and the hope is that we will be in a position to host that. Obviously that is still an unknown," Hutch said.

"We made the commitment to consider that again at the end of April and our feelings based on conversations we have had since Easter is that there will be substance to that sale.

"The second round of the Sale was always going to be an opportunity for people to have a second bite at the cherry and following on from what was a very positive Easter Sale for lot of people, there are still a lot of people very enthused at having a second crack at it."

Lessons Learned from New Format

Conducting its highest profile sale in a format which had never been previously tried certainly provided Inglis with plenty of learnings. With its upcoming Chairman's Sale for select mares to be staged in a similar format next month, there were a few key lessons it will look to apply.

"I think it's very important under these current circumstances to try and make inspections as easy as possible for people. We are living through a period where there are restrictions on the movement of people. People are encouraged to be very diligent and conscientious in terms of how they plan any of their movements. That's something we can try and factor into plans for the Chairman's and subsequent sales," Hutch said.

"It's very evident, and became particularly prominent through Easter, that disclosure of information is crucial.

Cont. from p1

"The more people know, the more confidence they bid with. In the case of yearlings, information such as height and weight, for those not in the position to inspect them physically, was very important. The quality of videos and vet reports made available were also hugely important."

Hutch said that the demand for information has never been so strong, especially with bidders operating remotely, and the use of digital technologies for vendors to market their stock was also key.

Markets Gets Some Assurance

Hutch feels that the market would be assured by the results of the Easter Sale and take some of that assurances into the sales going forward.

"Turnover of \$71 million at this stage under the circumstances is a very significant amount of money, everybody agrees with that and I think looking forward into subsequent markets, there is no reason for people to take anything other than confidence in the short term," he said.

"It keeps the wheels turning. It gave vendors at the sale an opportunity to generate some revenue. It's important revenue under the circumstances, with service fees payable and other factors to be considered.

"As a whole, it has reassured the market to a point where people can see it's a viable marketplace. It's not as lucrative as it has been, but it is certainly a viable marketplace."

Scene Set for Broodmare Sales

As mentioned, the Chairman's Sale will be conducted as a virtual sale on May 8, while the Inglis Broodmare Sale will be staged as a digital sale on May 10.

"We will be looking to try and update buyers regularly in the coming days onwards with more information about those sales. I think vendors' awareness of what is necessary to give yourself the best opportunity of being effective at those sales has been heightened by what happened at Easter," he said.

"With the Chairman's, it's very much a follow on from what we had been doing at the Sale 12 months' ago, Quality video, an enhanced catalogue, enhanced research into mares at the Sale, everything to try and make it easier for buyers to work the Sale.

"Fortunately that seems to have appealed to a significant number of people and as a consequence the catalogue is very strong. We have had great interest in the supplementary catalogue. It's all coming together nicely. Hopefully we can continue to get the work done and help people achieve what they want out of it."



IN HONG KONG:

California Rad, g, 3, **Fastnet Rock**--Radharcnafarraige (Ire) (GSW-Ire, \$159,818), by Distorted Humor (USA). Happy Valley, 4-15, Hcp. (\$197k), 1200m, 1:09.73. B-Segenhoe Thoroughbreds Australia Pty Ltd (NSW). *\$650,000 Ylg '18 MMGCYS. **VIDEO**

Compassion Spirit, g, 3, **Supreme Class**--Your Grace, by Testa Rossa. Happy Valley, 4-15, Hcp. (\$197k), 1200m, 1:10.12. B-Miss N Burke (Vic). *\$40,000 2yo '18 MMOCT. **VIDEO**

Beauty Spark, g, 4, **All American**--Bubbly Duchess, by Duke of Marmalade (Ire). Happy Valley, 4-15, Hcp. (\$295k), 1200m, 1:09.17. B-Goodwood Farm (NSW). *Formerly All A Spritz. **\$50,000 Ylg '17 INGFE. **VIDEO**

Sunshine Warrior, g, 5, **Pierro**--Keep the Peace (NZ) (MG1SW-NZ, GSP-Aus, US\$486,372), by Keeper. Happy Valley, 4-15, Hcp. (\$295k), 1650m, 1:40.01. B-SF Bloodstock LLC (NSW). *NZ\$170,000 Ylg '16 NZBJAN. **VIDEO**



IN HONG KONG:

Dances With Dragon, g, 6, **Savabeel (Aus)**--Around the Clock (Aus), by Galileo (Ire). Happy Valley, 4-15, Hcp. (NZ\$452k), 1800m, 1:48.44. B-M W O'Keefe. *Formerly Hall of Fame (NZ). **G1SW-NZ. ***A\$100,000 Ylg '15 INGEAS; NZ\$230,000 2yo '15 NZBRTR. **VIDEO**

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Highlights Include:

Exceedance Retired To Stand At Vinery

Fastnet's Panna Cotta Eyes Black-Type

Cummings Backs Bivouac Bounce

Soul Patch To Stand At Rangal Park

Another Winner For Night Of Thunder