

NEW JERSEY HORSEMAN JOHN FORBES PASSES AWAY



John Forbes | *Equi-Photo*

John Hamilton Forbes, a top trainer on the New Jersey circuit for four decades and the president of the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, passed away Sunday after a battle with cancer. He was 73 years old.

"John was New Jersey racing," said Dennis Drazin, chairman and CEO of Darby Development LLC, operators of Monmouth Park Racetrack. "He was a tireless advocate for the industry, for the horsemen and for Monmouth Park.

"With a boundless capacity for kindness, John embodied everything good about this business--honor, integrity, compassion and selflessness. More than that, John had an infectious energy for racing. I will forever cherish our many years working together and appreciate not just our friendship but our collective effort on behalf of the horsemen to better this industry and the lives of those who work in it."

Forbes won more than 2,100 races from over 14,000 starters, most of them with his longtime assistant Pat McBurney at his side.

"I came around the racetrack when I was 15, 16 and he was like a father to me," said McBurney. "Over the course of many, many years, he became like a brother and a best friend. It's a very sad time. He loved this sport. He had a great gift of gab and a great way with people. If he got a hold of an idea that he thought was right he just wouldn't let it go, no matter who he had to go up against." *Cont. p3*

THOUSAND WORDS A VERITABLE PICTURE AT SPENDTHRIFT *by Katie Ritz*

It took just two words for Mark Toothaker to explain why he believes **Thousand Words** (Pioneerof the Nile) will excel in the Spendthrift stud barn: looks and pedigree.

Those same characteristics are what kept the Albaugh-Spendthrift partnership bidding at the Keeneland September Sale until they brought the colt home for \$1 million.

It didn't take long to find an appropriate name for the youngster.

"Eric Gustavon, our president, named him," Toothaker recalled. "He's such a beautiful horse that the name was easy to come by. A picture is worth a thousand words because there's so much that you could say about this horse with his looks and his pedigree. So it's a cool name for what we hope turns out to be a very good stallion." *Cont. p6*

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

20 YEARS ON: RECALLING GALILEO'S CLASSIC SEASON

Emma Berry speaks with trainer Aidan O'Brien about multiple champion sire **Galileo (Ire)** (Sadler's Wells)'s 3-year-old season 20 years after the fact.

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Tuesday, February 2, 2021



October 13, 1998. John Forbes guides *Tale of the Cat* and Julie Krone off the track at Monmouth Park after a workout. | Bill Denver/Equi-Photo

LADY APPLE RETIRED

7

Phoenix Thoroughbreds' multiple graded stakes winner *Lady Apple (Curlin)*, third in the 2019 GI Kentucky Oaks, has been retired from racing and will be bred to *Quality Road* this spring.

TDN DERBY TOP 12

8

Godolphin homebred *Essential Quality (Tapit)*, crowned 2020 champion juvenile colt last Thursday, remains on the top spot as the countdown to the Kentucky Derby continues with this week's edition of the TDN Derby Top 12.



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John Forbes Passes Away *(cont. from p1)*

McBurney continued, “John and I spent decades together experiencing all the highs and lows that this business has to offer. It was always a team effort with John. Even after he stopped training on a day-to-day basis he was equally involved as an owner, advisor and most importantly, a friend. It’s hard to imagine Monmouth Park without John, but Monmouth Park will forever be better because of John.”

Forbes was born June 20, 1947 in Maryland, the son of two trainers, John Hamilton Chew Forbes, and Nancy Shakespeare Forbes. His mother was one of the first women in America to obtain a trainer’s license. He began his career in his home state in 1972, but soon thereafter switched his operation to New Jersey. He was lured to the Garden State by the charms of Monmouth Park.

“When the Meadowlands opened in 1977, we brought horses up to race, and from 1978, we stayed in New Jersey,” he said in 2014. “What was the deciding factor was this place here. Not many of the remaining racetracks in the country have the charm and ambience of this place. I fell in love with Monmouth, that’s why we stayed. It’s a little hard to describe how Monmouth captures you. But it’s a step back in time.”



Pat McBurney and John Forbes | Equi-Photo



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Forbes thrived after moving to New Jersey. He was the leading trainer at Monmouth five times and topped the standings at the Meadowlands seven times. In 1978, he won 109 races and followed that up with a career-best 233 in 1979.

Forbes dealt mainly with claimers through much of his career but proved he could win at the highest levels when given an opportunity.

In 1995, Forbes and McBurney formed a limited partnership, Phantom House Stables, that raised nearly \$2 million to purchase yearlings. The most successful among the group was **Tale of the Cat**, who won five of his nine career starts, including the GII King's Bishop S. at Saratoga in 1997, and who was second in the GI Whitney H. Purchased for \$375,000 at Keeneland September, the son of Storm Cat was sold for \$11.7 million and has been a successful sire at Coolmore Stud in Lexington. Of the six horses they purchased that year, four became stakes winners, including Amarillo, winner of the GIII Delaware H., Sumija and Apogee.



Tale of the Cat | Coolmore photo

Eddie Rosen, who served as the group's pedigree advisor, was a friend of Forbes's for 50 years, having met him in 1970, when Forbes was assistant trainer to John Tammaro, Sr.

"As dominant as he was in the training ranks in New Jersey, having been the leading trainer in New Jersey for so many years, I think his biggest impact came as president of the Thoroughbred horsemen's association," said Rosen. "He was able to employ his analytical and negotiating skills to advance the causes of horsemen in New Jersey. I think that's where he found his true calling."

Forbes was famous for launching the career of Julie Krone, who was his regular rider in the 1980s and early 1990. She rode **Tale of the Cat** in every race of his career.

"Opening my eyes this morning to a world without John Forbes is a much sadder place," said Krone Monday morning. "The horses have suffered a loss, and so have the people. He was great with both."

"Riding first call for John Forbes at Atlantic City launched my career," she continued. "I got opportunities from that without any questions asked. The first year I lost my apprenticeship, I got to ride for them. He taught me everything--things about riding, and being convivial with trainers and owners, allowed me to spend time with his family, and taught me how to take care of myself."

Forbes stepped back from training in 2012 to focus on horsemen's issues, and McBurney took over the stable.

He had been named President of the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association in 2010, after having helped to launch the umbrella organization, the THA, comprised of six states in the mid-1990s.

"The whole process was really about trying to get an organization where everyone had an equal voice, and to address important issues of common interest for the benefit of the whole industry while not interfering with other states' issues," Forbes said in 2017. "We agreed to help the states if they asked for help, but also agreed it would be best not to interfere. It was agreed that the organization would not dictate to its members. We'd all be on our own, but all together at the same time."

Forbes also found time to engage in another of his passions: miniature golf. He was introduced to the game in the late 1950s when the family would travel to Atlantic City for racing, and Forbes would spend time in Ocean City, where the boardwalk was dotted with mini-golf courses.

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Forbes built the Blue Grass Mini Golf Course in 2012 at Monmouth, which hosted the 2014 and 2017 U.S. Open for Mini Golf. He was inducted into the U.S. Pro Mini Golf Hall of Fame in 2020.



Dennis Drazin (C) and Bob Kulina (R) of Darby Development, leasees of Monmouth Park, discuss future plans with John Forbes (L), President of the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, in the Library at Monmouth Park
Bill Denver/EQUI-PHOTO

Under Forbes, the NJTHA became a racetrack operator as well, leasing the track from Darby Development when Governor Chris Christie decided in 2010 that the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority should get out of the racing business.

“John was a giant among the horsemen,” said Drazin, a longtime friend of Forbes's. “The THA would not have existed in New Jersey without him. He was instrumental in leading the effort to take over the racetrack when Governor Christie decided to put it up for sale. He was the backbone of the organization and he will certainly be missed.”

Forbes is survived by his wife of 40 years, Vicki, the Director of Customer Service for the *TDN*; daughter Anne and her husband Damien Zajac; son John, the Director of Operations at Monmouth Park, and his wife Nicole; daughter Carrie and her husband Eric Oberdorf; and two grandchildren, Avery and Estella.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no services held.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Forbes's name to the Backstretch Community Assistance Program (BCAP), a program that assists New Jersey horse racing stable employees in the areas of counseling, health, education, recreation and benevolence. Their address is BCAP, c/o Monmouth Park, 175 Oceanport Avenue, Oceanport, NJ 07757.

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The late 'Bull' Hancock of Claiborne Farm was one of the most successful of all stallion selectors; he laid down five criteria for selecting a stallion. Hancock insisted that a potential stallion should satisfy all criteria:

1

He must have shown good form as a 2YO.

Won the **Champagne Stakes-Gr.1** by 4 lengths (previous winners include Coolmore America's outstanding sires **Scat Daddy** & **Uncle Mo**).

2

He must have demonstrated his ability to stay 1¼ miles as a 3YO.

Won the **Travers Stakes-Gr.1** by 5½ lengths (fifth fastest time ever, faster than top sires **Bernardini**, **Medaglia d'Oro** etc.) and runner-up in the **Kentucky Derby-Gr.1**, both over 10f.

He also won the **Belmont Stakes-Gr.1** (9f.) by 3¾ lengths and **Florida Derby-Gr.1** (9f.) by 4¼ lengths (leading sires to win it include **Scat Daddy**, **Quality Road**, **Constitution** and **Nyquist**).

3

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4

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5

He must have the right kind of pedigree.

A better racehorse than his leading young sire **Constitution** (by **Tapit**).

His dam Tizfiz (by **Tiznow**)

won the **San Gorgonio H.-Gr.2** (now the **Robert J. Frankel Stakes**)

at Santa Anita and is a full-sister to Fury Kapcori (Gr.3 winner & runner-up in the CashCall Futurity-Gr.1).



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Thousand Words a Veritable Picture at Spendthrift *(cont. from p1)*

Thousand Words embarks on his career at stud as a three-time stakes winner and will stand his first season for \$7,500.

At the 2018 Keeneland September Sale, Spendthrift and the Albaugh Family Stables were on the lookout for a yearling they could partner on and, as Toothaker recalled, **Thousand Words** fit the bill.

“We had bought Brody’s Cause and **Free Drop Billy** from the Albaughs and had talked about teaming up if we found something we both landed on,” he said. “The first time we saw **Thousand Words**, he was such a beautiful yearling and one that we were both definitely on. So it made for a great partnership and we were thrilled to get the horse purchased.”

A member of one of the last crops from the late top sire Pioneer of the Nile, the January foal was bred in Florida by Amy Tarrant’s Hardacre Farm and produced by the farm’s homebred sprinter Pomeroy’s Pistol (Pomeroy), a multiple graded stakes winner who was runner-up in both the GI Prioress S. and GI Test S. in 2011.

As the youngster began training with Bob Baffert, the team at Spendthrift anxiously awaited a report from the Hall of Fame trainer.

“When the lightbulb finally came on for **Thousand Words**, Bob called Flavien Prat and told him ‘this is your Derby horse for next year,’” Toothaker said. “When Bob starts talking Derby, you start listening, so there was a lot of excitement around here leading up to that.”



After a winning debut in October, the speedy bay next took the GII Los Alamitos Futurity for an undefeated juvenile season.

The colt’s sire won the same race in 2008, and Toothaker spoke on other current stallions who have thrived in the Los Alamitos Futurity, which was just downgraded to a Grade II in 2019.

“It’s the same race **Into Mischief** won,” Toothaker noted. “Horses like **Mor Spirit** and **Violence** had won that race as well. So there are a lot of really nice horses that have won this race and certainly gone on to make a name for themselves.”

Thousand Words continued his winning streak in his sophomore debut in the GIII Robert B. Lewis S., but then ran unplaced in his next two starts.

After a short layoff, he gave a runner-up effort behind stablemate and ‘**TDN Rising Star**’ Uncle Chuck (**Uncle Mo**) in the GIII Los Alamitos Derby and then took on Del Mar for a gutsy score in the Shared Belief S. over Honor A.P. (**Honor Code**) in his final prep before the GI Kentucky Derby.

While he claimed the number four spot in the **TDN’s Derby Rankings** leading up to the first Saturday in September, two slots ahead of stablemate and eventual winner **Authentic** (**Into Mischief**), the sophomore reared and fell in the paddock minutes before stepping onto the track and was subsequently a late defection.



Thousand Words joins Spendthrift stalwart **Into Mischief** as a winner of the GII Los Alamitos Futurity. | Benoit

Toothaker recalled the unfortunate events of the day. “When we left the backside with **Authentic** and **Thousand Words**, we really didn’t know which one of the two was our best shot. We were just thrilled that we had two chances and both of the horses were coming into the race fantastic, so we thought, who knows what’s going to happen here? And then of course, you know the rest of the story. We’re devastated, the Albaughs are devastated, we were 20 minutes from post time for the Derby and now here we are scratched. So it was about as low as you can get at that point.”

While **Thousand Words** returned for two more Grade I starts in 2020, he ran unplaced in both and Toothaker explained that since the horse had not been the same after the paddock incident, the decision was made for him to retire.

When the announcement was made that the new addition would be a part of Spendthrift's Share The Upside program, Toothaker said they sold out of the program's portion of his book in under an hour.

"It was unbelievable," he said. "Our phones were just blowing up with texts and calls. We've probably got a waiting list of about 40 people for the Share the Upside portion. So his reception has been unbelievable."

"He is that million-dollar yearling— he's gorgeous," Toothaker continued. "He's just so correct. A beautiful head on him with a beautiful neck and shoulder. He's going to get a tremendous chance with the looks that he has and then with Pioneer of the Nile as a sire and out of a dam as good as Pomeroy's Pistol. You could look up in a few years, and this horse could be right there at the top of the sire list."

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TSC ADD NEW REFORMS TO PLATFORM

Members of the Thoroughbred Safety Coalition Steering Committee voted unanimously to adopt four new medical and operational reforms to further reduce the use of medication in racing, enhance consistency across racing jurisdictions and promote transparency, according to a press release from the organization Monday.

The Thoroughbred Safety Coalition is an industry-led effort to advance safety measures in Thoroughbred racing.

"These new reforms set the stage for another productive year of advancing meaningful changes to strengthen the culture of safety in Thoroughbred racing," said the release.

The following recommended reforms have been added to Coalition's platform:

- *Prohibit intravenous, intramuscular, transmucosal, topical, nasal and oral administration of medications and substances that are not specifically authorized within 48 hours of racing
- *Impose requirements for the identification and treatment of hypothyroidism in horses
- *Adopt testing and maintenance standards for racetrack surfaces
- *Advocate for the adoption of all facility specifications outlined in the RMTC's Test Barn Best Practices for onsite test barns and follow the protocols consistent with the Best Practices for sampling occurring at another location

"Building out our reform platform remains the Coalition's top priority as we continue to advocate for uniform measures that will protect the well-being of our horses and the integrity of our sport across state racing jurisdictions," said Shannon Arvin, President and CEO of Keeneland Association Inc. "Testing, whether it's for racing surface consistency, hypothyroidism or controlled substances, strengthens accountability and ensures an even playing field."

"HISA marks a significant achievement for our community and will benefit horses, participants and fans alike by implementing uniform anti-doping, medication control and racetrack operation measures. The Safety Coalition's mission directly complements the Authority's efforts and we look forward to working together," said Drew Fleming, President and CEO of Breeders' Cup Limited.

"The work that goes into ensuring our athletes are racing under the safest and most transparent conditions possible is constant and requires collaboration across the thoroughbred community," said Martin Panza, Senior Vice President of Racing Operations at the New York Racing Association. "The racetrack surface maintenance and testing protocols are the direct result of such collaboration led by the NTRA and the members of this coalition and will serve as the basis for HISA's racetrack operations program."

Coalition Steering Committee members include Breeders' Cup Limited, Churchill Downs Incorporated, Keeneland Association Inc., the New York Racing Association Inc., Del Mar Thoroughbred Club and The Stronach Group.

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MGSW LADY APPLE RETIRED

Lady Apple (**Curlin**--Miss Mary Apples, by **Clever Trick**), third in the 2019 GI Kentucky Oaks, has been retired and will be bred to Grade I sire **Quality Road**, owner Phoenix Thoroughbreds announced Monday. A four-time Grade III winner--in the 2019 editions of the Fantasy S., Iowa Oaks, Remington Park Oaks and in the 2020 Houston Ladies Classic, the bay was trained by Steve Asmussen for the majority of her career.

Bred by KatieRich Farms, the 5-year-old was a debut second at Keeneland in April of 2018 for trainer Mark Hubley after RNA'ing for \$100,000 during the 2017 Keeneland September Yearling Sale. Phoenix bought into the mare afterward and raced her with KatieRich. The operation bought out KatieRich when going to \$1.2 million during the Fasig-Tipton November Sale last fall. Lady Apple was third in the Joseph E. Spanky Broussard Memorial S. at Fair Grounds in December and in Sunday's GIII Houston Ladies Classic S. in her final two starts and retires with a mark of 19-6-2-4 and \$1,078,324 in earnings.

"She has been a fantastic race mare for us and she'll be an excellent addition to our breeding operation," Phoenix Thoroughbreds CEO Amer Abdulaziz said in a statement. "She has a top-class pedigree with a race record to match while the cross with **Quality Road** looks very exciting."

A daughter of GII Schuylerville S. bridesmaid Miss Mary Apples, Lady Apple is a half-sister to SW and GII Hendrie S. second Dr. Diamonds Prize (Pure Prize) and MSW Miss Red Delicious (Empire Maker). The latter has already thrown GIII Soaring Softly S. heroine Nootka Sound (Lonhro {Aus}).

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TDN
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TOP KENTUCKY DERBY CONTENDERS

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THE TDN DERBY TOP 12 FOR FEBRUARY 2

by T.D. Thornton

The Nos. 1, 2 and 3 candidates atop this week's GI Kentucky Derby rankings are fascinating from a tactical standpoint. In order, their styles are that of a relentless stalker, a high-cruising speed specialist, and a dominant, off-the-pace tailgater. But the contenders ranked behind them are poised to pounce as we edge past the 90-day mark until the first Saturday in May.

1) ESSENTIAL QUALITY (c, **Tapit--Delightful Quality**, by Elusive Quality)

O/B-Godolphin (KY). T-Brad Cox. Lifetime Record: Ch. 2yo Colt & GISW, 3-3-0-0, \$1,335,144.

Last Start: 1st **GI TVG Breeders' Cup Juvenile**, KEE, Nov. 6

Accomplishments **Include:** 1st **GI Claiborne Breeders' Futurity**, **'TDN Rising Star'** Next Start: GIII Southwest S., OP, Feb. 15 **Equineline PPs**. KY Derby Points: 30.

'TDN Rising Star' Essential Quality can now add "2-year-old champ" to his 3-for-3 resume after winning Thursday's Eclipse Awards vote. But there was also big news last week about plans for this Godolphin homebred's 2021 debut, which trainer Brad Cox said will be the GIII Southwest S. Feb. 15 at Oaklawn (the GII Risen Star S. Feb. 13 at Fair Grounds had been the secondary option). The decision came down to a distance preference (1 1/16 miles for the Southwest versus half a furlong farther in the Risen Star), which is entirely logical for this **Tapit** colt's first race back since the winning the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile. This athletic gray was a versatile stalker at age two, and looked well within his element employing intimidating pace-pressing tactics. Although "EQ" has twice won at 1 1/16 miles, both of those Grade I victories came over Keeneland's short-stretch configuration, where races at that distance end at the sixteenth pole. How have Eclipse champs fared in the Derby? In the 21st Century, **Street Sense**, **American Pharoah** and **Nyquist** all managed that double. There were no Eclipse/Derby winners in the 1980s or '90s. But in the '70s that feat was quite common, and the honor roll includes some legendary names: Spectacular Bid, Affirmed, Seattle Slew, Foolish Pleasure, Secretariat and Riva Ridge.

2) CADDO RIVER (c, **Hard Spun--Pangburn**, by **Congrats**)

O/B-Shortleaf Stable (KY). T-Brad Cox. Lifetime Record: SW, 4-2-2-0, \$166,092. Last Start: **1st Smarty Jones S.**, OP, Jan. 22.

Accomplishments: **'TDN Rising Star'**

Next Start: GII Rebel S., OP, Mar. 13 or GI Arkansas Derby, OP, Apr. 10. **Equineline PPs**. KY Derby Points: 10.

Hip 665 - 1/2 sis sells at FTK Feb 9 - James M. Herbener, Jr., Agt



Caddo River | *Coady Photography*

'TDN Rising Star' Caddo River is still basking in the afterglow of his tour-de-force, 10 1/4-length blowout in the opening-day Smarty Jones S. at Oaklawn. A homebred for Arkansas lumberman John Ed Anthony's Shortleaf Stable, trainer Brad Cox has confirmed that this colt will remain on the Hot Springs prep path. But considering how Cox is a proponent of spacing races, it seems likely that Caddo River might bypass the upcoming Southwest S. (which has already drawn commitments from the Nos. 1 and 5 contenders on this list) in favor of using the Mar. 13 GII Rebel S. and Apr. 10 GI Arkansas Derby as his launch pad to Louisville. This **Hard Spun** colt's past-performance lines got a nice lift Saturday when Greatest Honour (**Tapit**) won the GIII Holy Bull S., because Greatest Honour had twice finished third in "loaded" New York MSW races in which Caddo River ran second.

Although speed is Caddo River’s main weapon, he’s not so much a blast-out-of-the-gate presence as a colt who breaks fluidly then rapidly attains a high cruising speed and stays there, which is the type of speed that can be better leveraged into excelling over 10 furlongs.

3) GREATEST HONOUR (c, **Tapit--Tiffany's Honour, by **Street Cry {Ire}**)**

O/B-Courtlandt Farms (KY). T-Claude R. McGaughey III. Lifetime Record: GSW, 5-2-1-2, \$175,240.

Last Start: 1st **GIII Holy Bull S.**, GP, Jan. 30

Next Start: GII Fountain of Youth S., GP, Feb. 27 or GI Florida Derby, GP, Mar. 27

Equineline PPs. KY Derby Points: 10.

Greatest Honour, a Courtlandt Farms homebred by **Tapit**, makes a leapfrog debut onto the Top 12 this week after unleashing a bold, sustained Holy Bull S. run that was as impressive in watching him build it up as it was in seeing him uncoil that devastating kick in the stretch knowing he was “just playing around,” as jockey Jose Ortiz quipped post-race. “I was really, really happy going to the five-eighths,” said Ortiz. “Luckily, I didn’t have to fight for any position. I was just able to take it. Honestly, when I put myself four wide in the clear, I showed him the whip one time and from that point I knew I was going to have a really, really good shot to win. When we got to the quarter pole, I knew I had it.” Greatest Honour earned an 89 Beyer Speed Figure, and trainer Shug McGaughey said in the winner’s circle this colt will prep for the Derby in at least one other Gulfstream stakes. Asked if the GII Fasig-Tipton Fountain of Youth (FOY) was a possibility, McGaughey said it was before quickly adding, “But I think we need to wait a little bit. I mean, he’s not going to be a hard horse for me to have ready for the [Mar 27] GI Florida Derby. And a mile and an eighth is going to suit him even better than a mile and a sixteenth” in the FOY.



Greatest Honour | *Lauren King*

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4) LIFE IS GOOD (c, **Into Mischief--Beach Walk**, by **Distorted Humor**)

O-CHC Inc & WinStar Farm LLC. B-Gary & Mary West Stable (KY). T-Bob Baffert. Sales History: \$525,000 yrl '19 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: GSW, 2-2-0-0, \$94,200.

Last Start: 1st **GIII Sham S.**, SA, Jan. 2

Next Start: Possible for **GII San Felipe S.**, SA, Mar. 6

Accomplishments: **'TDN Rising Star'**

Equine PPs. KY Derby Points: 10.

 Congratulations to all the connections from **Paramount Sales** 

'TDN Rising Star' Life Is Good, a \$525,000 KEESEP **Into Mischief** bay, is the top gun among California-based horses. But like many Bob Baffert phenoms who dominate short-field Santa Anita stakes as prohibitive favorites, it can be difficult to gauge just how talented these sophomores actually are. This past Saturday, we got a little help in judging where Life Is Good stands from a company-line perspective. Fellow Baffert trainee Medina Spirit (Protonico), who finished three-quarters of a length behind Life Is Good in the Jan. 2 GIII Sham S. (and 13 lengths ahead of everyone else), won a three-horse photo to tenaciously snag the GIII Lewis S. But bettors who participated in Pool 2 of the Derby Future Wager the previous weekend needed no such convincer: They made Life Is Good the 7-1 second choice behind the "field" option. What is perplexing about the Future Wager odds though, is that Life Is Good actually closed at a lower price (5-1) back in November's Pool 1 when he only had a highly hyped maiden win on his record. So anyone who waited for Life Is Good to win a stakes race and edge two months closer to the Derby got rewarded with the better price despite the proposition looking much stronger. It's supposed to work the other way around, but future-bet markets are rife with inefficiencies.

5) JACKIE'S WARRIOR (c, **Maclean's Music--Unicorn Girl**, by **A. P. Five Hundred**)

O-J Kirk & Judy Robison. B-J & J Stables (KY). T-Steve Asmussen. Sales History: \$95,000 ylg '19 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: MGISW, 5-4-0-0, \$502,564.

Last Start: 4th **GI TVG Breeders' Cup Juvenile**, KEE, Nov. 6

Accomplishments: 1st **GII Saratoga Special**, 1st **GI Runhappy Hopeful S.**, 1st **GI Champagne S.** Next Start: **GIII Southwest S.**, OP, Feb. 15. **Equine PPs.** KY Derby Points: 12.

Now that Essential Quality's connections have committed to the Southwest S., the highly anticipated grudge match between the two Breeders' Cup Juvenile favorites is on for Feb. 15, representing the first true clash of the year between "headline" horses on the Derby trail. The first time they met, then-undefeated Jackie's Warrior was bet down to 9-10 odds and got first run into a sacrificial speed duel after enjoying an in-the-clear stalking trip.

Still-undefeated "EQ" was the 7-2 second choice in the Breeders' Cup, and he was content to drop a dozen lengths off the action and build gradual momentum that didn't crest until a sixteenth of a mile from the wire, catapulting him to victory while "Jackie" was fourth, beaten 3 1/4 lengths. Purely from a next-race perspective, this \$95,000 KEESEP Maclean's Music colt is likely to hold the upper hand based on his wicked turn of foot and the tendency for speed-oriented horses to do well at Oaklawn. But until Jackie actually wins a two-turn race (he was 4-for-4 at age two, winning at five, six, seven and eight furlongs), the jury is still out as to whether or not a 10-furlong Derby is within his scope.

6) PREVALENCE (c, **Medaglia d'Oro--Enrichment**, by **Ghostzapper**)

O/B-Godolphin (KY); T-Brendan Walsh. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$25,800.

Last Start: 1st **Maiden Special Weight**, GP, Jan. 23

Next Start: Uncommitted Accomplishments: **'TDN Rising Star'** **Equine PPs.** KY Derby Points: 0.

Prevalence is one of three Godolphin homebreds currently ranked within the Top 12. This Medaglia d'Oro-sired 'TDN Rising Star' is the only one based in Florida though, so it would seem that the Fasig-Tipton Fountain of Youth S. could be his next start. That would work out to five weeks between races and keep him geographically separated from Godolphin's other two top sops, Essential Quality and Proxy (**Tapit**), who appear bound for the Southwest S. and Risen Star S., respectively. The 89-Beyer MSW debut for Prevalence on the Pegasus undercard a week and a half ago at Gulfstream still resonates as a "Wow!" effort, both for how this colt won it (by 8 1/2 geared-down lengths after dominating a five-way fight for the lead) and the well-intended colts whom he beat (**Justify's** half-brother and a \$1.05-million KEESEP buy).



Prevalence | Ryan Thompson

7) MIDNIGHT BOURBON (c, Tiznow--*Catch the Moon*, by *Malibu Moon*)

O-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC; B-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC (KY); T-Steve Asmussen. Sales History: \$525,000 ylg '19 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: GSW & GISP, 5-2-1-2, \$221,420. Last Start: 1st *GIII Lecomte S.*, FG, Jan. 16. Next Start: *GII Risen Star S.*, FG, Feb. 13. Accomplishments: 3rd *GI Champagne S.*, 2nd *GIII Iroquois S. Equine PP.* KY Derby Points: 16.

Bred and Raised by  **STONESTREET**

Trainer Steve Asmussen indicated after Midnight Bourbon's 91-Beyer wiring of the *GII Lecomte S.* that win that he'd like to keep this \$525,000 KEESEP colt in New Orleans to try and sweep the *Risen Star S.* and *GII Louisiana Derby* en route to a berth in Louisville. Those were the same races that Midnight Bourbon's half-brother, Girvin, won for different connections in 2017 prior to a trip-troubled 13th in the Kentucky Derby. Although Girvin benefitted from weak renewals of those Fair Grounds stakes, he did mature into a level-headed sophomore who could handle multiple levels of in-race pressure, which is something that Midnight Bourbon still must prove, because his Lecomte score had an "everything his own way" flavor to it. Three horses have swept the Lecomte, *Risen Star*, and *Louisiana Derby*: *International Star* in 2015 was the most recent, but he did not start in the Kentucky Derby. *Friesan Fire* swept the series in 2009 prior to running 18th in the Derby. *Dixieland Heat* won all three New Orleans races in 1993, and then (underscoring that he raced in a very different era) additionally ran third in the *GII Blue Grass S.* prior to finishing 12th in the Derby.

8) PROXY (c, Tapit--*Panty Raid*, by *Include*)

O/B-Godolphin (KY). T-Michael Stidham. Lifetime Record: GSP, 4-2-2-0, \$107,700. Last Start: 2nd *GIII Lecomte S.*, FG, Jan. 16. Next Start: Possible for *GII Risen Star S.*, FG, Feb. 13. *Equine PP.* KY Derby Points: 4.

Proxy isn't one of those colts whose past performances leap out at you as a top-tier Derby candidate, but he does have the look and feel of the type of contender capable of quietly rounding into form and sneaking up on everybody by the first Saturday in May. He got first run at a loose leader in the *Lecomte S.*, and while he did not win, this *Tapit* homebred for Godolphin prevailed in the "race within the race" for second. Proxy's previous two Fair Grounds victories were on the lead, so he's no longer so one-dimensional, tactics-wise, and he'll bring four races of two-turn experience into the *Risen Star S.* if his connections opt for that spot. Proxy's pedigree has a versatile, distance-centric slant: In 2007, his dam, *Panty Raid*, won the *GI American Oaks Invitational S.* at 10 furlongs on the turf, the *GI Spinster S.* at nine furlongs on a synthetic track, and the *GII Black-Eyed Susan S.* at nine furlongs on dirt.

9) HIGHLY MOTIVATED (c, Into Mischief--*Strong Incentive*, by *Warrior's Reward*)

O/B-Klaravich Stables, Inc (KY). T-Chad Brown. Sales History: \$240,000 wlg '18 KEENOV. Lifetime Record: SW, 3-2-1-0, \$124,050. Last Start: 1st *Nyquist S.*, KEE, Nov. 6. Next Start: *GIII Gotham S.*, AQU, Mar. 6. *Equine PP.* KY Derby Points: 0.



LANE'S END SALES GRADUATE



Highly Motivated breezed a half mile in :49:20 (9/35) Saturday at Payson Park, one day after trainer Chad Brown disclosed the colt's 2021 debut will be in the *GIII Gotham S.* at Aqueduct Mar. 6. This \$240,000 KEENOV *Into Mischief* colt needed patient handling after emerging "a little stiff" from his Nov. 6 track-record-setting *Nyquist S.* score, Brown told *DRF.com*. "I gave him a little extra time, and that put me behind a little bit," he said. "I approached him like I have some of these other horses that I have, in that I don't want to run him too much before the Derby because if they're not good enough I want to have the rest of the year." Highly Motivated has yet to race beyond 6 1/2 furlongs, so the one-turn-mile is a natural progression. But if he runs well enough to remain under consideration for a two-prep path to Louisville, that means Highly Motivated will go into the Derby with (most likely) only one two-turn race under his belt. The betting public let Highly Motivated drift to 24-1 in last week's Pool 2 of the Derby Future Wager after an 18-1 opening back in November.



Highly Motivated | Sarah Andrew

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10) MEDINA SPIRIT (c, Protonico--Mongolian Changa, by Brilliant Speed)

O-Zedan Racing Stables. B-Gail Rice (FL). T-Bob Baffert. Sales History: \$1,000 ylg '19 OBSWIN; \$35,000 2yo '20 OBSOPN.

Lifetime Record: GSW, 3-2-1-0, \$105,200.

Last Start: 1st **GIII Robert B. Lewis S.**, SA, Jan. 30

Next Start: Uncommitted. Accomplishments: 2nd **GIII Sham S. Equine** PPs. KY Derby Points: 14.

Sold by Summerfield Sales
A **GARY YOUNG** 2YO-IN-TRAINING SALES RECOMMENDATION

Medina Spirit's 91-Beyer GIII Lewis S. score on Saturday rates as one of the grittiest winning runs on the Derby trail this season. Seizing the lead from the rail, he took heat on the front end in a three-way go while drilling splits of :22.89 and :46.61, looked like he might be cooked at the quarter pole when two fresh closers barreled at him from off the pace, then dug in and never once relinquished the lead in a stretch battle that had him a neck in front in a three-way photo. "That reminded me a little bit of [1997 Derby winner] Silver Charm," trainer Bob Baffert said post-race. "He had every reason to give it up late down the stretch [when] those horses came to him; I thought he was beat. I thought they were going to get by and he wouldn't let them by. He fought on. He really is not as tired as I thought he would be. He got caught up in the speed duel. We were afraid about the one hole and I was hoping he could just back off a little bit ... He's going to get a lot out of this race, but I think you have to take him pretty seriously now."



Medina Spirit | Benoit

11) MANDALOUN (c, Into Mischief--Brooch, by Empire Maker)

O/B-Juddmonte Farms Inc. (KY). T-Brad Cox. Lifetime Record: GSP, 3-2-0-1, \$111,252.

Last Start: 3rd **GIII Lecomte S.**, FG, Jan. 16

Next Start: **GII Risen Star S.**, FG, Feb. 13

Accomplishments: '**TDN Rising Star**'

Equine PPs. KY Derby Points: 2.

Trainer Brad Cox said last week that he was going to equip 'TDN Rising Star' Mandaloun with blinkers for a Saturday half-mile work that clocked in :48.20 (2/99), and that this 2-for-3 colt would wear them when he next starts in the Risen Star S. on Feb. 13. The beaten 4-5 fave when three wide around both turns behind a tepid pace in the Lecomte S., this Juddmonte homebred by **Into Mischief** now has to scramble a bit to regain Derby relevance. Speaking on "At the Races with Steve Byk," Cox said that coming back on four weeks of rest with an elite-level sophomore is "something I'm not wild about, but at the end of the day, when a 3-year-old is on the Derby trail, you've got to push him along a little more." Mandaloun displayed good fighting instincts when crashing through heavy traffic to break his maiden, and ranged up threateningly after stalking the leaders in his allowance score. But he had to be ridden with vigor in both of those races to uncork his best rally, and his subpar third in the Lecomte lacked a similar display of self-confidence. Perhaps the blinkers will offer a different perspective.

12) KEEPMEINMIND (c, Laoban--Inclination, by Victory Gallop)

O-Cypress Creek LLC & Arnold Bennewith. B-Southern Equine Stables, LLC (KY). T-Robertino Diodoro. Lifetime Record: GSW & MGISP, 4-1-2-1, \$394,320.

Last Start: 1st **GII Kentucky Jockey Club S.**, CD, Nov. 28

Accomplishments: 2nd **GI Claiborne Breeders' Futurity**, 3rd **GI TVG Breeders' Cup Juvenile**

Next Start: **GIII Southwest S.**, OP, Feb. 15.

Equine PPs. KY Derby Points: 18.

This **Laoban** bay will celebrate his Feb. 8 foaling birthdate prior to his next start in the Southwest S. at Oaklawn. As a maiden, Keepmeinmind ran second and third behind No. 1-ranked Essential Quality in to Grade I stakes, beaten only 5 ¼ combined lengths. He then went off favored in the GII Kentucky Jockey Club S., and his rally from last to collar a tiring leader was notable for how much lateral movement he made while trying to pick a spot at the back of the pack (three wide first turn, six deep entering backstretch, then down to the rail and gradually out to the seven path turning for home). The effort produced one of the weaker stakes Beyers (80) on this year's Derby trail, and it clocked .54 seconds slower than 2-year-old fillies covered the same 1 1/16 miles distance in the GII Golden Rod S. earlier on that same card. But this off-pace specialist will benefit from any sort of speed setup that might occur in the Southwest, and any progress in his 2021 debut should not be judged so much by whether or not he wins the race but by how he finishes. This guy could be a slow-developing surprise.

Cont. p13

On the Bubble (in alphabetical order):

Freedom Fighter (Violence): Away since wiring Aug. 1 Del Mar debut for Baffert as 1-2 fave. Listed by Santa Anita as “possible” for Saturday’s GII San Vicente Stakes.

Hot Rod Charlie (Oxbow): Half to 2019 sprint champ **Mitole** (\$17,000 FTKFEB; \$110,000 FTKOCT) stumbled at break of Lewis S. and took bumping in deep stretch when rallying capably for third in three-way photo. That was his first race back off 94-1 second in the Breeders’ Cup.

Prime Factor (Quality Road): This ‘TDN Rising Star’ is relegated out of the Top 12 after a no-excuse third in the Holy Bull S. in which he stalked two long-shot pacemakers and never fired when called upon for run. Fellow Todd Pletcher-trained stablemate Likeable (**Frosted**) also lost his standing within the Top 12 after running up on heels and coming up empty in the GIII Swale S.

Roman Centurian (Empire Maker): Nice try first time against winners when rallying from last and beaten only a neck in the Lewis S. over a tiring, drying-out track.

Tarantino (Pioneer of the Nile): Eye-catching 26-1 effort in Holy Bull S. on Saturday. Hustled for lead, attended pace, put nose in front three-eighths out, got inhaled by stalkers but stayed on with purpose to regain second.

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**RECORD HANDLE AT SAM HOUSTON DURING HOUSTON RACING FESTIVAL**

Sam Houston Race Park set a record for handle during its 10-race Houston Racing Festival card Sunday, Jan. 31. Besides the \$300,000 GIII Houston Ladies Classic S. and \$200,000 GIII John B. Connally Turf Cup S., the fixture also featured the \$200,000 Texas Turf Mile S., \$100,000 Pulse Power Turf Sprint S., the \$75,000 Stonerside Sprint S. and the \$75,000 Jersey Lilly Turf S. A record total of \$5.3 million was wagered at the Houston-area track.

"We are thrilled with the success of this year's Houston Racing Festival and setting a record handle of \$5.3 million," said Frank Hopf, Senior Director of Racing. "It was a team effort from everyone at Sam Houston and our thanks go out to all the horsemen and owners for supporting our meet. This would not be possible without our horseplayers, both here in Texas and nationally. It was a great day."

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1/ST CONTINUES SUPPORT OF JOCKEYS' GUILD

1/ST has announced its continued support of the Jockeys' Guild. Under the terms of the agreement between the two organizations, each of 1/ST RACING's venue racetracks (Santa Anita Park, Golden Gate Fields, Gulfstream Park, and The Maryland Jockey Club operating Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park) will continue to make payments to the Jockeys' Guild to subsidize health, life and accident insurances, as well as short-term and long-term disability benefits for jockeys who are members of the Guild and ride at 1/ST RACING racetracks.

"1/ST RACING is pleased to continue supporting the Jockeys' Guild," said Craig Fravel, Chief Executive Officer, 1/ST RACING. "Guild members compete daily at 1/ST RACING venues and their safety and well-being is integral to our sport, during and after their careers. 1/ST RACING looks forward to continue working with the Jockeys' Guild to advance and promote safe racing for horse and rider."

Terry Meyocks, President and CEO of the Jockeys' Guild, said, "We truly appreciate the on-going, strong working relationship we have with 1/ST RACING and their continuation of support for the Guild and its members. We have worked together on several important issues, including promoting and striving to create a safe racing environment, as well as providing assistance and resources for severe and traumatic brain injuries suffered by the human athletes in our sport. We are grateful for Belinda Stronach, 1/ST Chairman and President and the rest of the members of 1/ST RACING for their support of our member jockeys and the sport of horseracing."

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TIZ THE LAW AMONG DIVISIONAL NOMINEES FOR NY-BRED CHAMPIONSHIPS

The New York Thoroughbred Breeders has announced divisional nominees for its 2020 championships. A panel of New York Turf writers, broadcasters, handicappers, racing analysts and photographers will vote on the winners of each division and the 2020 New York-bred Horse of the Year. Champions will be announced during a virtual awards event Apr. 5. The event will be hosted on www.NYTB Awards.com.

Among the nominees are GII Remsen S. winner **Brooklyn Strong** (Wicked Strong) (2-Year-Old Male), multiple stakes winner **Laobanonaprayner** (**Laoban**) (2-Year-Old Filly); and GI Travers S. and GI Belmont S. winner **Tiz the Law** (**Constitution**) (3-Year-Old Male).

For a complete list of nominees, click [here](#).

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THREE ADDED TO NSA BOARD

Leslie White Carpenter, Jill Abbott and Molly Oakman have been added to the board of directors of the National Steeplechase Association.

Carpenter, race director for the Willowdale Steeplechase in Kennett Square, Pa., for the past eight years and the former director of the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup in Unionville for two, brings a background in development, public relations, and corporate marketing along with a lifelong love of horse sports to the 15-member board. During her leadership tenure at Willowdale, the meet has tripled in attendance, sponsorship, revenue, and reserves.

A longtime major-event planner at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, Abbott has been race director at the 1,000-acre preserve's largest fundraiser, the Winterthur Point to Point, for 15 years.

Oakman, director of equestrian operations at the Tryon International Equestrian Center (TIEC) in Columbus, N.C., has served as executive director of the Tryon Block House steeplechase since 2017.

All three new board members will begin their official duties this week at the NSA's annual Race Chairman's Committee meeting Thursday, and the NSA's annual meeting Friday.

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TERF AWARDS GRANT TO MIDATLANTIC HORSE RESCUE

The Thoroughbred Education and Research Foundation has awarded a \$2,000 grant to the MidAtlantic Horse Rescue. MAHR's mission is to rescue Thoroughbreds from feed lots and kill pens and transition horses directly off the racetrack. The organization offers Thoroughbred-only clinics which are free to graduates of its adoption program and low-cost for all other Thoroughbreds.

TERF was founded by Herb and Ellen Moelis to promote equine education by supporting organizations that are educating the public on the proper care of horses. In addition to the Moelises, its current board members are: Kathleen Anderson, DVM, James Orsini, DVM, Margaret Duprey, Gretchen and Roy Jackson, Wendy Moon, Anita Motion, Toni Orsini, Scott Palmer, VMD, Josh Pons, and Lucy Zungailia.

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GRAYSON-JOCKEY CLUB FOUNDATION TO HOLD SECOND PHOTO CONTEST

Officials at the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation have announced that it will be hosting a second online photo contest for horse lovers to draw attention to their equine companions.

The contest opened Feb. 1 and entries will be accepted through Feb. 28. Participants are encouraged to submit photos of horses representing all breeds, backgrounds and disciplines via [this link](#). The finalists will be selected by a team from Grayson and the winner will be chosen by votes from the public at [Grayson's Facebook page](#). For contest rules, click [here](#).

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TIP, U.S. POLO ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCE WINNERS

The Thoroughbred Incentive Program and United States Polo Association have announced the winners of its awards to recognize Thoroughbreds that have excelled in a career as a polo horse.

High-Goal Horse: Cubana, registered with The Jockey Club as Total Regs (City Zip) and owned by Nic Roldan; **Low-Goal Horse:** Cajun Colonel (Colonel John) who is owned by Cheryl Arnold and now ridden by her son Daniel; **Arena Polo Horse:** Wild 2 Me, unnamed with The Jockey Club and owned by Wendy Stover; **Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Horse:** Annie, registered with The Jockey Club as Grada a Annie (Honor Grades) and owned by Sherry Sheldon Gibson/Polodeo Ranch LLC.; **Lesson Horse:** Dolly, registered with The Jockey Club as Little Doll (Civilisation) and owned by Laura Goddard; **Women's Polo Horse:** Rocket, registered with The Jockey Club as My Mom's Pretty (Quip) and owned by Stephanie Colburn.

As part of T.I.P.'s effort to encourage the retraining of Thoroughbreds for careers playing polo, it will be offering awards at up to 50 USPA tournaments in 2021 and at the National Arena Amateur Cup.

"Our inaugural class of winners of our polo awards demonstrates the success that Thoroughbreds can have as polo horses," said Kristin Werner, senior counsel of The Jockey Club and coordinator of T.I.P. "When individuals are considering careers for their Thoroughbred beyond the racetrack or breeding shed, we hope they add polo to the long list of potential disciplines in which their horse can excel."

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IN JAPAN:

Air Fanditha, c, 4, **Hat Trick (Jpn)**--Nokaze, by Empire Maker.

Chukyo, 1-30, Plate Race, 8fT. Lifetime Record: 7-2-2-0, \$209,524. O-Lucky Field Inc.; B-Sekie & Tsunebumi Yoshihara (KY); T-Manabu Ikezoe. *1/2 to Air Almas (Majestic Warrior), GSW-Jpn, \$1,549,717.

Detroit Tesoro, f, 4, **Speightstown**--Bella Traviata (SP-US), by Indian Charlie. Kokura, 1-30, Suonada Tokubetsu, 6fT. Lifetime Record: 11-3-2-3, \$364,571. O-Kenji Ryotokuji Holdings; B-Blackstone Farm LLC (PA); T-Noboru Takagi. *\$190,000 RNA Ylg '18 FTNAUG; \$127,000 RNA Ylg '18 FTKOCT; \$375,000 2yo '19 FTFMAR.

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STAKES RESULTS:

JERSEY LILLY TURF S., \$75,000, Sam Houston Race, 1-31, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16mT, 1:44.70, fm.

1--**MORNING MOLLY**, 120, m, 5, **Morning Line--Honor Your Gift, by Sightseeing. 1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN.** (\$45,000 RNA Ylg '17 KEESEP). O/B-Willow Lane Stables (KY); T-Thomas F. Proctor; J-Ty Kennedy. \$42,600. Lifetime Record: 7-4-2-0, \$112,280.

2--**Stunning Sky**, 123, f, 4, Declaration of War--Sky Walk, by Unbridled's Song. (\$85,000 RNA Wlg '17 KEENOV; \$100,000 Ylg '18 KEESEP). O-Paradise Farms Corp.; B-Stephen J McDonald (KY); T-Michael J. Maker. \$14,200.

 **Valerio Bloodstock Yearling Purchase** 

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3--**Valentines Day**, 120, f, 4, **Summer Front**--Castanea, by Horse Chestnut (SAF). (\$20,000 Ylg '18 KEESEP). O-Love Partnership Interests LP; B-Indian Creek (KY); T-W. Bret Calhoun. \$7,810.

THINK INDIAN CREEK

Margins: HD, 2HF, NK. Odds: 2.90, 2.00, 21.80.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

2nd-Mahoning Valley, \$29,200, 2-1, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:15.51, ft, 2 3/4 lengths.

SOLE FACTOR (m, 5, The Factor--Aurora Sol, by Chester House) Lifetime Record: 29-7-8-4, \$161,380. O-Royer Family Stables LLC & Aurora Racing; B-Peter Sheppell, Royer Family Stables & Aurora Racing (OH); T-Rodney C. Faulkner.

1st-Mahoning Valley, \$29,000, (S), 2-1, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:51.82, ft, 2 3/4 lengths.

GIFT OF OAK (g, 5, Giant Oak--Huttig, by Richter Scale) Lifetime Record: 23-2-6-4, \$84,902. O-Linda Friess, Donald Bookman & Joann Hayes; B-Donald Bookman & Linda Friess (OH); T-T. R. Haehn. *\$7,400 RNA Ylg '17 PEDOH.

5th-Mahoning Valley, \$28,800, 2-1, (NW2X), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:15.07, ft, head.

VALLEY OF MO'ARA (f, 4, Overanalyze--Pola Golden R N, by Golden Missile) Lifetime Record: SW, 9-5-3-0, \$148,915. O-Blazing Meadows Farm LLC & TEC Racing (Elliott S. Logan); B-Michael William Soehlen (OH); T-Timothy E. Hamm. *\$58,000 RNA Wlg '17 PEDOH; \$13,000 Ylg '18 KEESEP.

DAM PURCHASED AT KEEJAN 2021 BY MICHAEL SLEZAK



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ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Midnight Mystery, g, 5, **War Front**--Midnight Lucky (MGISW, \$565,022), by **Midnight Lute**. Santa Anita, 1-31, (C), 6fT, 1:10.14. B-Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings, Inc, Michael E. Pegram, Karl Watson et al. (KY).



Monday Cancellations

PARX



GIANT OAK, Gift of Oak, g, 5, o/o Huttig, by Richter Scale. ALW, 2-1, Mahoning Valley

MORNING LINE, Morning Molly, m, 5, o/o Honor Your Gift, by Sightseeing. Jersey Lilly Turf S., 1-31, Sam Houston

OVERANALYZE, Valley of Mo'ara, f, 4, o/o Pola Golden R N, by Golden Missile. ALW, 2-1, Mahoning Valley

THE FACTOR, Sole Factor, m, 5, o/o Aurora Sol, by Chester House. ALW, 2-1, Mahoning Valley

WAR FRONT, Midnight Mystery, g, 5, o/o Midnight Lucky, by **Midnight Lute**. MCL, 1-31, Santa Anita

UPCOMING MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN STAKES

Date	Race	Track
Feb. 6	GIII Sam F. Davis S.	Tampa Bay
	GIII Tampa Bay S.	Tampa Bay
	GIII Hillsborough S.	Tampa Bay
	GIII Las Virgenes S.	Santa Anita
	GIII Thunder Road S.	Santa Anita
Feb. 7	GIII Withers S.	Aqueduct
	GIII Suwannee River S.	Gulfstream
	GII San Vicente S.	Santa Anita
	GIII Sweet Life S.	Santa Anita
	Feb. 13	GII Risen Star S.
GII Rachel Alexandra S.		Fair Grounds
GII Santa Monica S.		Santa Anita
GIII Fair Grounds S.		Fair Grounds
GIII Mineshaft S.		Fair Grounds
Feb. 15	GIII Runhappy Barbara Fritchie S.	Laurel
	GIII General's S.	Laurel
	GIII Gulfstream Park Sprint	Gulfstream
	GIII Gulfstream Park Turf Sprint	Gulfstream
	GIII Razorback H.	Oaklawn
Feb. 20	GIII Southwest S.	Oaklawn
	GIII Bayakoa S.	Oaklawn
Feb. 27	GII Buena Vista S.	Santa Anita
	GIII Royal Delta S.	Gulfstream
Feb. 27	GII Fountain of Youth S.	Gulfstream
	GII Davona Dale S.	Gulfstream
	GII Mac Diarmida S.	Gulfstream
	GII Gulfstream Park Mile	Gulfstream
	GIII Canadian Turf S.	Gulfstream
	GIII Herecomesthebride S.	Gulfstream
	GIII Honey Fox S.	Gulfstream
GIII The Very One S.	Gulfstream	

Click [here](#) to access the TDN graded stakes calendar.

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TWENTY YEARS ON: GALILEO'S CLASSIC SEASON



Galileo (dark blue) swings round Tattenham Corner ready to make his challenge in the Derby of 2001 | Racingfotos.com

By Emma Berry

This time 20 years ago, **Galileo (Ire)** was a once-raced winning maiden gradually being honed to full fitness on the Ballydoyle gallops ahead of his Classic season. That debut outing at Leopardstown on Oct. 28, 2000, had started with the young son of Sadler's Wells and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe heroine Urban Sea as evens favourite and ended, after a mile on heavy ground, with him 14 lengths clear of the Aga Khan's Taraza (Ire).

We've all seen 2-year-olds burn brightly in their maidens only to fizzle out when put to the sword in Classic trials. History, of course, relates that this would not be the case for Galileo. Born to be a champion, he more than fulfilled that birthright on the racecourse, making the diverse challenges of Epsom and the Curragh look like Sunday afternoon strolls before being involved in two epic battles with the outstanding older horse of the time, Fantastic Light, at Ascot and Leopardstown.

Despite all the prowess displayed by the colt, those involved with him throughout his racing days could not have dared to imagine the level of success that would follow in his stud career. Or could they?

Aidan O'Brien, who trained Galileo for John and Sue Magnier and Michael and Doreen Tabor, is the man that knew the young

horse best. He says, "Unusually with him, before he came to Ballydoyle the world was thought of him and I suppose that was because he is out of an Arc winner and he's by Sadler's Wells. Sue named him Galileo very early."

There's no shortage of Ballydoyle horses with portentous names but it wasn't just Galileo's breeding that led his owners and trainer to dream that his destiny was written in the stars. Though medium-sized and not obviously physically imposing, the athleticism of the colt made an instant impression.

"He didn't walk, he prowled," O'Brien continues. "It was a very unusual thing with a horse. Horses usually come up to walk but when he used to walk, he would get down to walk. When you'd ask him to go forward the first thing that would go out and down was his head. Most horses when you ask them to go forward, up goes the head and they walk up, but he used to walk forward and walk out. His walking stride was so long and there was so much power from his front and back, so I suppose the lads had him as a king before he came here."

Just last week St Mark's Basilica (Fr) (Siyouni {Fr})-himself out of a mare by Galileo-was confirmed as the eleventh champion 2-year-old produced by Aidan O'Brien in his 28-year training career. Galileo, having just had that one outing, wasn't one of them, but he would soon atone for his later start. [Cont. p2](#)



Aidan O'Brien | [Scoop Dyga](#)

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

NJ HORSEMAN JOHN FORBES PASSES AWAY

NJ trainer and NJTHA President John Forbes passed away from cancer on Sunday. He was 73. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

Galileo Cont. from p1

"We got him ready a few times to run but there was a bit of coughing in the yard that season," O'Brien recalls. "We thought he was going to be our Dewhurst horse but we never got him out, so he ran in a maiden at Leopardstown, Michael Kinane rode him and he won by 12 or 14 lengths. Everything about him was always very different but obviously we would never have expected what happened to happen."

Galileo's road to the Classics was altogether smoother, navigated initially alongside another son of Sadler's Wells, Milan (GB), who would go on to win the St Leger.

"He did everything with Milan and went everywhere with him until we saw what Milan was," says their trainer.

Indeed, Milan was runner-up to Galileo in the Ballysax S. on their first outing of the season, with subsequent four-time Irish St Leger winner Vinnie Roe (Ire) completing a classy trifecta. Galileo's final tune-up for Epsom came in the Derrinstown Stud Derby Trial, the third run of his life and the third time that the horse with the big walk and bigger reputation would line up as favourite.

By the time Derby Day 2001 dawned, Sadler's Wells had already been champion sire ten times. Though his list of Oaks winners by that stage featured Salsabil (GB), Intrepidity (GB) and Moonshell (Ire), and Entrepreneur (GB) and King Of Kings (Ire)

had both won the 2000 Guineas, there was a glaring omission from the great stallion's stud record: Epsom's blue riband. Galileo delivered not just his sire's first victory in the Derby but also the first of eight-and counting-for his trainer.

"I remember walking the track with Michael before the Derby and he said what he was going to do, and exactly where he was going to ride him and where he was going to have him at full stretch," says O'Brien. "It was incredible really, he just turned in and [Michael] had him balanced and slowly let him go, and I remember that his stride just opened up and started getting longer and longer. He pulled up full of running, he didn't look anywhere near empty at the line."

Galileo's three-and-a-half-length victory over Ballymacoll Stud's 2000 Guineas winner Golan (Ire) made him odds-on to bring up the Derby double back on his home turf at the Curragh. This he did with ease, his four-length victory delivering another first, this time for Kinane, who won his 'home' Derby at his 18th attempt. Galileo may have got noticeably warm at the start, but it was no sweat for Kinane throughout the Irish Derby as he unleashed his cruising mount two furlongs from home before easing him ahead of the line.

With the Breeders' Cup Classic, over ten furlongs on the dirt, nominated as Galileo's unorthodox end-of-season target as early as midsummer, the colt nevertheless remained at a mile and a half for arguably the best performance of his life. **Cont. p3**

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IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

CUNNINGHAM HUMBLING BY ITBA AWARD

NZ breeder Gordon Cunningham of Curraghmore Stud was named the recipient of the Wild Geese Trophy by the ITBA. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.](#)

Galileo Cont.

The regard in which the Derby winner was held was evident in the fact that he was chalked up as the odds-on favourite for the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth S. ahead of Godolphin's 5-year-old Fantastic Light, who arrived at Ascot on the back of wins in the G1 Tattersalls Gold Cup and G1 Prince of Wales's S.

In its Racehorses of 2001 annual, Timeform noted, "On a sweltering afternoon and before a record crowd of 38,410, Ascot, it seemed to some, was to be the scene not of a contest but of a coronation."

'The King', as he had long been regarded by his co-breeders at Coolmore, was crowned. Galileo joined an elite group of horses to have won the Derby, Irish Derby and King George, adding his name to the illustrious sextet of Nijinsky, Grundy (GB), The Minstrel, Troy (GB), Shergar (GB) and Generous (Ire).

This sixth consecutive victory would prove to be Galileo's last but his following race, back to ten furlongs and again up against Fantastic Light in the Irish Champion S., would go down as one of the most memorable duels of the modern era. Once their respective pacemakers had cried enough, the Leopardstown straight was there for the taking, royal blue and dark blue locked in battle as Fantastic Light, getting first run up the rail when Galileo was forced wide around Give The Slip (GB), maintained his advantage to the line by a rapidly diminishing head. [Cont. p4](#)



Galileo & Mick Kinane winning the Irish Derby | [Racingfotos.com](#)

Galileo Cont.

"I think it's harder than we realise for the 3-year olds going up against the older horses in the summer," says O'Brien. "A 3-year old against a 4-year old is very tough but a 3-year old against a 5-year old is even tougher. I think they need every bit of it [the weight allowance] and it's only the very good ones who can do it. Age at that stage-from three to four, four to five-age is an awful advantage, that toughness and the foundation. Really 3-year-olds are only babies, especially those middle-distance horses at that stage."

With Galileo apparently never considered to be given the chance to emulate his mother's Arc victory, America beckoned, but not for the potentially easier and more obvious target of the Breeders' Cup Turf. Galileo became the greatest horse to gallop around Southwell's fibresand during an away day in preparation for his trip to Belmont Park for the Breeders' Cup Classic, a race which would see him take on the previous year's winner Tiznow and Arc winner Sakhee.

I think it's harder than we realise for the 3-year-olds going up against older horses in the summer...It's only the very good ones who can do it.

Aidan O'Brien

Just a nose separated that pair at the wire with Galileo battling home in vain to take sixth.

"With the benefit of hindsight it was an unrealistic target to ask him to do that after having such a tough season and racing against the older horses, but it was the belief that was in him, the belief that everyone had in him, that we thought it could be possible that it could happen," O'Brien reflects.

Timeform noted that Galileo returned from the race with swollen eyes and sore heels and his trainer recalls the effect the dirt kickback had on him.

He says, "I remember when he came in, he was after trying so hard he was almost crying. He was so genuine."

If that at the time felt an inauspicious end to Galileo's career, in truth it was only the beginning of something far greater. His phenomenal run at stud continues apace: with 12 champion sire titles he is closing in on his own outstanding sire's record of 14.

Cont. p5

NEW

“Precocity is a quality in demand among breeders and Arizona had it in buckets... An eight-length winner on his second start at the Curragh, he won a high-class renewal of the Coventry – defeating last year’s Commonwealth Cup hero Golden Horde, subsequent dual Group 2 victor Threat... this strapping colt was also twice placed behind Pinatubo in the National Stakes and the Dewhurst... **he has the good looks to go with his talent**”

RACING POST, *New Sires For 2021*, 28th Jan 2021



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Galileo Cont.

He has already surpassed Sadler's Wells's tally of Group 1 winners and last year set a new record of 85, passing another Coolmore great, Danehill, when Peaceful (Ire) won the Irish 1000 Guineas. Moreover, the Derby winner of 20 years ago is now the most successful Derby sire of all time, with Serpentine (Ire) becoming his fifth winner of the Epsom Classic in 2020.

Galileo's success is far from restricted to his own former stable but he has had an extraordinary influence on the fortunes of Ballydoyle as well as the rampant training career of Aidan O'Brien, with whose name he will forever be entangled. That his own athletic genes have been imparted so successfully is beyond question but the trainer knows that preparing racehorses goes beyond just getting them fit. Young Thoroughbreds must be mentally equipped to deal with the challenge and it is in this sphere which Galileo's own natural blend of talent and fortitude gives his offspring an edge.

"The mental attitude is vital. That's what makes them different to others," says the man who has trained more of Galileo's stock than any other. "You can't see it physically when you see a Galileo, because it's in their mind, but when you start working them and galloping them, then you see it. It's that will to win

and that absolute genuineness. It's the way they move and that action which makes them get down and gallop and it doesn't allow them to give up. Most horses when they're starting to get tired, they come back and curl up, but Galileos, their movement and their determination doesn't allow them to do that. It's very rare and I think that's why his influence will continue for a long, long time."

Of Galileo's contribution to Coolmore and Ballydoyle over the last two decades, he adds, "It's incredible really, and to have that for John, Sue, Michael and Doreen, it was incredible. I suppose what made it very different was because they had called it all the way with him. John was so sure about his pedigree and the way he was bred, and John and Michael had it in their heads, the mares that were going to suit him, even before it happened really. It's incredible the amount of individual Group 1 winners by him that we've had, from six furlongs to two-and-a-half miles."

In Galileo's Classic season, O'Brien also trained Imagine (Ire) to win the Oaks, the filly leading home a 1-2-3 for Sadler's Wells, while Galileo's erstwhile workmate Milan went on to win the St Leger. Of course, with Galileo, Sadler's Wells is only one half of a heady combination. [Cont. p6](#)



Galileo battles with Fantastic Light in the Irish Champion
Racingfotos.com

Galileo Cont.

His dam Urban Sea already looked a special broodmare by the time he won the Derby and her extraordinary development into a true blue hen has been aided especially by Galileo's half-brother, Sea The Stars (Ire), whose superior racing versatility saw him win the Guineas as well as the Derby and retire in a blaze of glory following the Arc. When discussions turn to the best racehorses of the recent era, opinion is usually divided between Sea The Stars and Galileo's own masterpiece, the outstanding **Frankel (GB)**.

Inevitably, though, the son will always be measured against the father in the pantheon of champion sires and Galileo will not be found wanting.

"I don't think anyone could have believed that there was ever going to be another horse even anywhere close to Sadler's Wells," says O'Brien.

For we fortunate followers of breeding and racing in the 21st century, it has been a privilege to watch history in the making.

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picture and save my five for those nice handicaps on the Turf," Pearson told *Sky Sports Racing*. "I'm going to be 'box-walking' ... but in the long run, it's the right thing to do."

"I always had my blinkers on for it," she added of the all-weather championship. "We'll see if I can keep my nose in front, and come back and bounce a couple more out if I do get a little bit short."

"It's been absolutely incredible," she said. "I've just got to keep my feet on the ground and keep my head straight. The amount of different trainers who have given me the opportunity to ride for them [means] every day I'm coming out and riding more, and everybody's helping me."

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Laura Pearson | [Racingfotos.com](#)

EUROPEAN NEWS

PEARSON TO TAKE A BREAK TO PRESERVE CLAIM

Apprentice Laura Pearson is taking a break from riding until the start of the Flat season in March. Pearson, who currently has a five-pound claim, announced the news at Wolverhampton on Sunday. On top of the apprentice jockeys' title race with 22 winners, Pearson has 23 winners left before her claim is reduced to three pounds. Pearson made the call after discussing the issue with trainer Tom Clover and her agent Steve Croft.

"We've had a good chat about it, myself and the governor [Clover] and my agent--and you've got to look at the bigger

IRELAND

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNER:

Shackleton Hero (Ire), c, 3, **The Gurkha (Ire)**--Blue Cloud (Ire) (SW & G1SP-Fr), by Nashwan. Dundalk, 2-1, 6f (AWT), 1:13.42. B-Whisperview Trading Ltd (IRE). *1/2 to Empowering (Ire) (Encosta de Lago {Aus}), GSW-Ire, \$151,953.

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BRITAIN

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNER:

Repertoire (GB), g, 5, **Bated Breath (GB)**--Binche, by Woodman. Wolverhampton, 2-1, 7f 36y (AWT), 1:28.91. B-Juddmonte Farms Ltd (GB). *50,000gns HRA '20 TATAHI. **1/2 to Finche (GB) (**Frankel {GB}**), MGSW-Fr, GSW & MG1SP-Aus, \$1,039,893; 1/2 to Byword (GB) (Peintre Celebre), Hwt. Older Horse-Fr at 7-9 1/2 f, Hwt. Older Horse-Fr at 9 1/2-11f, G1SW-Eng, MGSW & G1SP-Fr, \$1,059,937; 1/2 to Proviso (GB) (Dansili {GB}), MGISW-US, MGSW & MG1SP-Fr, G1SP-Eng, \$1,705,473.

FRANCE

CONDITIONS RESULT:

2nd-Cagnes-sur-Mer, €28,000, 2-1, 4yo/up, 8f (AWT), 1:37.13, st.

WALLY (IRE) (g, 4, **Siyouni {Fr}**--**Full of Beauty {GB}** {GSP-Ity}, by **Motivator {GB}**) Lifetime Record: SW-Fr, 9-5-0-1, €88,270. O-Ecurie Jean-Pierre Barjon; B-Ecurie Haras du Cadran, SAS I.E.I., Carlos Lerner & Yann Lerner (IRE); T-Jean-Claude Rouget. *130,000 Ylg '18 ARAUG.



IN JAPAN:

Lucet (GB), f, 3, **Kizuna (Jpn)**--Amour Briller (MSW-Jpn, \$2,317,880), by Smart Strike. Chukyo, 1-30, Maiden Race, 9f. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$57,143. O-North Hills; B-North Hills Co. Ltd (GB); T-Mikio Matsunaga.

WINNERS BY EUROPEAN SIRES

IN JAPAN:

Two Punks (Jpn), c, 3, **Garswood (GB)**--Saunta (GB), by Invincible Spirit (Ire). Tokyo, 1-30, Maiden Race, 7f. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$57,143. O-Shoji Nojima; B-Kineusu Farm (Jpn); T-Yasuhito Tamura. *¥7,344,000 Ylg '19 JBBAUG.



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06/12	Mdn	TLU		
06/10	Listed Prix de Hontretout	CHY	Magny Cours	Indeglia d'Or
06/10	Mdn	CHY	Coachello (Fr)	Dunferque (Fr)
06/10	Mdn	CHY	Rougir (Fr)	Territories (Ire)
06/10	Listed Prix Philande	CHY	Wangari (Ger)	Soldier Hollow (GB)
06/10	G3 Prix de Royumont	CHY	Ebalura	Distorted Humor
06/10	G3 Prix de Guidic	CHY	Chachnek (Fr)	Kingman (GB)
06/09	Mdn	NTS	Forefront (Ire)	Estohkar (Ire)
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SALES STATISTICS

Top 10 Sires (NA&EU), ranked by Average Price (sorted by rank)

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Leading Broodmare Sires by Winners

for stallions standing in Europe through Thursday, Dec. 31

Earnings represent worldwide figures, stud fees listed are 2021 fees.

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	Galileo (Ire) <i>(1998) by Sadler's Wells Crops: 12</i>	35	82	16	50	5	13	808	286	2,443,954 <i>Sottsass (Fr)</i>	20,734,705
				<i>Stands: Coolmore Stud Ire Fee: Private</i>							
2	Oasis Dream (GB) <i>(2000) by Green Desert Crops: 10</i>	18	34	10	19	4	7	527	225	3,384,080 <i>Twilight Payment (Ire)</i>	12,423,961
				<i>Stands: Banstead Manor Stud Eng Fee: 20,000</i>							
3	Dansili (GB) <i>(1996) by Danehill Crops: 13</i>	22	39	16	26	4	8	525	207	1,073,845 <i>Danon the Kid (Jpn)</i>	10,848,409
				<i>Stands: Banstead Manor Stud Eng Fee: Pensioned</i>							
4	Pivotal (GB) <i>(1993) by Polar Falcon Crops: 17</i>	14	37	8	19	4	7	563	202	1,879,060 <i>Magical (Ire)</i>	10,794,621
				<i>Stands: Cheveley Park Stud Eng Fee: Private</i>							
5	Danehill Dancer (Ire) <i>(1993) by Danehill Crops: 15</i>	20	45	13	26	5	10	531	196	1,214,377 <i>Waikuku (Ire)</i>	13,781,269
				<i>Stands: Coolmore Stud EUR (Dead/Ret)</i>							
6	Montjeu (Ire) <i>(1996) by Sadler's Wells Crops: 13</i>	16	39	8	22	1	2	479	191	672,668 <i>Perfect Match (Aus)</i>	10,755,304
				<i>Stands: Coolmore Stud EUR (Dead/Ret)</i>							
7	Sadler's Wells <i>(1981) by Northern Dancer Crops: 30</i>	12	27	9	16	6	6	505	184	1,000,422 <i>Fifty Stars (Ire)</i>	8,779,876
				<i>Stands: Coolmore Stud EUR (Dead/Ret)</i>							
8	Cape Cross (Ire) <i>(1994) by Green Desert Crops: 14</i>	9	29	6	17	4	4	429	158	2,624,891 <i>Tarnawa (Ire)</i>	10,041,395
				<i>Stands: Kildangan Stud EUR (Dead/Ret)</i>							
9	Rock of Gibraltar (Ire) <i>(1999) by Danehill Crops: 11</i>	8	16	4	8	1	3	429	158	543,161 <i>Loving Answer (Jpn)</i>	8,243,903
				<i>Stands: Coolmore Stud Ire Fee: 5,000</i>							
10	Invincible Spirit (Ire) <i>(1997) by Green Desert Crops: 11</i>	5	16	2	9	--	--	491	148	398,874 <i>Mikki Spirit (Jpn)</i>	4,415,047
				<i>Stands: Irish National Stud Ire Fee: 80,000</i>							
11	Singspiel (Ire) <i>(1992) by In the Wings (GB) Crops: 16</i>	11	24	7	16	--	3	416	146	822,250 <i>Factor This</i>	8,591,284
				<i>Stands: Dalham Hall Stud EUR (Dead/Ret)</i>							
12	Shamardal <i>(2002) by Giant's Causeway Crops: 8</i>	14	26	8	15	1	3	349	140	428,775 <i>Danon Regina (Jpn)</i>	6,314,998
				<i>Stands: Kildangan Stud EUR (Dead/Ret)</i>							
13	Danehill <i>(1986) by Danzig Crops: 24</i>	17	29	10	18	4	5	371	132	1,946,759 <i>Mogul (GB)</i>	10,738,717
				<i>Stands: Coolmore Stud EUR (Dead/Ret)</i>							
14	Exceed and Excel (Aus) <i>(2000) by Danehill Crops: 9</i>	8	14	5	7	1	4	305	110	1,029,976 <i>Thanks Forever (Aus)</i>	5,896,764
				<i>Stands: Kildangan Stud Ire Fee: 40,000</i>							
15	Dubawi (Ire) <i>(2002) by Dubai Millennium (GB) Crops: 8</i>	8	22	2	14	1	2	280	107	403,167 <i>Heza Beauty (NZ)</i>	5,631,620
				<i>Stands: Dalham Hall Stud Eng Fee: 250,000</i>							



CUNNINGHAM HUMBLLED BY ITBA AWARD



Gordon Cunningham | Trish Dunnell

by Paul Vettise

Respected New Zealand breeding and racing identity Gordon Cunningham has been humbled by his acknowledgment from his native country for the contribution he has made in his adopted homeland.

Curraghmore Principal Cunningham was named by the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (ITBA) as the recipient of the Wild Geese Trophy ([click here for a video](#)), which recognises the overseas success of Irish men and women.

The virtual award evening host Leo Powell noted in his address that Cunningham had settled just about as far away from home as possible, but his Irish roots are evident in the name of his successful Te Awamutu-based thoroughbred operation.

"I'm incredibly humbled to have been considered, let alone recognised. I've been overwhelmed with the number of people sending their best wishes," he said.

"Obviously, I keep in touch with home and usually the annual awards coincide with the yearling sales at Karaka. It's a real honour and thoroughbred breeders' associations in every country are a significant body.

"I know what The Aga Khan means to Irish breeding and his support in racing and breeding over the years and it's a great honour for me to receive an award that has been sponsored by him.

"I know that there's so many people like myself all over the

world that are very, very worthy of this acknowledgement. I feel very proud and privileged to be considered worthy of it."

Indebted to New Zealand

Cunningham stressed to *TDN AusNZ* that his acknowledgment from afar was as much about New Zealand as any of his achievements.

"My journey only really began when I arrived in New Zealand and I'm greatly indebted to all the people in this great industry here for all the support I've had over the years," he said.

"I'm looking forward to the next Group 1 winner we produce from Curraghmore. It's just all about producing good horses and that provides the energy to continue on the same path."

Cunningham said when he received notice of his award, it came as a pleasant and special surprise.

"I got a letter in late November from the Head Office advising me that I would be recognised and had a zoom meeting with them during Karaka. I received a bottle of champagne the other day and the trophy is on the way.

"I feel very privileged to be considered worthy of it. I'm very grateful to the ITBA and would like to congratulate all the other recipients of awards throughout the evening.

Another feature of the awards' evening was the induction of the Irish National Stud into the Irish Hall of Racing Fame.

"I would also like to acknowledge my late Uncle Dick Collins and my Aunt Bernie, who took my younger brother and I under their wing when our father passed away when I was pretty young," Cunningham said.

"They brought us up to The Curragh every summer. From my first summer at Lisieux (Stud) I knew horses were going to be my life."

Cunningham is a grandson of legendary Irish trainer Michael Collins and cousin to current trainer Tracey Collins, who succeeded her father Con at Conyngham Lodge on The Curragh.

"We were always excited to go to The Curragh for the summer and of course Uncle Con was an icon for our family and we were inwardly very proud of just being in his presence or being able to visit Conyngham Lodge, where Mum was raised," he said.

On finishing his education, Cunningham subsequently furthered his thoroughbred experience overseas.

"I continued working for my uncle and then attended the Irish National Stud Management course and following that I had my first trip to Western Australia and then on to Kentucky and back to Ireland," he said.



Efficient | TDN AusNS

"I first came to New Zealand for two seasons at David Benjamin's Fieldhouse Stud, where Grosvenor was standing at the time. I was toing and froing between the Hemispheres after that.

"I've been in New Zealand since 1987 when I took up the position of Broodmare Manager at Waikato Stud and soon after became the Farm Manager.

"With it changed ownership in 1994 to the Chittick family, I established Curraghmore. There was no real plan, just one thing led to another.

"I feel so fortunate that I was able to settle here and put down roots within the New Zealand industry. I'm so proud that we established our farm here."

Among Curraghmore's most notable graduates is the G1 Melbourne Cup winner Efficient (NZ) (Zabeel {NZ}), champion Australian 3-year-old Fairway (Danzero) and champion Hong Kong stayer Liberator (Encosta De Lago).

"At Curraghmore the focus has always been, and will always be, on quality. We've developed a reputation for producing sound and durable racehorses that continue to do us proud on the racetracks of Australasia and beyond," Cunningham said.

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[Crosshaven to Tackle Older Horses](#)

2020/2021 Australian Group Races

Date	Race	Track
Feb. 6	G3 Eskimo Prince S.	Warwick Farm
	G1 C.F. Orr S.	Caulfield
	G2 Autumn S.	Caulfield
	G2 Blue Diamond Prelude (f)	Caulfield
	G2 Rubiton S.	Caulfield
	G3 Blue Diamond Prelude (c/g)	Caulfield
Feb. 7	G3 Carlyon Cup	Caulfield
	G3 Geoffrey Belmaine S.	Caulfield
	G3 Kevin Hayes S.	Caulfield
Feb. 7	G3 Hobart Cup	Hobart
	G3 Bow Mistress Trophy	Hobart
Feb. 13	G2 Apollo S.	Randwick
	G2 Light Fingers S.	Randwick
	G3 Southern Cross S.	Randwick

