

## STUD FARMS SUE JOCKEY CLUB OVER 140-MARE CAP



Spendthrift Farm's super-sire **Into Mischief** | Sarah Andrew

by T.D. Thornton

Spendthrift Farm, Ashford Stud and Three Chimneys Farm are suing The Jockey Club in federal court over the "stallion cap" rule that went into effect in 2020, alleging that the 140-mare breeding limit now being phased in amounts to a "blatant abuse of power" that acts as an "anti-competitive restraint" and threatens to disrupt the free-market nature of the bloodstock business.

The plaintiffs contend that the stallion cap "serves no legitimate purpose and has no scientific basis" while alleging that the nine stewards of The Jockey Club who voted to adopt the rule change purportedly did so based more on a desire to satisfy their own "conflicting economic interests" rather than their organization's stated purpose of "facilitating the soundness of the Thoroughbred breed."

Two Kentucky Horse Racing Commission (KHRC) officials are also named as defendants in the complaint, which was filed Tuesday, Feb. 23 in United States District Court, Central Division, in Lexington, Kentucky. Although KHRC chairman Jonathan Rabinowitz and KHRC executive director Marc Guilfoil were not directly involved in The Jockey Club's decision to impose the cap on matings (known as Rule 14C), the suit contends that in their official KHRC capacities, those two are responsible for overseeing how the state delegates Thoroughbred registration authority to The Jockey Club. **Cont. p3**

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## KY GOVERNOR SIGNS HHR LEGISLATION

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear signed a bill on Historical Horse Racing (Senate Bill 120) Monday, which would assure that betting on historical machines is legal.

The Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP), Kentucky's equine economic advocate, released the following statement in response:

"We thank Governor Beshear for signing Senate Bill 120 into law, which ensures the future of our equine industry while protecting thousands of local jobs. Kentuckians and the legislators who represent them have made clear that they support historical horse racing and the many benefits it brings to our communities. We are optimistic about the horse industry's road ahead and remain committed to keeping Kentucky a world-class racing destination for many years to come."

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## IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

### WOODS COMES FULL CIRCLE IN NEWMARKET RETURN

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**TODAY** in the **TDN**  
THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

**Wednesday, February 24, 2021**



'TDN Rising Star' *Violencia* (*Violence*) on the farm with her *Kantharos* colt, foaled Jan. 20. Bought for \$100,000 by Rick Howard as a Keeneland September yearling, *Violencia* debuted with a dominant, 7 1/2-length score for Rodolphe Brisset two Februaries ago at Gulfstream Park. | Rick Howard

## CHURCHILL DOWNS TO SELL ARLINGTON

8

Churchill Downs announced Tuesday plans to sell historic Arlington Park to CBRE Group, a commercial real estate firm, likely spelling the end of racing at the track after this year's meet. Bill Finley has the details.

## JOHN GOSDEN JOINS TDN WRITERS' ROOM

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Fresh off of his charge *Mishriff* (Ire) (*Make Believe* {GB})'s victory in Saturday's Saudi Cup, legendary trainer John Gosden sat down with the crew of the TDN Writers' Room Tuesday morning.

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### **Stud Farms Sue The Jockey Club cont. from p1**

So by extension, the suit alleges, if The Jockey Club in the future refuses to extend registration privileges to foals produced by matings that are considered over the cap limit, the KHRC will be barring those horses from competition, thus “effectively eliminating the economic viability of any such foals.”

The suit contends that in this instance, “The Jockey Club is not fulfilling an administrative function of merely identifying and registering, for the KHRC, those horses that qualify as purebred Thoroughbred horses; instead, The Jockey Club is making its registration decisions, and rejecting actual Thoroughbred horses, based on whether its Stewards approve of the breeding decisions of the horse's owners.”

The suit also states that The Jockey Club Stewards “have conflicting economic interests—owning and/or representing various competing racing and breeding private entities,” and that their “economic interests will be served by the Stallion Cap.”

At the time the decision was announced in May, 2020, the stewards were Barbara Banke, Michael O'Farrell Jr., Everett Dobson, C. Steven Duncker, Ian Hight, Stuart Janney, William Lear Jr., John Phillips and Vinnie Viola.



Spendthrift owner B. Wayne Hughes | Coady

It is not immediately clear based on the complaint why the KHRC officials were singled out for inclusion in the litigation. In fact, the suit makes a point of stating that “the effect of the new Jockey Club Rule 14C is the same outside of Kentucky, as all other racing jurisdictions in the United States condition a horse's eligibility to enter a Thoroughbred race on registration by The Jockey Club.”

The farms are seeking an unspecified amount of compensatory and punitive damages against The Jockey Club (but not the KHRC). The plaintiffs are demanding--without stating exactly why in the suit--that those amounts be tripled. *Cont. p4*

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However, the Clayton Antitrust Act empowers private parties injured by violations of the Act to sue for treble damages under Section 4 and injunctive relief under Section 16.

As such, the plaintiffs are asking for “an injunction requiring The Jockey Club to repeal its Rule 14C or, in the alternative, permanently prohibiting The Jockey Club from enforcing its Rule 14C and from denying registration on account of the number of mares covered by any horse's sire.”

The suit also demands “an injunction requiring the KHRC, through its Chairman and Executive Director, to permit Thoroughbreds to race in Kentucky regardless of their inclusion in The Jockey Club registry.”

The suit also wants a court declaration stating that the alleged property rights breaches by the defendants are “arbitrary and capricious and violate their due process and equal protection rights guaranteed by the Kentucky and the U.S. Constitutions...” The suit also argues that the rule violates the Sherman Antitrust Act and suppresses competition.



**The Jockey Club president James Gagliano | The Jockey Club**

“As a result, the highest quality Thoroughbred horses will be bred less times than market economics would otherwise dictate,” the complaint contends. “Hundreds of millions of dollars of stud fee revenues will be impacted; all owners of mares will pay higher prices to breed their mares; and less well-connected owners of mares will be precluded entirely from access to high quality stallions.

“In addition, owners of the premiere Thoroughbred stallions and stallion prospects will potentially move or sell their horses out of Kentucky to other countries whose Thoroughbred registries do not impose any Stallion Cap,” which the suit states is “every other country in the world besides the U.S.”

*Cont. p5*

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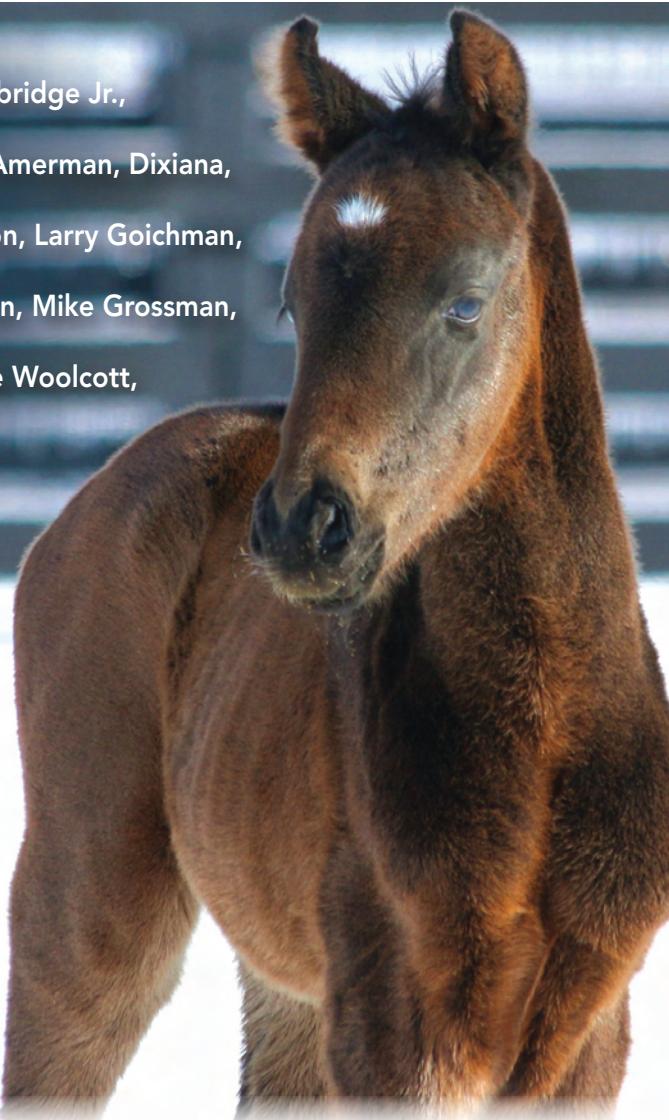
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A press release circulated by the group Tuesday morning charges that, "Membership of The Jockey Club is by invitation only, and the decision was made by its Board of Stewards without discussion or a vote at the Club's Annual General Meeting. The Jockey Club Stewards making the decision had clear conflicts of interest given they also represent or own various breeding and racing entities who stand to benefit now that owners of mares are being denied their first-choice stallion."

Tuesday afternoon, The Jockey Club issued the following statement:

"In May 2020, The Jockey Club board of stewards announced that it had adopted a final rule limiting the annual breeding of individual stallions. The rule reflects The Jockey Club's goal to preserve the health of the Thoroughbred breed for the long term. The rule applies prospectively to stallions foaled in 2020 or later; it does not

apply to stallions already out to stud. The Jockey Club publicly proposed a draft rule in September 2019 and received many thoughtful comments, which the stewards carefully considered in formulating a rule that will promote diversity of the Thoroughbred gene pool and protect the long-term health of the breed. Because the rule applies only to stallions born in 2020 or later, any effect on future stud fees or breeding economics is speculative. The Jockey Club stands by the rule and its purpose, which is to preserve the health of the Thoroughbred breed for the long term. The Jockey Club will continue to maintain the Principal Rules and Requirements of The American

Studbook in keeping with its mission to ensure the health of the Thoroughbred breed."

**Cont. p6**



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Sherelle Roberts-Pierre, a KHRC spokesperson, wrote in an email that "The KHRC is aware of this lawsuit, and our legal team looks forward to addressing these issues in the litigation process. We have no additional comment at this time, due to the KHRC's policy about not commenting on pending litigation."

#### **Cap Background**

Citing the significant, decades-long decline in the North American foal crop and concerns "with the narrowing of the diversity of the Thoroughbred gene pool," The Jockey Club announced Sept. 6, 2019, that its board of stewards was considering a per-stallion breeding limit of 140 mares that would be phased in over a multi-year period.

The proposed cap was met with a hazy mixture of consternation and support within America's bloodstock community. At the time, The Jockey Club President and COO James Gagliano wrote in response to a TDN query that "We neither expect nor see a basis for a legal challenge."

When the cap was voted in by The Jockey Club's stewards and announced as effective May 7, 2020, the new 14C rule drew support for its attempt to broaden the stallion base and to spread the wealth, so to speak. And The Jockey Club's seemingly conciliatory grandfathering-in of existing stallions also appeared to provide a welcome degree of a time buffer by phasing in the changes.

But the cap was still criticized by some industry stakeholders for creating a two-tier system of different rules that will now apply to different stallions based on age.

And some members of the bloodstock community just plain didn't like being told how to manage their matings.

According to the new version of Rule 14C, for stallions born in 2019 and earlier, there remains no limit to the number of mares reported bred in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. For stallions born in 2020 and later, the maximum number of mares covered will now be 140. To enforce compliance, The Jockey Club simply will not register any foals that are not the product of the sire's mating with the first 140 mares to which that stallion was bred in any given year.

According to [The Jockey Club's Report of Mares Bred](#), 42 stallions bred over 140 mares in 2020.

Of that total, 16 of those 42 stood at either Spendthrift, Three Chimneys or Coolmore/Ashford.

Those 16 stallions bred a total of 1,088 mares over what will be the new cap of 140: Spendthrift (576), Coolmore (429) and Three Chimneys (83).

Nine of the top 10 highest-covering stallions stood at Spendthrift or Coolmore; 13 of the top 15 stood at the three farms bringing the suit.

*Cont. p7*



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It's still too early to try to put a hard-dollar prognostication on future financial implications of the stallion cap. But the farms' complaint tries to do so retroactively and makes several ballpark projections.

According to the suit, "If Rule 14C had been applied in 2019, the breedings of 43 stallions would have been restricted and over \$85 million in stud fee revenues would have been impacted for that year alone. Similarly, if Rule 14C had been applied in 2020 to stallions born before 2020, the breedings and stud fee revenues would have been similarly restricted."

"Moreover, as a result of the foregoing, new Jockey Club Rule 14C has already diminished the value of the 2020 weanlings acquired by Plaintiffs, whose future productivity as stallions will be artificially limited by that Rule, and it has already diminished the value of Plaintiffs' current crop of stallions as the potential productivity of the foals they produce will be limited by that Rule," the court filing states.

#### **Institutional Clout vs. Private Property**

The farms' suit is not shy about portraying The Jockey Club as an influence-wielding entity that is allegedly rife with factionalism.

In one instance the suit states that the organization "has also leveraged its power over the North American Thoroughbred industry by unlawfully conspiring with other registries throughout the world to expand the geographical reach of its rules." In another section, it states, "Indeed, at least one Jockey Club Steward has publicly acknowledged that economic protectionism--rather than any interest in curtailing inbreeding among Thoroughbreds--is the real purpose behind the Rule."

It also contends that, "The Jockey Club has leveraged the commercial power it exercises as the State sponsored registry of Thoroughbred horses into numerous other related profit-making ventures."

But while enumerating a list of alleged conflicting business interests among The Jockey Club's stewards might make for splashy headlines, the legal meat of the case appears to rest on the contention that "Plaintiffs' interests in their Thoroughbred horses and their right to generate fees from the breeding and sale of such horses are protected property rights under the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, as made applicable to the states by the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution."

As applied in Kentucky, the suit alleges that Rule 14C "does not tend to protect or preserve health or safety; instead, its sole purpose is economic protectionism; it is designed to protect the economic interests of owners of second-tier stallions who will usurp the breedings that would, under free market conditions, have otherwise gone to the first tier stallions but for the imposition of that Rule." **Cont. p8**

## **2021 Leading Second Crop Sires (Cumulative)**

RANK	STALLION (SIRE)	WNRS	2021 FEE:
1	Not This Time (Giant's Causeway)	30	\$40,000
2	Nyquist (Uncle Mo)	24	\$75,000
3	<b>AIR FORCE BLUE (WAR FRONT)</b>	<b>(23)</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

TDN, 2/23/21

**2/13** **KITTEN'S WALTZ**, bred by the Shadai Corporation, won Maiden in Japan for Yasuda Shogo.

**2/11** **TWILIGHT BLUE**, bred by Knowles Bloodstock, won Allowance at Oaklawn for Joe Sharp and Carl R. Moore Management LLC. Already stakes placed at Fair Grounds in December.

**2/7** **BLEU BALLON** won MSW at Santa Anita for Sean McCarthy and owner/breeders Stepaside Farm LLC on her second outing having run a solid second on debut on 2 Jan.

**2/6** **WAR SAVVY**, bred by Summer Hill Farm and a \$100,000 OBS 2YO, won a MSW at Fair Grounds for Dallas Stewart.

**1/30** **KING OF DREAMS**, bred by Doug & Felicia Branham and a \$180,000 OBS 2YO, won a MSW at Gulfstream Park for Juan Carlos Avila and owners Victoria's Ranch.

**"The victory was markedly similar to the maiden breaking score of these connection' King Guillermo (Uncle Mo), who would go on to upend last year's GII Tampa Bay Derby"** TDN



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"Moreover," the suit states, the rule "violates the dormant commerce clause because it is aimed at economic protectionism and it imposes a burden on interstate commerce that is clearly excessive in relation to the putative benefits that it claims to promote. In addition, Defendants' actions in imposing and abiding by the Stallion Cap constitute an impermissible taking of Plaintiffs' property interests."

The suit continues: "Plaintiffs had a reasonable expectation that they could continue to conduct their Thoroughbred breeding business in accordance with the recognized standards for production of Thoroughbred foals ... Defendants have offered no compensation for the loss of Plaintiffs' protected interests nor any means of seeking such compensation."

Commenting on behalf of the plaintiffs in a prepared statement, Spendthrift Farm owner B. Wayne Hughes said: "The introduction of the Stallion Cap by The Jockey Club is a blatant abuse of power that is bad law, bad science and bad business. A handful of individuals from a private club in New York have been allowed to make a decision that will negatively impact the future of Thoroughbred racing and breeding both in Kentucky and the whole country.

"We have filed this complaint to defend the industry from anti-competitive, un-American and arbitrary decision making that is not based on scientific evidence.

"If they can limit the number to 140, what's to stop them from limiting it to 100 or 80 or any other number down the road? What if your mare isn't one of the 140? We are really concerned about the small breeder's ability to survive this."

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## CHURCHILL DOWNS ANNOUNCES IT WILL SELL ARLINGTON PARK

by Bill Finley

Churchill Downs announced Tuesday that it has launched a process to sell Arlington Park, which sits on 326 acres of real estate 30 miles northwest of downtown Chicago. The sale will be handled by CBRE Group, a full service commercial real estate firm.

Arlington's future looked bleak in September of 2019 when Churchill Downs made the surprising decision to not take the necessary steps to open a casino on the racetrack property. It is

widely believed that Churchill did not want to create competition between an Arlington casino and a casino it owns near the track. Churchill owns the Rivers Casino in Des Plaines, Illinois, which is about seven miles from the Arlington.

After confirming that it did not seek a casino license for the track, Churchill said it would only commit to racing at Arlington through 2021. In Tuesday's press release, Churchill said that it would honor the commitment to hold a meet that is scheduled to begin Apr. 30 and end Sept. 25.

"On the one hand, when you hear that Churchill is going to sell Arlington Park, your heart immediately goes into your mouth because we are planning on racing there in two months," said David McCaffrey, the executive director of the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. "We are a bit relieved that at least they are committed in writing to racing this summer. That's the short-term gain part but we're deeply saddened that it looks like our worst fears will come true, that Arlington Park's last ever race will be held in September."



The paddock at Arlington Park | Horsephotos

In Tuesday's press release, Bill Carstanjen, the CEO of Churchill Downs Incorporated, said the company will pursue opening a racetrack/casino at a new location somewhere in the state. Once Arlington closes, Hawthorne will be the only track in the Chicago area, and Hawthorne and Fairmount Park will be the only tracks left in the state. Arlington opened in 1927.

In the release, Carstanjen touted Arlington as an attractive property for development.

*Cont. p9*



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"Arlington's ideal location in Chicago's northwest suburbs, together with direct access to downtown Chicago via an on-site Metro rail station, presents a unique redevelopment opportunity," he said. "We expect to see robust interest in the site and look forward to working with potential buyers, in collaboration with the Village of Arlington Heights, to transition this storied location to its next phase," said Bill Carstanjen, CEO of CDI.

As for the potential of opening a new racetrack in the state, Carstanjen said: "We are exploring potential options with the State and other constituents and remain optimistic that we can find solutions that work for the State, local communities and the thousands of Illinoisans who make their living directly or indirectly from Thoroughbred horse racing. We are committed to the Illinois Thoroughbred racing industry and will consider all options in working toward opportunities for it to continue into the future."

McCaffrey said there would be several obstacles standing in the way if Churchill tried to open a new track in the state.

"Moving the racing license would require an awful lot of regulatory steps and probably changes to the state statutes," he said. "It would be much easier said than done. To us, this is not a good solution. The good solution for us was to make Arlington Park the biggest and best racino in the country, bar none. Because of its location, its history, because there is a train station right at the track, it was the perfect spot for a casino. None of those things will exist in a place built somewhere else and I can promise you it would not have the grandeur of Arlington Park."

Finding a location in a saturated market where a casino and racetrack would thrive will not be easy. There are already 10 casinos in Illinois, which does not include the casinos that have yet to open at Hawthorne and Fairmount.

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## WITH 140-MARE CAP OF ITS OWN, HARNESS INDUSTRY WEIGHS IN ON FARMS SUING JOCKEY CLUB

by Bill Finley

When the United States Trotting Association (USTA), the breed registry for standardbred racing in the U.S., proposed in 2006 limiting the number of mares a stallion could be bred to, Russell Williams, who then was a member of the USTA Board, prepared for an impending storm. He knew some breeders would be unhappy and there would likely be lawsuits looking to overturn the rule. But Williams, who is also an attorney, never wavered, confident that, in the end, the legal system would side with the

USTA.

He was right. The USTA's plan to limit a stallion's book to 140 mares went into effect with sires debuting in 2009 or later. Williams, now the president of the USTA, said that legal efforts to overturn the new rule "went nowhere."

With that in mind, Williams said he believes The Jockey Club will come out on the winning end of a dispute that now looks like it is headed to court. On Tuesday, it was announced that Spendthrift Farm, Three Chimneys Farm and Ashford Stud have brought suit against The Jockey Club over its attempt to limit the books of any stallion born in 2020 or later. The Jockey Club is also seeking to cap the number of mares a stallion can be bred to at 140. The litigants have said that The Jockey Club's decision is a "blatant abuse of power."

"My advice to The Jockey Club would be to stay the course and do what is in the best interests of the breed," Williams said. "I think that when it's all said and done, they will be fine."



Sarah Andrew

Williams is also the president of Hanover Shoe Farms, by far the leading breeder in the sport of harness racing. Hanover had more to lose under the new rule than any other entity for the support, but Williams was among those leading the call for change. At the time, a handful of stallions were dominating the breeding industry and Williams was among those who felt the lack of diversity in the gene pool was affecting the overall health of the breed.

"We had to put the best interests of the breed ahead of the temporary financial interests of Hanover," he said. "We've been here for 95 years and I'd like for us to be here for another 95 years."

Not everyone saw it that way. Williams said antitrust lawsuits were filed alleging restraint of trade by the USTA and that he was among those deposed.

**Cont. p10**

He said that once the depositions began, it became clear that the plaintiffs had no case against the USTA, and the lawsuits were dropped. This came after the USTA consulted with lawyers who told Williams and others that the new regulations did not violate any antitrust laws.

Williams says that the USTA's position then was that the stallion cap was not done for commercial reasons but rather for scientific reasons that would benefit the industry. Under that premise, Williams said, the courts had no basis for striking down limits on breeding.

The 140-mare cap in harness racing came after the USTA commissioned a study by Dr. Gus Cothran of the University of Kentucky. Cothran concluded that the standardbred gene pool was becoming less diverse, and that the breed would suffer in the future because of that lack of diversity.

Alan Leavitt, the president of Walnut Hall Ltd., a standardbred breeding operation in Lexington, said that Cothran's study went a long way toward proving the USTA's point, that the science made it clear that the breed would continue to be negatively impacted if some limits to the book sizes were not implemented. The Jockey Club has never circulated a similar study, which, Leavitt said, could be a major factor in how the case proceeds.

"The Jockey Club is totally vulnerable and the USTA wasn't," Leavitt said. "The USTA relied on an analysis that was made of the American trotter. The study demonstrated that the American trotter had lost 17% of its heterozygosity, which is the variability factor. A loss to that extent first manifests in the infertility or lower infertility in stallions. You could see it at that time. Our trotting sires were less fertile than they had been and it was on that basis that the USTA imposed the 140 limit."

Leavitt said that the absence of such a study in Thoroughbreds will have a bearing on how the suit lodged by the Thoroughbred farms proceeds. The plaintiffs in the Thoroughbred case contend that the stallion cap "serves no legitimate purpose and has no scientific basis."

"I would think that Spendthrift and those other two farms are going to tear The Jockey Club to pieces if they come after them with the right arguments," he said.

Since the new rules went into effect in standardbred racing, the controversy has died down and the 140 number has gained widespread acceptance.

"I think The Jockey Club is doing the right thing," said Myron Bell, a standardbred owner and bloodstock advisor. "This will give more stallions a chance. Too much of a good thing is no good. I think the Thoroughbreds were overdue in doing this. I know that the three farms who have sued have many stallions, but I think less is better. It will be interesting to see what happens with this lawsuit."

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## CONSIGNORS TALK FIRST-CROP SIRES AHEAD OF 2-YEAR-OLD SALES, PART II

by Jessica Martini

With the 2-year-old sales right around the corner, the *TDN* reached out to consignors with juveniles heading to the sales rings at the Mar. 16 and 17 Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's March Sale of 2-Year-Olds in Training and the Mar. 31 Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream Sale to discuss which of their offerings by first-crop sires have impressed them. This is the second installment of the series ([click here to view the first section which was published in Tuesday's TDN](#)).



Ciaran Dunne | *Fasig-Tipton* photo

### CIARAN DUNNE (Wavertree Stables)

Among the 26 juveniles Ciaran Dunne's Wavertree Stables has consigned to the OBS March sale and a further 22 targeted at the Gulfstream sale are a bevy of youngsters by first-crop sires. Dunne joined the chorus of consignors singing the praises of **Practical Joke** (*Into Mischief*–*Halo Humor*, by *Distorted Humor*).

"Some of the first-season sires, people want to get excited about because they are a little precocious," Dunne said. "The Practical Jokes actually look like they have a bit of quality. They have speed, but they aren't all speed all the time. Obviously, it's early days, but they have been very sound horses to this point and are very easy to train. You don't have to gear your training around them, they just do whatever you put in front of them. He was a fast horse himself, so they should be fast, but they have a license to go a little bit farther."

Wavertree will offer a colt by the Ashford stallion ([hip 273](#)) at the OBS March sale and a colt ([hip 31](#)) and filly ([hip 156](#)) at Gulfstream.

"The colt we have in March looks like he'll be very early and very quick, but he's a half to a really quick filly [Jo Jo Air (*Scat Daddy*)]," Dunne said. **Cont. p11**

"The two that are in Gulfstream, the filly is beautiful," he continued. "She's big and tall and leggy. She's out of a Five Star Day mare and I don't know why she looks the way she does because it's speed on speed and she is big and strong and beautiful and looks like she'll go two turns. And the colt that is down there has a big pedigree. He is a half to [graded winner] Plainsman (**Flatter**) and [graded-placed] Liam (Liam's Map)."

Dunne continued, "We have an **American Freedom** filly (**hip 154**) for Gulfstream that was a very expensive yearling [\$160,000 FTKSEP], but she acts the part. She was beautiful filly as a yearling. She ticked all the boxes then, and now in training she is the same. She's tall and lean and leggy and gets over the ground well. She acts like she could have a bit of quality."

**American Freedom** (Pulpit--Gottcha Last, by Pleasant Tap) stands at Airdrie Stud. Winner of the 2016 GIII Iowa Derby, he was second in that year's GI Travers S. and GI betfair.com Haskell Invitational.

Wavertree will offer a pair of colts by **Unified** (**Candy Ride {Arg}**--Union City, by Dixie Union) at the OBS March sale. The Lane's End stallion, who stands for \$10,000, won the 2016 GII Peter Pan S. and GIII Bay Shore S., as well as the 2017 GIII Gulfstream Park Sprint S.

"The Unifieds that go to March are surprisingly quick," Dunne said. "I wouldn't have thought that they had the license to be that fast."

Dunne will send a pair of fillies by Claiborne Farm stallion **Mastery** (**Candy Ride {Arg}**--Steady Course, by Old Trieste) through the OBS sales ring (**hip 173** and **hip 378**), and a colt by the Grade I winner will be offered at Gulfstream (**hip 33**).

"The Masterys are beautiful horses," Dunne said. "Really, really good-moving horses. How quick they will be at the end of the day, I don't know, but from the way they are training on a day-to-day basis, they are very impressive and they look like they will be two-turn horses."

Wavertree has a pair of juveniles by the late champion **Arrogate** (Unbridled's Song--Bubbler, by **Distorted Humor**), one of which will be offered at Gulfstream as **hip 158**.

"The Arrogates we have we really like," Dunne said. "It's obviously going to be a small sample with him, but he seems to have thrown to the mare. We have one out of a Salt Lake mare and one out of a Silver Deputy mare and that's kind of what they are. But they are both really nice horses."

The Wavertree freshman sire bench also includes a filly by **Klimt** (**Quality Road**--Inventive, by Dixie Union) (**hip 84**) who will be offered at OBS March.

"The **Klimt** filly that is in there is very nice," Dunne said. "She might have been one of the most expensive of the Klimts [\$160,000 FTKSEP]. She is a real **Quality Road**, a big strong filly who looks like she'll run all day. She has a great attitude."



Tristan de Meric | Keeneland photo

#### TRISTAN DE MERIC (De Meric Sales)

"We've got five Practical Jokes," Tristan De Meric said of the much-hyped freshman stallion. "They are all training really well. I'm not telling you anything new, but he'd be my obvious top pick. They all look the part and they are all just getting better the more you do with them. I love their dispositions, they have great minds, they put a lot in their training, leave it all out on the track. They are very professional and very smart, classy nice horses. I have high hopes for him as a sire."

De Meric Sales will offer two colts (**hip 1** and **hip 7**) and a filly **hip 81** by the multiple Grade I winner at the Gulfstream sale.

The Ocala-based operation will offer a colt by Horse of the Year **Gun Runner** (**Candy Ride {Arg}**--Quiet Giant, by Giant's Causeway) (**hip 388**) at OBS in March.

"We have three Gun Runners," de Meric said. "One is in the March sale and he's freaky fast. He's a very quick colt with a good family behind him. He's out of Brazen Persuasion, who was a good race mare. He is the only **Gun Runner** we have going to a sale, but the two we have for the races are also really nice horses. I'd be surprised not to see **Gun Runner** up there next year also."

De Meric added, "At the yearling sales, we obviously tried to pick up a few more Practical Jokes and Gun Runners, they were just hard to buy and we didn't end up with as many as we wanted. But we are thrilled to have a few of them because they are doing great."

Another freshman sire whose progeny have impressed de Meric is **Connect** (**Curlin**--Bullville Belle, by Holy Bull). De Meric Sales will offer a pair of colts (**hip 71** and **hip 524**) by the Lane's End stallion at the OBS March sale and a third colt (**hip 60**) at Gulfstream.

**Cont. p12**

"I think, as a sleeper sire, [Connect](#) might be really good," de Meric said. "They may be later developing. We have one entered in the Miami sale out of Wild Hoots (Unbridled's Song). He looks the part. There is nothing not to like about him. He's a beautiful horse. And we have a really nice filly out of Nest Egg (Eskendereya) going to April who is an elegant, two-turn looking filly."

Of his impressions of the Connects he has seen, de Meric said, "The ones we have, they are throwing to the broodmare sire maybe a bit. But they are great-minded and training really well. I wouldn't say the five we have have a lot of similarities, but the one similarity that they all have is that they are all training great. They have great minds and I think they are going to be solid, nice horses."

Of his expectations for the upcoming calendar of 2-year-old sales, de Meric said, "The top end will be as strong as ever, I hope. It will be interesting to see how the rest of the market is. Hopefully there is a deep pool of buyers and we can move horses and have a good year."



Torie Gladwell | *Fasig-Tipton photo*

#### **TORIE GLADWELL (Top Line Sales)**

Top Line Sales had its first seven-figure sale a year ago when a daughter of first-crop sire [Not This Time](#) sold for \$1.35 million at the OBS Spring Sale. The operation has another strong group of freshman offerings in 2021, led by the omnipresent [Practical Joke](#).

"They are just extremely forward horses," Torie Gladwell said of the [Practical Joke](#) juveniles who will represent Top Line in the sales ring this spring. "The ones that we have, you're almost slowing them down. They just want to do too much too early. So we are just trying to slow them down and do what we need to do to get there and keep them happy and sound. Because they are the kind of horses who want to go out there and do too

much."

Top Line Sales has a filly ([hip 311](#)) and colt ([hip 563](#)) by [Practical Joke](#) catalogued at the OBS March sale and a second filly ([hip 85](#)) targeted at Gulfstream.

"The filly going to Gulfstream, she wasn't a really big filly when we bought her and now she's probably 15.3," Gladwell said. "We actually went and bought her mom [Caribbean Lady {[Speightstown](#)}] and her baby sister by [Mendelssohn](#), we liked this filly so much."

Top Line Sales will also offer a colt by [American Freedom](#) ([hip 454](#)) at OBS March.

"We have two American Freedoms," Gladwell said. "They are a little bit bigger than some of the other freshman stallions that we have, but they seem precocious and early."

Gladwell said she has also been impressed by the first crop of runners by 2016 GI Del Mar Futurity winner [Klimt](#).

"We have a handful of Klimts and we like those," she said. "They are really good-boned horses. They are smart and take everything in stride. They are really sound, solid horses."

Reflecting on the success Top Line enjoyed with \$1.35-million future Grade I winner Princess Noor ([Not This Time](#)) at last year's Spring Sale, Gladwell said, "I think it really just proved that those top, top horses can step up and perform no matter what sale you go to, whether it's June, April, Miami, Maryland. It doesn't matter who the horse is by, whether it's a freshman stallion or not, if a horse steps up and performs, you're going to get paid for it."

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#### **FRESH OFF SAUDI CUP WIN, JOHN GOSDEN JOINS WRITERS' ROOM**

Three days after racking up yet another monumental win in a career chock full of them, legendary trainer John Gosden joined the TDN Writers' Room podcast [presented by Keeneland](#) Tuesday morning. Calling in via Zoom as the [Green Group Guest of the Week](#), Gosden explained how he got Saudi Cup hero Mishriff (Ire) (Make Believe {GB}) to be as brilliant on dirt as he is on turf, what made his five-time champion Enable (GB) (Nathaniel {Ire}) such a phenomenon, how his roots of training in California in the 1980s informed the rest of his career and much more.

Asked about what it takes to get a horse to perform at a top level on multiple surfaces as Mishriff has done, Gosden said, "I think you've got to have the individual. You've got to have a horse that obviously handles the surface, but also the one that has the courage to face the kickback. And I think that's very much the issue."

*Cont. p13*

"I had many good turf horses in California that could work a mile in a great time on the main track on their own in the morning, but put them in a race in the afternoon and they couldn't tolerate the dirt," he added. "They lose their breathing, their rhythm, everything. So, you need a horse with courage."

Regarding what else made the difference for Mishriff against top American dirt horses Charlataan ([Speightstown](#)) and Knicks Go ([Paynter](#)) in the Saudi Cup, Gosden commented, "I think one thing is very clear, and I think Bob [Baffert] might have said this: the long straight at Riyadh made a big difference to us, because we are used to straights of two, three, four furlongs in distance. To that extent, he really relished the two-and-a-half furlong straight, which I think in the end just caught Charlataan out in that last 100 meters. So that type of track very much suits him."



On what he's looking at for the rest of Mishriff's campaign and whether or not it will include a shot in the GI Breeders' Cup Classic, Gosden said, "We plan obviously to be running him here in races like the Eclipse Stakes. We may even consider looking at a race at the end of the year like The Arc. As regards to Del Mar, of course, that's to be discussed on the agenda. Having trained and had a lot of fun at Del Mar, I know it very well. The track and the finish line is quite a long way away from the clubhouse turn. It's quite a short straight. So that would probably be something that would be a positive for horses like Knicks Go and Charlataan and maybe not such a positive for us."

Elsewhere on the show, the writers conducted their 2021 fantasy 3-year-old draft, checked in with *TDN* European Editor Emma Berry for more on the Saudi Cup and, in the [West Point Thoroughbreds](#) news segment, reacted to the huge news of three top stallion farms suing The Jockey Club over its 140-mare cap. [Click here to watch the podcast; click here for the audio-only version.](#)

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## CHURCHILL DOWNS NAMES HUNTER RANKIN SENIOR DIRECTOR OF RACING

Hunter Rankin has been hired as Senior Director of Racing for Churchill Downs Incorporated, CDI announced Tuesday. The role was recently vacated following Mike Ziegler's promotion to General Manager of Churchill Downs Racetrack in December 2020.

As CDI's Senior Director of Racing, Rankin will act as a representative and liaison to the U.S. Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry and focus on the implementation of standards and processes outlined in the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act ("HISA") across all of CDI's racing properties.

"Hunter brings to this role a breadth of relationships he has developed with key stakeholder groups within the racing and breeding industries," said Bill Mudd, President and Chief Operating Officer of CDI. "His keen familiarity with HISA will help lead the Company and its racing assets into a successful future within a continuously-changing and evolving industry."

Prior to this role, Rankin was the President of Sagamore Farm, where he oversaw all farm and Sagamore Racing operations while also building Sagamore Farm as a hospitality asset. He previously served as Executive Vice President of Sagamore Development (now known as Weller Development) and as a Partner at Sterling Thompson Company, where he managed commercial insurance profiles for large real estate, construction and equine businesses.

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## LONGTIME NYRA ASSISTANT STARTER JIMMY TSITSIRAGOS DIES

James (Jimmy) Tsitsiragos, a longtime assistant starter at the New York Racing Association, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 16 at the age of 71.

Born Aug. 6, 1949 in Leonia, New Jersey, Tsitsiragos graduated from Leonia High School in 1967 where he was a beloved football legend nicknamed by his classmates as "Zorba the Greek." He then attended Texas A&M University as a walk-on for the football team and quickly earned a full scholarship under Head Coach Gene Stallings. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics in 1972, he began his career as an assistant starter for NYRA, loading horses in the starting gate. **Cont. p14**

He said he loved the “spirit” of the horse and built a stellar reputation within NYRA. He can be seen at the 3:05 mark of this video of the 1981 Whitney H. improbably keeping hold of eventual winner Fio Rito after he broke through the gate.



**Jimmy Tsitsiragos (circled)** | courtesy Raymond DeStefano

Tsitsiragos is survived by sisters Christine Tsitsiragos and Paula Tsitsiragos, his adored nieces Stella Tsitsiragos and Nota Tsitsiragos, first cousins Louise Ermides and Maria Tsitsiragos and extended family in Greece. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation to support the care and well being of retired racehorses. Gifts may be made in Jimmy's name by mail at P.O. Box 834, Saratoga Springs, NY, or by phone at (518) 226-0028.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

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## ROSIE NAPRAVNIK RETURNS TO FAIR GROUNDS FOR “NEW VOCATIONS DAY AT THE RACES”

Former jockey and horse aftercare advocate Rosie Napravnik will join Fair Grounds host Joe Kristufek on the live feed for “New Vocations Day at the Races” at the New Orleans venue, the track announced on Tuesday. Napravnik, who won four titles at the Fair Grounds, will help build awareness, promote success stories, and inspire donations for Thoroughbred aftercare throughout the racing card.

“Rosie is one of our favorites and it’s great to have her back at the Fair Grounds to help shed light on such an important cause and to share her valuable insight with the fans,” said Fair Grounds Senior Director of Racing Jason Boulet.

“Before and after my riding career, I’ve been exposed to a lot of the other things that horses can do, and that’s a big part of the reason why I’m so passionate about it and why it’s so important to me,” Napravnik said about Thoroughbred

aftercare. “After riding so many of those horses and seeing how much they put out for us on the racetrack, it’s just something I can’t avoid making a part of my life.”

To make a financial donation to the Louisiana chapter of New Vocations and support the Fair Grounds Day at the Races, please go to <https://horseadoption.com/donate>.

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**Rosie Napravnik** | Horsephotos

## ROOD AND RIDDLE VETERINARY PHARMACY LAUNCHES STALLSIDE PODCAST

StallSide, a bi-weekly podcast covering equine healthcare, was launched by Rood & Riddle Veterinary Pharmacy on Tuesday. The podcast, presented by Rood & Riddle Veterinary Pharmacy, is co-hosted by Dr. Peter Morresey and Dr. Bart Barber. The first guest is Rood & Riddle co-founder Dr. Tom Riddle. Each week will feature a guest clinician, as well as health care topics like care of the pregnant mare, foaling, neonatal care, laminitis, colic, dentistry, geriatrics and infections disease.

“We want to give listeners an insight into Rood & Riddle and veterinary medicine,” said Barber. “Our goal is to strengthen the bond between animals, owners and veterinarians.”

Added Morresey, “We cover the highs and lows of equine practice and the industry, never shying away from the difficult issues.”

StallSide is available on YouTube, iTunes, iHeart Radio, Audible, Stitcher, Spotify, Google Play, etc. For more information, please visit [www.rrvp.com](http://www.rrvp.com).

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## CBA UNVEILS NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

The new lineup of officers and board members of the Consignors and Commercial Breeders Association (CBA) were unveiled at the latest meeting, the organization announced on Tuesday. Lane's End Farm's Allaire Ryan is the new President, replacing outgoing President Gray Lyster, who will continue to serve the CBA as a Past President. Claiborne Farm's Walker Hancock is the new Vice President, while Mark Taylor of Taylor Made Farm is the Treasurer.

"The CBA owes a debt of gratitude to outgoing President Gray Lyster for the time and service he dedicated to this organization and I'm delighted he will continue to contribute to our cause as Past President," said Ryan. "The CBA is a vital body in today's marketplace, and I am motivated to achieve the goals we have set in order to maintain the best sales environment possible for consignors and breeders."

In total, the CBA board consists of 15 members: eight from the top 20 consignors and seven from other consignors and commercial breeders. Each year a portion of the board rotates off and new members are appointed to fill the vacant positions.

The current members of the CBA Board from the top 20 consignors are as follows: Conrad Bandoroff, Denali Stud; Carrie Brogden, Machmer Hall Sales; Neal Clarke, Atlas Farm/Bedouin Bloodstock; Liz Crow, ELITE Sales; Walker Hancock, Claiborne Farm; Adrian Regan, Hunter Valley Farm; Allaire Ryan, Lane's End Farm and Mark Taylor, Taylor Made Farm.

Board members from other consignors/commercial breeders are: Tom Hamm, Three Chimneys Farm; Ben Henley, Airdrie Stud; Derek MacKenzie, Vinery Sales; Zach Madden, Buckland Sales; Gray Lyster, Ashview Farm; Mark Toothaker, Spendthrift Farm and Sean Tugel, Gainesway Farm.

For more information on the CBA, please visit

[www.consignorsandbreeders.com](http://www.consignorsandbreeders.com).

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## EMERALD DOWNS ANNOUNCES NEW TRAINER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Emerald Downs has announced several incentive programs for the 2021 race meet that begins May 19 and continues through Sept. 23.

To help increase its horse population, Emerald Downs will offer a \$10,000 bonus to any new trainer who brings at least 10 horses to the track. A \$5,000 bonus will be paid directly to the trainer upon arrival and an additional \$5,000 after the trainer's 10th start of the meet. Trainers must come from a track outside of Washington, Oregon and British Columbia.

The popular Ship and Run Incentive Program also has been enhanced for 2021. Out of state horses will receive a \$500

bonus for their initial start at Emerald Downs. The bonus is for horses whose most recent start was outside the state and have not raced at Emerald Downs in 2019 and 2020. In addition, horses must have started for a claiming price of \$3,000 or more in each of its three previous starts. First-time starters are not eligible. Additionally, every unplaced starter will continue to receive a \$200 participation fee.

Emerald Downs' stable area opens Monday, Mar. 1 and training begins Friday, Mar. 5.

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## PFANENSTIEL NAMED A FEATURED MILLINER FOR DERBY

Master Milliner and owner of Louisville-based Forme Millinery Jenny Pfaffenstiel has been named a Featured Milliner of the 147th GI Kentucky Derby. Pfaffenstiel is renowned for her one-of-a-kind creations. Her hats and fascinators for women and men are available at the Forme Millinery Hat Shop in downtown Louisville, specialty boutiques and at [www.formemillinery.com](http://www.formemillinery.com).

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February 23, 2021  
John Gosden Talks Saudi Cup Win,  
Enable, California Training Roots & More

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## Leading Broodmare Sires YTD

for stallions standing in North America through Monday, February 22

Earnings represent worldwide figures, stud fees listed are 2020 fees.

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	<b>Quiet American</b>	--	5	--	2	--	--	144	20	3,500,000	4,282,783
	(1986) by Fappiano	Crops: 23								Charlatan	
2	<b>Distorted Humor</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1,779,897</b>	<b>4,010,705</b>
	(1993) by Forty Niner	Crops: 16								Golden Sixty (AUS)	
3	<b>Outflanker</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3,240,000</b>	<b>3,329,452</b>
	(1994) by Danzig	Crops: 17								Knicks Go	
4	<b>Unbridled's Song</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>897,669</b>	<b>3,270,325</b>
	(1993) by Unbridled	Crops: 19								Join In (AUS)	
5	<b>Mr. Greeley</b>	--	<b>2</b>	--	<b>1</b>	--	--	<b>187</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2,106,667</b>	<b>3,246,623</b>
	(1992) by Gone West	Crops: 19								Great Scot (GB)	
6	<b>Street Cry (Ire)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	--	--	<b>192</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>2,822,514</b>
	(1998) by Machiavellian	Crops: 13								Spanish Mission	
7	<b>Giant's Causeway</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	--	<b>2</b>	--	--	<b>351</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>207,200</b>	<b>2,523,445</b>
	(1997) by Storm Cat	Crops: 14								Emblem Star	
8	<b>More Than Ready</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>979,239</b>	<b>2,478,868</b>
	(1997) by Southern Halo	Crops: 14								Cafe Pharaoh	
9	<b>Empire Maker</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	--	<b>1</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>2,210,565</b>
	(2000) by Unbridled	Crops: 11								Mandaloun	
10	<b>Bernardini</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>549,000</b>	<b>2,125,222</b>
	(2003) by A.P. Indy	Crops: 8								Colonel Liam	
11	<b>Smart Strike</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	--	<b>3</b>	--	--	<b>242</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>330,000</b>	<b>2,118,885</b>
	(1992) by Mr. Prospector	Crops: 19								Cowan	
12	<b>Indian Charlie</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	--	--	<b>167</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>378,586</b>	<b>2,117,298</b>
	(1995) by In Excess (Ire)	Crops: 17								Shivaji	
13	<b>Storm Cat</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	--	--	<b>193</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>598,249</b>	<b>2,065,930</b>
	(1983) by Storm Bird	Crops: 27								Loves Only You (JPN)	
14	<b>A.P. Indy</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	--	--	<b>227</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>147,450</b>	<b>1,814,397</b>
	(1989) by Seattle Slew	Crops: 22								Retrofit (JPN)	
15	<b>Kingmambo</b>	--	<b>3</b>	--	--	--	--	<b>152</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>294,415</b>	<b>1,590,409</b>
	(1990) by Mr. Prospector	Crops: 21								Namura Donovan (JPN)	

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## Saturday, Oaklawn, post time: 5:58 p.m. EST

**SOUTHWEST S.-GIII**, \$750,000, 3yo, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	ML
1	Essential Quality	Tapit	Godolphin, LLC	Cox	Saez	119
2	Saffa's Day	Carpe Diem	L and N Racing LLC and Brewster, Clark O.	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	117
3	Last Samurai K	Malibu Moon	Willis Horton Racing LLC	Stewart	Court	117
4	Jackie's Warrior	Maclean's Music	Robison, J. Kirk and Judy	Asmussen	Rosario	119
5	Santa Cruiser	Dialed In	Calumet Farm	Desormeaux	Eramia	117
6	Woodhouse	Speightstown	Samuel F. Henderson	Trout	Cabrera	117
7	Spielberg	Union Rags	SF Racing LLC, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stables LLC, Golconda Stables, Siena Farm LLC and Masterson, Robert E.	Baffert	Garcia	119

**Breeders:** 1-Godolphin, 2-SF Bloodstock LLC, 3-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 4-J & J Stables, 5-Calumet Farm, 6-Blue Heaven Farm, LLC, 7-G. Watts Humphrey Jr.

## Saturday, Oaklawn, post time: 4:20 p.m. EST

**RAZORBACK H.-GIII**, \$600,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	ML
1	Silver Prospector	Declaration of War	Orr, Ed and Orr, Susie	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	117
2	Hunka Burning Love	Into Mischief	End Zone Athletics, Inc.	Broberg	Cabrera	117
3	Mailman Money	Goldencents	Allied Racing Stable, LLC	Calhoun	Talamo	115
4	Owendale	Into Mischief	Rupp Racing	Cox	Rosario	120
5	Rated R Superstar	Kodiak Kowboy	Danny R. Caldwell	Villafranco	Vazquez	115
6	Long Range Toddy	Take Charge Indy	Willis Horton Racing LLC	Stewart	Court	116
7	Mystic Guide	Ghostzapper	Godolphin, LLC	Stidham	Saez	121

**Breeders:** 1-Hargus Sexton, Sandra Sexton &Silver Fern Farm, LLC, 2-Morris B. Floyd & Chuck Givens, 3-TK Stables LLC, 4-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings, LLC, 5-Thorndale Stable L.L.C., 6-Willis Horton Racing LLC, 7-Godolphin



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# NORTH AMERICAN RACING



## SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24

2020 Stud Fees Listed

**California Chrome** (Lucky Pulpit), Arrow Stud

196 foals of racing age/18 winners/0 black-type winners  
2-Sam Houston Race, Msw 1 1/16mT, Heliochrome, 7-1  
\$20,000 KEE SEP yrl

**Frosted** (Tapit), Darley, \$25,000

238 foals of racing age/19 winners/1 black-type winner  
5-Turfway, Msw 1m, Say It Ain't Soni, 15-1  
\$150,000 FTK JUL yrl; \$50,000 OBS OPN 2yo

**Outwork** (Uncle Mo), WinStar Farm, \$15,000

209 foals of racing age/22 winners/2 black-type winners  
2-Sam Houston Race, Msw 1 1/16mT, Outcashed, 15-1  
\$120,000 KEE JAN wnl; \$52,000 FTK OCT yrl; \$27,000 RNA EAS  
MAY 2yo

**Speightster** (Speightstown), WinStar Farm, \$10,000

228 foals of racing age/21 winners/2 black-type winners  
3-Mahoning Valley, Alw 6f, Buckeye Bling, 6-1  
\$27,000 KEE SEP yrl

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## ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

**9th-Parx Racing, \$52,894**, 2-23, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 2-23, 3yo, 1m 70y, 1:43.75, sy, 4 lengths.

**MARKET MAVEN** (g, 3, Super Ninety Nine--My Sonata, by Noble Causeway) Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-0, \$61,890. O/B-Gregory Gordon (PA); T-Penny Pearce.

**8th-Parx Racing, \$50,830**, 2-23, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:11.12, sy, 2 1/2 lengths.

**ARCH CAT** (g, 7, Arch--Miss Lavinia, by Speightstown) Lifetime Record: GSP, 41-15-3-13, \$417,785. O-Burns Thoroughbred Racing LLC; B-Santucket Stables & Indian Creek (KY); T-Daniel Velazquez. \*\$40,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP.

**THINK INDIAN CREEK**

**4th-Delta Downs, \$39,000**, 2-23, (S), (NW3L)/Opt. Clm (\$15,000), 2-23, 4yo/up, f/m, 5f, :59.40, ft, 1 length.

**ICY CHARLIE** (f, 4, My Pal Charlie--Lady Lyra Lee, by Academy Award) Lifetime Record: 6-3-2-0, \$82,552. O-Elite Thoroughbred Racing LLC; B-Michele Rodriguez (LA); T-Lee Thomas.

**2nd-Delta Downs, \$38,000**, (S), 2-23, (NW1X), 4yo/up, f/m, 5f, :59.29, ft, 1 1/4 lengths.

**GRILLIN** (m, 5, Awesome Bet--Chef Bertie, by Indian Charlie) Lifetime Record: 10-4-1-4, \$66,535. O-End Zone Athletics, Inc.; B-Lora Pitre (LA); T-Karl Broberg. \*1/2 to Cheers to Berti (Ready's Image), SP, \$204,300; First U Make Aroux, SW.

**1st-Turf Paradise, \$25,000**, 2-23, 3yo, 6 1/2f, 1:16.61, ft, nose.

**BECKHAM JAMES** (c, 3, Shanghai Bobby--Ciddy's Song, by Unbridled's Song) Lifetime Record: 8-2-2-2, \$42,456.

O-Jeremy Ramsland; B-Mike Abraham (KY); T-Justin R. Evans \*\$40,000 Ylg '19 KEESEP; \$35,000 RNA 2yo '20 OBSMAR; \$70,000 2yo '20 OBSOPN.

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## ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

**Little Can**, g, 3, Can the Man--Highest Reward, by Congrats. Delta Downs, 2-23, (S), 5f, :59.85. B-Cloyce C. Clark (LA). \*\$2,700 RNA Ylg '19 OBSWIN.



## ALL TDN WINNERS BY SIRE

**ARCH**, Arch Cat, g, 7, o/o Miss Lavinia, by **Speightstown**. ALW, 2-23, Parx Racing

**AWESOME BET**, Grillin, m, 5, o/o Chef Bertie, by Indian Charlie. ALW, 2-23, Delta Downs

**CAN THE MAN**, Little Can, g, 3, o/o Highest Reward, by **Congrats**. MSW, 2-23, Delta Downs

**MY PAL CHARLIE**, Icy Charlie, f, 4, o/o Lady Lyra Lee, by Academy Award. AOC, 2-23, Delta Downs

**SHANGHAI BOBBY**, Beckham James, c, 3, o/o Ciddy's Song, by Unbridled's Song. ALW, 2-23, Turf Paradise

**SUPER NINETY NINE**, Market Maven, g, 3, o/o My Sonata, by Noble Causeway. AOC, 2-23, Parx Racing

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY...

**February 26, 1973**...With **Secretariat** having been named Horse of the Year for 1972 and champion 2-year-old, Claiborne Farm announced that the colt had been syndicated for a then-record \$6,080,000--equivalent to 32 shares at \$190,000 each.

**February 28, 1957**...**John Longden** became the first jockey in history to reach 5,000 victories.

**March 1, 1991**...**Pat Day**, 37, became the sixth rider in history whose mounts earned \$100 million when he rode Wild Sierra to a second-place finish in the first race at Oaklawn Park.



Super Ninety Nine, sire of Parx winner Market Maven  
Country Life Farm

WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2021

## WOODS COMES FULL CIRCLE IN NEWMARKET RETURN



[Click for a video interview with Sean Woods](#)

By Emma Berry

In straitened times for British racing's finances, there has already been one trainer leave Newmarket for Kentucky, but the balance has been restored somewhat by the return to the town of Sean Woods, some 20 years after relinquishing his licence in the UK.

The trainer bought the historic La Grange Stables at the age of just 26 and, 10 years later in 2002, left British racing's headquarters to train in Hong Kong where, among his rival trainers, was his cousin Caspar Fownes. There he remained until 2016, but in the intervening years Woods has been planning his return.

It's a homecoming of sorts, except that Woods and his elder brothers and fellow former jockeys, Dwayne and Wendyll, grew up in India, where their father Barney was a leading Flat jockey and their maternal grandfather Eric Fownes was the champion trainer.

Woods himself took to National Hunt racing for the first stage of his career in the saddle, riding more than 80 winners over jumps before turning his hand to training. If his own pedigree already had strong racing links on both the top and bottom line, so does that of his son Max, as the trainer's wife Lucy is the daughter of former trainer Tony Hide and niece of Derby-winning jockey Edward Hide. [Cont. p2](#)

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## WEATHERBYS LAUNCHES SITE FOR NH SIRES

As a companion to its Global Stallions app and stallion books, Weatherbys has launched a new website, [nhstallions.co.uk](http://nhstallions.co.uk), which is devoted solely to National Hunt sires.

Listing around 100 jump stallions in Britain, Ireland and France, the site will be updated regularly with leading progeny and statistics.

"The launch of this new site is great news and I'm sure it will become the go-to resource for National Hunt breeders looking for regularly updated information dedicated to jumps breeding," said Simon Sweeting of Overbury Stud, home to National Hunt sires Schiapparelli (Ger), Jack Hobbs (GB) and Frontiersman (GB).

His Irish counterpart John Flood of Boardsmill Stud added, "National Hunt breeders have been starved of good data and statistics for too long compared to Flat breeders. It's fantastic for them to have access to such important information."

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## IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

### STUD FARMS SUE THE JOCKEY CLUB OVER MARE CAP

Spendthrift Farm, Ashford Stud and Three Chimneys Farm are suing The Jockey Club in federal court over the "stallion cap" rule. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

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## Sean Woods Cont. from p1

Her brother Philip is the former jockey and trainer who is now clerk of the course at Fontwell and Brighton, while another brother, Tim, is assistant trainer to Chris Dwyer in Newmarket.

Racing is most certainly etched in the Woods family DNA and it is clear from the way the trainer bounds around his new premises at Shalfleet Stables, bought last year from Jeremy Noseda, that he is relishing the chance to get back to doing what he knows and loves best.

"To train here, I see it as an honour rather than a pleasure," he says of his operation on Newmarket's Bury Road, nestling alongside Godolphin's Stanley House Stables. In the game of Newmarket Monopoly, Woods has certainly landed on a valuable square.

He is effortlessly cheerful and is one of the few people to have relished the imposed lockdown last spring as it gave him the opportunity to undertake some extensive renovations at Shalfleet, the yard from which its former incumbent sent out the Classic winners Sixties Icon (GB) and Arafa (Ire) and Breeders' Cup victor Wilko among a host of high-profile winners.

Woods continues, "I walk 10 yards and I'm on the Heath. I have every facility I want. To be able to do that within the eight months of when there were no horses here, was fantastic. [Lockdown] was the best thing that could have happened. It was the best therapy I could have had, because I had 16, 17 years in Hong Kong, which was full-on pressure of producing what I needed to produce. To come back and just be myself, put a pair of shorts on and paint for 10 hours or 12 hours a day, steam clean, take fences down, take trees down and put something back and rebuild, it was amazing. It was family around me, because we were in lockdown, and it has been the most phenomenal therapy."



Atlantis Prince and Frankie Dettori | racingfotos.com

## Final warning!

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**GREAT  
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During his first training stint in Newmarket, Woods saddled Mistle Cat (Storm Cat) to win the G1 Premio Vittorio di Capua, and in his final year before Hong Kong beckoned had Lucayan Stud's talented juvenile Atlantis Prince (GB) (Tagula {Ire}), who provided Frankie Dettori with his first ride and first winner following the plane crash which nearly claimed his life. Less than two months later, the colt rounded off his unbeaten juvenile season with victory in the G2 Royal Lodge S., his final run for the trainer before he joined Godolphin, and Woods joined the training ranks in Hong Kong. During his time there, he trained 279 winners and garnered prize-money just shy of £25 million, but his licence was not renewed by the HKJC when the tally of winners he saddled in his final season did not meet the club's performance target.

"What we've got now is everything, every tool I need to train a horse," he says of Shalfleet, which has 93 stables, two new walkers, turn-out pens and Equilux lighting among its refreshed facilities.

He continues, "I owned La Grange at a very young age and I had the best 10 years of my life here [in Newmarket]. We were very fortunate, very successful, in a very short period of time. It goes without saying that it was everybody around me that allowed that to happen." **Cont. p3**

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THERE ARE SO MANY NEW TRAINERS AND NEW PEOPLE, WHICH CAN ONLY SAY THAT IT'S GOOD FOR RACING, FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR THE HUB OF WHAT WE HAVE.

**Sean Woods**

**Sean Woods Cont.**

"I was fortunate enough to train a Royal Lodge winner," he says. "I was fortunate enough to train for people that I really appreciated training for. With La Grange as our base, it was a stepping stone to what I wanted to achieve, and I was very excited about it. I had probably 50% of my owners based in Hong Kong. The offer came from Hong Kong and at that time I was flattered to be offered this job that everybody else was cutting their hands off for, and I went."

He adds, "I had got to the stage where I was having to sell horses, really good horses, and advising my owners to sell them to other people, whereas we should have been keeping them and making them stallions and making broodmares. We should have seen the bigger picture. That forced my hand into going to Hong Kong at the time."

Through the prism of hindsight, greater maturity and perhaps relentless optimism, he now views that decision as both good and bad. On one hand it interrupted a career on the up in Britain, and on the other, the sale of La Grange and his parents' Thormanby Stud, along with the more lucrative returns on offer abroad, brought some financial stability that can often elude trainers. It also allowed Woods and his family to purchase Brook Stud just outside Newmarket, which is run successfully by Dwayne and Wendyll, the latter having retired from a successful riding career in Hong Kong in 2006.

"When Brook came up, and I was leaving for Hong Kong, I sold La Grange. We sold [Thornaby] stud and we amalgamated," he says. "That goes back to a history of being born and brought up in India. You have that family push rather than individually pushing. We were fortunate to buy a stud farm like that, which is 200 acres of the most beautiful land in the middle of Cheveley, three miles outside Newmarket."

**Cont. p4**

**Sean Woods Cont.**

Woods adds, "We were able to work as brothers. Wendyll came back and retired there. He runs the stud on a day-to-day basis. Dwayne does all the managerial side of it and the matings. We have a great working relationship. Dwayne and myself always looked at the horses together. We always did everything that we could together."

"While they have their own business to run, Dwayne is also very much instrumental in what I buy at the sales, because he works for me as an agent. We are brothers and we are of the age now where we appreciate it much more."

The brothers were back in action together through last season's yearling sales, gathering together the team of 30 horses with which Woods has restarted his training career. And, as an indication of the regard in which

he was held by his former Newmarket staff, several members of that team have returned to work for him two decades on.

"It was fantastic to be back with Dwayne and Wendyll," he says of his return to the British sales scene. "It was like we hadn't left, because that's what I missed for the last 20 years. That's what you get up to work for. Now we only have 30 horses in, and 23 of them are babies, 2-year-olds, and hopefully one of them might be alright. I have phenomenal support from people that haven't had to support me for a long, long time because I've been in Hong Kong and I've been completely away from it. I specifically set out to only have a small team, so that I could then pick my staff. I haven't gone out and tried to sell everything. I haven't done

anything. I've just sat quietly and built a team of people first, then horses."

**Cont. p5**



Sean Woods | Tattersalls



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## Sean Woods Cont.

He adds, "It's taken me three, four years to be back full time, just helping on the stud and enjoying my life, and reconnecting with my friends and family, then to be able to find this place."

At 55, Woods claims to have "fifteen good years of work, then I'm buggered", but it is a line delivered with a large grin, and the relish with which he discusses his return is akin to the legion of his fellow trainers who are just starting out.

"I don't recognise probably 30 new trainers here," he admits. "They're young and they have the dream. That's fantastic to see. There are so many new trainers and new people which can only say that it's good for racing, good for the environment, and good for the hub of what we have. It is an absolute honour to be back where I know, and where I cut my teeth."

He may now be slightly longer in the tooth than some of his colleagues who have recently embarked on their training careers, but harnessing his experience to his enthusiasm will give Woods every chance of a successful Newmarket relaunch.

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## BRITAIN

### Tuesday's Results:

**6th-Newcastle, £5,300, Nov, 2-23, 3yo, 7f 14y (AWT), 1:30.07, st/sl.**  
**GHOST RIDER (IRE) (c, 3, Dark Angel {Ire}--Priceless Jewel {GB}, by Selkirk)**, a Jan. 17 last-out winner tackling this trip at Southwell last time, recovered from a bump at the break to set the tone here. In command throughout, the 8-13 favourite was nudged along entering the final furlong and kept on strongly in the closing stages to comfortably account for As If By Chance (GB) (Fountain of Youth {Ire}) by 3 1/2 lengths. Full to a 2-year-old colt and half to a yearling colt by Kingman (GB), he is one of four scorers produced by a dual-winning half-sister to G1 Haydock Sprint Cup heroine Tante Rose (Ire) (Barathea {Ire}). He shares his MG1SP second dam My Branch (GB) (Distant Relative {Ire}) with MG1SW sire Make Believe (GB) (Makfi {GB}) and MGISW distaffer Dubawi Heights (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}). Sales history: £55,000 Ylg '19 GOFFPR. Lifetime Record: 3-2-1-0, \$10,864. [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O-John & Jess Dance; B-Bjorn Nielsen (IRE); T-Mark Johnston.

### CONDITIONS RESULTS:

**4th-Newcastle, £14,000, Cond, 2-23, 3yo, 6f (AWT), 1:13.35, st/sl.**

**SNASH (IRE) (c, 3, Markaz {Ire}--Wardat Dubai {GB}, by Mawatheeq)** Lifetime Record: 4-2-0-0, \$17,367. O-N Cowes & B W Hills; B-Shadwell Estate Company Ltd (IRE); T-Charles Hills.

\*£14,000 Ylg '19 GOFSPT.

# What's not to like?

What's not to like about **Highland Reel**? He is well bred, as a son of **Galileo** from the family of champions Elvstroem, Haradasun and **Starspangledbanner**; he has two-year-old form in the book, having won the Vintage Stakes; and he blossomed into a tough and top-class ten to 12-furlong performer, winning seven Group/Grade 1 races on three continents.

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# HIGHLAND REEL

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**2nd-Newcastle, £5,300, Nov, 2-23, 4yo/up, 10f 42y (AWT), 2:16.28, st/sl.**  
**RAYMOND (IRE) (g, 6, Tobougg {Ire}--Crack The Kicker {Ire}, by Anshan {GB})** Lifetime Record: 15-4-3-0, \$24,081. O-Straightline Bloodstock; B-Alastair Pim (IRE); T-Keith Dagleish. \*€11,500 3yo '18 TIAUG; £30,000 4yo '19 GOFSPR.

## DUBAI

**Thursday, Meydan, post time: 7:40 p.m.**

**MEYDAN CLASSIC SPONSORED BY AGNC 3, \$88,000, NH/SH 3yo, 1600mT**

SC	PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	6	Yurman (Arg)	Asiatic Boy (Arg)	O'Neill	de Kock	
2	3	Master of the Seas (Ire)	Dubawi (Ire)	Buick	Appleby	
3	1	Mayahaab (GB)	New Approach (Ire)	Fresu	Nass	
4	4	Naval Crown (GB)	Dubawi (Ire)	Barzalona	Appleby	
5	5	Nibras Passion (GB)	Iffraaj (GB)	Crowley	Mohammed	
6	2	Sharp Spun (GB)	Hard Spun	Bentley	bin Harmash	

\*All carry 121 barring Yurman (Arg), who carries 131.

**Thursday, Meydan, post time: 9:25 p.m.**

**MEYDAN CHALLENGE SPONSORED BY FRIDAY, \$88,000, NH 4yo/up & SH 3yo/up, 1400mT**

SC	PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	13	Well of Wisdom (GB)	Oasis Dream (GB)	Buick	Appleby	136
2	8	Could Be King (GB)	Bated Breath (GB)	Atzeni	Condon	135
3	4	Escobar (Ire)	Famous Name (GB)	Tudhope	O'Meara	135
4	2	Vale of Kent (Ire)	Kodiak (GB)	Barzalona	bin Ghadayer	135
5	10	Fleeting Prince (Ire)	No Nay Never	Doyle	Hills	130
6	5	Tibasti (Fr)	Dabirsim (Fr)	Veron	Doleuze	130
7	6	Light And Dark (GB)	Shamardal	Crouch	bin Suroor	129
8	7	Ajwad (GB)	Rock of Gbrrtr (Ire)	Pinheiro	Bouresly	128
9	9	Mutamaasik (GB)	Dubawi (Ire)	Crowley	Watson	128
10	12	Hakeem (GB)	Excd & Excel (Aus)	Paiva	Al Rayhi	126
11	3	UAE Prince (Ire)	Sea The Stars (Ire)	Lecoeuvre	Bouresly	126
12	1	Wasim (Ire)	Acclamation (GB)	Jara	Mohammed	126
13	14	Zainhom	Street Cry (Ire)	O'Neill	Al Mheiri	126
14	11	Dubai Legacy	Discreet Cat	Bentley	bin Suroor	125
<b>Reserves:</b>						
15	--	Ottoman Court (GB)	Shamardal	No Rider	Appleby	124
16	--	Yaalail (Ire)	Intello (Ger)	No Rider	Al Rayhi	124
17	--	Story of Light (Ire)	Dark Angel (Ire)	No Rider	Appleby	124
18	--	Madkhal	Distorted Humor	No Rider	Nass	123

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**Thursday, Meydan, UAE, post time: 8:15 p.m.**

**NAD AL SHEBA TROPHY SPONSORED BY GULF NEWS-G3**, \$195,000, NH 4yo/up & SH 3yo/up, 2810mT

SC	PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	8	Awaay He Goes (Ire)	Farhh (GB)	Crowley	Mohammed	125
2	2	Corsen (GB)	Cape Cross (Ire)	Pinheiro	Aboud	125
3	1	Global Heat (Ire)	Toronado (Ire)	Crouch	bin Suroor	125
4	3	Ispolini (GB)	Dubawi (Ire)	Buick	Appleby	125
5	6	Mondain (GB)	Dubawi (Ire)	Bentley	Al Rayhi	125
6	7	Volcanic Sky (GB)	Street Cry (Ire)	Dettori	bin Suroor	125
7	4	Yakeen (Aus)	Teofilo (Ire)	Santiago	Aboud	125
8	5	Brilliant Light (GB)	Sea The Stars (Ire)	Cosgrave	bin Suroor	121

**Thursday, Meydan, UAE, post time: 8:50 p.m.**

**DUBAI MILLENNIUM S. SPONSORED BY GULFNEWS.COM-G3**, \$130,000, NH 4yo/up & SH 3yo/up, 2000mT

SC	PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	5	Bedouin's Story (GB)	Farhh (GB)	Dettori	bin Suroor	125
2	7	Dream Castle (GB)	Frankel (GB)	Cosgrave	bin Suroor	125
3	4	Halimi (Ire)	Teofilo (Ire)	Atzeni	Crisford	125
4	2	Lucius Tiberius (Ire)	Camelot (GB)	Mullen	Hussain	125
5	3	Mailshot	Hard Spun	Barzalona	bin Ghadayer	125
6	1	Red Cactus 	Hard Spun	Chaves	Olsen	125
7	8	Royal Marine (Ire)	Raven's Pass	Crouch	bin Suroor	125
8	6	Star Safari (GB)	Sea The Stars (Ire)	Buick	Appleby	125

\*All post times are local time.



**THE SIGN OF SUCCESS**

| Look for the  throughout the TDN graded stakes entries denoting Keeneland Sales Graduates.

**KEENELAND**

Dedicated to Our  
**FUTURE**

Since our founding, Keeneland has remained committed to the future and the growth of our sport. Fan education initiatives on-track are at the forefront of our mission to advance our sport and develop new fans of the Thoroughbred.

**KEENELAND** 

