

HISA AT SYMPOSIUM: 'TO EXTERNAL THREATS, WE NEED TO SPEAK IN ONE VOICE'



Lisa Lazarus | Carley Storm

by T.D. Thornton

Lisa Lazarus, the chief executive officer for the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA), Tuesday made an appeal for sport-wide unity with U.S. racing on the cusp of a **Jan. 1 roll-out** of HISA's Anti-Doping and Medication Control rules.

"I want you to think about what this sort of change is going to mean for the industry," Lazarus said. "It's going to look and feel different, and it's going to allow us to say to those that are our detractors, to those that doubt horse racing is clean, 'Look, we now have a rigorous, comprehensive program that is uniform; where laboratories are harmonized.'"

Lazarus made her remarks as part of the kickoff to the 2022 Global Symposium on Racing hosted by the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program in Tucson, Arizona. **Cont. p3**

TAKING STOCK: LOS AL FUTURITY'S PREDECESSOR PRODUCED SIRES

by Sid Fernando

When it comes to "sire-making races," the GI Metropolitan H. is usually the first that's thrown into the conversation. **Quality Road**, the 2010 winner, is the most notable recent example, and before him it was **Ghostzapper** in 2005, but that's about it for the past 20 years despite the race's vaunted reputation.

The GI Florida Derby is a better recent gauge for making stallions: **Nyquist** (won in 2016), **Constitution** (2014), **Dialed In** (2011), **Quality Road** (2009), Scat Daddy (2007), Empire Maker (2003), and Harlan's Holiday (2002) are a stronger group than the Met Mile winners since 2002. Harlan's Holiday sired Grade I winner Into Mischief in his first crop, and Into Mischief holds a wide-margin lead over second-place **Quality Road** on the general sire list with a month to go, \$27,148,605 to \$20,426,226, despite **Quality Road**'s son Emblem Road's 2022 earnings of \$10,110,758--most of that from winning the world's richest race, the G1 Saudi Cup.

Into Mischief stands at Spendthrift for \$250,000 live foal and has led the general sire list each year since 2019, and this will be his fourth consecutive year doing so. The Spendthrift kingpin's lone Grade I win came in the CashCall Futurity at Hollywood Park in 2007. The race is now called the Los Alamitos Futurity and is a Grade II event. **Cont. p10**

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Leading Sires by 2YO Winners

1. Sharp Azteca	31
2. CROSS TRAFFIC	30
3. Into Mischief	29

Leading Sires by Black Type 2YOs

1. Bolt d'Oro	14
2. CROSS TRAFFIC	12
3. Justify	10



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2022 in photos: August 29. Sammy the cat keeps an eye on the wildlife at Shug McGaughey's barn in Saratoga. | Sarah Andrew

RACEHORSES ON TOP AT FASIG DECEMBER

13

The top six sellers at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December Mixed and HRA Sale were racehorses, including \$260,000 buy Radical Right (*First Samurai*).

KEENELAND CATALOGS 1,509 FOR JANUARY

14

Keeneland has catalogued 1,509 horses for its January Horses of All Ages Sale, which will be held in Lexington Jan. 9-12.

CHURCHILL RELEASES ART FOR DERBY 2023

15

Churchill Downs Racetrack on Tuesday released the 2023 "Official Art of the Kentucky Derby" created this year by renowned international artist Romero Britto.




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Cont. from p1

She briefly acknowledged, but did not dwell upon, the looming legal fight that HISA faces that could derail its very existence.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit on Nov. 18 **ruled that HISA is unconstitutional**, and the Sixth Circuit Appeals Court will hear oral arguments Dec. 7 in a similar case that also seeks to reverse a lower court's decision to dismiss a constitutional challenge.

Although petitions for legal stays, rehearings, or potential actions by Congress are all in play for the near future, HISA is otherwise operating in business-as-usual mode until an expected Jan. 10 mandate gets issued by the Fifth Circuit to enforce its order. So in that spirit, Lazarus kept her Dec. 6 remarks forward-focused.

"One of two things are going to happen," Lazarus said. "Either we're going to be able to show, and I think we will, that the vast majority of racehorses are competing clean. And if we have [drug] positives, we'll be able to show that we're now taking significant action, that we're now on our own initiative cleaning things up. So this, to me, is a game-changer."

Lazarus said she would like industry stakeholders to think of HISA as a "stabilizer." She gave the analogy of a stable stock market, in which that stability allows growth to occur.

Lazarus also mentioned a couple of ways in which she didn't want stakeholders to think of HISA: Not, she said, as an entity "making rules that complicate people's lives. Not to being sort of a top-down regulator. But genuinely helping to grow the industry through creating uniformity; through creating this protective sheath around issues of integrity and safety."

Wrapping up, Lazarus underscored the need for unity.

"We need to be united as an industry. We can fight, and scream, and yell, and debate and malign behind closed doors. But to the outside public, to the external threats, we need to speak in one voice," Lazarus said. "This is our moment in time. This moment is very unlikely ever to replicate itself," Lazarus said. "We can't lose this moment in time."

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SYMPOSIUM PANEL: ACT GLOBALLY BEFORE THINKING LOCALLY *by T.D. Thornton*

It might seem odd that during a Tuesday panel discussion titled "Capitalizing on Racing's Global Footprint," one presenter at the 2022 Symposium on Racing hosted by the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program insisted that localism trumps globalism when you're trying to market the sport worldwide.

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Yet Simon Fraser, the senior vice president in charge OF international simulcast signal distribution for 1/ST Content, made his case effectively by drawing upon his experiences in managing the content rights, data, odds and signals on behalf of a broad portfolio of global partners who work with the world's leading fixed-odds, spread-betting and commingled wagering companies.

"One of the points that I've learned over the years is that racing is an inherently local sport. It isn't a global sport. It's a very local sport," Fraser said.

As example, he pointed out that racetrackers worldwide, "all speak a version of the same language, and we all can understand each other when we talk."

But when a bettor from one part of the planet opens up a racing publication or looks at past-performance data from another corner of the globe, it can be very difficult for them to interpret the information with enough familiarity to confidently place a wager.

Other local/global differences exist. Think fixed odds-versus-mutuels, dirt-versus-turf, jumps-versus- flats. Now toss into the mix different rules and officiating styles, plus the inherent disorientation of working across multiple time zones.

"To take advantage of the fact that people really do like racing, and they like to bet on racing internationally, you have to react to what the local market needs," Fraser said. "First of all, the local product has to be right. If the local product isn't right, then it doesn't matter what happens internationally. And all of the revenue that you're really going to make to make the local product right comes from the local market. Anything international is just the cherry on top.

"Now, when you do the local product right, you can take it to countries and you can adapt it, and you can work with local partners and local betting companies and local journalists to turn that product into a suitable product for that market."

Fraser gave the specific example of selling North America simulcast signals to Turkey, where the only wager routinely attractive to players in that market is a Pick Six. That means his focus on providing content to that market revolves around providing six strongly bettable races.

"But that work for Turkey doesn't translate to Italy," Fraser explained. "It doesn't translate to Australia. It's very specific for that market, and you have to do everything differently for each market."

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KIMARI

JACK CHRISTOPHER

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- 1st **Woody Stephens S. [G1]**, Belmont Park, 2022
- 1st **Champagne S. [G1]**, Belmont Park, 2021
- 1st **Pat Day Mile S. [G2]**, Churchill Downs, 2022

KIMARI

- 1st **Madison S. [G1]**, Keeneland, 2021
- 1st **Gallant Bloom S. [G2]**, Belmont Park, 2022
- 1st **Honorable Miss H. [G2]**, Saratoga, 2022

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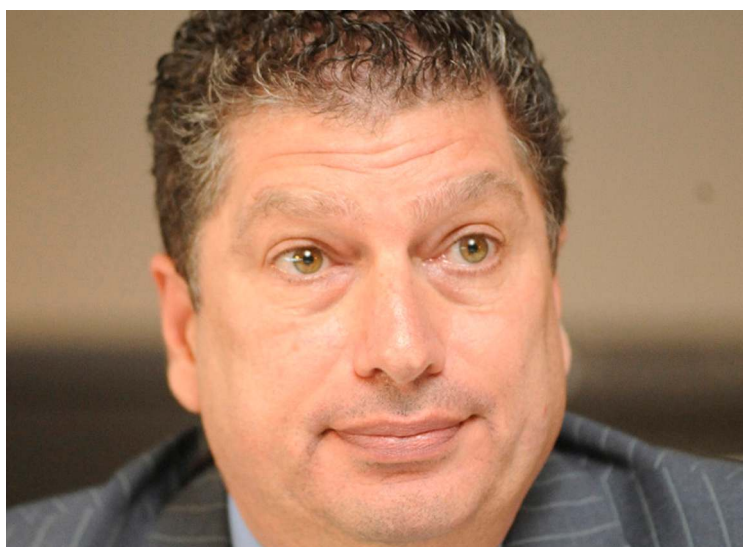
L Street Lady won MSW at Laurel Park by 7½ lengths on Sunday
Ship The Goods won MSW on debut at Tampa Bay on Saturday
Sell The Dream was third in the G3 Jimmy Durante Stakes at Del Mar on Saturday

Cont.

Bill Nader, currently the president and chief executive officer for the Thoroughbred Owners of California, drew upon his decades of executive-level experience with the New York Racing Association and the Hong Kong Jockey Club to remind his U.S.-based audience that global participation is a two-way street.

"Not just America trying to find out what it can gain from venturing outside the country, but also horses coming in and running in our races, and trying to capitalize, from their own way, on global participation," Nader said.

As a prime example, Nader cited the recent rise in international prominence for Japan-based Thoroughbreds. He, too, tied in that global shift to what's happening locally in Japan.



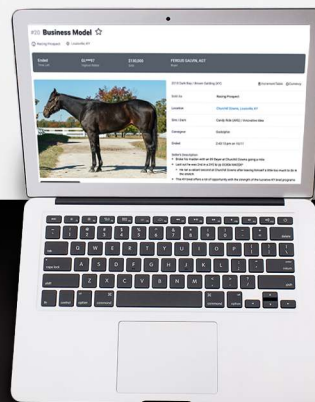
Bill Nader | *Horsephotos*

"You don't really see the top Japanese horses running in the [GI] Breeders' Cup Turf, because at that time of the year they have their own races. But in the dirt program, they don't. So where will they go? They'll go to where dirt racing is at the center of the global universe, America, and target [Grade I] races like the [G] Kentucky Derby, the [GI] Belmont Stakes, and the Breeders' Cup," Nader said. "In Japan, there's only one Grade I race on dirt. And I think that's their next chapter, and they'll develop more with their dirt program in the next five to 10 years."

Maybe not so much in sprint races, Nader postulated. But because Japan's bloodstock program is adept at cultivating runners that excel between nine and 12 furlongs, their horses as a whole tend to be, "stronger in more [of] the staying races," he said.

"You've seen the broodmares that they continue to buy, especially here in America. They're just getting stronger and stronger. But I do think that eventually, they'll come for us on the dirt. And when they do, it's a good thing."

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"Because if a Japanese horse is running in those races, all of Japan is watching. The benefit of that is incredible," Nader said, in terms of long-term, trickle-down economics.

At one point, Fraser was asked what a typical, mid-level American racetrack can do to stand out to international bettors.

"One thing to remember is internationally, people don't necessarily know what is a mid-range [American] track [or] what is a top track. I know that might come as a surprise," he said.

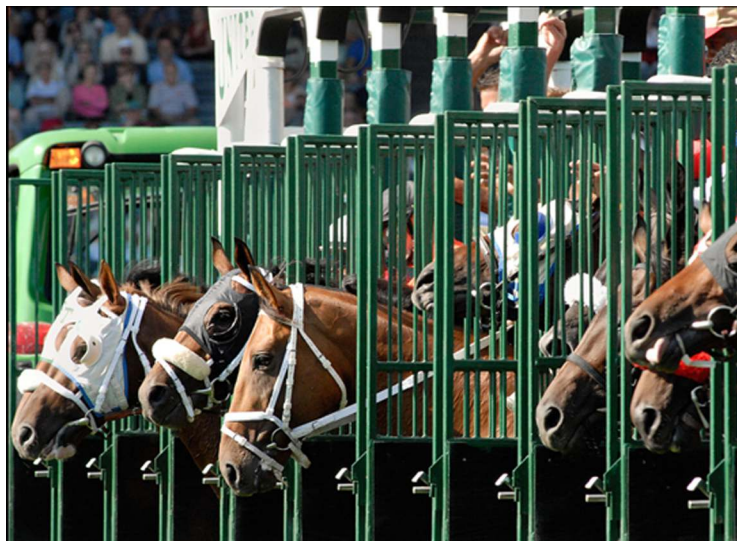
"Some of what you would think of as mid-range tracks are very popular internationally because they run on the right days. They run on days when there is not much going on. So, if you are in the winter on the East Coast, there's not a lot of evening racing happening in France, or the U.K., or in Ireland during the winter. So those tracks that run

Tuesday are pretty prominent tracks [overseas]. Whereas some of the bigger tracks that all run on Saturday and are crowding against each other don't get much share or voice."

Data compatibility across different cultures is a topic that has percolated at racing's international conferences since the advent of global simulcasting. Tuesday's panel discussion re-examined the issue.

Dean McKenzie, the managing director for McKenzie Sport International, Ltd. in New Zealand, noted that bettors in other parts of the world are baffled when they encounter an American equipment change listed simply as blinkers on or off. They're used to being able

to find out exactly what type of blinkers are being used among the many variations. And if a trainer decides to tell his rider to switch running-style tactics, in many foreign jurisdictions that gets communicated to the public via stewards.



Sarah Andrew

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Nader noted that gamblers in other parts of the world are used to judging a horse's fitness based on its body weight, which is a standard and widely available stat outside of the U.S. but practically unheard of here except for a couple of brief experiments at various tracks. Tallulah Wilson, the head of international partnerships for UK Tote, pointed out that global rules conflicts, such as a horse running for "purse money only" in a big race like the Breeders' Cup, can create significant confusion. (Such a concept is unheard of outside the U.S.)

But, Wilson added, stakeholders have to overcome these sorts of challenges. "You have to adapt for the benefit of your customers," she said.

When Fraser chimed in on the topic of what U.S. content providers need to do right to be more internationally appealing, he pinpointed two nagging issues that the American racing industry has long debated but just can't seem to get right: offering decent field sizes and adhering to published post times.

"Eight-plus runners, and [going] off on time is crucial," Fraser said.

Although the tie-in went unspoken by anyone on the panel, that final comment from Fraser dovetailed neatly with his initial point about racing entities needing to optimize local practices before trying to scale up to the global level.

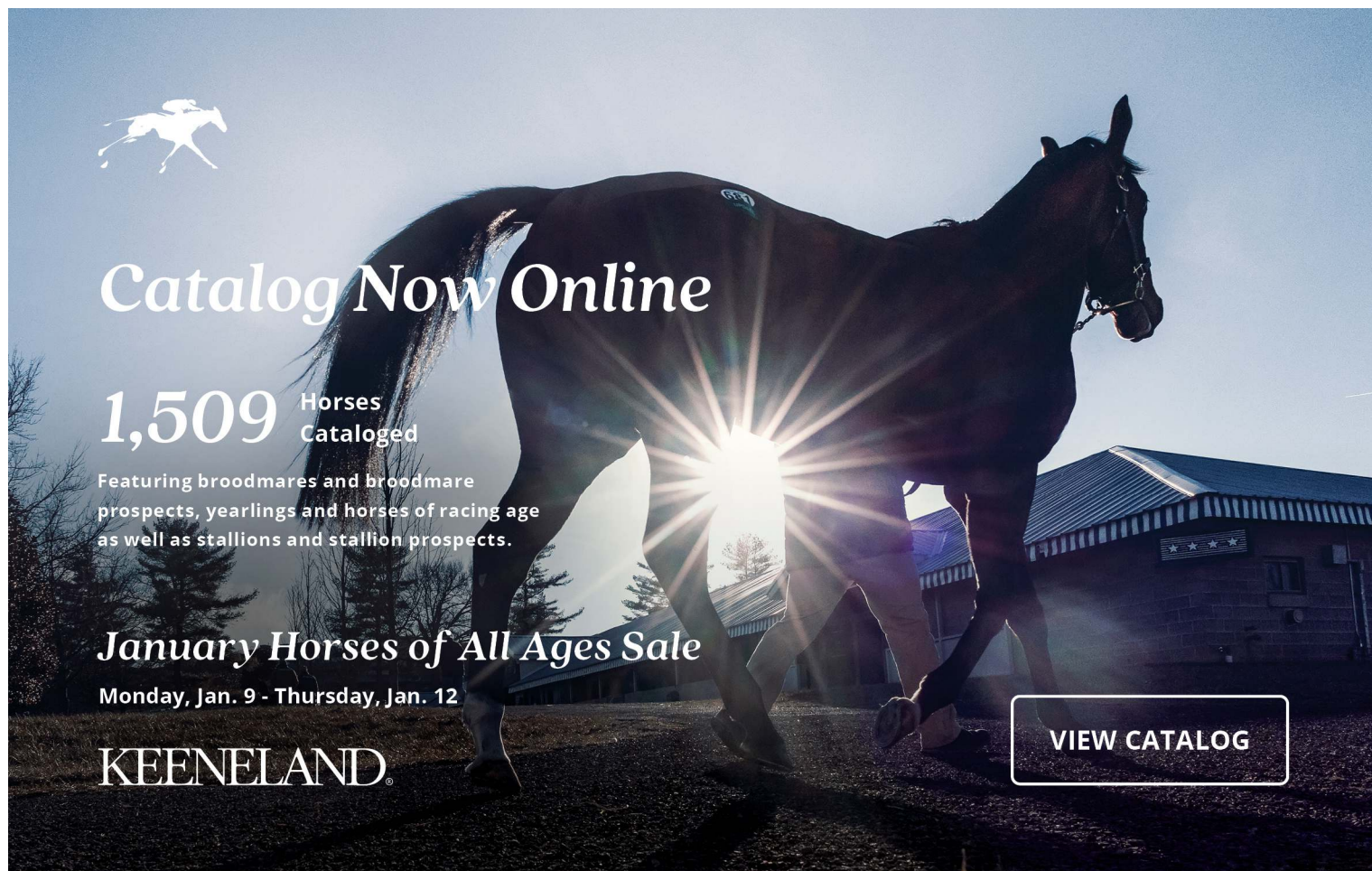
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SPORTSBOOK PANEL: 'RACING SHOULD ABSOLUTELY BE THE NO. 1 BET-ON SPORT DURING SUMMER' *by T.D. Thornton*

A panel of sportsbook operators was decidedly bullish on the near-future prospect of fixed-odds horse race wagering during a discussion titled "Integrating Horse Racing into the U.S. Sports Betting Environment" during Tuesday's Global Symposium on Racing hosted by the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program in Tucson. But even though they acknowledged a transition from pari-mutuels would likely take several years and that fixed odds and pari-mutuels could coexist in some hybrid future form, now is the time to start taking baby steps in that direction, largely because America's layers of gambling regulation and a current takeout system that hovers at around 20% payment for providing content aren't quite what global sportsbooks are used to dealing with.

Nor are customers familiar with or eager to try and figure out the complexities of the pari-mutuel system, in which odds fluctuate during the event and you have to wait several minutes after the race has been run to figure out your winnings.

"Horse racing has to understand that you're in direct competition now with sports wagering."



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Matt Cosgriff, the director of retail wagering and customer analysis for BetMGM. "And this sports wagering is using fixed odds. That's what the new-age gambler is using. And the pari-mutuel product itself isn't being well received by the newer age."

Bettors want to be able to have trust in pricing, Cosgriff said.

And, he added, they want to be able to create their own bets, like making a three-way parlay wager involving two horse races and the featured football game.

"That's how the modern gambler is now working," Cosgriff said. "And horse racing can't afford to sit back and just let the old system run itself into the ground."

One interesting aspect that came up several times during this panel discussion was how lucrative a product the sportsbook operators perceive U.S. racing to be in a fixed-odds form.

Richard Ames, the chief executive officer for SIS Content Services, Inc., said part of the appeal is raw volume: The sheer number of races going off every day, year-round, at just about three minutes apart when scaled across the nation.

Paul Hannon, the senior vice president of corporate development at PointsBet, said racing should embrace what bookmakers might call being a type of "filler product," because there is tremendous value in providing a "next to jump" betting market that can function as a collective, constant presence while

other sports matches are being played out over the course of hours.

"It's attractive to sportsbook operators as a product because it is always-on content," Hannon said. "And the availability of content is really important for any sportsbook that is generating engagement on their products...As long as the underlying economics make sense, it is a very investible product."

Hannon might have even made the boldest challenge uttered during Day One of the symposium presentations by telling the racing industry it is in a position to become the dominant summertime betting option in the country.

"In the U.S. in particular, one thing that I think is not highlighted as much as it should be is the idea of seasonality, and the fact that in the summer months, sports books are looking for content to be able to market," Hannon said.

"In my opinion, horse racing should absolutely be the number one bet-on sport during the summer, ahead of baseball, ahead of tennis, et cetera. I think that absolutely should be the goal for the entire industry, to make sure that happens in the coming years, coming decade," Hannon said.

Pari-mutuels and fixed odds can live side-by-side, Hannon explained. But, he added, "I think horse racing doesn't reach its full potential over the long term unless fixed-odds racing does become the new standard."

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Cont.

Asked to compare pros and cons, Hannon continued: "The con, as I see it, is that it's going to be uncomfortable. It's going to take a little bit of risk-on appetite [on the part of] the major U.S. powers in horse racing. And that's going to come with an element of uncertainty.... But I guess what I'd say [is because of bold entrepreneurship decisions made by current U.S. sportsbooks], that's how modern-day, U.S. sports betting exists now. And that's what horse racing is going to have to look at far as fixed-odds goes."

Andrew Moore, the vice president of racing for FanDuel, admitted that getting the proper balance of fixed-odds and pari-mutuel betting is going to take some time. But the payoff will likely be worth it, he added.

"With a fixed-odds product, obviously there's variability of margin. There's been some argument that books will not be able to make adequate margin [if U.S. racing content providers insist on getting paid takeout-era rates for their fixed-odds products], and I don't agree with that point, because I've seen us do very well on margin in Australia, and the U.K., and Ireland [with] double-digit margins on horse racing," Moore said.

But, Moore acknowledged, "There is that sort of 'cannibalization' factor," in which racing's stakeholders fear that fixed odds will totally gut the mutuel pools, or that fixed odds works, "but not maybe to the degree that people hoped," he said.

"It does have to work for everyone. It does have to work for the content provider and the customer, Moore said.

But, Moore continued at a different point, the long-term industry-wide investment should be worth it.

"The economics per dollar unit probably wouldn't be the same as a tote bet," Moore conceded. "But we would all tell you that—and it's proven out in other markets—that fixed odds would be exponentially bigger than tote. So the net revenue's coming to you at the end of the day even though your margin-per-dollar would not be the same."

Christian Stuart, chief executive officer for North America for BetMakers Technology Group, pointed out that American racing has an opportunity to improve the sport via purse increases while both helping sportsbooks flourish and giving the customer a better overall experience.

"This whole ecosystem is ripe for creative innovation right now," Stuart said.

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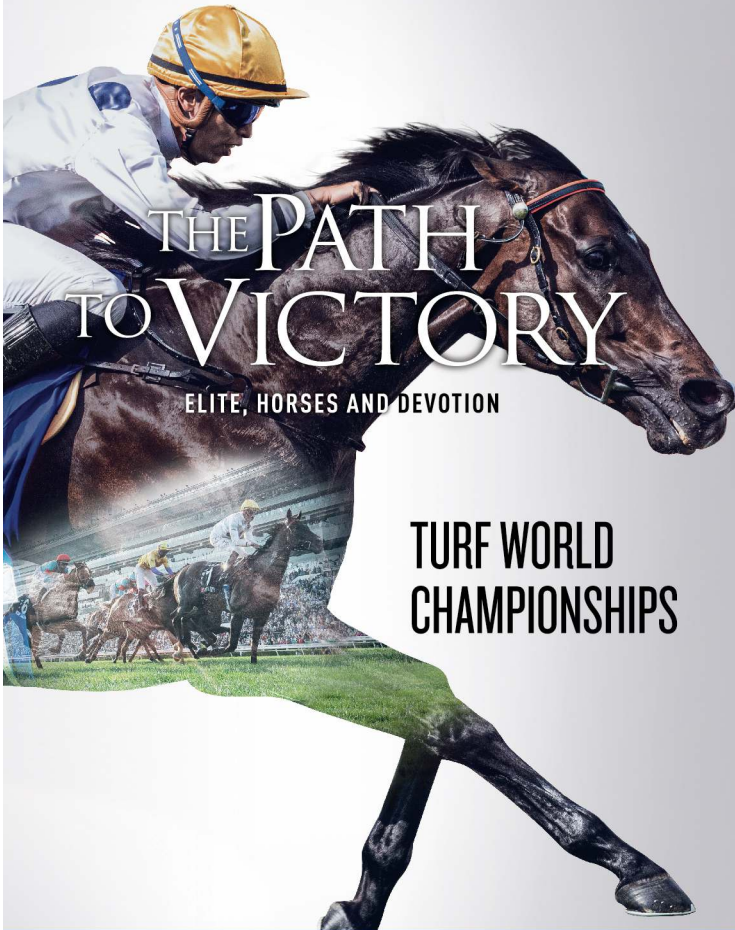
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TAKING STOCK

by Sid Fernando



Cont. from p1

It will be contested on Dec. 17 during the six-day Winter Thoroughbred Meet at Los Alamitos, which begins this weekend and features the GI Starlet S. for juvenile fillies Saturday. Both races could have an impact on the leading freshman sire race. Among colts, **Justify's** (Scat Daddy) promising son Arabian Lion is being targeted for the Futurity. At the moment, Hill 'n' Dale's **Good Magic** (Curlin), who sired GI Remsen S. winner Dubyahnell Saturday; Spendthrift's Bolt d'Oro (**Medaglia d'Oro**), the sire of GI Kentucky Jockey Club S. winner Instant Coffee the Saturday before; and **Justify** are in a heated three-way battle for the championship.



Into Mischief | David Coyle

Each has at least one colt for the Classics preps so far--**Justify's** Champions Dream won the GIII Nashua S. on Nov. 6, and before that, **Good Magic's** Blazing Sevens won the GI Champagne S. Oct. 1--but the standout division leader is three-time Grade I winner Forte, who will be named champion juvenile colt of 2022.

Forte is by Hill 'n' Dale's **Violence** (**Medaglia d'Oro**), who also won the GI CashCall Futurity, in 2012. Like Into Mischief, the

race was **Violence's** only top-level win. Those two alone could give the CashCall Futurity some clout as sire-making race, but there's more.

The race was called the CashCall Futurity for seven years at Hollywood, from 2007 to 2013, and two other winners of it with subsequent stallion bona fides were the now-deceased Pioneer of the Nile (won in 2008), who stood at WinStar, and Coolmore America's **Lookin At Lucky** (2009).

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ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY 149

RANK	HORSE	POINTS
1	Forte	40
2	Curly Jack	17
3	Blazing Sevens	16
4	Instant Coffee	12
5	Dubyuhnell	10

Four of the Five Leading Kentucky Derby Contenders
are by Hill 'n' Dale Stallions

Probable Eclipse Champion Forte (G1) is by VIOLENCE
Curly Jack (G3), Blazing Sevens (G1) and Dubyuhnell (G2)
are by GOOD MAGIC



HILL 'N' DALE AT XALAPA

where the obscure becomes obvious

Cont.

Into Mischief, Pioneerof the Nile, and **Lookin At Lucky** each has a GI Kentucky Derby winner: Authentic, Triple Crown winner **American Pharoah**, and **Country House**, respectively. It's four if Mandaloun is thrown in for Into Mischief. That's four of the last eight winners of North America's most prestigious race - quite the haul, isn't it? Will Forte make it five of nine?

Synthetic Surface

If all of this wasn't surprising enough, recall that the CashCall Futurity was contested on a synthetic surface at Hollywood. In retrospect, the facts belie the longstanding hypothesis held at the time by many in the business that all-weather racing would lead to the ruin of dirt sires, which Into Mischief, Pioneerof the Nile, **Lookin At Lucky**, and **Violence** decidedly are. And, no slight to the others, Into Mischief is an iconic stallion who inhabits another sphere altogether.

Into Mischief also happens to be the only one of these four CashCall Futurity winners to race entirely on all-weather. Trained by Richard Mandella for B. Wayne Hughes, Into Mischief won three of six starts and was second in each of his other three starts, earning \$597,080.

Pioneerof the Nile, a son of Empire Maker, raced on dirt and turf as well as all-weather, winning a Saratoga maiden special at two on turf in his second start for Bill Mott. In his next start in the GI Lane's End Breeders' Futurity at Keeneland on all-weather, Pioneerof the Nile was third. After that, he was fifth in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Oak Tree's all-weather Santa Anita meet, and then he was switched by owner Zayat Stable from Mott to Bob Baffert and kept in training in California.



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For Baffert, Pioneerof the Nile next won the CashCall Futurity. The colt began his 3-year-old season with three consecutive wins at Santa Anita in the GI Robert B. Lewis, the GI San Felipe, and the GI Santa Anita Derby. He made his first start on dirt in the Derby, finishing second to Mine That Bird. After an 11th-place finish in the GI Preakness, Pioneerof the Nile was retired with a record of five wins from 10 starts and \$1.6 million in earnings. All of his stakes wins were on synthetic surfaces at either Hollywood or Santa Anita. Before his premature death at age 13, Pioneerof the Nile stood for \$110,000 at WinStar.

Baffert also trained **Lookin At Lucky**, a champion at two and three for owners Mike Pegram, Karl Watson, and Paul Weitman. **Lookin At Lucky**, by Smart Strike, won five of six starts at two, all on all-weather, including the GI Del Mar Futurity in addition to the CashCall Futurity at the highest level. Unlike Into Mischief and Pioneerof the Nile, **Lookin At Lucky** also won on dirt, including two Grade I races, the Preakness and the Haskell Invitational. Altogether, the colt won nine of 13 starts and earned \$3.3 million before entering stud at Coolmore America, where he's still a productive stallion standing for a bargain fee of \$10,000. In Chile, where he has shuttled through the years, he has an exceptional record of Group 1 success.

Todd Pletcher trains Forte and also trained his sire, **Violence**, who ran for Black Rock Stables. Like **Lookin At Lucky**, **Violence** won on dirt as well. The **Medaglia d'Oro** colt won a maiden special at Saratoga in his first start and followed up with a win in the GII Nashua at Aqueduct before crossing the country for the CashCall Futurity. He made only more start after that, a second-place finish in the GII Fountain of Youth at Gulfstream, and was retired with a record of three wins from four starts and \$623,000 in earnings.

Like Into Mischief, the CashCall Futurity was his lone win at top level. **Violence** will stand for \$50,000 next year, up from \$25,000 this year, and in Forte he has a legitimate Triple Crown contender and his first champion. Before Forte, who won the the GI Hopeful at Saratoga and the GI Breeders' Futurity at Keeneland in the lead-up to nailing the juvenile championship

with an impressive upset of previously undefeated Cave Rock in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, **Violence** was mostly known for

three Grade 1-winning sprinters, Dr. Schivel, No Parole, and **Volatile**.

Forte has elevated **Violence**'s profile into the Classics realm, and if the colt continues to progress and lands the Derby, he'll put **Violence** into an elite club of CashCall Futurity winners who have sired Derby winners. But even if Forte doesn't win the Derby, these four stallions have put the CashCall Futurity up there with other races that are more frequently associated as



Lookin At Lucky | Coolmore

sire makers.

Sid Fernando is president and CEO of Werk Thoroughbred Consultants, Inc., originator of the Werk Nick Rating and eNicks.

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MIDLANTIC DECEMBER MIXED & HORA 2022 Fasig-Tipton

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COUNTRY LIFE BREEDING PARTNERSHIP FILLY TOP-PRICED WEANLING AT FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC DECEMBER MIXED SALE

\$75,000

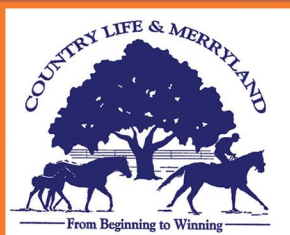
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HIP 139
GLOBAL CAMPAIGN weanling filly out of Miss Mystique

Consignor: Bill Reightler, Agent for Country Life Farm & Partners

Purchaser: WellSpring Stables LLC



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RACEHORSES LEAD THE WAY AT FASIG-TIPTON DECEMBER SALE



Radical Right | Fasig-Tipton

The top six sellers at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December Mixed and Horses of Racing Age Sale Tuesday were all racehorses, led by the 3-year-old gelding **Radical Right** (**First Samurai**) (Hip 281), who brought \$260,000 from Tom Kagele.

The Richard Shultz homebred is a three-time winner and entered the sale off a second in the City of Laurel S. Nov. 26 for trainer Dale Capuano. He was consigned by Northview Stallion Station.

Trainer Mike Maker was very active, purchasing four racehorses, including the second highest-priced offering **Heldish** (Great Notion) (Hip 243), who summoned \$160,000. His four purchases totaled \$437,000 with an average of \$109,250.

The highest-priced weanling was a \$75,000 filly (Hip 139) from the first crop of Grade I winner **Global Campaign**, bought by Wellspring Stables LLC. The most expensive broodmare was **In My Time** (Scat Daddy) (Hip 113), who sold in foal to **Practical Joke** for \$62,000. She was purchased by trainer Wayne Potts, acting as agent for Barak Farm.

In total, 172 horses grossed \$3,233,600 with an average of \$18,800 and median of \$10,000. Fifty-six horses failed to meet their reserves for an RNA rate of 24.5%.

During last year's sale, which was bolstered by the 86-horse dispersal of Joseph Becker, 261 of the 332 horses on offer sold for \$3,905,100. The average was \$14,962 and the median was \$10,000. Seventy-one horses failed to sell for an RNA rate of 21.38%. The 2021 renewal was topped by maiden 2-year-old Safalow's Mission (**Mission Impazible**), who brought \$130,000 from New York-based trainer Linda Rice, acting on behalf of Thelma and Louise Stable.

Share this story

SALES TOPPERS

FASIG-TIPTON DECEMBER SALE

HIP	NAME	STATUS	PRICE (\$)
281	Radical Right	Racehorse	260,000
	(g, 3, First Samurai --Emily, by Sky Mesa)		
	Consignor: Northview Stallion Station (David Wade), Agent		
	Purchaser: Tom Kagele		
243	Heldish	Racehorse	160,000
	(c, 2, Great Notion--Everything Magic, by Street Sense)		
	Consignor: GreenMount Farm, Agent		
	Purchaser: Michael Maker		
267	Patient Capital	Racehorse	125,000
	(g, 3, Practical Joke --Blind Pool, by Awesome Again)		
	Consignor: Marshall W. Silverman, Agent		
	Purchaser: Michael Maker		
199	We Don't Need Roads	Racehorse	100,000
	(c, 2, Hoppertunity--Dulcify, by Candy Ride {Arg})		
	Consignor: Dreamtime Stables, Agent VI		
	Purchaser: Jeff Parthemore		



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SPONSORS OF THE FOLLOWING SALES SUMMARY:

FASIG-TIPTON DECEMBER SALE

CUMULATIVE	2022	2021
• Catalogued	286	401
• No. Offered	228	332
• No. Sold	172	261
• RNAs	56	71
• % RNAs	24.5%	21.38%
• High Price	\$260,000	\$130,000
• Gross	\$3,233,600	\$3,905,100
• Average (% change)	\$18,800 (+25.65%)	\$14,962
• Median	\$10,000	\$10,000

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KEENELAND CATALOGS 1,509 HORSES TO JANUARY SALE



Regal Glory | Benoit

Keeneland has cataloged 1,509 horses--broodmares and broodmare prospects, yearlings and horses of racing age as well as stallions and stallion prospects--for the 66th January Horses of All Ages Sale, which will cover four sessions from Jan. 9-12, 2023.

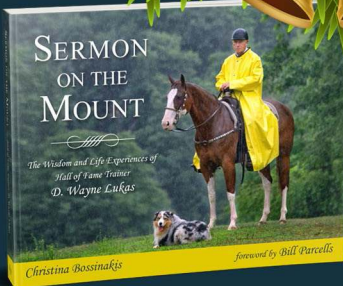
The January Sale catalog now is [available online](#) at Keeneland.com. Print catalogs are scheduled to arrive in the mail the week of Dec. 19.

"Because the January Sale is held at the crossroads of racing and breeding seasons, the auction is a terrific opportunity for horsemen to plan for the future, whether they are breeders who seek broodmares and broodmare prospects for the coming breeding season or owners and trainers focused on the track who want to obtain newly turned yearlings and horses of racing age," Keeneland Vice President of Sales Tony Lacy said.


Denali Stud, agent, will handle 54 horses cataloged in the Dispersal of successful New York breeder Patricia Generazio. Among them are stakes winner Mischievous Dream (Into Mischief) along with Pure Bode (Bodemeister) and Marquet Legacy (Gio Ponti), who are all cataloged as racing or broodmare prospects.

The most recent graduate of the January Sale to excel at the highest level is Regal Glory (Animal Kingdom), who captured the GI Matriarch S. Sunday for her third Grade I win of the year. In addition, stakes winners of 2022 who were sold as yearlings at the January Sale include Grade I-winning juveniles And Tell Me Nolies (Arrogate) and Blazing Sevens (**Good Magic**) as well as MGSW Interstatedaydream (**Classic Empire**).

Each session of the January Sale begins at 10 a.m. ET. The schedule is as follows, with Book 1 settling Monday-Tuesday, Jan. 9-10 and Book 2 going Wednesday-Thursday, Jan. 11-12.






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The entire January Sale will be livestreamed at Keeneland.com and will be aired on the FanDuel Plus App. Scott Hazelton will report periodically on the first two sessions on FanDuel TV.

The January Sale catalog includes mares in foal to prominent stallions and emerging young sires. Among them is **Charlatan**, the leading covering sire at Keeneland's November Breeding Stock Sale. Additional covering sires include **American Pharoah**, **Army Mule**, **Audible**, **Authentic**, **Bolt d'Oro**, **Constitution**, **Essential Quality**, **Girvin**, **Good Magic**, **Gun Runner**, **Hard Spun**, **Justify**, **Kitten's Joy**, **Knicks Go**, **Liam's Map**, **Medaglia d'Oro**, **McKinzie**, **No Nay Never**, **Not This Time**, **Quality Road**, **Sharp Azteca**, **Uncle Mo** and **Vekoma**.

Among the sires of yearlings in the catalog are **Audible**, **Authentic**, **City of Light**, **Constitution**, **Curlin**, **Good Magic**, **Gun Runner**, **Justify**, **Maclean's Music**, **McKinzie**, **Not This Time**, **Omaha Beach**, **Quality Road**, **Uncle Mo**, **Vekoma**, **Volatile** and **War of Will**.

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Let's Talk

Missed an earlier episode of
Let's Talk with Christina Bossinakis
and Gabby Gaudet?

Check it out here!

CHURCHILL DOWNS RELEASES OFFICIAL ART FOR DERBY 2023



2023 Kentucky Derby Art | Courtesy Churchill Downs

Churchill Downs Racetrack on Tuesday released the 2023 "Official Art of the Kentucky Derby" created this year by renowned international artist Romero Britto.

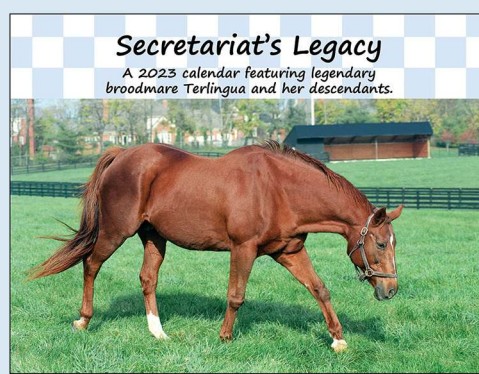
Britto's work for the 149th Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve highlights his iconic approach of mixing bright colors with unique patterns. With sparkling, textured accents and elements of pop graphics, the art features subtle details that bring the racetrack scene to life, highlighting the energy and excitement of the Derby in a modern way.

"The Kentucky Derby has such a rich history, and we are thrilled to collaborate with Romero Britto to commemorate the 149th running with artwork that brings a modern perspective to our longstanding tradition," Casey C. Ramage, Churchill Downs' Vice President of Marketing and Partnerships, said. "Working with an icon like Britto is an exciting opportunity for us to connect with new fans around the globe through this visually compelling representation of the fun and exhilaration of the Derby experience."

Britto will also attend this year's event to watch the race and participate in a variety of Derby week special activities, including sitting on the judging panel for the Longines Kentucky Oaks Fashion Contest. Britto's work will be featured on the 2023 Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks official racing programs and a variety of merchandise and 1,000 limited-edition prints will be available for purchase starting December 6, 2022 at www.KentuckyDerbyStore.com. All other items will be available for purchase beginning in late February.



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"I'm honored to partner with Churchill Downs to unveil the official art of this year's Kentucky Derby and celebrate this spectacular occasion," Britto said.

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THIS DATE IN HISTORY...

December 10, 1977...In his second year of riding, **Steve Cauthen** became the first jockey to win \$6 million in a single season when he rode the three-year-old filly Little Happiness to victory in the sixth race at Aqueduct.

December 10, 1990...**Best Pal** overcame a wide trip to close his juvenile season with a one-length score over fellow Golden Eagle homebred **General Meeting** in the GI Hollywood Futurity.

December 10, 1999...Jockey **Laffit Pincay, Jr.** piloted **Irish Nip** to a two-length victory at Hollywood Park to become the all-time wins leader. It was career score #8,834 for the native of Panama, who took the record from **Bill Shoemaker**.

2022 YTD **Leading Sires of 3-Year-Olds by Earnings**

for stallions standing in North America through Monday, Dec. 5

Earnings represent Worldwide figures, NH foals only, stud fees listed are 2022 fees.

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	Gun Runner (2013) by Candy Ride (Arg) Crops: 2	12	23	9	16	4	9	90	43	2,012,520	13,130,773
	Stands: Three Chimneys Farm KY Fee: Private Cyberknife										
2	Not This Time (2014) by Giant's Causeway Crops: 3	5	13	3	8	1	2	64	37	2,810,000	7,010,829
	Stands: Taylor Made Farm KY Fee: \$45,000 Epicenter										
3	Into Mischief (2005) by Harlan's Holiday Crops: 11	4	20	3	12	1	2	143	71	553,540	6,496,256
	Stands: Spendthrift Farm KY Fee: \$250,000 Gina Romantica										
4	Keen Ice (2012) by Curlin Crops: 2	2	9	1	1	1	1	101	67	2,470,200	5,975,519
	Stands: Calumet Farm KY Fee: \$7,500 Rich Strike										
5	Uncle Mo (2008) by Indian Charlie Crops: 8	5	15	4	9	1	2	75	43	1,314,000	5,865,307
	Stands: Coolmore Ashford KY Fee: \$160,000 Mo Donegal										
6	Arrogate (2013) by Unbridled's Song Crops: 2	4	9	1	2	1	1	75	38	1,603,250	5,629,140
	Stands: Juddmonte Farms USA (Dead/Retired) Secret Oath										
7	Curlin (2004) by Smart Strike Crops: 11	2	7	1	4	1	1	83	37	1,768,050	5,317,716
	Stands: Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa KY Fee: \$175,000 Nest										
8	Practical Joke (2014) by Into Mischief Crops: 2	5	10	2	3	--	1	111	61	351,000	5,022,153
	Stands: Coolmore Ashford KY Fee: \$35,000 Wit										
9	Pioneerof the Nile (2006) by Empire Maker Crops: 10	4	11	4	6	1	1	60	29	906,200	4,752,312
	Stands: WinStar Farm USA (Dead/Retired) Matareya										
10	Cupid (2013) by Tapit Crops: 2	4	8	1	4	--	1	103	59	488,750	4,179,649
	Stands: Coolmore Ashford KY Fee: \$5,000 Desert Dawn										
11	More Than Ready (1997) by Southern Halo Crops: 19	7	10	5	6	--	2	88	44	616,126	4,077,787
	Stands: WinStar Farm USA (Dead/Retired) Jean Gros										
12	Munnings (2006) by Speightstown Crops: 9	7	9	4	5	1	1	65	33	886,400	4,064,809
	Stands: Coolmore Ashford KY Fee: \$85,000 Jack Christopher										
13	Violence (2010) by Medaglia d'Oro Crops: 6	2	7	1	3	--	--	102	53	585,334	3,757,170
	Stands: Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa KY Fee: \$25,000 Newgrange										
14	Nyquist (2013) by Uncle Mo Crops: 3	4	9	2	4	--	1	83	38	659,250	3,687,159
	Stands: Darley KY Fee: \$55,000 Slow Down Andy										
15	Cairo Prince (2011) by Pioneerof the Nile Crops: 5	5	10	1	1	--	1	95	52	384,440	3,664,731
	Stands: Airdrie Stud KY Fee: \$15,000 Play Action Pass										

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NORTH AMERICAN RACING



FIRST-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 2022 Stud Fees Listed

Always Dreaming (Bodemeister), WinStar Farm, \$12,500
127 foals of racing age/8 winners/1 black-type winner
1-Mahoning Valley, 12:45 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Agnello's Dream, 5-1
\$35,000 KEE SEP yrl
3-Mahoning Valley, 1:41 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Always Mischievous, 6-1

Bolt d'Oro (Medaglia d'Oro), Spendthrift Farm, \$20,000
167 foals of racing age/23 winners/5 black-type winners
5-Turfway, 7:55 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Moment to Shine, 5-2
\$50,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$165,000 FTK JUL yrl; \$290,000 OBS MAR 2yo

Collected (City Zip), Airdrie Stud, \$15,000
119 foals of racing age/12 winners/1 black-type winner
7-Tampa Bay Downs, 3:28 p.m. EST, Aoc 1 1/16mT, Caughtandcollected, 10-1
\$90,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$15,000 OBS APR 2yo
1-Mahoning Valley, 12:45 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Motown Collection, 3-1
\$48,000 FTK OCT yrl

Dosificado (Chi) (Scat Daddy), Milky Way Farm, \$3,000
14 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
3-Mahoning Valley, 1:41 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Sister Code, 8-1

Frank Conversation (Quality Road), Rockridge Stud, \$3,500
41 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
8-Parx Racing, 3:04 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Chasing Stardom, 6-1
\$1,000 RNA EAS DEC wnl; \$6,000 WAN NYB 2yo

Mendelssohn (Scat Daddy), Coolmore Ashford, \$35,000
174 foals of racing age/23 winners/1 black-type winner
1-Mahoning Valley, 12:45 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Tempo Crescendo, 7-2
\$62,000 FTK OCT yrl; \$27,000 OBS MAR 2yo

Oscar Performance (Kitten's Joy), Mill Ridge Farm, \$12,500
85 foals of racing age/15 winners/2 black-type winners
7-Tampa Bay Downs, 3:28 p.m. EST, Aoc 1 1/16mT, Furiously, 5-1

West Coast (Flatter), Lane's End Farm, \$15,000
124 foals of racing age/11 winners/2 black-type winners
7-Tampa Bay Downs, 3:28 p.m. EST, Aoc 1 1/16mT, Live Is Life, 4-1
\$115,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$115,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl; \$60,000 OBS APR 2yo
1-Mahoning Valley, 12:45 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Warhorse West, 6-1
3-Remington, 9:03 p.m. EST, Msw 5f, West Jet, 10-1

SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7 2022 Stud Fees Listed

Arrogate (Unbridled's Song), Juddmonte Farms
224 foals of racing age/51 winners/6 black-type winners
5-Turfway, 7:55 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Diamond Cluster, 5-2
5-Turfway, 7:55 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Happy Helen, 12-1
1-Mahoning Valley, 12:45 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Silvery, 8-1

Classic Empire (Pioneerof the Nile), Coolmore Ashford, \$17,500
187 foals of racing age/72 winners/7 black-type winners
5-Turfway, 7:55 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Miss Lizzy, 20-1

Connect (Curlin), Lane's End Farm, \$25,000
196 foals of racing age/69 winners/5 black-type winners
9-Remington, 11:51 p.m. EST, Msw 5f, Crooked Fellow, 10-1
\$14,000 RNA KEE JAN wnl; \$55,000 KEE SEP yrl

Lord Nelson (Pulpit), Spendthrift Farm
159 foals of racing age/49 winners/3 black-type winners
9-Remington, 11:51 p.m. EST, Msw 5f, Rodeo Champ, 5-2
\$25,000 TTA YHR yrl



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**ALLOWANCE RESULTS:**

10th-Parx Racing, \$57,250, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$16,000), 12-6, 3yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:44.29, sy, 4 1/4 lengths.

EXPENSIVE CUT (g, 3, Karakontie {Jpn}--Costela, by Any Given Saturday) Lifetime Record: 15-5-2-3, \$144,175. O-Jack J. Armstrong; B-John A O' Meara (KY); T-Robert Mosco. *\$8,000 RNA Ylg '20 FTKOCT.

3rd-Zia, \$44,000, (S), 12-6, (NW2L), 3yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2f, 1:04.67, ft, 1/2 length.

BIKINILESS (f, 3, Marking--My Bikini Fell Off {MSP, \$404,032}, by Elusive Jazz) Lifetime Record: 9-2-5-1, \$81,350. O/B-Brian Mundell (NM); T-Bart G. Hone.

4th-Parx Racing, \$43,250, (NW3L)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000), 12-6, 3yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:44.85, gd, 3/4 length.

TOPS THE CHART (g, 3, Maclean's Music--Possibility, by A.P. Indy) Lifetime Record: 13-3-5-2, \$147,890. O/B-Colts Neck Stables LLC (KY); T-Paul Conrad. *1/2 to Unbound (Distorted Humor), SP, \$359,826.



4th-Mahoning Valley, \$35,400, 12-6, (NW2X), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:13.48, gd, 1/2 length.

NANCY'S LESLIE (m, 5, Conveyance--The War Department {SW}, by Lost Soldier) Lifetime Record: 14-6-1-5, \$152,055. O-Memory Lane Racing, LLC; B-Lawrence W. Friel (OH); T-William D. Cowans.

5th-Mahoning Valley, \$35,100, (S), 12-6, (NW3L), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:13.47, gd, 1 length.

ELLIOT THE DRAGON (c, 3, Kantharos--Music Thunder, by Distorted Humor) Lifetime Record: 10-3-3-2, \$82,909. O-Authentic Racing, LLC; B-Peter Sheppell & K. C. Garret Farm (OH); T-Marco Ibarra. *\$27,000 RNA Ylg '20 KEESEP. **1/2 to Golden Money (Goldencents), SP, \$230,578.

6th-Mahoning Valley, \$35,100, (S), 12-6, (NW3L), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:14.64, gd, 4 1/2 lengths.

TIDE RISING (g, 4, Tidal Volume--Officially, by Officer) Lifetime Record: 21-3-5-5, \$101,545. O-Theresa Mahan; B-R Gorham

(OH); T-Joseph P. Mahan. *1/2 to It's Official (Flat Out), SW, \$186,215; and Guacamole (Flat Out), GSP, \$171,805.

7th-Mountaineer Casino & Resort, \$23,086, 12-5, (NW4LX), 3yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:05.75, gd, 4 lengths.

BAYTOWN FROSTY (g, 3, Frosted--Tasha's Delight {GSP-Can, MSP-USA, \$163,200}, by Afternoon Deelites) Lifetime Record: 18-4-1-2, \$129,880. O-McEntee Racing, Inc. and Resolute Racing Alliance, LLC; B-Dr. R D Holder, Tony Holmes & Dr. & Mrs. Walter Zent (KY); T-Paul McEntee. *\$4,500 Ylg '20 KEESEP; \$50,000 RNA 2yo '21 KEEAPR. **1/2 to Wilkinson (Lemon Drop Kid), MGSW & MGISP, \$475,086.

**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

Time to Cruise, c, 2, **First Dude**--Majestic Melresa, by Majestic Warrior. Parx Racing, 12-6, (S), 1m 70y, 1:49.31. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$31,673. B-Best A Luck Farm LLC (PA). *\$23,000 Ylg '21 EASOCT; \$40,000 2yo '22 EASMAY.



Uncle Dar, g, 2, **Uncle Lino**--For All the Grands (SP), by **Tale of Ekati**. Parx Racing, 12-6, (S), 6f, 1:12.81. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$40,000. B-Chris Gracie (PA).

My Sweet Khaile, f, 2, **Union Jackson**--McCool, by Giant's Causeway. Parx Racing, 12-6, (C), 6f, 1:14.32. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$20,400. B-Sequel Stallions NY & Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings, LLC (NY). *\$15,000 Ylg '21 OBSOCT; \$9,000 RNA 2yo '22 OBSOPN. **1ST-TIME STARTER.

Reads Pet Zenon, g, 3, **Fusaichi Zenon (Jpn)**--Sassy Silk Pet, by Slew's Pot of Gold. Zia, 12-6, (S), 6 1/2f, 1:18.58. Lifetime Record: 15-1-6-3, \$114,251. B-Michael Weatherly (NM).

Onemorandthecheck, g, 3, **Midnight Storm**--Lemon Hero (SP, \$129,819), by Lemon Drop Kid. Mahoning Valley, 12-6, 1m 70y, 1:47.36. Lifetime Record: 10-1-2-1, \$32,924. B-Jason R Stewart (KY). *1/2 to Sainthood (**Mshawish**), GSW, \$241,900.

Glimmerglass, f, 3, **Twinspired**--Blue as the Nile, by Spunky Rascal. Mahoning Valley, 12-6, (S), 6f, 1:14.67. Lifetime Record: 10-1-3-0, \$36,356. B-Richard C. Spicer & William D. Spitler (OH). *1/2 to Verissimo (Vertiformer), MSP, \$283,438.

TDN CRITERIA

The races covered in the TDN are as follows:

- Stakes: purses of \$40,000/up
- Allowance Races: purses of \$20,000/up
- Optional Claiming Races: purses of \$20,000/up
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Conveyance, Nancy's Leslie, m, 5, o/o The War Department, by Lost Soldier. ALW, 12-6, Mahoning Valley

First Dude, Time to Cruise, c, 2, o/o Majestic Melresa, by Majestic Warrior. MSW, 12-6, Parx Racing

Frosted, Baytown Frosty, g, 3, o/o Tasha's Delight, by Afternoon Deelites. ALW, 12-5, Mountaineer

Fusaichi Zenon (Jpn), Reads Pet Zenon, g, 3, o/o Sassy Silk Pet, by Slew's Pot of Gold. MSW, 12-6, Zia

Kantharos, Elliot the Dragon, c, 3, o/o Music Thunder, by Distorted Humor. ALW, 12-6, Mahoning Valley

Karakontie (Jpn), Expensive Cut, g, 3, o/o Costela, by Any Given Saturday. AOC, 12-6, Parx Racing

Maclean's Music, Tops the Chart, g, 3, o/o Possibility, by A.P. Indy. AOC, 12-6, Parx Racing

Marking, Bikiniless, f, 3, o/o My Bikini Fell Off, by Elusive Jazz. ALW, 12-6, Zia

Midnight Storm, Onemorandthecheck, g, 3, o/o Lemon Hero, by Lemon Drop Kid. MSW, 12-6, Mahoning Valley

Tidal Volume, Tide Rising, g, 4, o/o Officially, by Officer. ALW, 12-6, Mahoning Valley

Twinspired, Glimmerglass, f, 3, o/o Blue as the Nile, by Spunky Rascal. MSW, 12-6, Mahoning Valley

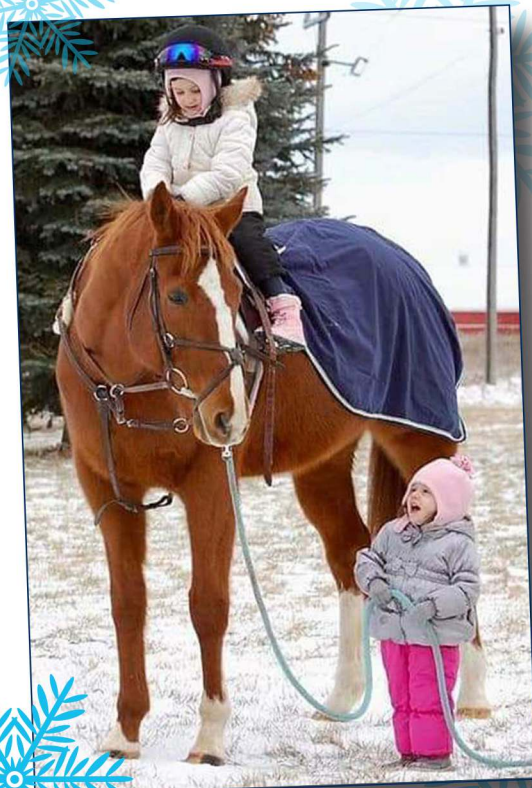
Uncle Lino, Uncle Dar, g, 2, o/o For All the Grands, by **Tale of Ekati**. MSW, 12-6, Parx Racing

Union Jackson, My Sweet Khaile, f, 2, o/o McCool, by Giant's Causeway. MCL, 12-6, Parx Racing


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Starman, by Dutch Art, is a fourth-generation male-line descendant of Mr. Prospector. | Tally-Ho Stud

By Emma Berry

Covering numbers are more an indication of fashion than of success but, this being, as we so often hear, "a numbers game", it is worth having a closer look at the Flat stallions in Britain and Ireland who have been gifted books into three figures this year. We will also be looking in more depth at the French covering numbers in the coming days.

According to the statistics recently published by Weatherbys in the annual *Return of Mares*, there were 62 stallions who covered 100 or more mares in 2022, and that is not taking into account sires such as Crystal Ocean (GB), who covered 338 mares and can legitimately be considered a Flat sire (as can so many in his bracket) but is advertised on the Coolmore National Hunt roster.

As the accompanying table shows, no Flat sires breached the 300-mark, but the four busiest, all standing in Ireland, reached around 250. In Britain, last year's leading first-season sire in that country, **Ardad (Ire)**, was the only horse to pass 200. He covered 205 mares at Overbury Stud, having been sent only 26 mares in 2020. **Cont. p3**

FRANKEL FILLY TOPS FINAL DAY OF DECEMBER BREEDING STOCK SALE

Indices remained above average, as a record-breaking Arqana December Breeding Stock Sale concluded in Deauville on Tuesday. Despite more horses on offer, demand remained strong at 80% with 740 head sold of 926 offered. The gross breached the €50-million mark for the first time, totaling €56,800,500. The overall average of €76,757 was up 27%, and the median increased 15% to €17,250.

Tuesday's session posted a clearance rate of 83.5%, as 127 sold from 152 for an aggregate of €714,500. The median was unchanged at €3,500, and the average improved 23% to €5,626.

Lot 866, the 3-year-old **Save The World (Fr) (Frankel {GB})**, was knocked down for €52,000 to BBA Ireland. Part of the Haras d'Ombreville draft, the bay is unraced and out of the G3 Fred Darling S. second Jellicle Ball (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}).

Cont. p6

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

SYMPOSIUM PANEL: ACT LOCALLY BEFORE THINKING GLOBALLY

T.D. Thornton has the latest on the 2022 Symposium on Racing.

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Wednesday, December 7, 2022



Ardad, pictured, covered 205 mares in 2022. The four busiest flat stallions were in Ireland; **Sioux Nation** (255), Starman (254), Mehmas (249) and **Wootton Bassett** (249). | Overbury Stud

MULLINS CONSIDERS HURDLES OPTION FOR ZOE **7**

Princess Zoe (Ger) (Jukebox Jury {Ire}) is under consideration to try hurdling according to trainer Tony Mullins.

ITBA AUTUMN/WINTER VETERINARY SERIES BEGINS **7**

The Autumn/Winter Veterinary Series will begin on Dec. 12, the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (ITBA) announced.

DOYLE HAS BEEN CLEARED FOR LONGINES IJC **8**

Hollie Doyle has been cleared for the Longines International Jockeys' Championship at Happy Valley on Wednesday.

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Return Of Mares Cont. from p1

His first set of juveniles were swift enough out of the blocks for him to have a surge of late bookings in 2021, when his book numbered 146.

But how do these numbers break down into sire-lines within sire-lines? It is of course hard to get away from Northern Dancer, whose sons have been so dominant that they now possess their own strong branches within that division. Among these sires tabled, and there are of course other representatives with smaller books, only 10 of the 62 do not have Northern Dancer as a male-line ancestor.

The Mr. Prospector line, always far more celebrated in America, has been given a massive boost in this part of the world largely thanks to his great grandson **Dubawi (Ire)**, who will be champion sire in Britain and Ireland for the first time in 2022 and features on this list along with six of his sons--**Time Test (GB)**, **Night Of Thunder (Ire)**, **New Bay**

(GB), **Ghaiyyath (Ire)**, **Too Darn Hot (GB)**, and **Space Blues (Ire)**. It was Mr. Prospector's son Seeking The Gold who was responsible for Dubawi's sire Dubai Millennium (GB), while another two sons of Mr. P, Machiavellian and Gone West, lead

us, eventually, to two names near the very top of this list, newcomer **Starman (GB)**--a crack sprinter who interestingly has Montjeu (Ire) as his damsire--and **Wootton Bassett (GB)**, who stand at Tally-Ho Stud and Coolmore, respectively.

The only outlier among the group of 62 is **Saxon Warrior (Jpn)**, who, along with **Study Of Man (Ire)**, was one of only two sons of Deep Impact (Jpn) standing in Britain and Ireland. That number has now increased by one with the news that **Tosen**

Stardom (Jpn) is to shuttle from Australia to stand at Ireland's Lemongrove Stud. **Saxon Warrior** was himself recently represented by a first-crop Grade I winner at the Breeders' Cup in Victoria Road (Ire). [Cont. p4](#)



Space Blues covered 160 mares this season | [Racingfotos.com](#)

2 GR. 1 WINNERS IN EUROPE THIS YEAR

That's more than Siyouni, Night of Thunder, Invincible Spirit, Showcasing, Mehmas etc.



LUXEMBOURG, a Gr.1-winning 2YO, defeats Onesto, Vadendi and Mishriff in the Irish Champion Stakes-Gr.1



SAMMARCO lands the German Derby-Gr.1 before following up in the Grosser Dallmayr Preis-Gr.1

CAMELOT

2023 fee: €60,000

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2022 yearlings sold for €545,000, €515,000, €485,000, €365,000 etc.

NOW SIRE OF 10
INDIVIDUAL GR. 1 WINNERS

Return Of Mares Cont.

Deep Impact's son Auguste Rodin (Ire) had his trainer Aidan O'Brien and the media ablaze following his victory in the G1 Vertem Futurity. The Sunday Silence line, so dominant in Japan, may yet take root in Europe.

To cover Northern Dancer's influence, in this group at least, we must break it down into five of his sons: Danzig, Sadler's Wells, Try My Best, Storm Bird, and Nureyev.

Of those, the name packing the biggest punch is Danzig, chiefly through his dominant sons Green Desert and Danehill. Sixteen of these busy sires listed here stem from Green Desert and 11 from Danehill.

Notably, from each of those two spring the veteran half-brothers **Invincible Spirit (Ire)**, who has six sons and a grandson on this list, and **Kodiac (GB)**, who has four sons. Arguably, their extraordinary Classic-winning dam Rafha (GB) must take much of the credit for this pair, along with a dynasty which includes new Sumbe recruit Mishriff (GB), but their longevity is also remarkable, with Invincible Spirit listed as having covered 106 mares at the age of 25 this year, while the 21-year-old Kodiac covered 63.

Think Danzig and your mind generally wanders towards speed, but he is also responsible for the Derby winners **Sea The Stars (Ire)** and **Golden Horn (GB)**, the two best sons of his late grandson Cape Cross (Ire), who is of course also the sire of the recently deceased brilliant dual Oaks winner Ouija Board (GB). That fact in turn makes Cape Cross the damsire of another Derby winner, **Australia (GB)**. All three of those had covering numbers in excess of 150, though Golden Horn had a strong National Hunt contingent in his 2022 book and he has since moved from Dalham Hall Stud to Overbury Stud, where that trend will continue. [Cont. p5](#)



173 mares visited the court of Australia | Coolmore

BRITISH AND IRISH FLAT STALLIONS with Three-Figure Books in 2022

Name	No. Mares	Sire
Sioux Nation	255	Scat Daddy
Starman (GB)	254	Dutch Art (GB)
Mehmas (Ire)	249	Acclamation (GB)
Wootton Bassett (GB)	249	Iffraaj (GB)
Ardad (Ire)	205	Kodiac (GB)
Starspangledbanner (Aus)	202	Choisir (Aus)
Saxon Warrior (Jpn)	199	Deep Impact (Jpn)
Kodi Bear (Ire)	194	Kodiac (GB)
Dark Angel (Ire)	193	Acclamation (GB)
New Bay (GB)	193	Dubawi (Ire)
Frankel (GB)	188	Galileo (Ire)
Supremacy (Ire)	187	Mehmas (Ire)
Time Test (GB)	181	Dubawi (Ire)
Night Of Thunder (Ire)	180	Dubawi (Ire)
No Nay Never	178	Scat Daddy
St Mark's Basilica (Fr)	176	Siyouni (Fr)
Cotai Glory (GB)	176	Exceed And Excel (Aus)
Ten Sovereigns (Ire)	173	No Nay Never
Australia (GB)	173	Galileo (Ire)
Lope De Vega (Ire)	168	Shamardal
Havana Grey (GB)	166	Havana Gold (Ire)
Dubawi (Ire)	165	Dubai Millennium (GB)
Too Darn Hot (GB)	164	Dubawi (Ire)
Galileo Gold (GB)	163	Paco Boy (Ire)
Sea The Stars (Ire)	161	Cape Cross (Ire)
Ghaiyyath (Ire)	161	Dubawi (Ire)
Space Blues (Ire)	160	Dubawi (Ire)
Camelot (GB)	159	Montjeu (Ire)
Pinatubo (Ire)	159	Shamardal
Coulsty (Ire)	158	Kodiac (GB)
Gleneagles (Ire)	155	Galileo (Ire)
Palace Pier (GB)	154	Kingman (GB)
Elzaam (Aus)	153	Redoute's Choice (Aus)
Golden Horn (GB)	152	Cape Cross (Ire)
Lucky Vega (Ire)	152	Lope De Vega (Ire)
Sea The Moon (Ger)	152	Sea The Stars (Ire)
Kingman (GB)	150	Invincible Spirit (Ire)
Showcasing (GB)	150	Oasis Dream (GB)
Sergei Prokofiev	150	Scat Daddy
U S Navy Flag	144	War Front
Ulysses (Ire)	143	Galileo (Ire)
Blue Point (Ire)	142	Shamardal
Inns Of Court (Ire)	141	Invincible Spirit (Ire)
Invincible Army (Ire)	138	Invincible Spirit (Ire)
Dandy Man (Ire)	137	Mozart (Ire)
Lope Y Fernandez (Ire)	134	Lope De Vega (Ire)
Nathaniel (Ire)	133	Galileo (Ire)
Nando Parrado (GB)	130	Kodiac (GB)
Sottsass (Fr)	126	Siyouni (Fr)
Oasis Dream (GB)	125	Green Desert
Magna Grecia (Ire)	120	Invincible Spirit (Ire)
Profitable (Ire)	118	Invincible Spirit (Ire)
Far Above (GB)	117	Farhh (GB)
Bated Breath (GB)	115	Dansili (GB)
Bungle Inthejungle (GB)	115	Exceed And Excel (Aus)
Walgeist (GB)	115	Galileo (Ire)
A'Ali (Ire)	114	Society Rock (Ire)
Soldier's Call (GB)	112	Showcasing (GB)
Churchill (Ire)	108	Galileo (Ire)
Mohaather (GB)	108	Showcasing (GB)
Invincible Spirit (Ire)	106	Green Desert
Alkumait	105	Showcasing (GB)
Kameko	102	Kitten's Joy

*Statistics supplied by Weatherbys



Lucky Vega's 2022 book was 152 mares | *Irish National Stud*

Return Of Mares Cont.

Almost half of the stallions on this list--28 in total--stem from Danzig, and that is surely owing to the speed and precocity more generally associated with this line, which is so much in demand from breeders these days. These include newcomers **Palace Pier (GB)**, **A'Ali (Ire)**, **Soldier's Call (GB)**, **Mohaather (GB)**, **Alkumait (GB)** and **Nando Parrado (GB)**.

Conversely, the Sadler's Wells/Galileo (Ire) axis is more usually associated with middle-distance performers, though we do have a notable exception in this area at the moment in Europe's leading first-season sire, the G1 Flying Five S. winner **Havana Grey (GB)**, who is the sire of 42 winners and five stakes winners this year and is a great grandson of Galileo. In total, seven of the 10 representatives of the Sadler's Wells line tabled here descend via Galileo, with the other three including Kitten's Joy's son **Kameko**.

The expanding influence of the Storm Bird/Storm Cat line in this part of the world, chiefly through the latter's sons Giant's Causeway and Hennessy, is highlighted by the fact that nine make this list, with **Lope De Vega (Ire)**, **Lucky Vega (Ire)**, **Lope Y Fernandez (Ire)**, **Pinatubo (Ire)** and **Blue Point (Ire)** all representing Giant's Causeway through Shamardal. (**Earthlight {Ire}** is just bubbling under with a book of 92). **No Nay Never**, by Hennessy's son Scat Daddy, is becoming increasingly widely represented, but Scat Daddy's **Sioux Nation** was narrowly the busiest of all this year. **No Nay Never** will have six sons at stud in Europe in 2023, including **Ten Sovereigns**. **Sergei Prokofiev**, the only Scat Daddy stallion in Britain, has been well supported and stands alongside Havana Grey at Whitsbury Manor Stud.

Nureyev's line is hanging in there through Pivotal (GB), whose son **Farhh (GB)** has compromised fertility, which is a shame as he looks as though he could have made far greater inroads in the stallion tables if he had been able to cover the numbers

required to compete these days. His son **Far Above (GB)** covered a three-figure book in his first year, while of course Pivotal's greatest sire son, **Siyouni (Fr)**, is arguably the most popular stallion in France. Because of his location, his full book is not listed in the *Return of Mares* for Britain and Ireland, but he is reported by the Aga Khan Studs to have covered 132 mares this year, while his two Coolmore-based sons **Sottsass (Fr)** and **St Mark's Basilica (Fr)** covered 126 and 176, respectively.

Finally, Try My Best's branch, via the perhaps unlikely source of the former Coolmore then Shadai resident Waajib (Ire) and his son Royal Applause (GB), has started to flourish through **Acclamation (GB)**. Though the latter, now 23, was just shy of 100 mares himself this year, his sons **Mehmas (Ire)** and **Dark Angel (Ire)** covered 249 and 193 mares, while Mehmas's son **Supremacy (Ire)** was also high on the list with 187.

As the record-breaking first-season sire of 2020, and having backed that up last year by leading the second-crop sires' list, Mehmas's popularity continues to be in the ascendant and not just via his male offspring. In the last few weeks, his daughter Malavath (Ire) topped the Arqana Breeding Stock Sale at €3.2 million, while another, the Grade I winner Going Global (Ire), sold for \$2.5 million at the Fasig-Tipton November Sale in Kentucky.

With Supremacy one year ahead of them, three more young sons of Mehmas join the ranks for 2023: G1 Haydock Sprint Cup winner **Minzaal (Ire)** is on Shadwell's Derrinstown roster, with **Persian Force (Ire)** retiring to stand alongside his sire at Tally-Ho Stud, and **Caturra (Ire)** becoming the first to stand in England, at Overbury Stud.

As we have seen in the recent past with such notable examples as Kendargent (Fr) and **Wootton Bassett**, starting out with small books of mares does not preclude success, and in fact it can be a breeder's worst nightmare to have one of many of a stallion's offspring if the fickle market suddenly turns its back.

Cont. p6



Time Test covered 181 mares | *The National Stud*

Return Of Mares Cont.

But as a guide to who's hot and who's not in the eyes of the commercial sector, the figures in the *Return of Mares* are always fascinating to peruse. And for those breeders simply with an eye on the racecourse with no sale-ring concerns in between, there are still plenty of options when it comes to well-bred and well-performed stallions which require simply the courage of your own convictions. Blood will out.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

Arqana December Breeding Stock Sale Cont. from p1

Her dam is a half-sister to G1 Prix Marcel Boussac bridesmaid Gan Teorainn (Ire) (**Saxon Warrior {Jpn}**), who sold for 1 million gns during the Sceptre Sessions of the Tattersalls December Mares Sale also to BBA Ireland.

Jeremy Brummitt shelled out €50,000 for **Theoricienne (Fr)** (Kendor {Fr}) (lot 951) in foal to Intello (Ger). A dual winner, the 16-year-old from the Haras du Quesnay dispersal has foaled two stakes winners--G2 Prix du Gros-Chene hero Tour To Paris (Fr) (Fuisse {Fr}) and three-time black-type earner She's My Type (Fr) (Dunkerque {Fr}).

Just three lots later, Brummitt also signed the ticket on Theoricienne's draftmate **Treasure (Fr)** (Anabaa) (lot 954) at €32,000. A trio of stakes horses claim the French listed winner and G3 Prix d'Arenberg third as their dam, including Listed Prix Urban Sea heroine Tresorerie (Fr) (Intello {Ger}).



Save The World, Tuesday's topper | Lucile Loisel



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SPONSORS OF THE FOLLOWING STATS FOR THE:

ARQANA DECEMBER BREEDING STOCK SALE

SESSION TOTALS	2022	2021
• Catalogued	172	182
• Number Offered	152	159
• Number Sold	127	128
• Not Sold	25	31
• Clearance Rate	83.5%	80.5%
• High Price	€52,000	€28,000
• Gross	€714,500	€586,000
• Average (% change)	€5,626 (+23%)	€4,578
• Median (% change)	€3,500 (N/C)	€3,500
CUMULATIVE	2022	2021
• Catalogued	1,033	984
• Number Offered	926	909
• Number Sold	740	688
• Not Sold	186	221
• Clearance Rate	80%	76%
• No. €500K+	23	13
• High Price	€3,200,000	€3,000,000
• Gross	€56,800,500	€41,541,000
• Average (% change)	€76,757 (+27%)	€60,379
• Median (% change)	€17,250 (+15%)	€15,000

Forty-seven of the 48-lot Quesnay dispersal changed hands for a gross of €2,185,500. Lot 166, a Quesnay-consigned Le Havre (Ire) half-sister to dual G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe heroine Treve (Fr) (Motivator {GB}), topped all foals offered during the four-day stand at €675,000 to Juddmonte. She was also well clear of Quesnay's most expensive mare, the €350,000 Perle d'Auge (Fr) (Le Havre {Ire}) (lot 31), who sold to Jill Lamb Bloodstock and is from the same family as this year's G1 Matron S. heroine Pearls Galore (Fr) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}).

Ecurie des Monceaux sold 30 lots for €9,959,000 to take leading consignor honours, while the BBA Ireland buying spree continued with 46 head purchased for €9,211,000, making them the leading buyers.

Eric Hoyeau, President of Arqana and Freddy Powell, Executive Director, said, "The sales season is coming to a close on an excellent note after four incredible days. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the vendors who have entrusted us with mares, fillies and foals of exceptional quality. Deauville was particularly cosmopolitan, welcoming buyers from all over Europe but also from the United States, Australia, Japan, India and Turkey, the result of the prospecting work of our bloodstock team and our representatives abroad." [Cont. p7](#)

Arqana December Breeding Stock Sale Cont.

They added, "A big congratulations also to the stud staff and our team in the yards, who gave their best despite the cold and the intense days, throughout this great marathon that is the Vente d'Elevage. These record results are the result of a real team effort, both among our sales staff and in our offices. We will now focus on the last sale of the year, which will take place online next Thursday, and we wish everyone a happy holiday season."

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MULLINS CONSIDERS HURDLES OPTION FOR PRINCESS ZOE



Tony Mullins and Princess Zoe at Tattersalls last week
Laura Green/Tattersalls

Trainer Tony Mullins has revealed that Group 1-winning stayer **Princess Zoe (Ger)** (Jukebox Jury {Ire}) could now be sent hurdling after failing to reach her reserve at the Tattersalls December Mares Sale last week.

The 7-year-old mare, who won the G1 Prix du Cadran in 2020 and was runner-up in last year's G1 Gold Cup at Ascot, was bought back by her owners Patrick Kehoe and Philomena Crampton at 300,000gns.

"We had a few enquiries [after the sale] and we felt we weren't getting what we stated before we left," explained Mullins. "We said if we got 300,000gns, we'd take it and we had a few enquiries just under it, but we said we were keeping her if we didn't get it."

He continued, "Paddy loves jump racing and he has been asking me. I said we'd start riding her out again and we will school her and see. But we have no decision made. If she jumps well and if she takes to it, we'll see."

"That is what she was bought to do in the first place. Then she just turned out she was a better filly than we thought. I will get

her riding out now and we will probably have her jumping by Christmas."

Princess Zoe has won eight of her 34 races on the level, including this season's G3 Sagar S., and she has raced in Ireland, Britain, France and Saudi Arabia, as well as her native Germany. Her trainer was the regular rider of arguably the greatest jumping mare of all time, Dawn Run (Ire), who was trained by his father Paddy Mullins.

Mullins added of his own stable star, "The fun we had with her will never be equalled. If she takes to jumping, I've no worries about trips. We could do with a few more horses who could run as fast as her."

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ITBA AUTUMN/WINTER VETERINARY SERIES BEGINS ON DEC. 12

The first 2022 Autumn/Winter Veterinary Series begins on Dec. 12, the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (ITBA) announced on Tuesday. Tea and coffee will be offered at 6:15 p.m., with the event starting at 6:45 p.m. at the ITBA headquarters in Kill. The seminar will be live streamed for those who cannot attend in person and is also available to EFTBA members. Dr. Emma Adam from the Gluck Equine Research Center will be the guest speaker on novel rotavirus in Kentucky, while Sharon O'Regan will discuss the Weatherbys ePassport functionality and future plans for the technology. CVE accreditation for the lecture is pending approval from the Veterinary Council of Ireland. To register, please contact Hannah Marks at ITBA HQ on 045-877543 or via email at hmarks@itba.ie.

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BRITAIN

Tuesday's Results:

3rd-Southwell, £6,800, Nov, 12-6, 2yo, 7f 14y (AWT), 1:27.75, st. THINK CLIMATE (GB) (c, 2, Exceed And Excel {Aus})--Whazzat {GB} {SW-Eng}, by Daylami {Ire}), who broke through over seven furlongs at Chelmsford last month, broke swiftly and led from flagfall racing under a seven-pound penalty here. Holding sway throughout, the 10-11 favourite was nudged along passing the quarter-mile marker and kept on strongly under mild coaxing in the closing stages to easily defeat Prospering (Ire) (Profitable {Ire}) by 1 3/4 lengths. Think Climate is the 12th of 14 foals and one of 10 scorers produced by Listed Chesham S. winner Whazzat (GB) (Daylami {Ire}), herself a half-sister to G3 Premio Sergio Cumani victrix Whazzis (GB) (Desert Prince {Ire}).

Cont. p8

3rd-Southwell Cont.

The March-foaled homebred bay is a full-brother to G1 Prix Maurice de Gheest runner-up and MGSW sire James Garfield (Ire) and Listed Chelmer S. third Morag McCullagh (GB). He is also kin to the dual stakes-placed The Shrew (GB) (Dansili {GB}), a yearling colt by **Expert Eye (GB)** and a weanling colt by Pinatubo (Ire). Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, \$8,722. O-The Gredley Family; B-Stetchworth & Middle Park Studs Ltd (GB); T-Jane Chapple-Hyam.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Mr Squires (Ire), c, 2, **Zoffany (Ire)**--Of Course Darling (GB), by Dalakhani (Ire). Southwell, 12-6, 7f 14y (AWT), 1:28.92. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$4,479. B-Shane O'Dwyer (IRE). *€9,000 RNA Wlg '20 GOFNOV; £6,000 Ylg '21 TATIRY; €8,000 RNA 2yo '22 ARQJUL.

FRANCE

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

1st-Chantilly, €34,000, Cond, 12-6, 2yo, 8f (AWT), 1:37.94, st.

GRAND GIOMAR STEP (IRE) (c, 2, **Footstepsinthesand {GB}**--Dona Sola {Ire}, by Iffraaj {GB}) Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, €30,500. O-Salvatore Alioto & Dream Horse SARL; B-Gerard Mullins (IRE); T-Gianluca Bietolini. *€15,000 Wlg '20 GOFDEC; £20,000 Ylg '21 TIRSEP.

5th-Chantilly, €28,000, Cond, 12-6, 3yo, 9 1/2f (AWT), 1:55.58, st.

WOZZLE (GER) (c, 3, **Areion {Ger}**--Whole Lotta Rosie {Ger} {MSP-Ger}, by Tiger Hill {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 10-2-1-1, €41,820. O/B-Hans-Helmut Rodenburg (GER); T-Markus Munch. *€20,000 RNA Ylg '20 BBAGS.

WORLDWIDE NEWS

DOYLE GETS ALL-CLEAR FOR THIRD GO AT THE LONGINES IJC *by Alan Carasso*

Hollie Doyle may be the roughest chance in the field of 12 for Wednesday evening's Longines International Jockeys' Championship (IJC) at Hong Kong iconic 'city track' at Happy Valley Racecourse, but she'd be considering herself fortunate to take her chances at all.

The 26-year-old, who returned an 'indifferent' COVID test upon her arrival from Japan, was given the green light to compete Tuesday after the chief medical officer for the Hong Kong Jockey Club confirmed that the original result was a 're-positive' case, per a release.

"After careful clinical and laboratory assessments with the results having been communicated to the Government, the CMO is satisfied that jockey Doyle is medically fit to fulfil her race riding engagements at the Happy Valley Racemeeting to be conducted on Wednesday, 7 Dec. 2022," the statement read.

Doyle became the first woman to record a victory in one of the four legs of the IJC in 2020 and has reached the podium in both her previous appearances, finishing in a tie for second that year and a joint-third in 2021.



(From l to r) Vincent Ho, Ryan Moore, Tom Marquand, Zac Purton, HKJC CEO Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, James McDonald, Jamie Kah, Hugh Bowman, Silvestre de Sousa and Matthew Chadwick | HKJC photo

Japan's Yuga Kawada misses the IJC after returning a positive test prior to his departure, while Jye McNeil is also sidelined on similar grounds. Lyle Hewitson takes Kawada's rides and Hugh Bowman, the 2016 IJC winner, slides in for his fellow Australian McNeil.

Over the last several years, the allotment of rides for the IJC has been altered to level the playing field, but, as luck would have it, two-time defending champion Zac Purton has been handed a strong book and is the \$3.20 (11-5) favourite to take home the winner's share of HK\$800,000 yet again. But he is taking nothing for granted.

"These are the best jockeys from around the world and they've had the most success in recent times as well," said Purton, who currently sits on 54 winners, 32 clear of fellow IJC competitor Vincent Ho. "They're all in good form and it creates an element of interest for everyone." **Cont. p9**

Longines IJC Cont.

He added, "These are the biggest stars in our sport so to be able to compete with them on a night like this is an opportunity I appreciate. I enjoy having them in town and catching up with them as friends too, so it's good to see some familiar faces."

Making her first IJC appearance is Australia's history-making Jamie Kah, the leading jockey in Melbourne in 2020/2021 and first to post 100 winners in a Melbourne metropolitan season.

"It's always been a dream of mine to ride in Hong Kong," said Kah, "And this is my first time here. I literally had a stopover once but didn't set foot outside the airport. It's a buzz to be part of this IJC and the Hong Kong Jockey Club has looked after me amazingly well."

Kah is rated an \$18 chance for the IJC.

Along with Purton and Bowman, other past IJC winners looking to add to their totals include Silvestre de Sousa, who won it in 2018, and Ryan Moore, who shared the spoils with Christophe Lemaire and John Murtagh in 2009 before winning outright the following year.

The field is completed by Doyle's husband Tom Marquand, Mickael Barzalona, James McDonald and Matthew Chadwick.

The IJC kicks off with race four at 12:10pm BST (7:10 a.m. US Eastern Time) and features two Class Four (1000m, 1650m) and two Class 3 handicaps (1650m, 1200m).

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FERTILITY CHALLENGES IN AUSTRALASIA



John & Kris Messara | Bronwen Healy

by Jessica Owers

It's been a year like no other in Australasia when it comes to weather and, for the valuable breeding industries on both sides of the Tasman, the consequences have been rippling. We've brought the conversation to the pages of *TDN AusNZ*, asking what may have challenged this year's covering season?

With the arrival of December, much of the covering season has wrapped up for another year, but something has been afoot across the farms of Australasia. Fertility numbers are seemingly consistently down, albeit unofficially at this point, and it's been a persistent conversation among breeders these last short months.

As a result, the overall foal crop next year may be down as a result of this year's covering season. Farms are reporting mares requiring two and three covers, and numbers not achieving pregnancy at all. Logistically, many breeders have been on the road with returns all season.

None of this spells a disastrous breeding season by any means, but it is looking like an abnormally challenging one.

For those in the industry, every season presents its challenges, but in close to 40 years of breeding thoroughbreds, Arrowfield Studmaster John Messara can't remember a covering season like it.

"Unexplainably to us, our fertility this year per cycle has been well below last year's, or any previous year's actually," he said. "Even our most fertile stallions, who are consistently very fertile,

have sometimes had to serve their mares two and three times."

Traditionally, this isn't a conversation that studmasters want to have on the record, but the facts of this season are fairly black and white to Messara. This isn't an Arrowfield problem; it's a problem that's seemingly affected many farms in the industry this spring.

"There is something that is causing it and none of us know what it is," he said. "We've checked our stallions, we've checked our stallions' sperm and we've checked our systems. We haven't found any reason for it so all we can turn to is the weather, the rain and the wet ground this year, and while we can't even link those things to it clearly, there's really no other variable that we can see."

Arrowfield is one of the largest commercial breeders in Australia. It stands many fertile stallions who, in one way or another, and unexplainably, have each been affected by numbers this spring. He also knows his farm isn't the only one.

"We started noticing something wasn't right after the first month of covering," he said. "We could see that even the most fertile horses we had were returning lower figures than they historically have, and we thought it might have been the rain and that the mares weren't cycling, but the mares were cycling."

"They were ready and prepared to be covered, so that wasn't it. We waited for things to brighten up but it didn't really get any better."

Messara doesn't have statistics yet on what Arrowfield's fertility numbers will be this season. His stallions ceased covering just a few days ago, but anecdotally, he said a higher than normal number of mares, both Arrowfield-owned and client-owned, didn't get in foal at all.

"It was definitely a disappointing season across the board overall," he said. "We know our horses are fine because we checked the sperm constantly and we look at all the dismount samples. We do everything that's got to be done, and we have the same team in the barn as last year and they year before, and even the year before that."

"There are a lot of constants there so I can't see the reason for it and it's very frustrating. I've spoken to other farms who have said it's been a very, very odd year."

The Boutique Breeder

In the Southern Highlands south of Sydney, the Ricky Surace-owned B2B Thoroughbreds has had, like Arrowfield and like its many neighbours, an unusual breeding season.

When we checked in with Ricky Surace, Jr. this week, the operation's racing manager, he said it's been a season to remember logistically with a large bulk of B2B's 37 mares needing to return to stallions two and three times since September.

"We've been up and down the road with horses, which can be a real headache," he said. "Suddenly you're paying a week-and-a-half of agistment somewhere else and the mares aren't getting in foal, and then you need to go again so it's definitely upped our costs this year.

"That mixed with fuel prices, it's costing us \$300 just to get up to the Hunter Valley. Logistically, it's all been a real headache and, as far as seasons go, this one's only been okay at best."

Like Arrowfield, the B2B mares have all been cycling properly, so it's a mystery to Surace as to what's going on.

"All of these mares who have never had a problem were suddenly missing once or even twice," he said. "Who knows? It could be a weather element because we really can't come up with what else it could be."

From boutique numbers, B2B wouldn't want anything above 20% in numbers of mares not in foal each season. Of those 20%, the majority are usually mares that had late foals and were therefore rested for a season.

"This year, we didn't intend for certain mares to have a year off but we've been forced to, in a way," Surace, Jr. said. "There's not much else that it could be down to outside of the weather, and weather has affected a lot of things.

"It's affected the pastures, which are now really rich, and our access to good hay. Could that have an effect on stallion fertility and mare cycling? Probably."

One of the interesting facts about B2B's season has been the particularly challenging fertility issues its mares experienced in Victoria.

"Every single mare we sent to Victoria this season missed at least once, if not twice," Surace, Jr. said. "And that's every stallion we used across all farms, stallions that have very good fertility. For us, going south has been way worse this year than going north to the Hunter Valley."

Surace, Jr. sent eight mares to Victoria, which would account for just over 20% of the farm's breeding population this spring. Although their numbers are statistically small, to run into problems with each of those eight mares has posed a significant issue.

"There are plenty of numbers that have been floating around about the covering season," he said, "numbers specific to certain stallions not getting their first 50 mares in foal, or another getting only five out of 50 in foal. These are massive figures to be talking about. I have no doubt that foal crops are going to be

down 20% come yearling time in a couple of years."

The Fallout

In Australia, the foal crop has been dropping consistently for a number of years. Many commercial breeders will tell you it needed to.

Since 2017, the number of live foals has crept down from 13,151 in 2017 to 12,768 last year, a drop of 383. The overall number of returns has decreased with it, while the live foals/coverings percentage has remained steady enough at a 65% average.

While any numbers out of this season won't be dramatically different to other years, they will probably be different none the less, which begs the question of what the consequences might be down the line.

"Forty per cent of the horses bred in this country are bred in New South Wales," Messara said. "Most of them are in and around the Hunter, and if what we're experiencing at Arrowfield is being felt around the region, which I'm pretty sure it is, it will mean something like 500 less horses emerging out of this crop."

The foal-crop difference between 2021 and 2020 was 54 horses, so if there are 500 fewer horses next spring, that's a very considerable dearth from one season to the next.

"You'll have less horses available for the sale ring," Messara said. "That, in itself, isn't a bad thing because there are many that aren't finding their place in sales at the moment, but the sales will certainly be impacted. Field sizes will be affected down the line too."

For Messara, who likes answers, the 2022 breeding season is a conundrum. He is curious to know why his numbers are down, especially when all the veterinary evidence is reading healthy and there's no apparent reason for mares not getting in foal.

"I haven't had a season like this in nearly 40 years, since I got going in 1985," he said.

In a few weeks, when all of the season's returns are in, Messara and his staff will be doing a deep dive into the possible causes of this year's abnormal stats.

"When all the numbers are in, we're going to compare area to area, dry mares' to wet mares' results, and we're going to compare what results we got from mares sent to outside stallions as against those that went to our stallions," he said. "We're going to virtually look at every single comparison that we can make in relation to areas, age and every other variable that we can, and see how things line up with past years.

"Invariably, we get around the same fertility every year, or around 85%. We're going to end up with less than that this year. I can't say exactly what that number will be yet, but it will be less than that and there's no obvious reason so can see for it."

Nature Has its Way?

In New Zealand, the master of Waikato Stud, Mark Chittick, has noticed a similarly unusual breeding season off the back of a long, damp 2022.

"It's definitely been similar down here," he said, speaking to *TDN AusNZ*. "Up until about a month ago, I would have said it was a reasonably typical New Zealand season, but as always we have pretty short memories because the last two years, particularly last year, were incredible, and that made the job easier."

For Chittick, perspective is everything, and in accounting for lower returns or a large number of repeat covers this spring, he puts it down to environmental factors. Like Arrowfield, all the boxes are meticulously ticked at Waikato Stud when it comes to stallion fertility and mare health, so what else could it be?

"These mares, they've got to have sunlight," he said. "They've got to have good sunshine and they've got to be warm. They've got to have that good, positive feeling that we all get when we get out in the sun and, to be honest, we just haven't had that with the weather this year."



Mark Chittick | NZ Racing Desk

Like much of the Australian eastern seaboard, the Waikato has suffered above-average rainfall. Daily variances jump from 25 degrees and blue skies to jeans and jumpers once more. In other words, there's been very little consistency all spring, and while the number of repeat covers was irregular on previous years at Waikato Stud, there's been an additional symptom of a less-than-normal season.

"When you're getting mares at their first scan and you're getting a lot or a number of sets of twins in that first scan, absolutely everything is aligned and firing," Chittick said. "Your protein in your grass, your sunlight hours, the mares are

producing more follicles.

"Last year, we went close to saying one in three or four mares were scanning with a set of twins, and that was from around 600 mares. This year, we served pretty close to 700 mares and I would say we've been very lucky if it was 50 sets of twins at that first scan. That has been the biggest determining factor for me."

Chittick is fairly holistic in his approach to seasons like this. He's not too worried about subsequent foal numbers because swings and roundabouts are a common occurrence in the long game of breeding thoroughbreds.

"I'm a great believer that it always works its way out," he said. "When you get less mares in foal, the next year you have less mares slip or abort during the off-season, and you have less problems in the foaling paddock, so it always equals its way out."

"I really think, in the end, nature has its way. There might be less mares in foal but you probably end up with the same amount of live foals in the end."

Whether that happens in 2023 remains to be seen, and how individual farms handle the cards dealt this spring will also vary.

Tomorrow in *TDN AusNZ*, we'll be taking a look at the veterinary element of the 2022 covering season, question if environmental factors might have been at play this year to explain the difficulties that breeders may have experienced.

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Incentivise Set To Return In The Autumn

2022/2023 Australian Group Races

Date	Race	Track
Dec. 10	G3 Gold Rush	Ascot
	G2 Ingham S.	Royal Randwick
Dec. 17	G2 Ted Van Heemst S.	Ascot
	G3 Grand Prix S.	Eagle Farm
Dec. 24	G3 B.J. McLachlan S.	Doomben
Dec. 26	G3 Summer Cup	Royal Randwick
Dec. 28	G3 Belle of the Turf S.	Gosford