THREE-YEAR-LAYOFF WINNER A STUDY IN PATIENT HORSEMANSHIP

Silver Seeker wins Saturday at Aqueduct | Coglianese

The Week in Review by T.D. Thornton

When Silver Seeker (Central Banker) made his second start off a nearly three-year layoff Saturday at Aqueduct, the betting public was skeptical of the Midwest shipper's chances, dismissing him at 19-1 in a second-level allowance/optional claiming for New York-breds.

The price seemed about right if all you had to go on were the gelding's past performances, which showed just a ninth-place November prep at Hawthorne for Gene LaCroix, an obscure-to-horseplayers trainer riding an 0-for-30 losing streak that dated to Sept. 20, 2020.

Bettors might have assessed Silver Seeker's chances more favorably had they been aware that even though LaCroix, 74, is only a hobbyist trainer with a several-horse private stable, he is, by many accounts, considered to be an expert layoff conditioner.

Raised in a horse-centric family with decades of multi-breed experience, LaCroix for the past 20 years has operated LaCroix Training Center in La Grange, Kentucky, alongside his wife, Erin. A bit off the beaten path, their facility is a green, 65-stall spread with a half-mile training track; a tranquil oasis where some of America's top Thoroughbred outfits send horses (including a few Grade I winners) for breaking, legging-up and conditioning. Cont. p3

TWELVE QUESTIONS: DUNCAN TAYLOR

by Sue Finley

Duncan Taylor officially stepped down from his role as the front man for Taylor Made Sales and Farm earlier this year, relinquishing his titles of CEO and President. But since we still see him at every sale, he still returns emails in under five minutes, and still regularly sends along really good ideas to help the racing and breeding industry, we're pretty sure that Duncan's idea of retirement is different from that of other people. So we asked.

How's fake retirement going?

I don't have to attend or hold many meetings. I am retired from being the CEO of both of our companies. Ben is the CEO/President of Taylor Made Stallions. Mark, as most people already know has taken over as the CEO/President of Taylor Made Sales Agency. Cont. p7

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

STARS COME OUT FOR LONGINES HKIR

In front of 30,000 fans at Sha Tin Racecourse, three of the four races during Sunday's Longines Hong Kong International Races were won by the locals, including Irish-breds Romantic Warrior in the Cup and California Spangle in the Mile.
BOOK REVIEW: HANDS DOWN BY FELIX FRANCIS
Sue Finley reviews “Hands Down”, the most recent novel in Felix Francis’s series about former champion steeplechase jockey Sid Halley.

EXTREME CHOICE TO BREED ON NH TIME IN 2023
Newgate Farm’s star Australasian sire Extreme Choice (Aus) (Not A Single Doubt {Aus}) will be available to breeders on a Northern Hemisphere schedule in 2023.
Likewise, even if they didn't have a wager on him, railbirds might have cheered a little more lustily for Silver Seeker himself if they knew the incredible physical obstacles and setbacks the gelding faced just to make it back to the races on a chilly December afternoon, let alone win by two lengths en route to a $41.40 upset.

"This whole thing has been a challenge to bring this horse back, to give him a chance to see if he still had the heart and the will to do it," Gene LaCroix told TDN by phone several hours after the Dec. 10 win. "Our operation, LaCroix rehab, is well known. But Erin and I are like amateur trainers. We don't do it professionally. We just have a few horses. We're pretty much out of it except for this silver horse. And it's just been such a pleasure to see him come along and how good he looked. He's a big, handsome horse."

LaCroix grew up accompanying his father, Dr. Eugene E. LaCroix, to the backside of Turf Paradise in Phoenix, Arizona, in the 1950s and 60s. Dr. LaCroix was one of the pioneers of Arabian racing on a pari-mutuel basis, but like his son, his horsemanship was not confined to one specific breed.

The younger Gene was an innovator in Arabian stallion syndication by the 1980s, and prior to focusing their attention on Thoroughbreds, he and Erin enjoyed successful careers in the show horse industry, earning more than 100 U.S. National Championships and two lifetime achievement awards.

After moving to Kentucky, in 2003 the LaCroixes started a rehabilitation and lay-up program for Thoroughbreds at their farm, handling all aspects of the operation, from business management to equine care. Because they live on the property, they are responsible for all the late barn inspections before turning in themselves, although the operation is rounded out by longtime, experienced staffers. Cont. p4
Over the past two decades, trainers and owners such as Tom Amoss, Tim Glyshaw, Maggi Moss, and Padua Stables have utilized the LaCroixes' services. The farm's website even includes a testimonial from Dr. Larry Bramlage, one of the most respected equine surgeons in America, alongside words of praise from other notable veterinarians.

In 2008, Gene became a licensed trainer. But the scope of his own stable has generally been limited to buying a few yearlings, training them, and then either selling them at auction or racing them. Over 15 years, he's only had 127 starters, and just five this year prior to Saturday's race.

Shortly after Silver Seeker was foaled on May 1, 2016, Gene and Erin entered into a partnership on him with breeder Patrick Davis and a third investor.

"The original plan was to send him to an auction in New York," Gene LaCroix said. "He came in here as a long-legged, shaggy weanling. And when it came time for the X-rays, they didn't come out good. So we decided to scrap the New York auction and put him in Keeneland with a modest reserve."

There were no takers, and Silver Seeker RNA'd for $7,500 as a yearling.

It turned out that Silver Seeker had developed osteochondrosis in his left stifle. The plan then switched to letting it heal before trying to race against New York-breds.

But, as LaCroix explained, "to make a long story short, we decided to get out of the partnership because we didn't want to be a one-third owner and paying the expense of sending him to another trainer in New York," when the horse might not be good enough to win there and they had their own training facility in Kentucky.

"But," LaCroix added, "we suggested that we would take the gamble if we owned 100% of him. And they took us up on it."
Champion 2YO Male at the 2021 Eclipse Awards

Won Breeders' Cup Juvenile-Gr.1 despite being drawn widest of all in stall 11

“he set swift fractions, with an opening quarter in 23.03 seconds and the half in 46.15... That’s a demanding pace going two turns for a 2-year-old... He has a high-cruising speed, which is a serious weapon”

Won American Pharoah Stakes-Gr.1 by 3 ¼ lengths

“Corniche Delivers as Heavy Favorite in American Pharoah”

Won MSW at Del Mar by 4 ¼ lengths earning a 98 Beyer

“a jaw-dropping debut”

$1.5 million OBS April Sale topping juvenile

"We thought that he was the best-looking colt we bought in five years, the way he moved, his stride ...” Peter Fluor of Speedway Stables,

watch him in action

New for 2023

CORNICHE

The best juvenile by leading sire Quality Road
Out of dual Grade 2 winner Wasted Tears

Fee $30,000

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So Gene and Erin bought out the other partners, and were encouraged when Silver Seeker breezed fast as 2-year-old. Then the stifle started bothering him again and he underwent surgery to try and fix it.

That pushed the gelding's debut to age three, when LaCroix entered Silver Seeker in a 5 1/2-furlong maiden special weight at Indiana Grand after training him on the farm for his debut. "We expected him to do well, but the bettors sure didn't," LaCroix said. "He went off at 88-1 and won by three."

The LaCroixes thought Silver Seeker might blossom into a grass router, and they considered sending him to New York. But they first wanted to try him on turf closer to home. A month after his debut upset, the gelding again ran at Indy, but he had trouble on the turns before finishing a credible fourth.

But he came out of that race with a condylar bruise on his left hind, LaCroix said. "They suggested we put a screw in it. And that took another two or three months."

On Dec. 6, 2019, Silver Seeker returned to action at Turfway Park, prevailing by a head in a 6 1/2-furlong sprint at 16-1 odds in an two-lifetime allowance. "I felt pretty good, and we said, 'Okay, he's ready for New York,'" LaCroix recalled. "And we took him to New York and he won that race," a one-other-than, state-bred allowance over seven furlongs in the slop at Aqueduct on Dec. 31, 2019, this time at 9-1 odds.

But Silver Seeker's left hind lameness returned post-win, and Dr. Bramlage diagnosed a suspensory issue. "Then in the process of bringing him back, he got a bow in his right front," LaCroix said. "So we took a year, brought him back slow, just like they told us to do. And one breeze into it, an easy breeze, he showed he was going to tear again. It was minimal, but they thought it was a different spot."

This meant another entire year off. The list of the veterinarians that the LaCroixes consulted reads like a Who's Who of Kentucky equine practitioners. The gray would eventually miss his entire 4-, 5-, and almost all of his 6-year-old seasons. "We figured out a plan of bringing him back with a lot of warm-up," LaCroix said. "Every day, before he went to the track, he went to the exerciser machine for 20 minutes. And he learned to lope at first, not gallop. He'd do a half-mile lope after the jog, and then he would start his gallop. And we built that gallop up starting by getting a mile slow, and then gradually bringing him up."

"My wife is listed as the owner," LaCroix continued. "But she's really the co-trainer. She's been his caretaker. I go over him too, but it's been a team effort. And we just had so much hope with this horse, that if we could rehab him properly, he could come back."
The only horse ever to have what it takes to win both the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile and the Belmont is also the Champion sire’s leading US money-earner.

TAP into IT

Essential Quality $75,000 S&N
Slowly but surely, Silver Seeker regained his fitness and remained sound.

"With all the icing and everything else, we never saw a problem," LaCroix said.

By the autumn of 2022, he believed that "no horseman could look at either leg and tell which one [had bowed]."

Trouble was, the LaCroixes couldn’t find a racing commission vet who would do so much as even glance at Silver Seeker because of the huge gap in his racing career. Their private vets vouched for the gelding’s soundness, but the regulatory vets wouldn’t budge.

"I can't tell you the effort we went through to get him qualified to race because of the new rule changes," LaCroix said. "We couldn't get the state vets in Kentucky, Ohio or Indiana to even give him a work to evaluate, pass, or fail him. They wouldn't even look at him."

Finally, LaCroix said, "Illinois said they would do that. He went up to Hawthorne and had a bullet work, passed with flying colors. So that got him off the vet's list to be eligible to enter."

Although they still wanted to race him for New York-bred purses, the LaCroixes figured--just like before--that sticking closer to home would be the more prudent first step. Since he worked so well up in Chicago, they entered him at Hawthorne on Nov. 6, 2022, choosing not to run for a tag in an optional $40,000 claiming sprint over six furlongs.

Silver Seeker drew post 10 and went off at 8-1 odds. "He'd never been in an outside post, and the track was lightning fast," LaCroix explained. "He gained from ninth to fourth, and then he just tired. It made us wonder if it was going to affect him mentally, because it wasn't his fault coming off a 34-month layoff."

Cont. p7
# Proven Sires and Brilliant Grade 1 Winners by Proven Sires...

## 2022 Leading Sires in USA

*(by Black-type winners)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Stallion, 2023 Fee</th>
<th>BTW</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Into Mischief, $250,000</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Munnings</strong>, $100,000</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Not This Time, $135,000</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Constitution, $110,000</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>War Front, $100,000</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Uncle Mo</strong>, $150,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Quality Road, $200,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Gun Runner, Private</td>
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Sire of **PRACTICAL JOKE**, half-brother to **MENDELSSOHN**

Sire of triple Gr.1 winner **JACK CHRISTOPHER**

Sire of Travers winner **EPICENTER**

His best son is 4-time Gr.1 winner **TIZ THE LAW**

His Gr.1 winners include **GOLDEN PAL** and **MO TOWN**

His best 2YO is the Champion **CORNICHE**

Sire of Preakness winner **EARLY VOTING**

*Source, TDN 12/07*

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**Triple Crown winner JUSTIFY has 4 Graded Stakes winning juveniles in 2022, no other sire has more!**

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Even if they weren’t sure about that potential mental duress, the LaCroixes were certain Silver Seeker was physically ready for a New York race. When the Dec. 10 spot came up in the condition book, Erin, her sister, a groom, and a driver loaded the gray gelding on a van and pointed it 750 miles east to Aqueduct.

"One of us had to stay at the farm," Gene LaCroix said. "I was there the last time he went to New York, so she went this time. And that was the appropriate way, because Erin has always been more involved in his caretaking."

Gene watched Silver Seeker's pace-pressing victory at home in Kentucky on TV. Erin told TDN she was "screaming her lungs out" at the rail in New York. The 1:23.99 winning time for seven furlongs equated to a 90 Beyer Speed Figure, a career best for the gelding.

"This horse is very special," Erin LaCroix said while preparing for the 12-hour ride home. "He's been with us since he was eight months old. And to see him come back like that, he's just a special horse. He is very classy. It's amazing how smart he is. Because he knows what he needs to do to get the job done, and he loves it."

And how did Silver Seeker come out of the win that ran his lifetime record to 4-for-6 and pushed the one-time $7,500 RNA's purse earnings above the six-figure mark?

"He looks great," Erin LaCroix said. "Everything’s tight. He's happy. He knows he did a good job. He ate all his sweet potatoes and peppermints."

Duncan Taylor Twelve Questions cont. from p1

The fake retirement is I am still working. My brothers Ben, Frank and Mark are all outstanding and I know they are doing a great job. So I have retired from a great deal of responsibility. I am helping them in whatever way they need and still bombarding them with ideas.

Who’s the hardest working person you know who isn’t you?

It's a tie between my mother Mary Emily Taylor and Jerry Hollendorfer and they both worked harder than me.

Favorite race of the year that wasn't Flightline?

Epicenter (Not This Time)’s Travers, for financial reasons. The Breeders' Cup Distaff as a fan was better than the great Flightline.

If you didn't work in horse racing, what would have become of you?

I think I would have been trying to grow another type of business. I am very competitive. In some ways, that is a blessing and in some ways it is a curse.
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EXTREME CHOICE

Available for the Northern Hemisphere breeding season standing at Newgate
The officially retired Duncan Taylor at Fasig-Tipton October
Fasig-Tipton photo

Second, Not This Time’s performance as a sire and in particular the Kentucky Derby, having Epicenter second and Simplification fourth. It is very hard to have a young stallion who as done as well as Not This Time has. When we first started Taylor Made, we boarded Tartan Farm’s broodmares and had the champion sprinter Ta Wee. I didn’t know how that mare would be so good to the Taylors. Not This Time’s second dam is linebred 2x3 to TA Wee.

Sweetest horse who has ever been on Taylor Made? California Chrome. He was a ham and was appreciative of every fan that fed him a Chrome cookie.

Best advice you ever got?
The Ten Commandments. As I look back on my life, I see that the advice given in the Ten Commandments is awesome. Most every time I went against that advice given in the Ten Commandments, it didn’t end up well for me in the long term. When we humans trade long-term joy and happiness for short-term pleasure, we are making the wrong choice.

Most embarrassing moment?
I don’t like this question! For a man that was just talking about the goodness of the Ten Commandments, now you are going to expose my foolishness as a young boy. In high school, my friends and I went to a party. I drank way too much alcohol. The next morning, I was informed that I relieved myself in the kitchen cabinet of my schoolmate’s house.

If you could change one thing about your career, what would it be?
I would have listened to my wife Carol more.
All I want for Christmas...?
Is to have God’s grace to be everything God made me to be.
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BOOK REVIEW: HANDS DOWN, BY FELIX FRANCIS
by Sue Finley

To those of who grew up on Dick Francis books, his passing in 2010 at the age of 89 felt like losing an old friend. He wrote his first racing-themed crime novel, *Dead Cert*, the year I was born, 1962, and reliably churned out almost one per year—42 in total—until he passed away. Most arrived just in time for Christmas each year.

If anyone was concerned that his son Felix would not be up to the task of taking over the family franchise, they needn’t have worried. This year, Francis is back with a novel just in time for the holidays with *Hands Down*, the latest in the series of Sid Halley books.

Halley, you’ll remember, is the former champion steeplechase jockey whose career was ended when his left hand destroyed in a racing fall; stepped on by a trailing horse who sliced it open with a razor-sharp racing plate. Sid, who attended the London School of Economics, was always smarter than your average jockey and went to work as an investigator. It was in this job that the hand was further damaged by a thug Halley had thwarted who beat it so badly with a fireplace poker it had to be amputated.

When we last saw Sid, he was getting by with a high-tech artificial hand that doubled as a weapon when he needed to club someone over the head. But newly married and with a child, he had decided that the detective business might not fit his lifestyle any more.

In *Hands Down*, we learn from the very first words on the page that Sid has been the recipient of a hand transplant which, while it doesn’t quite match the rest of his skin tone, otherwise functions perfectly well, even if everyone he comes across reflexively glances down at his hand when they meet him. *Hands Down* is a typical Sid Halley story, and Halley fans will find all of their old favorites here: wife Marina, daughter Saskia, and his ex-father-in-law Charles Roland. Even Chico Barnes is back, even if he has gained a pound or two.

And, as usual, there is drama underfoot in British jump racing. His trainer friend calls him to tell him that someone is pressuring him to fix races and he’s not putting up with it any more. Sid has his own problems to worry about and tells him to find someone else to help him, but when the friend’s stable is set on fire, he is forced to reconsider, despite turmoil in his personal life.

*Hands Down* is the sixth in the Sid Halley series, and the first since *Refusal*, also written by Felix Francis, in 2013. Halley fans won’t be disappointed, even if the book sometimes feels a bit formulaic, and the foreshadowing a little heavy handed. (I mean, when I figure something out before Sid does...)

Still, it’s a pleasant journey down a familiar path, following Sid on his one-man show to save British horse racing.

Maybe we can entice him to take a trip to America.

*Hands Down*, Crooked Lane Books, 304 pages, November, 2022

Share this story

EXTREME CHOICE TO BREED ON NORTHERN HEMISPHERE SCHEDULE IN 2023

Australasia’s star sire *Extreme Choice (Aus)* (Not A Single Doubt {Aus}—Extremely {Aus}, by Hussonet), will have his services made available to breeders in the 2023 Northern Hemisphere breeding season, Newgate Farm announced Sunday. Already the sire of a champion 2-year-old and a Classic-winning 3-year-old, Extreme Choice is currently the leading sire in the Southern Hemisphere by both stakes winners to runners and Group 1 winners to runners. He also already has three high profile sons at stud from only 30 colts to have ever raced to date. Cont. p10
There is no question that Extreme Choice is a very rare commodity and one of the best young sires on the planet," said Newgate Managing Director, Henry Field. “It is no secret that his fertility and libido are sub-optimal and as such, in order to make the most out of this extraordinary young sire, the decision has been made to breed with him Northern Hemisphere time. In a market that is buying a very high number of Northern Hemisphere-bred horses annually for significant sums of money, we feel the market is mature enough to really get behind this concept. So good a sire is Extreme Choice that I envisage that he'll be capable of siring elite Royal Ascot 2-year-old winners for those that choose to send his progeny to the Northern Hemisphere to race. For those that choose to grow out the progeny in Australia and race them as 3-year-olds and beyond, they will have a massive opportunity to participate in the same races that we have seen so many Northern Hemisphere-bred horses taste success in over the past few years.”

Extreme Choice will stand the Northern Hemisphere breeding season at Newgate Farm in Australia. For further information, contact the Newgate Bloodstock Team.

SOUTHEAST ASIA BLOG: TREATING COLIC IN THE JUNGLE
by Ferrin Peterson, DVM

Jockey and veterinarian Ferrin Peterson has been writing a blog for the TDN on a charitable veterinary trip to Southeast Asia to help refugees care for their animals. To read the prior installments, click here or here.

I had my first meeting with my new team: the five men who are given the job title in their village as the "mule handlers." They were all new acquaintances to me, as the mule handlers I worked with in the past became human medics and others moved to new villages. The translator that was going to work with me was an old acquaintance who felt like an uncle to many of us. His name is Poh and he is a human medic, which is helpful when he translates medical concepts for me. One of the mule men pulled out the book, "Where There Is No Animal Doctor," that I had left with the past mule team. It was a miracle after the disappointment of my failed attempt to bring them their own copy when I had to rearrange my schedule after missing my connection. I suppose my missed flight connection was not as detrimental as I had originally thought.

The mule handlers, Poh, and I sat together, and they told me about the problems they had been witnessing with the herd. Listening to the mule men's questions gave me a sense of their compassion for their herd and attention to detail, and knew I would enjoy working with them. The herd's problems mostly originated from their digestive tracts, so I would be looking for a common denominator there.

I got up early the next morning and walked into the village, when one of the mule men alerted me that one of the mules had a stomach ache. I was planning to teach them how to do a colic workup by the end of the week. Here was a real life example instead, so we sprung into action.

Grabbing my stethoscope, I showed them how to take a heart rate, which took a few tries for the first man to come up with the same number as I did. With a horse's heart beat having a distinct "lub-dub," they had a tendency to double count. I observed them correcting each other as each man took his turn with the stethoscope while I gathered supplies.

I fetched my nasogastric tube and showed them how to pass it through mule's nose and into her stomach. Poh was there beside me as I described the signs to check to be sure they passed the tube down the esophagus and into the stomach and not down the trachea and into the lungs, an easy and lethal mistake.

After emptying the mule's stomach, I pulled the tube and had the mule men pass it themselves. We all worked together as one person would hold the tube in place, another would funnel in water, and another would hold the bucket for the siphoned stomach contents. The men continued checking vitals, but our mule quickly went downhill. It became apparent to me that this colic would require surgery, which is not an option in the jungle where we do not have an anesthetic machine nor a sterile environment. The mule did not make it, but she provided a valuable teaching opportunity that will help the mule men to treat future sick members of her herd.

I spent the next day in data collection and observation. I believe a lot can be learned from simply studying and getting to know your patient. Cont. p11
I stayed around the herd all day, sometimes watching from afar and other times sitting on a rock near them. It was fun to see different members of the herd come up to check me out. I usually won them over with scratches.

On my past trips, the herd would wander far off and forage all day. I noticed this herd was staying in the center of the village waiting for their breakfast and dinner. The mule men were feeding pellets for breakfast, and dinner was rice hulls which had been ground into a powder. I realized the herd was consuming all concentrates and no fiber, which is not conducive to the function of the equine gut.

At breakfast the next morning, I brought this up with the other volunteers. None of them had a horse background, but everyone was concerned about the herd and asked for updates at every meal we shared. I told the coordinator that we needed to increase their pellets for calories, but most importantly the herd needed plant fiber that they can eat throughout the day.

He said they could send in more pellets and they would hire porters to carry them in. Unfortunately, to bring in enough hay would be too impractical long-term. One volunteer at the breakfast table had worked in another region of Asia and said he had seen horses eating banana leaves. Fortunately, there were plenty of banana plants surrounding the village here.

When the mule men came to feed the herd their breakfast, I had them add salt and water to the grain and asked them to increase the quantity. They told me they would run out of grain by the end of the week if they fed more, but I assured them that more grain was on the way. Then I asked if they could help me get a few banana leaves to see if the herd would eat them. They grabbed their machetes and chopped off a few branches and the herd loved it! The mule men were excited by this finding too and went back to chop down more banana leaves.

I started taking the mules hiking. They needed to build their fitness in order to be useful for packing, and I wanted to see what plants they chose to eat along the route. It also helped me get to know their personalities, and I certainly discovered which mules were the most stubborn of the group. I learned they enjoyed dry banana leaves as well as the fresh ones, and they loved bamboo, both the leaves and the young shoots. That was another exciting discovery, as there is a surplus of bamboo in the jungle.

On one of my mule treks, I came across a fenced-in rice field. I mentioned it to the volunteer coordinator, and he said they had seen the herd out in that field in the past after the rice was harvested. He brought it up to the owner of the rice field, and they gave permission to turn the herd out on it. It was a 45-minute hike from where the herd was staying. I asked the mule handlers to help me turn them out overnight and bring them back in the morning. I did not want to make a sudden feed change and cause one of them to founder. The mule men happily obliged. I left them to work on some things for an hour then returned to move the herd to their pasture, but the herd was gone. I went on my own out to the rice field and found the herd grazing in the rice paddies. One of the mule men was still there, and he showed me the buckets he had filled for their water source. I was extremely impressed with their initiative. Tomorrow: horses and water buffalo.

WEST POINT PLEDGES $5,000 ONE-DAY MATCH DONATION TO TAA HOLIDAY GIVING CAMPAIGN

As part of the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA)’s month-long Holiday Giving Campaign, West Point Thoroughbreds has pledged to match all donations up to $5,000 made to the TAA on Dec. 12, 2022. West Point Thoroughbreds, well known for their success on the track, also emphasizes aftercare initiatives and responsibilities.

“The Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance is an initiative that we all need to stand behind,” said West Point Thoroughbreds Chief Operating Officer, Erin Birkenhauer. “A large portion of racehorses are not destined for the breeding shed, but that doesn’t mean their well-being is no longer our responsibility. The due diligence performed by the TAA and their accredited organizations saves horse’s lives, it saved King Congie, and we at West Point are proud to support this vital undertaking.”

Cont. p12
“The importance of including aftercare in your business plans couldn’t be more important,” said TAA Operations Consultant, Stacie Clark Rogers. “West Point continues to show the value they place on their equine athletes, and we are so excited to include them in our Holiday Giving Campaign.”

TAA’s Holiday Giving Campaign commenced Nov. 29 and is scheduled to conclude New Year’s Eve. Those wishing to support the TAA, its 81 accredited organizations, and thousands of retired Thoroughbreds can donate through the TAA’s website or text DONATE to 56651. During the Holiday Giving Campaign, TAA is also offering donors the benefit of sending digital holiday cards to colleagues, friends, and loved ones. Throughout the end of the year, the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance will continue to host special one-day only donation matches with some of horse racing’s biggest names. For more chances to double your donation, watch the TAA’s social media, website, and industry advertisements for the next Holiday Giving match day announcement.

To learn more and donate to the TAA’s Holiday Giving campaign, visit: ThoroughbredAftercare.org/HolidayCampaign.

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Victorious last out Oct. 22 in Woodbine's GIII Ontario Matron and posting a career-high Beyer of 92, she was also third in the GIII Trillium S. at the venue Aug. 13 behind eventual GI Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf-placed Lady Speightspeare (Speightstown) and MGSP Dreaming of Drew (Speightster). Since transitioning over from the turf to synthetic courses, the filly has only been off the board once in seven tries—a sixth at Gulfstream last season—and the betting public responded accordingly here, making her the 8-5 favorite.

Enjoying a ground saving trip on the rail near the back of the field, Kate's Kingdom watched the race unfold through :23.67, :48.29, and 1:12.79 splits and was far back as 11th as the field began closing ranks for the stretch drive. Full of run coming through the final bend, Jack Gilligan uncorked his mount’s turn of foot and she exploded past Candy Raid and Champagne Lady to win by 3/4 lengths. The victory gives conditioner Will Walden's first stakes victory.

The most accomplished for her dam, the victress is the fifth multiple winner from as many elder siblings to the races. They have a 2-year-old half-sister Shibal Cloud (Ksa) (Cloud Computing) in Saudi Arabia. Kate’s Kingdom went through a Fasig-Tipton Digital flash sale for $400,000 to Ready Made Racing. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.
Cont.

A three-length debut winner at Del Mar Sept. 3, Cast Member paired that up with a stakes victory as the favorite in Santa Anita’s Golden State Juvenile S. Oct. 29. A short price again at 3-5 in her first start since, she was in chase mode with only one rival beat through a half in :47.20 before making a sweeping move four wide past the quarter pole. Pacesetter Cocktail Princess gave way with three-sixteenths to run and Cast Member then had to hold off Grazed My Heart close to home to win despite drifting in late. Out of a half-sister to GSW & GISP Kitten’s Roar (Kitten’s Joy), Cast Member has two younger half-brothers both by Mr. Big. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

BEAR FAN S., $77,250, Golden Gate Fields, 12-10, (S), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f (AWT), 1:09.89, ft.

1--CHANCERY WAY, 122, f, 3, Mr. Big--This Means War, by War Chant. ($6,500 Ylg ’20 NCAUG). 1ST BLACK TYPE WIN. O-Andy & Rob Smolich; B-Harris Farms & John Niccolletti (CA); T-Jamey R. Thomas; J-Kevin Radke. $45,000. Lifetime Record: 4-4-0-0, $110,520.

2--Big Summer, 124, f, 4, Mr. Big--Ultimate Summer, by Cee’s Tizzy. 1ST BLACK TYPE. O-Bob Abrams, Mitchell Dutko & Michael Paran; B-Mitchell Dutko & Bob Abrams (CA); T-Carla Gaines. $15,000.

3--Tam’s Little Angel, 122, f, 3, Tamarando--Angel Diane, by Lucky Pulpit. O-Larry D. & Marianne Williams; B-Larry D. Williams (CA); T-Steven Specht. $9,000. Margins: 1 1/4, HD, HD. Odds: 10.20, 1.00, 9.30. Also Ran: Sheza Girly Girl, All Dialed In, Luxury Liner, Tip Top Gal, Carolina Mia, Hot Rageous, Exactly Wendy. Scratched: Lagatha.

Undefeated in three straight gate-to-wire victories earlier this summer, Chancery Way made her stakes debut Saturday, her first start since a half-length score against optional claimers at Sacramento July 23. Given a 10-1 shot off that layoff, she stuck to what works, showing good early speed and going right to the front to lead unchallenged through fractions of :22.20 and :44.53. Still in charge at the top of the lane, Chancery Way attempted to shake clear of the field for good inside the final furlong but drifted out close to home, letting Big Summer cut into her lead to shorten her winning margin. Chancery Way has an unraced 2-year-old full-sister, War Memories, and a weanling half-brother by Om while her dam visited Tamarando for the 2023 season. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

IN ORDER OF PURSE:
8th-Laurel, $54,810, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm ($50,000-$62,500), 12-11, 2yo, 5 1/2f, 1:03.72, ft, 1 length.

PROVE RIGHT (c, 2, Justify--Joe’sgoldenholiday, by Harlan’s Holiday), runner up in a six-furlong optional claimer at Keeneland in October, set the pace but tired late and had to settle for third in the one-mile Gill Nashua S. Nov. 6. Close-up early in a sloppy renewal of the GII Remsen S. Dec. 3, he found the nine furlongs beyond his means, finishing a well-beaten seventh. Given a 7-2 chance in this return to a mile, the bay stalked a :22.30 and :45.69 pace set by Swifty Devil (Speightster), challenged the pacesetter near the eighth pole and forged past that rival late to score by a length. A half-sister to MGISW Goldencents (Into Mischief), Joe’sgoldenholiday produced a filly by Street Sense last season and followed up with a Volatile colt this term. She was bred back to Violence. Sales history: $15,000 Ylg ’21 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 10-2-1-2, $146,220. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-James K. Chapman and Stuart Tsujimoto; B-Three Chimneys Farm, LLC (KY); T-James K. Chapman.
7th-Fair Grounds, $51,000, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm ($17,500), 12-11, 3yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:46.03, sy, 1/2 length.

NELSON AVENUE (c, 3, Into Mischief--Via Strata, by Street Cry {Ire}) came home a winner first up while sprinting six furlongs at Delaware Aug. 18 before a fourth at that venue in a 5 1/2-furlong test Oct. 15. Sent off at 2-1 here, the bay tracked pedestrian early splits before poking his head in front through three-quarters in 1:13.15. Determined to remain in front late, he repelled the oncoming favorite Britain’s Kitten (Big Blue Kitten) late to score by a half length. Via Strata is responsible for an unraced juvenile full brother to the winner in addition to a weanling sister by Nyquist. She was bred back to Medaglia d’Oro. Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, $57,240. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-Godolphin, LLC; B-Godolphin (KY); T-Michael Stidham.

IN ORDER OF PURSE:

6th-Woodbine, C$107,214, Msw, 12-11, 2yo, 1m 70y (AWT), 1:44.75, ft, 1 1/4 lengths.

MIDNIGHT IN MALIBU (c, 2, Midnight Lute--I Thirtyfive, by Malibu Moon), fourth when sprinting 6 1/2 furlongs Nov. 13, stretched out Sunday with a 3-1 shot but broke a step slowly and had to hustle to gain position mid pack. Maneuvering between rivals while off the pace in fifth, he began to advance four wide around the far turn and came outside the leaders to assume command. After a short duel outside of Hey Cue (Accelerate), he gained minor separation late, hitting the line 1 1/4 lengths ahead. Out of a half-sister to GSW & GISP Ready to Please (More Than Ready), Midnight in Malibu is her dam’s youngest reported offspring. Sales History: C$39,000 Ylg ’21 CANSEP. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, $49,895. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-Tucci Holdings; B-Huntington Stud Farm Corp. & Kingview Farms (ON); T-Jamie Attard.

7th-Oaklawn, $90,000, Msw, 12-11, 2yo, f, 5 1/2f, 1:05.73, my, neck.

KLASSY BRIDGETTE (f, 2, Army Mule--Klassy Katlyn, by Saint Ballado) ran second to ’TDN Rising Star’ Pretty Mischievous (Into Mischief) on debut Sept. 18 and was narrowly beaten as the favorite last time out on Breeders’ Cup Friday. With Lasix for the first time Sunday, the 2-1 second choice was a step slow from the blocks and raced towards the rear of the field early, gaining slowly around the turn. Caught in traffic while seventh at the top of the stretch, she wove her way between horses and came running inside of rivals and just got up in the final strides to win by a neck over Flyin Bessie (Practical Joke). The 23rd winner for her freshman sire Army Mule (by Friesan Fire), Klassy Bridge is her dam’s youngest offspring. Lifetime Record: 3-1-2-0, $105,375. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-Jackie Rojas; B-Tamarra Chambers & Tammy Ingebritson (KY); T-Chris A. Hartman.

4th-Oaklawn, $90,000, (S), Msw, 12-11, 2yo, 6f, 1:12.72, my, 1/2 length.

WESTHEIMER STREET (c, 2, Street Strategy--Megyns Gold, by Zensational), the 9-5 choice in this unveiling, raced in the back half of the field after an awkward beginning but quickly ranged up on the outside of Finishwhatustarted (Jonesboro) to assume command after a :22.61 opening half. Caught wide into the far turn, he held on despite a late challenge from Time Andbeyond (Not This Time) to win by a half-length. Westheimer Street has a yearling full-brother and another full-sibling due in 2023. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $54,000. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O/B-James Driver (AR); T-Chris A. Hartman.

Undefeated Cast Member (Munnings) takes Sunday’s Soviet Problem S. (click to watch)
1st-Aqueduct, $85,000, Msw, 12-11, 3yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:40.49, ft, 2 lengths.

INTO HAPPINESS (f, 3, Into Mischief--Acting Happy {GSW & MGISP, $262,470}, by Empire Maker) finished runner up going a mile here in January, and was not seen until a distant sixth-place finish in her return to this venue in September. Sent off at 2-1 coming off another layoff, the bay was slightly sluggish at the start, but was hustled into contention along the inside as the fields headed up the backstretch. With Ughrouda (Curlin) and Mischief Motion (Into Mischief) showing the way through a :23.52 quarter, Into Happiness was a close-up fourth as favored Charging Lady (Medaglia d'Oro) strode to the front through a :47.99 half. Taking over from the favorite turning for home, the Samantha Siegel homebred was given encouragement in early stretch and remained clear before crossing the wire a geared down two lengths over Charging Lady. A daughter of dual Grade I winner I Ain't Bluffing (Pine Bluff), GII Black-Eyed Susan S. winner Acting Happy is also responsible for a juvenile by Violence named Acting Innocent and a weanling filly by Mo Town. She was bred back to Maclean's Music. Lifetime Record: 6-1-2-0, $85,800. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-Jay Em Ess Stable; B-Samantha Siegel (KY); T-Michelle Nevin.

5th-Turfway, $63,000, Msw, 12-11, 2yo, f, 6f (AWT), 1:10.88, ft, 3/4 length.

NOM DE PLUME (f, 2, Uncle Mo--Casting Director, by Bernardini), rewarded with 5-2 favoritism for her career bow, stayed in touch while racing closest to pacesetter Icy Stare (Frosted), taking over just past the quarter pole. Shewillghostu (Girvin) closed to chase her home but was ultimately no match as Nom de Plume proved best, winning by three-quarters of a length.

Out of a daughter of GI Personal Ensign S. winner Shadow Cast (Smart Strike), Nom de Plume's only younger sibling is a weanling half-brother by Nyquist. Casting Director visited Munnings for a 2023 foal. Sales History: $535,000 RNA Ylg '21 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $42,000. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O/B-Bonne Chance Farm LLC (KY); T-Paulo H. Lobo.
7th-Gulfstream, $60,000, Msw, 12-11, 2yo, f, 1mT, 1:35.87, fm, neck.

**ALPHA BELLA** (f, 2, Justify--Andina {Ire} {SW & MGSP, $282,982}, by Singspiel {Ire}) picked up blinkers Sunday while marking her turf bow after a single on-the-board effort since beginning her career at Saratoga in August. Dispatched at even-money favoritism, she kept in touch inside of pacesetter Worst Behaviour (Bernardini) and Solicitation (Runhappy) before angling out three wide as the field straightened for the wire. In front with a furlong to run, Alpha Bella stayed inside of 45-1 closer Sri Lanka (Munnings) and got the best of the duel to win by a neck. The 28th winner for her freshman sire (by Scat Daddy), Alpha Bella is already a half-sister to a pair of graded-stakes winners in Andina Del Sur (Giant’s Causeway), GSW, $500,450 and Australia Mia (Street Sense), MGSS-W. Her dam last produced a yearling filly by Uncle Mo. Lifetime Record: 4-1-1-0, $70,200. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O/B-Don Alberto Corporation (KY); T-Todd A. Pletcher.

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8th-Golden Gate Fields, $34,860, Msw, 12-10, 2yo, f, 5 1/2f (AWT), 1:04.65, ft, neck.

**MISS BELLIMBUSTO** (f, 2, Bucchero--Bellimbusto, by First Dude) closed well late to catch third when covering six furlongs over this same course Nov. 19 and returned Saturday with the addition of blinkers and a 3-1 shot. In a stalking trip early from fourth, she hugged the rail around the far turn and initially tipped out to make a two-wide move down the lane. As space opened up inside of Rose of Mooncoin (Gig Harbor), Miss Bellimbusto dove through to fill it and closed determinedly in the final sixteenth to just get up in the final jump, winning by a neck. The 11th winner for her freshman sire (by Kantharos), Miss Bellimbusto has a yearling full-brother, Bucchero, still to race behind her. Her dam was bred to Leinster for next season. Sales History: $40,000 2yo '22 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-1, $21,600. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-Jauregui Racing Stables, Inc., Danny A. Eplin, Charles E. Gerson & Angel D. Valadez; B-Blue River Bloodstock (FL); T-O. J. Jauregui.
STAKES RESULTS:

STEADY GROWTH S., C$100,000, Woodbine, 12-11, (S), 3yo/up, 1 1/16m (AWT), 1:44.89, ft.

1-- AVOMAN, 121, g, 4, Old Forester--Cosa Rara, by Tethra. (C$60,000 Ylg ’19 CANSEP). O-Paul Braverman & Timothy Pinch; B-Joey Gee Thoroughbreds (ON); T-John Charalambous; J-Justin Stein. C$60,000. Lifetime Record: 15-4-1-3, $252,505.

2-- Lac Macaza, 119, c, 3, Giant Gizmo--Garavogue Colleen, by Sligo Bay (Ire). (C$19,000 RNA Ylg ’20 CANSEP). O-Goldie Stables & Discovery Racing; B-Frank Mermenstein & Elliot Kohn (ON); T-Julia Carey. C$20,000.

3-- Artie’s Storm, 124, g, 4, We Miss Artie--Tiz Stormy Now, by Tiznow. O-Buttigieg Training Centre; B-Sunrise Farm (ON); T-Paul M. Buttigieg. C$10,000.


ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

10th-Woodbine, C$92,280, 12-11, 3yo/up, 1 1/16m (AWT), 1:45.76, ft, nose.

(DH) GASTON (c, 3, Hard Spun--Bola de Cristal (Ire), by Galileo (Ire)) Lifetime Record: 7-2-3-0, $130,530. O-X-Men Racing, Madaket Stables LLC & SF Racing LLC; B-Saintsbury Farms Inc. (ON); T-Kevin Attard. *$60,000 Ylg ’20 FTKSEL.

(DH) BRINGER OF RAIN (c, 3, Twirling Candy--Coronation Street, by Street Cry (Ire)) Lifetime Record: GSP, 13-2-0-3, $112,830. O-Buttigieg Training Centre; B-Sunrise Farm (ON); T-Paul M. Buttigieg. C$10,000.

5th-Aqueduct, $80,000, (S), 12-11, 3yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f, 1:18.99, ft, 1 3/4 lengths.

CAPTAINSDAUGHTER (f, 3, Midshipman--Joan’s Rose, by Service Stripe) Lifetime Record: MSP, 20-3-5-6, $321,598. O-Joseph Birnbaum; B-Ocean View Stable (NY); T-Russell J. Cash.

8th-Turfway, $77,777, 12-11, 3yo/up, 1 1/4m (AWT), 2:01.88, ft, 5 3/4 lengths.

OFFLEE NAUGHTY (c, 4, Flashback--Acting Naughty (GSW, $421,709), by Offlee Wild) Lifetime Record: 15-3-1-1, $190,645. O-James M. & Donna Daniell; B-Gary & Mary West Stables Inc. (KY); T-Michael W. McCarthy. *$4,000 2yo ’20 OBSOPN.

11th-Woodbine, C$77,194, 12-10, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m (AWT), 1:46.28, ft, 1/2 length.

(DH) TEMPEREYA (f, 4, Temple City--Artistic difference, by Eskendereya) Lifetime Record: 16-3-1-5, $81,757. O-Newtow Stables; B-Schludecker Racing Stable (KY); T-Michael P. De Paulo. *$9,000 RNA Ylg ’19 FTKOCT.

(DH) WHO SAYS (f, 4, Quality Road--Queen Caribees, by Cozzene) Lifetime Record: 15-3-2-1, $97,747. O-H. Archie Lee; B-Sean Fitzhenry (ON); T-L. Rodney Barrow. *$220,000 RNA Ylg ’19 KEESEP.

8th-Aqueduct, $75,000, (S), 12-11, (NW1$X), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11.23, ft, 8 1/2 lengths.

TODAY’S FLAVOR (g, 4, Laoban--Evangelical, by Speightstown) Lifetime Record: 6-2-3-0, $126,030. O-Reddam Racing LLC; B-Joseph Calvo (NY); T-George Weaver. *$80,000 RNA Ylg ’19 SARAUG.

6th-Laurel, $56,310, 12-11, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:09.98, ft, 1 1/4 lengths.

CHOCOLATE SHAKE (g, 4, Twirling Candy--Broad Sound, by Broad Brush) Lifetime Record: 4-2-0-1, $71,700. O-K E M Racing Stable; B-Glencrest Farm LLC (KY); T-Lacey Gaudet. *$27,000 Ylg ’19 KEEJAN; $55,000 Ylg ’19 KEESEP; $70,000 4yo ’22 OBSWIN. **1/2 to Brimstone Island (Tiznow), MSP, $302,593.

3rd-Fair Grounds, $51,000, (S), 12-11, (NW2L), 3yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:46.37, sy, 1 1/4 lengths.

SMARTY ALEX (g, 5, Karakontie (Jpn)--Barbies M, by Afleet Alex) Lifetime Record: 18-2-5-5, $94,845. O-Alexis Claire Racing Services, LLC & Dennis Pohl; B-Steve E. Holliday (LA); T-Alexis Claire. *$1,000 Ylg ’18 OBSWIN.

8th-Delta Downs, $43,020, 12-10, (C), 3yo/up, 7f, 1:26.76, ft, 2 1/2 lengths.

WISE VERDICT (g, 4, Court Vision--Up a Notch, by Lone Star Sky) Lifetime Record: MSP, 20-4-2-3, $134,350. O/B-Michael Martin LLC (LA); T-Brett A. Brinkman.
Allowance Results cont.

9th-Golden Gate Fields, $40,504, 12-10, (NW1$X), 3yo/up, 6f (AWT), 1:09.54, ft, 3 1/2 lengths.  
STAR RACER (g, 5, Vronsky--Honey Bee Lucky, by Bold Badgett)  
Lifetime Record: 17-3-2-4, $140,458. O-Blue Moon Racing Ltd. & Steven Dietrich; B-Old English Rancho & Bruce Headley (CA); T-Angelo Tekos, Jr. *$10,000 Ylg '18 NCAAUG.

7th-Hawthorne, $40,320, (C)/Opt. Clm ($40,000), 12-11, 3yo/up, 6f (AWT), 1:09.54, ft, 3 1/2 lengths.  
GO EMI (g, 3, Lord Nelson--Love to Score {MSP}, by Even the Score)  
Lifetime Record: 11-3-3-1, $110,613. O-Campos Family Ventures LLC; B-Richard & Connie Snyder (KY); T-Lilia Gonzalez.  
*$50,000 Ylg '20 FTKSEL; $72,000 RNA 2yo '21 EASMAY; $20,000 2yo '21 OBSOPN.

8th-Golden Gate Fields, $39,634, 12-11, 2yo, f, 5 1/2f (AWT), 1:05.15, ft, 1 length.  
ROUSING JEWEL (f, 2, Rousing Sermon--Ribbon of Jewels, by Distorted Humor)  
Lifetime Record: 5-2-1-1, $65,440. O-Larry D. & Marianne Williams; B-Larry D. Williams (CA); T-Steven Specht.

5th-Hawthorne, $37,825, 12-11, (C)/Opt. Clm ($40,000), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:39.52, ft, 1/2 length.  
DA PRAIRIE GIRL (f, 4, Da Stoops--She Loves Me Now, by Chief Seattle)  
Lifetime Record: 8-4-1-0, $109,359. O/T-Roger D. Neff; B-Nona Buley (OK).  
*$50,000 Ylg '20 FTKSEL; $72,000 RNA 2yo '21 EASMAY; $20,000 2yo '21 OBSOPN.

2nd-Golden Gate Fields, $39,634, 12-11, 2yo, f, 5 1/2f (AWT), 1:05.15, ft, 1 length.  
ROUSING JEWEL (f, 2, Rousing Sermon--Ribbon of Jewels, by Distorted Humor)  
Lifetime Record: 5-2-1-1, $65,440. O-Larry D. & Marianne Williams; B-Larry D. Williams (CA); T-Steven Specht.

7th-Remington, $37,700, 12-10, 3yo/up, 7f, 1:24.35, ft, 1/2 length.  
FREE SAILIN (g, 3, Freedom Child--Kela's Pride, by Kela)  
Lifetime Record: MSW, 3-7-0-0, $172,338. O/T-Jason DaCosta; B-Susan Wantz (WV). *$14,000 RNA Wlg '19 EASDEC; $20,000 Ylg '20 EASOCT.

9th-Remington, $34,000, 12-10, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:17.71, my, neck.  
DISCO DANZING (g, 3, Danzing Candy--Twirl Me, by Hard Spun)  
Lifetime Record: 6-2-1-1, $51,974. O-Sycamore Bark Thoroughbreds LLC; B-Rising Star Farm LLC (KY); T-Clinton C. Stuart. *1/2 to Capo Kane (Street Sense), SW & GSP, $147,500.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:  
Color Commish, g, 2, Commissioner--Rhetorical Colors, by Afleet Alex. Aqueduct, 12-11, 3f, 1:13.64. Lifetime Record: 4-1-1-0, $31,297. B-Carl Bennett (NY).  
Taken It, f, 2, Mo Tom--Conspired, by Zensational. Delta Downs, 12-10, 6 1/2f, 1:22.76. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-0, $32,000. B-Adcock's Red River Farm, LLC & J. Adcock (LA).

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Animal Kingdom, Kate's Kingdom, f, 4, o/o Don't get mad alexis, by Don't Get Mad. My Charmer S., 12-11, Turfway

Army Mule, Klassy Bridgette, f, 2, o/o Klassy Katlyn, by Saint Ballado. MSW, 12-11, Oaklawn

Bal a Bali (Brz), Baladine, g, 3, o/o Dene Court, by City Zip. MSW, 12-11, Hawthorne

Bucchero, Miss Bellimbusto, f, 2, o/o Bellimbusto, by First Dude. MSW, 12-10, Golden Gate

Commissioner, Color Commish, g, 2, o/o Rhetorical Colors, by Afleet Alex. MCL, 12-11, Aqueduct

Court Vision, Wise Verdict, g, 4, o/o Up a Notch, by Lone Star Sky. ALW, 12-10, Delta Downs

Curlin, Erna, f, 2, o/o Jumby Bay, by City Zip. MSW, 12-11, Gulfstream

Da Stoops, Da Prairie Girl, f, 4, o/o She Loves Me Now, by Chief Seattle. ALW, 12-10, Remington

Danzing Candy, Disco Danzing, g, 3, o/o Twirl Me, by Hard Spun. ALW, 12-10, Remington

Flashback, Offlee Naughty, c, 4, o/o Acting Naughty, by Offlee Wild. AOC, 12-11, Turfway

Freedom Child, Free Sailin, g, 3, o/o Kela's Pride, by Kela. ALW, 12-10, Charles Town

Ghostzapper, Ghostly Gal, f, 4, o/o R Sassy Lass, by Exclusive Quality. AOC, 12-10, Golden Gate

Girvin, Faiza, f, 2, o/o Sweet Pistol, by Smart Strike. GI Starlet S., 12-10, Los Alamitos Thoroughbred

Hard Spun, Gaston, c, 3, o/o Bola de Cristal (Ire), by Galileo (Ire). AOC, 12-11, Woodbine

Into Mischief, Into Happiness, f, 3, o/o Acting Happy, by Empire Maker. MSW, 12-11, Aqueduct

Into Mischief, Nelson Avenue, c, 3, o/o Via Strata, by Street Cry (Ire). AOC, 12-11, Fair Grounds

Justify, Alpha Bella, f, 2, o/o Andina (Ire), by Singspiel (Ire). MSW, 12-11, Gulfstream

Justify, Prove Right, c, 2, o/o Joe's golden holiday, by Harlan's Holiday. AOC, 12-11, Laurel

Karakontie (Jpn), Smarty Alex, g, 5, o/o Barbies M, by Afleet Alex. ALW, 12-11, Fair Grounds

King's Empire, Rainy Mountain, f, 4, o/o Atlantic Storm R N, by Stormy Atlantic. MSW, 12-11, Hawthorne

Laoban, Today's Flavor, g, 4, o/o Evangelical, by Speightstown. ALW, 12-11, Aqueduct

Lord Nelson, Go Emi, g, 3, o/o Love to Score, by Even the Score. AOC, 12-11, Hawthorne

Midnight Lute, Midnight Fire, c, 4, o/o Meili, by Forestry. AOC, 12-10, Delta Downs

Midnight Lute, Midnight in Malibu, c, 2, o/o I Thirtyfive, by Malibu Moon. MSW, 12-11, Woodbine

Midshipman, Captainsdaughter, f, 3, o/o Joan's Rose, by Service Stripe. AOC, 12-11, Aqueduct

Mr. Big, Chancery Way, f, 3, o/o This Means War, by War Chant. Bear Fan S., 12-10, Golden Gate

Munnings, Cast Member, f, 2, o/o Be My Baby, by Artie Schiller. Soviet Problem S., 12-11, Los Alamitos Thoroughbred

Munnings, Relic Hunter, c, 3, o/o Lady o' War, by Leestown. MSW, 12-11, Fair Grounds

Old Forester, Avoman, g, 4, o/o Cosa Rara, by Tethra. Steady Growth S., 12-11, Woodbine

Oxbow, Fast and Feminine, f, 3, o/o Silver Buttons, by Aikenite. MSW, 12-10, Remington

Palace Malice, Hot Thoughts, f, 2, o/o Smiling Cruise, by Harlan's Holiday. MCL, 12-11, Los Alamitos Thoroughbred

Practical Joke, Bourbon Heist, g, 3, o/o Elusive One, by Elusive Quality. MSW, 12-11, Turfway

Quality Road, Who Says, f, 4, o/o Queen Caribees, by Cozzene. AOC, 12-10, Woodbine

Rousing Sermon, Rousing Jewel, f, 2, o/o Ribbon of Jewels, by Distorted Humor. AOC, 12-11, Golden Gate

Street Strategy, Westheimer Street, c, 2, o/o Megyns Gold, by Zensational. MSW, 12-11, Oaklawn

Temple City, Tempereya, f, 4, o/o Artistic difference, by Eskendereya. AOC, 12-10, Woodbine

Twirling Candy, Bringer of Rain, c, 3, o/o Coronation Street, by Street Cry (Ire). AOC, 12-11, Woodbine

Twirling Candy, Chocolate Shake, g, 4, o/o Broad Sound, by Broad Brush. ALW, 12-11, Laurel

Uncle Mo, Nom de Plume, f, 2, o/o Casting Director, by Bernardini. MSW, 12-11, Turfway

Vronsky, Star Racer, g, 5, o/o Honey Bee Lucky, by Bold Badgett. ALW, 12-10, Golden Gate
A STUDY IN PATIENT HORSEMANSHIP

When Silver Seeker (Central Banker) made his second start off a nearly three-year layoff Saturday, the betting public really didn’t know what to make of him and let him go off at 19-1.

LONGINES HKIR: ‘A CELEBRATION OF CHAMPIONS’

by Alan Carasso

They poured into Sha Tin Racecourse and Happy Valley Racecourse, roughly 45,000 of them, to take in Sunday’s Longines Hong Kong International Races meeting, the largest crowd in over three years. Hong Kong has been tormented in recent years by social upheaval and, of course, the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020, but an easing of Draconian virus-related restrictions a few months ago meant that increasing numbers of fans are now able to partake in one of the city’s greatest pastimes with considerable freedom.

The connections of 24 foreign raiders accepted invitations from the Hong Kong Jockey Club for this year’s HKIR, but the home team were not the most accommodating of hosts Sunday afternoon, with victories in three of the afternoon’s Group 1 features. Japan did not go home empty-handed, while a single—but extremely important—Australian raider did his connections proud as well.

Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, the CEO of the HKJC who has done wonders to help keep Hong Kong racing afloat during the aforementioned crises, was duly pleased with what he witnessed Sunday.

TWELVE QUESTIONS WITH JOE FOLEY, STALLION MASTER

The TDN Europe team reached out to several industry members for a light-hearted Q&A as the holidays approach. First up is stallion master Joe Foley of Ballyhane Stud.

What was your first job in the Thoroughbred industry?

Coolmore as a young 19-year-old having left UCD to the academics. They gave me a lot of responsibility for a young lad and I met some great people there.

The biggest influence on your career?

My parents.

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Cont. p9

Cont. p3
Goffs Orby graduate California Spangle (Ire) (Starspangledbanner {Aus}) got the jump on two-time Hong Kong Horse of the Year Golden Sixty (Aus) (Medaglia d’Oro) in Sunday’s G1 Longines Hong Kong Mile and fought on bravely for a narrow victory.

‘WE’RE VERY PROUD OF HIM’

Brian Sheerin connects with the breeders of G1 Longines Hong Kong Cup winner Romantic Warrior (Ire) (Acclamation {GB}), who was purchased for 300,000gns at Tattersalls October in 2019 and who is now among the world’s elite horses.
HKJC CEO Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges

“...I would like to acknowledge and thank the Hong Kong Government for their tremendous support that we could hold such a global event—because this is a real global event which goes around 80 countries where people around the world who love horse racing focus on Hong Kong,” he said.

“I want to thank our team who have done an absolutely outstanding effort because what the team has pulled off has made me as the CEO extremely proud because this is the Hong Kong ‘can do’ spirit and this is excellence of the Hong Kong Jockey Club—and we never give up.

“Today is about the sport, today is about world-class racing and today is about celebrating champions,” Engelbrecht-Bresges continued. “Today, Hong Kong has shown that we have world-class quality. It’s amazing that we have only 1,250 horses in training—that is 0.8% of the world’s horse population and it is amazing how many quality horses we have in Hong Kong who are world leaders.”

Turnover for the afternoon’s program was a record HK$1.729 billion (£181.1 million/US$222 million).

Isn’t It Romantic?

Romantic Warrior (Ire) (Acclamation {GB}) saved the best for last Sunday afternoon at Sha Tin, as he stormed away from a very classy group of international horses to crush in the G1 Longines Hong Kong Cup, the city’s richest race annually with prize money of HK$34 million (£3.56 million/US$4.37 million).

Most on hand expected Japan’s Panthalassa (Jpn) (Lord Kanaloa {Jpn}) to lead the Cup field, and so it proved, though he was off to a tardy beginning and had to be rousted along to finally take up the running into the first turn.

Cont. p4
**Longines Hong Kong Cup cont.**

Romantic Warrior jumped with them, but Longines World’s Best Jockey winner James McDonald—in the irons for Karis Teetan—wanted to ease back off the speed and Romantic Warrior acquiesced, albeit while tossing his head around at the first corner. The odds-on pop fought his rider a bit more as they raced to the back, but switched off once and for all and settled just ahead of midfield.

Positions were largely unchanged through the middle furlongs, with Panthalassa still the boss and Romantic Warrior traveling well in hand on the back of longshot Money Catcher (NZ) (Ferlax (NZ)) into the final three furlongs. Panthalassa had run his race 300 metres out, but, steered out four off the inside into the straight, Romantic Warrior was shaken up and was off and gone with the Cup, the first sub two-minute clocking since the distance of the race was changed in 1999.

Danon the Kid (Jpn) (Just A Way (Jpn)) rallied from the back for third ahead of Money Catcher. Romantic Warrior is the first to complete the BMW Hong Kong Derby/Hong Kong Cup double as a 4-year-old since Designs On Rome (Ire) (Holy Roman Emperor (Ire)) in 2014.

“I promise you, that was really as good as it looked,” McDonald said. “He was perfect from start to finish today and he’s right up there with any of the other really good ones I’ve ridden, don’t worry about that. This horse has a lot of great attributes but his greatest is that he’s so adaptable at taking a position.”

Romantic Warrior, whose only career defeat to date came at the hands of California Spangle (Ire) (Starspangledbanner (Aus)) when pace-disadvantaged in last year’s Hong Kong Classic Cup, turned the tables in the Derby and added the G1 FWD QE II Cup in his final start last prep. **Cont. p5**
Hong Kong Cup cont.

A minor setback delayed his seasonal debut, but he made the most of it when running out an easy winner of the G2 Jockey Club Cup Nov. 20.

With the Cup done and dusted, an audacious path forward could lie ahead.

“His owner Peter Lau said, ‘Danny if we win this race we should target the Hong Kong Triple Crown over 1600m, 2000m and 2400m’,“ said trainer Danny Shum, winning his first race at the HKIR.

The first of those stops is next month’s G1 Stewards’ Cup, which could potentially also draw California Spangle and Golden Sixty for a potential clash of the titans. The Triple Crown continues with February’s G1 Citi Hong Kong Gold Cup and the G1 Standard Chartered Champions and Chater Cup in May.

Pedigree Notes:

Romantic Warrior is one of six Group 1 winners for Rathberry Stud’s Acclamation and is the third foal from his dam, a daughter of Folk Opera, whose biggest racetrack success came in the 10-furlong GI E. P. Taylor S. at Woodbine and whose resume also includes a victory in the G2 Darley Prix Jean Romanet. Folk Melody is the dam of the 2-year-old colt Operation Gimcrack (Ire) (Showcasing (GB)), who fetched 160,000gns from Bryan Smart Racing at last year’s Tattersalls October Sale, and foaled a colt by Showcasing (GB) this season.

Sunday, Sha Tin, Hong Kong

LONGINES HONG KONG CUP-G1, HK$34,000,000, Sha Tin, 12-11, 3yo/up, 2000mT, 1:59.70 (NSR), gd.
1--ROMANTIC WARRIOR (IRE), 126, g, 4, by Acclamation (GB)
   1st Dam: Folk Melody (Ire), by Street Cry (Ire)
   2nd Dam: Folk Opera (Ire), by Singspiel (Ire)
   3rd Dam: Skiphall (GB), by Halling
   (300,000gns Ylg '19 TATOCT; HK$4,800,000 HRA '21 HKJUN).
   O-Peter Lau Pak Fai; B-Corduff Stud & T J Rooney; T-Danny Shum C S; J-James McDonald; HK$19,380,000. Lifetime Record: Ch. 4yo-HK, 10-9-0-0, $7,769,720. Werk Nick Rating: A+. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree. Click for the free Equineline.com catalog-style pedigree.

2--Danon the Kid (Jpn), 126, c, 4, Just A Way (Jpn)--Epic Love (Ire), by Dansili (GB). (¥100,000,000 Fl '18 JRHAJUL). O-Danox Co Ltd; B-Northern Farm; T-Takayuki Yasuda; J-Yuichi Kitamura; HK$7,480,000.

3--Money Catcher (NZ), 126, g, 5, Ferlax (NZ)--Warren's Sister (NZ), by Savabeel (Aus). (NZ$13,000 Wlg '18 NZBMAJ; NZ$60,000 2yo '19 NZBTR). O-The Sunflower Syndicate; B-Haunui Bloodstock Ltd; T-Frankie Lor F C; J-Silvestre de Sousa; HK$3,400,000.

Dam purchased by Narvick Int’l / Riki Takahashi

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STARSPANGLED BANNER

...UPDATE...UPDATE...UPDATE...UPDATE...

CALIFORNIA SPANGLE

1st Longines Hong Kong Mile Gr.1 on Sunday
**Spangle Plays Spoiler In the Mile**

**California Spangle (Ire)** (Starspangledbanner {Aus}) had done his part to validate the form of last year's Classics with a pair of wins at group level this season before just failing to hold off **Golden Sixty (Aus)** (Medaglia d'Oro) when favoured in the G2 Jockey Club Mile Nov. 20. That was his second defeat to the dual Horse of the Year, having finished two lengths adrift in the G1 FWD Champions Mile back in May. The second choice and the only other horse in the market in the G1 Longines Hong Kong Mile, the bay--carrying the silks of two-time Cup winner **California Memory (Highest Honor {Fr})**--was given a supremely poised ride by Zac Purton and managed to claw his way home first, denying Golden Sixty a third straight win in the race.

Ideally drawn gate two, California Spangle found his way to the front and was able to slow the pace through an opening 400 metres in :25.01, but Golden Sixty and Vincent Ho were intent on not allowing him to get too far away and settled in fourth, covered by the temperamentally **Beauty Joy (Aus)** (Sebring {Aus})--was given a supremely poised ride by Zac Purton and managed to claw his way home first, denying Golden Sixty a third straight win in the race.

Ideally drawn gate two, California Spangle found his way to the front and was able to slow the pace through an opening 400 metres in :25.01, but Golden Sixty and Vincent Ho were intent on not allowing him to get too far away and settled in fourth, covered by the temperamentally **Beauty Joy (Aus)** (Sebring {Aus}).

The latter duo raced in tight quarters five furlongs out and Golden Sixty was steadied off the heels of Australia's **Laws of Indices (Ire)** (Power {GB}) at about the same time Hugh Bowman sent Beauty Joy to tackle his pacesetting stable companion. Purton did not panic as he steered California Spangle to the outside and he roused his mount to the lead in upper stretch. Golden Sixty was produced four wide into the lane and kicked hard, but the wire came a couple strides too soon. Laws of Indices, the first overseas runner for trainer Annabel Neasham, covered himself in glory in third.

“Then when he got clear of him he wanted to wait a little bit which was a worrying time for me when I could feel Golden Sixty breathing down my neck again. Today I thought he had me at the 200m and then at the 100m I thought, ‘he hasn’t quite got me yet.’ We kept trying and we were lucky to get the result today,” Purton added.

**Pedigree Notes:**
California Spangle becomes the fifth Group 1 winner for his sire, whose recently retired son State of Rest (Ire) took this year’s Prince of Wales’s S. to become a top-level scorer in four different countries. Out of a half-sister to G2 Hungerford S. and G3 Solario S. winner Shakespearean (Ire) (Shamardal) and from the family of highweight Sainte Marine (Ire) (Kenmare {Fr}) and multiple group winner Josr Algarhound (Ire) (Darshaan {GB}), California Spangle has a 2-year-old half-sister named Alchimia (Ire) (Fast Company {Ire}).

### Sunday, Sha Tin, Hong Kong

**LONGINES HONG KONG MILE-G1**, HK$30,000,000, Sha Tin, 12-11, 3yo/up, 1600mT, 1:33.41, gd.

1--**CALIFORNIA SPANGLE (IRE)**, 126, g, 4, by Starspangledbanner (Aus)
1st Dam: Pearlitas Passion (Ire), by High Chaparral (Ire)
2nd Dam: Paimpolaise (Ire), by Priolo
3rd Dam: Basilea (Fr), by Frere Basile (Fr)

1ST GROUP 1 WIN. (€150,000 Ylg '19 GOFORB). O-Howard Liang Yum Shing; B-M Enright; T-Tony Cruz A S; J-Zac Purton; HK$17,100,000. Lifetime Record: 14-9-5-0, $6,068,602. *1/2 to Wychwood Warrior (Ire) (Lope de Vega {Ire}), MSP-Ire, SP-UAE. Werk Nick Rating: A+++ *Triple Plus*. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree. Click for the free Equineline.com catalog-style pedigree.

2--**Golden Sixty (Aus)**, 126, g, 7, Medaglia d'Oro--Gaudeamus, by Distorted Humor. (A$120,000 Ylg '17 MMGCYS; NZ$300,000 2yo '17 NZBTR). O-Stanley Chan Ka Leung; B-Asco International Pty Ltd (Qld); T-Francis Lui K W; J-Zac Purton; HK$6,600,000.
Longines Hong Kong Mile cont.

3—Laws of Indices (Ire), 126, c, 4, Power (GB)—Sampers (Ire), by Excel and Exceed (Aus). (€8,000 Ylg '19 GOFOCT). O-Aquis Farm Stallions, D P Hickey et al; B-N Hartery; T-Annabel Neasham; J-James McDonald; HK$3,000,000. Margins: NK, 1 1/4, 3 3/4. Odds: 11-5, 1-2, 54-1. Also Ran: Beauty Joy (Aus), More Than This (GB), Danon Scorpion (Jpn), Excellent Proposal (Aus), Waikuku (Ire), Schnell Meister (Jpn). Click for the HKJC.com chart, PPs and sectional timing. VIDEO.

Wellington Back To Championship Form in Sprint

Badly hampered by the spill that marred last year’s running of the G1 Longines Hong Kong Sprint, Wellington (Aus) (All Too Hard {Aus}) was under a cloud of uncertainty for this year’s event after he was found to be lame following a sixth to Lucky Sweynesse (NZ) (Sweynesse {Aus}) in the Nov. 20 G2 Jockey Club Sprint. Pronounced fit to run by trainer Richard Gibson, the 6-year-old bounced back to his best with a 3/4-length defeat of longshot Sight Success (Aus) (Magnus {Aus}) Sunday afternoon. Sight Success was first to break the line and fought out a moderate early tempo alongside Singapore raider Lim’s Kociszusko (Aus) (Kermadec {NZ}), with the heavily favored Lucky Sweynesse just in behind and Wellington between rivals and in back of midfield. Given a bit of rein midway on the turn by Ryan Moore, who was replacing the injured Alexis Badel, Wellington raced in clear air and slipstreamed Courier Wonder (NZ) (Sacred Falls {NZ}). Tipped outside of that one with a quarter mile to sprint, Wellington let down beautifully and reeled in a very game Sight Success for the victory. Defending champion Sky Field (Aus) (Deep Field {Aus}) closed off nicely for third. Lucky Sweynesse was ridden for luck in the straight, but was blocked at a crucial stage and was unlucky not to finish better than sixth.

“It was very straightforward from my horse, he took me there comfortably and had the race sewn up with 200m to go really,” said Moore, registering an eighth HKIR win. “To me, he has looked the best sprinter in Hong Kong for some time now and obviously it’s very harsh on Alexis, but I’m very thankful to pick up the ride and have a go on him today.”

With the biggest local sprint in the bag, connections may set their sights on overseas targets.

“All our energy has been focused since last year for this race,” trainer Richard Gibson said. “We really wanted to win it for Hong Kong and for the owners, who have been so supportive to me and were my first owners in Hong Kong. I’m delighted I’ve delivered one of our biggest races here and it’s fantastic for Hong Kong to have horses of this ability. There is a programme for them for during the coming months, but if that goes well, we will look at Ascot.”

Gibson saddled Gold-Fun (Ire) (Le Vie dei Colori {Ire}) to a runner-up effort to Twilight Son (GB) (Kyllachy {GB}) in the G1 Diamond Jubilee S. in 2016.

Pedigree Notes:

One of four Group 1 winners for Black Caviar (Aus)’s half-brother All Too Hard (by Casino Prince {Aus}), Wellington is out of a Group 2-placed mare bred on the wonderfully productive Danehill cross over the late More Than Ready. Third dam Solo de Lune was responsible for the listed-winning L’Ancresse (Ire) (Darshaan {GB}), second in the G1 Darley Irish Oaks and G1 Breeders’ Cup Filly & Mare Turf. The latter’s produce include Group 3 winner and G1 Gold Cup third Master of Reality (Ire) (Frankel {GB}) and French Group 2 winner Sibila Spain (Ire) (Frankel {GB}). Wellington’s 3-year-old half-sister Rotorua (Aus) (Star Witness {Aus}) broke her maiden at Nowra in New South Wales Dec. 4 and Mihiri’s most recent produce is a yearling full-sister to Wellington.

Sunday, Sha Tin, Hong Kong
LONGINES HONG KONG SPRINT-G1, HK$24,000,000, Sha Tin, 12-11, 3yo/up, 1200mT, 1:08.76, gd.
1--WELLINGTON (AUS), 126, g, 6, by All Too Hard (Aus)
1st Dam: Mihiri (Aus) (GSP-Aus, $123,433), by More Than Ready
2nd Dam: Danoise (Aus), by Danehill
3rd Dam: Solo de Lune (Ire), by Law Society

Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree. Click for the free Equineline.com catalog-style pedigree.
Longines Hong Kong Sprint cont.

2--Sight Success (Aus), 126, g, 6, Magnus (Aus)--Tarp (Aus), by Bletchley Park (Ire). (A$45,000 Ylg '18 MGCFEB). O-Tam Wing Kun; B-G R Daws (WA); T-John Size; J-Christophe Lemaire; HK$5,280,000.

3--Sky Field (Aus), 126, g, 6, Deep Field (Aus)--Laravissante (NZ), by O’Reilly (NZ). (NZ$175,000 Ylg '18 NZBJAN). O-Kwan Shiu Man, Jessica Kwan Mun Hang & Jeffrey Kwan Chun Ming; B-M Ryan (NSW); T-Caspar Fownes; J-Blake Shinn; HK$2,400,000. 

Margins: 3/4, HF, NK. Odds: 31-10, 14-1, 33-1.

Also Ran: Courier Wonder (NZ), Meikei Yell (Jpn), Lucky Sweynesse (NZ), Cordyceps Six (Aus), Super Wealthy (Aus), Stronger (Aus), Naran Huleg (Jpn), Duke Wai (NZ), Gendarme, Resistencia (Jpn), Lim’s Kosciuszko (Aus).

Click for the HKJC.com chart, PPs and sectional timing. VIDEO.

More 'Vase' Time For Japan

The money kept pouring in on GI Longines Breeders' Cup Turf runner-up Stone Age (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) in the final minutes of betting prior to Sunday’s G1 Longines Hong Kong Vase, nudging him past defending champion Glory Vase (Jpn) (Deep Impact {Jpn}) for favouritism in the first of the day’s four international Group 1 events. But at the end of 12 furlongs, neither of the market leaders truly figured in the finish, as Win Marilyn (Jpn) (Screen Hero {Aus}) swooped them all in the final 150 metres to give Japan a third victory in the last four years and its fourth win in the last seven runnings.

The 11-2 chance settled behind midfield and raced outside of Glory Vase and Joao Moreira down the back straight as Senor Toba (Aus) (Toronado {Ire}) was allowed to gallop them along at a very leisurely pace. Held together on the back of Ballydoyle’s Broome (Ire) (Australia {GB}) as the Vase field raced into the final three furlongs, Win Marilyn was steered out with no straw in her path off the home corner and she covered her final 400 metres in a sharp :23.33 to win decisively. Botanik (Ire) (Golden Horn {GB}), who beat Japan’s Stay Foolish (Jpn) (Stay Gold {Jpn}) in the G2 Grand Prix de Deauville in August, sat up handy to the soft pace and stayed on well for second ahead of Glory Vase, who split horses and looked a winning chance late before finishing off at one pace. Stone Age was well spotted, but keen for Ryan Moore, and couldn’t go with the top ones in the final stages. Mendocino (Ger) (Adlerflug {Ger}), this year’s G1 Grosser Preis von Baden winner, refused at the break and took no part.

“She travelled sweetly. You can ride her wherever you want and I was happy to take a sit because I knew with her turn of foot she could finish over them,” said winning jockey Damian Lane. “There was a little sense of relief I suppose, I’ve had a few goes here with no success. I think the 2400m really suits her and the horse who beat her the other day [Geraldina (Jpn)] in the G1 Queen Elizabeth II Cup] was something special so I was confident that Win Marilyn could hold her form today. It’s a privilege to be a part of Japanese racing and getting on these horses.”

Win Marilyn was winning for the first time this term, having finished a close third to Jack d’Or (Jpn) (Maurice {Jpn}) in the G2 Sapporo Kinen ahead of her runner-up effort in the QE II. She becomes the fifth female to defeat the boys in the Vase, joining Borgia (Ger), 1997; Vallee Enchantee (Fr), 2003; the late Ouija Board (GB), 2005; and Daryakana (Ire), 2009.

Pedigree Notes:

Win Marilyn is the third Group 1 winner for her sire, who is also responsible for 2015 Mile and 2016 Cup hero Maurice (Jpn). She is one of seven winners from eight to the races for her dam, an A$170,000 purchase out of the 2005 Inglis Easter Yearling Sale and a half-sister to Group 3 winners Shorblue (Aus) (Bluebird) and Classic Allure (Aus) (Bellotto {Aus}). Cosmo Cielo is also the dam of a gelded yearling half-brother to Win Marilyn by connextions' 2019 Hong Kong Cup victor Win Bright (Jpn) (Stay Gold {Jpn}) and is due to Epiphaneia (Jpn) next year.

Sunday, Sha Tin, Hong Kong

LONGINES HONG KONG VASE-G1, HK$22,000,000, Sha Tin, 12-11, 3yo/up, 2400mT, 2:27.53, gd.

1--WIN MARILYN (JPN), 122, m, 5, by Screen Hero (Jpn)

1st Dam: Cosmo Cielo (Aus), by Fusaichi Pegasus
2nd Dam: Shorwon (Aus), by Buena Shore
3rd Dam: April Wonder (NZ), by Classic Allure (Aus) (Bellotto {Aus}).
Cosmo Cielo is also the dam of a gelded yearling half-brother to Win Marilyn by connextions' 2019 Hong Kong Cup victor Win Bright (Jpn) (Stay Gold {Jpn}) and is due to Epiphaneia (Jpn) next year.

LONGINES HONG KONG VASE-G1, HK$22,000,000, Sha Tin, 12-11, 3yo/up, 2400mT, 2:27.53, gd.

1--WIN MARILYN (JPN), 122, m, 5, by Screen Hero (Jpn)

1st Dam: Cosmo Cielo (Aus), by Fusaichi Pegasus
2nd Dam: Shorwon (Aus), by Buena Shore
3rd Dam: April Wonder (Aus), by Newtown Wonder (GB)

1ST GROUP 1 WIN. O-Win Co Ltd; B-Cosmo View Farm; T-Takahisa Tezuka; J-Damian Lane; HK$12,540,000. Lifetime Record: MGSW & MG1SP-Jpn, 17-6-2-1, $4,725,187. *1/2 to Win Malerei (Jpn) (Matsurida Gogh {Jpn}), GSW-Jpn, $701,941.
Werk Nick Rating: C. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree. Click for the free Equineline.com catalog-style pedigree.

2--Botanik (Ire), 126, g, 4, Golden Horn (GB)--Autumn Lily, by Street Cry (Ire). O/B-Godolphin; T-Andre Fabre; J-William Buick; HK$4,840,000.

3--Glory Vase (Jpn), 126, h, 7, Deep Impact (Jpn)--Mejiro Tsubone (Jpn), by Swept Overboard. O/Silk Racing Co Ltd; B-Lake Villa Farm; T-Tomohito Ozeki; J-Joao Moreira; HK$2,200,000.

Also Ran: Panfield (Chi), Stone Age (Ire), Bubble Gift (Fr), Senor Toba (Aus), Broome (Ire), Butterfield (Brz).


He said, "Today was a big day because Romantic Warrior had already beaten everything he'd faced in Hong Kong but, to beat the international challengers, and beat them comprehensively, proves that he is a very good horse.

"We're very proud of him and it's great for my father, the farm and for Tim Rooney, who bred him. He's the best horse to have come off the farm in a long time. He's a proper one."

Egan is hopeful that this is just the beginning for Romantic Warrior's dam Folk Melody (Ire) and revealed plans for the 11-year-old who was knocked down to Blandford Bloodstock from Godolphin in 2016 for €82,000.

He said, "The mare is still quite young. We've a nice Showcasing (GB) colt out of her and she is in foal New Bay (GB). The plan is to breed her to Night Of Thunder (Ire) next spring. It's all very exciting.

"He was a lovely, lovely horse [as a yearling]. Jake Warren was underbidder on him. My Dad has a breeding right in Acclamation (GB) and we are massive fans of the stallion but to get 300,000gns for one is a big whack. He really was a beautiful yearling."

Romantic Warrior was not the only European graduate to star at Sha Tin. Just 40 minutes earlier, California Spangle (Ire) (Starspangledbanner [Aus]), bred by Michael Enright and sourced by Jim McCartan for €150,000 at the Goffs Orby Sale in 2019, did what many thought was impossible by lowering the colours of Golden Sixty (Aus) (Medaglia d'Oro) in the Hong Kong Mile.
Twelve Questions cont.

Emerging talent in the industry (human)?

Great to see loads of young people coming through in the industry but the Tradewinds team particularly know what they're doing.

Horse TDN should have made a Rising Star and didn't?

Flight Plan.

Under-the-radar stallion?

Tasleet.

Friday night treat?

Watching rugby on the telly whilst doing a crossword and slagging off someone on a WhatsApp group.

Guilty pleasure outside racing?

Playing golf and my electric guitar (not at the same time).

Race I wish I had been there for...

Dawn Run's Gold Cup.

FRANCE

CONDITIONS RESULTS:
6th-Pornichet-La Baule, €15,000, Cond, 12-11, 4yo/up, 15 1/2f (AWT), 3:23.25, st.
PIRIAC (FR) (g, 5, Spanish Moon--Perpette {Fr}, by Le Triton)
Lifetime Record: 25-5-6-3, €42,550. O-Ecurie Victoria Dreams; B-Mme Anne de la Motte Saint-Pierre (FR); T-Jean-Philippe Dubois.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:
Born To Dream (Fr), c, 2, Born To Sea (Ire)--Shamdream (Ire), by Dream Ahead. Pornichet-La Baule, 12-11, 8 1/2f (AWT), 1:42.47. B-Aksam Khaddam, Rayan Khaddam & Kinan Khaddam (FR).

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:
Antwasaprettypenny (Ire), f, 3, Dandy Man (Ire)--Air Maze (GB), by Dansili (GB). Dortmund, 12-11, 9f (AWT), 1:58.22. B-John Doyle (IRE). *£2,800 HRA ‘22 ASCIUL.

GERMANY

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:
Dayron (Ire), c, 2, Kessaar (Ire)--Kimbay (Ire), by Windsor Knot (Ire). Pisa, 12-11. Maiden, 1500mT, 1:30.8. B-Liam & Sean Mullen. *23rd winner for first-crop sire (by Kodiac {GB}). **€5,000 RNA Wlg ’20 GOFDEC; €7,000 RNA 2yo ’22 TATMAY. VIDEO (SC 2)

ITALY

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:
Dayron (Ire), c, 2, Kessaar (Ire)--Kimbay (Ire), by Windsor Knot (Ire). Pisa, 12-11. Maiden, 1500mT, 1:30.8. B-Liam & Sean Mullen. *23rd winner for first-crop sire (by Kodiac {GB}). **€5,000 RNA Wlg ’20 GOFDEC; €7,000 RNA 2yo ’22 TATMAY. VIDEO (SC 2)

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Sunday Racing's Liberty Island (Jpn) (Duramente {Jpn}) all but locked up champion 2-year-old filly honours in Japan with a thoroughly convincing defeat of 17 rivals in Sunday’s G1 Hanshin Juvenile Fillies.

Yuga Kawada, who was forced to miss this past Wednesday’s Longines International Jockeys’ Championship in Hong Kong after testing positive for COVID prior to his departure, was cleared to ride the Sunday feature and settled the 8-5 favourite right in midfield and a few paths off the inside for the opening half-mile. Traveling with cover as they raced around the turn, the homebred was produced wide into the stretch and was a bit late switching her legs, but raced away in the final 200 metres to score by daylight.

Liberty Island got her career off on a highly impressive note, covering her final 600 metres in a near-unfathomable :31.4 at Niigata in late July and had just one start since, a troubled runner-up effort to Ravel (Jpn) (Kitasan Black {Jpn}) in the G3 Artemis S. at Tokyo Oct. 29.

“I am happy that the filly was at her best today,” said Kawada. “She cruised along smoothly and her response when asked was just as I had imagined, so I was quite confident that she would make it to the finish line. She has given us a promising view on what to expect and aim for in her coming future.”

**Pedigree Notes:**

Liberty Island becomes the eighth stakes winner and third Group 1 winner for her sire, who was unfortunately lost to the Japanese breeding industry in August 2021.

Yankee Rose was purchased for a mere A$10,000 by Darby Racing at the 2015 Inglis and was runner-up to Capitalist (Aus) in the 2016 G1 Longines Golden Slipper S. before taking out the G1 Inglis Sires’ S. She added the G1 Spring Champion S. at three and was third to Winx (Aus) in the 2016 G1 W. S. Cox Plate before being acquired by Northern Farm.

The second foal for her dam, Liberty Island is also a half-sister to a colt by Lord Kanaloa (Jpn) that fetched ¥370 million (US$3.3 million) to rank as the second-priciest foal at the JRHA Select Sale in 2021. Yankee Rose foaled a filly by Kizuna (Jpn) this past February and was covered by Contrail (Jpn).

**Sunday, Hanshin, Japan**

**HANSHIN JUVENILE FILLIES-G1, ¥125,200,000, Hanshin, 12-11, 2yo, f, 1600mT, 1:33.10, fm.**

1-- **LIBERTY ISLAND (JPN), 119, f, 2, by Duramente (Jpn)**

1st Dam: Yankee Rose (Aus) Ch. 2yo Filly, Ch. 3yo Filly & MG1SW-Aus, $1,627,487), by All American (Aus)

2nd Dam: Condesaar (Aus), by Xaar (GB)

3rd Dam: Condescendance, by El Gran Senor

1ST STAKES WIN. 1ST GROUP WIN. 1ST GROUP 1 WIN.

O-Sunday Racing; B-Northern Farm; T-Mitsumasa Nakauchida; J-Yuga Kawada; 66,330,000. Lifetime Record: 3-2-1-0, 85,432,000. Click for the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree. Werk Nick Rating: B. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.

2-- **Shinryokuka (Jpn), 119, f, 2, Satono Diamond (Jpn)--Lei Carla (Jpn), by King Kamehameha (Jpn).**

O-Kentaro Yui; B-Shimokobe Farm; 26,380,000.

3-- **Doe Eyes (Jpn), 119, f, 2, Rulership (Jpn)--Roseman Bridge (Jpn), by Deep Impact (Jpn).**

O-G1 Racing HD; B-Northern Farm; 16,190,000.

Margins: 2HF, NK, 3/4. Odds: 1.60, 52.90, 43.50.

Also Ran: Aroma de Rosa (Jpn), Mississippi Tesoro (Jpn), Dura (Jpn), Santee Tesoro (Jpn), Aim in Life, Miss Yokohama (Jpn), Bouton d’Or (Jpn), Ravel (Jpn), Moryana (Jpn), Itinerator (Jpn), Kita Wing (Jpn), Umbrail (Jpn), Haupia (Jpn), Moon Probe (Jpn), Rivara (Jpn). Click for the JRA chart & video.
FIRST GROUP WINNER FOR SIRE

Sunday, Nakayama, Japan
CAPELLA S.-G3, ¥72,830,000, Nakayama, 12-11, 3yo/up, 1200m, 1:08.90, gd.
1--REMAKE (JPN), 121, c, 3, by Lani
   1st Dam: Sariel (Jpn) (GSP-Jpn, $888,410),
      by King Kamehameha (Jpn)
   2nd Dam: Shinko Nobby, by Nashwan
   3rd Dam: Christabelle, by Northern Dancer
1ST GROUP WIN. O-Koji Maeda; B-North Hills; T-Koichi
   Shintani; J-Yuichi Fukunaga; w-38,581,000. Lifetime Record:
   9-5-1-1, ¥101,224,000. *First stakes winner for sire (by Tapit).
   Click for the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree.
   Werk Nick Rating: C. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross
   pedigree.

2--Ryuno Yukina (Jpn), 123, h, 7, Vermilion (Jpn)--Neo Color
   (Jpn), by Kurofune. O-Ryuichi Minoshima; B-Fujikawa Farm;
   ¥15,166,000.
3--Justin (Jpn), 126, h, 6, Orfevre (Jpn)--Synesthesia, by Gone
   West. O-Yoshio Oda; B-Reiji Amaba; ¥9,583,000.
Click for the JRA chart & video.

Sunday, Seoul, South Korea
GRAND PRIX S. (BT), ₩900,000,000 ($690,056), Seoul, 12-11,
3yo/up, 2300m, 2:26.2, my.
1--WINNER’S MAN (KOR), 126, c, 4, Musket Man--Winner’s
   Marine (Kor), by Volponi. O-Lee Gyeong Hui; B-Kim Gi Seok;
   T-Choi Ki Hong; J-Seo Seung Un; w-495,000,000. Lifetime
   Record: GSW-Kor, 20-14-2-2, ₩2,610,230,000.
2--Raon the Fighter (Kor), 126, c, 4, Bayern--Clarinda, by Empire
   Maker. ₩198,000,000.
3--Tuhonui Banseok, 126, c, 4, Verrazano--Sense of Beauty, by
   Street Sense. ($13,000 Ylg '19 KEESEP). ₩126,000,000.
Margins: 1, 1 1/4, 9. Odds: 3.80, 0.60, 35.40. VIDEO

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