'ALL AQUEDUCT NEEDS IS A POWER WASH AND A PAINT JOB': A DAY AT THE BIG A, WHILE IT'S STILL HERE

by Joe Bianca

The writing is on the wall for Aqueduct Racetrack. There has been no official announcement, but the New York Racing Association has made clear with its plans to wintertize Belmont Park that Aqueduct, New York’s stalwart winter racing home for decades, is on borrowed time. And while the logic of continuing to operate two racetracks just nine miles apart is undeniably questionable, don't let anyone fool you into thinking that nothing of value will be lost or that no one will mourn when Aqueduct becomes the latest American racing staple to bite the dust.

Opening all the way back in 1894 during a golden era when racetracks were popping up all over New York City, Aqueduct has managed to outlive them all but Belmont. The track was humbly named after a nearby conduit owned by the Brooklyn Water Works that delivered water to New York City from the Hempstead Plain. Over the years, fans have packed the Big A, as it was so nicknamed after its last major renovation project in 1959, to see the great Secretariat’s retirement ceremony, the second edition of a fledgling endeavor called the Breeders’ Cup, and multiple Triple Crown winners.

BAFFERT RENEWS COURT FIGHT TO RACE IN '23 DERBY

by T.D. Thornton

Trainer Bob Baffert filed a new motion in federal court Thursday that attempts to reverse the second year of a two-year banishment imposed upon him in 2021 by Churchill Downs, Inc. (CDI), the gaming company that controls the GI Kentucky Derby.

Although the Hall of Fame trainer's ruling-off by CDI extends to the corporation's entire portfolio of racetracks, gaining access to the Derby itself is unquestionably Baffert's goal.

Baffert's trainees have crossed the wire first a record seven times in America's most historic and important horse race. But it was that seventh Derby winner--Medina Spirit in 2021--who triggered Baffert's banishment when the colt tested positive for betamethasone, a Class C drug, in a post-Derby test. Cont. p7

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

PYLEDRIVER GEARING UP FOR DUBAI SHEEMA CLASSIC

G1 King George VI And Queen Elizabeth S. hero Pyledriver (GB) (Harbour Watch {Ire}) is targeting the G1 Dubai Sheema Classic next March. He finished fourth in this year’s edition.
FORTE EYEING FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

Todd Pletcher plans to start presumptive champion Forte (Violence)’s 3-year-old campaign in the GII Fountain of Youth S., Bill Finley reports.

ARLINGTON MILLION COULD MOVE TO COLONIAL

The GI Arlington Million S., run last year for the first time at Churchill Downs, may move to Colonial Downs in 2023.

KEENELAND SUPPLEMENTS 21 HORSES TO JANUARY SALE

Keeneland has added its latest round of supplements to the diverse offerings of its January Sale.
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A Day at the Big A cont. from p1

The track even hosted a Pope, when John Paul II led a 75,000-strong mass on a picture-perfect autumn day in 1995.

Most importantly, though, Aqueduct has long served as New York’s blue-collar racetrack.

Saratoga is the crown jewel of the state’s racing schedule, the party destination for fans where NYRA makes the money to fund the rest of the year’s operations. Belmont Park has the allure of the Belmont Stakes, which, if there is a Triple Crown on the line, provides the most exciting day in our sport. It also has the distinction of housing the country’s biggest racetrack and the added benefit of running during the city’s most pleasant weather months.

Aqueduct, on the other hand, mostly races in the freezing cold. Situated near Jamaica Bay and John F. Kennedy airport, the winds often make conditions even more brutal. Purse money drops. The throngs of fans and festive summer atmosphere of Saratoga could not be further away, both on the calendar and in the psyche.

But what the Aqueduct meet lacks in glamour, it makes up for in opportunity when it comes to New York’s proletarian horsemen. The big barns and more decorated riders all understandably head south, mostly to Gulfstream Park in Florida, for the winter. If you can brave the harsh conditions at Aqueduct, you can compete and win races, certainly much more frequently than when Chad Brown, Todd Pletcher, Irad Ortiz, Jr., et al return north and resume their domination in the spring.

Aqueduct racing is the rough equivalent to the National Football League’s practice squad—a bunch of players who rarely get their chance on the big stage, but who can serve a critical role to the greater product and earn a decent paycheck.

Cont. p4
“As a lower-level owner, I look forward to the winter racing,” said Aron Yagoda, who races mostly in the claiming game in New York. “It’s been a part of my culture and become our winter home. It’s actually our longest-running stretch of the circuit that we have in New York, and a part of that is going to go away when Aqueduct goes away. Aqueduct doesn’t just have the blue-collar horses, it has the blue-collar workers there and it’s more of a die-hard crowd. It’s going to be sorely missed, at least for me.”

Though only separated by nine miles as the crow flies, the crowd and vibe at Aqueduct differ from the one at Belmont. The Big A is the city’s track, a concrete plant residing in the working-class Queens neighborhood of Ozone Park, accessible via a $2.75 subway ride on the A express train. Belmont more resembles a giant park, lies outside of the city limits and is associated more closely with Long Island, accessible only by car or part-time via the Long Island Rail Road.

“They’re the die-hard racing fans [at Aqueduct],” said Yagoda. “It’s one of the only tracks in the country you can take a subway to. You’ll see a lot of the Belmont fans at Aqueduct, but you don’t see a lot of the Aqueduct fans at Belmont.”

Yagoda has been racing horses in New York for over 30 years and has attended Aqueduct since he was a baby. Spending a day at the track has been in his family for generations.

“My grandfather had a box—D17—and I still watch races from that box whenever I run a horse,” he said. “When Aqueduct closes, part of my childhood and some of my great racing memories are going to close with it.”

It’s not all bad for fans of the Big A, however. Though the track’s story is entering its final chapter, there still is and will be some spectacular racing at Aqueduct for several years to come. Cont. p5
The construction project that began this summer at Belmont, which forced its Fall Championship Meet to be moved to Aqueduct and re-branded as Belmont at the Big A, is a major overhaul, and it's unclear whether or not it will be completed by the time racing is supposed to resume at Belmont in late April. If it's not, Aqueduct would be set to have another moment in the sun like it did this fall, hosting more Grade I races than it ever has and attracting bigger crowds in refreshingly favorable weather.

That's the environment that brought me out to the Big A one Saturday this October, shamefully my first pilgrimage on that familiar A-train ride since before the pandemic.

I met up with two of my oldest racetrack friends, Frank Henry, 35, who I went to high school with, and Sean Smith, 40, who I met through Frank dozens of track hangouts ago. As longtime Aqueduct racegoers, we knew we had to take advantage of seeing major Grade I racing at our maligned old light blue-painted friend under clear skies and comfortable fall conditions.

We posted up in our usual spot, at the far end of the second-floor grandstand, just before the clubhouse turn, among a variety of characters, mostly of West Indian and Caribbean descent. I didn't know the majority of them, but the sights, sounds and, yes, smells of the section were as familiar as a warm, increasingly tattered hoodie you bring out of the closet every winter. Slow-swaying reggae music blared from a speaker.

“This is the real Aqueduct,” Henry said.

Without any prompting, the conversation quickly turned to the future of the place where we used to watch simulcasts of Saratoga before we'd ever made it through the gates of the Spa.

“All Aqueduct needs is a power wash and a paint job,” said Smith, who recently moved to Ozone Park. Cont. p6
“You have two turf courses, finally have a dirt main track [for the winter], I don’t get it. I finally get a track close to my house and they want to take it away from me.”

After watching eventual GI Breeders’ Cup Sprint hero Elite Power (Curlin) cruise to a victory in the GII Vosburgh S., next up was the GI Joe Hirsch Turf Invitational S. Seeing those top-class horses run in historic Belmont-held races, I briefly had to remind myself where I was. As the horses came through the stretch for the first time in the three-turn, 1 1/2-mile Hirsch, I quickly remembered, as one particularly loud fan started feverishly rooting for the leader, unaware the field had another lap to go. The crowd had a great laugh at his expense, savoring like a sweet nectar the moment when he realized they were going around again.

Following a stunning 47-1 upset in the GIII Matron S. that killed any multi-race tickets we played, I went down to the first-floor bar to grab consolation beers for the crew. Naturally, there was a stereotypical animated New Yorker bragging through a heavy Brooklyn accent about having the winning horse. True to form, within a few sentences, he was off on another topic and making sure to tell everybody where he’s from.

“Go-Go Gomez for [John] Terranova!” he shouted to no one in particular, getting the winning trainer right but the jockey (Eric Cancel) wrong. “Hundred-dollar horse. My boy hit the double. I might go talk to [the jockeys]. I like to go talk to them sometimes because I’m from Brooklyn. I get pictures with [Javier] Castellano. People say, ‘What the [expletive] is the matter with you?’ I say I’m from New York.”

Before I headed back upstairs, I caught a hopeful glimpse of racing’s future. Standing out amongst the hardened Aqueduct regulars was a group of young people, likely in their early 20s, decked out in suits and dresses. Cont. p7
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The kind of kids you usually only spot at Saratoga, taking in a day of racing at the least glamorous, but most accessible track in New York.

So how much longer does Aqueduct realistically have before downstate racing in New York becomes a one-track circuit, the same way Gulfstream has slowly subsumed the racing at Hialeah and Calder in South Florida?

“I still think we’ll be at Aqueduct for at least four or five more years,” said Yagoda, a New York Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association board member. “They put the second turf course back in, which they used to have until 1976 when they got rid of one of them to put in the inner dirt track. They went back to one main track, so I really think that they’re going to have racing at Aqueduct for quite a while longer.”

No, it’s not Belmont and it’s sure as hell not Saratoga. There are legitimate reasons why Aqueduct is mostly an afterthought. It’s outdated, especially when compared to the Resorts World casino next door. It’s cold. The racing quality is generally spotty.

But Aqueduct provides a raw, authentic slice of New York City, the kind that the city’s ever-increasing gentrification is making harder and harder to find. That alone is worth holding onto. And rest assured, all us die-hards will hold onto it, for however long we can.

Baffert Renews Court Fight to Race in ’23 Derby cont. from p1

Citing that positive finding and a spate of other drug overages in Grade I races around the same time, CDI told Baffert in June 2021 that he would be ineligible to race at its tracks until after the 2023 Derby, and that any horse that raced under his training license would not be eligible to accrue qualifying points to get into the 2022 or 2023 Derbies.

Earlier in 2022, Baffert fought in federal court to reverse that CDI ban, and this fresh Dec. 15 motion is actually a part of that same lawsuit.

Baffert had initially sued CDI on Feb. 28, 2022, in an attempt to get an injunction enjoining CDI from suspending him from its tracks and races. His complaint in United States District Court (Western District of Kentucky) alleged civil rights violations related to what Baffert said was a deprivation of his right to due process of law guaranteed under the Fourteenth Amendment.

Separately, Baffert fought unsuccessfully in the courts to try and ward off a 90-day suspension for Medina Spirit’s drug overage that had been imposed upon him in February 2022 by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission (KHRC).

Those legal efforts failed, and Baffert eventually had to start serving his KHRC suspension about a month before the 2022 Derby.

Cont. p8
He transferred his entire California-based stable to the care of other trainers, and his legal team at that time withdrew the motion for an injunction. Two horses Baffert trained through March 2022—the $1.7-million FTFMAR buy Taiba (Gun Runner) and ‘TDN Rising Star’ Messier (Empire Maker)—ran in the Derby under trainer Tim Yakteen’s license, finishing 12th and 15th, respectively. Even though Baffert has already served that KHRC suspension, he and Medina Spirit’s owner, Amr Zedan, have appealed to the KHRC and are awaiting a verdict they hope will clear Baffert’s name and restore Medina Spirit as the Derby winner.

"This is a renewed motion for a preliminary injunction against CDI [and its executives] Bill Carstanjen, and R. Alex Rankin," Baffert’s lawyers wrote in the Dec. 15 filing.

"[The KHRC penalty] mooted the previous motion, and Baffert requested time to conduct further investigation into the circumstances surrounding CDI’s conduct. Following this Court’s grant of Baffert’s request to withdraw his preliminary injunction without prejudice to refiling, Defendants filed a motion to dismiss. Baffert filed a Response, and briefing concluded on June 6, 2022. That motion remains pending," the Thursday filing stated.

"In the interim, Baffert has been able to prove in two forums that CDI’s claims about him and his record are false. The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA) conducted an extensive six-day hearing on allegations virtually identical to CDI’s—i.e., claiming Baffert is a dangerous cheater who ‘dopes’ horses to gain a competitive edge. The hearing officer initially found in NYRA’s favor. But on appeal, in an order issued June 23, 2022, NYRA’s own hand-picked Panel rejected every one of the premises underlying NYRA’s (and CDI’s) claims against Baffert."

CONT. P9

MORE SUCCESS FOR AN EXCITING YOUNG SIRE...

8 FIRST CROP STAKES WINNERS INCLUDING...

WIT won Bay Shore S. [G3], Sanford S. [G3], 2nd Hopeful S. [G1], 3rd Hollywood Derby [G1] on Dec. 3
GIRL WITH A DREAM won Forward Gal S. [G3], Letellier Memorial S.
LITTLE VIC won City of Laurel Stakes by 1½ lengths on Nov. 26
TEJANO TWIST won $250,000 Steel Valley Sprint Stakes on Nov. 22

24 JUVENILE WINNERS IN 2022 INCLUDING...

CHOCOLATE GELATO won Frizette S. [G1]
DETERMINED JESTER won Rosie’s S.
KALING 3rd Spinaway S. [G1]
INVULNERABLE won a $120,000 MSW at Churchill Downs for Joe Sharp on debut on Nov. 24

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BREEDER/SELLER

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BRET JONES
BREEDER/CONSIGNOR OF HIP 689
$275,000 at KEENOV

We really thought the McKinzie colt we sold in November was exceptional. He was always the type that looked like a very nice sales horse but, far more importantly, we’ve always believed he could be a big time racehorse.

DAVANT LATHAM
BUYER OF HIP 193
$300,000 at KEENOV

I was impressed by the McKinzie’s. They had good size, plenty of leg, scope and good hips. They were quality horses. The colt we bought was leggy with scope, good size, and a good hip. He should make a lovely Saratoga yearling.

mckinzie
And the hearing officer’s recommendation in the KHRC appeal, according to Baffert’s filing, "is not expected until the spring of 2023, after which the [KHRC] will have ninety days to issue a final order. Judicial review will likely follow. Because CDI’s suspension will stand regardless of the outcome, waiting for the Commission’s resolution is unnecessary..."

Baffert’s filing continued: "Granting an injunction would work no hardship on Defendants. Numerous rules and regulations already safeguard CDI’s interests in health, integrity, safety, and fairness. Baffert has already served his time for the mere allegation of a violation which has yet to be fully adjudicated, and there is no doubt among industry observers and even casual spectators that Baffert suffered consequences for the mere perception of wrongdoing.

"Meanwhile, all Baffert-trained horses are subject to Commission testing for the presence of medications and to any applicable penalties for the detection thereof. Baffert has not had a post-race positive for any horse in any jurisdiction since the 2021 Kentucky Derby."

"The hardships Baffert will suffer absent an injunction far outweigh Defendants’ abstract concerns. Eligibility for races on CDI tracks, including legendary stakes races like the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks, are restricted by age. Defendants’ suspension means those horses will lose their chance to compete in those races forever. If owners wish to enter their horses in those races, they must forego Baffert’s services, causing substantial damage to Baffert’s business. CDI’s hypothetical, reckless, and empirically disproven allegations of harm pale in comparison to the continuing damage Defendants continue to inflict upon Baffert, his business, and his reputation." Cont. p10
Baffert, as the party seeking a preliminary injunction, must demonstrate that the legal factors that necessitate granting a preliminary injunction weigh in his favor.

According to the filing, those factors are "1) whether the moving party would suffer irreparable harm without the order, 2) whether the moving party demonstrates a strong likelihood of success on the merits, 3) whether the order would cause substantial harm to others, and 4) whether the public interest would be served by the order."

Baffert's filing continued: "The first and most obvious harm is the loss of purses. By definition, the amount of winnings Baffert will lose due to CDI's suspensions is impossible to calculate."

"A second injury is the loss of unique opportunities ....Citing CDI's suspension, some owners have moved their horses (worth millions of dollars) to other trainers. His remaining [clients] have informed Baffert that they will not send him any new Derby horses until the CDI suspensions are resolved, or will soon move horses if CDI's suspensions are not enjoined."

A novel argument that wasn't in the initial version of the complaint has to with CDI's subsequent purchase of Ellis Park.

"Due to CDI's acquisition of Ellis Park, it holds a virtual monopoly over racing in Kentucky, which limits its common law right to exclude licensees in Kentucky," the filing stated.

In Kentucky, CDI owns Churchill Downs Racetrack, Turfway Park and Ellis Park. It does not own Keeneland Race Course or Kentucky Downs.

"Trainers are instrumental in bringing a horse to market, and only a handful of trainers are capable of producing a Derby horse," Baffert's legal team wrote. "By banning all horses trained by Baffert, Defendants and their co-conspirators disadvantaged competing owners by denying them 'relationships the competitors need in the competitive struggle,' which is a per se unreasonable restraint on trade.

CDI representatives could not be reached for comment in time for deadline for this story. CDI spokespeople routinely respond to media inquiries about legal affairs by stating that the corporation does not comment on active litigation.

In its most recent court filing from June 6 that tried to get the case tossed out, CDI wrote that "Baffert's lawsuit is a desperate and baseless attack on CDI's right to protect the integrity, reputation, and safety of the races it hosts, The Court should dismiss his complaint."
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FORTE EYES FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

by Bill Finley

Forte (Violence), the soon-to-be-named champion 2-year-old male of 2022, will kick off his 3-year-old campaign in the GII Fountain of Youth S. at Gulfstream, reports trainer Todd Pletcher. The Mar. 4 race will be his first since he won the GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile.

“I like the timing of the Fountain of Youth for his first race back,” Pletcher said in a text message. Pletcher has won the Fountain of Youth three times. He said that after the Fountain of Youth he will look to run Forte in either the GI Blue Grass S. or the GI Florida Derby.

“I like the Grade I status of those races and the timing. As for the Blue Grass, he certainly seems to like the track at Keeneland,” Pletcher said.

In addition to the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile, Forte won this year’s GI Claiborne Breeders’ Futurity at Keeneland.

At 10-1, Forte was made the individual betting favorite in the first round of the GI Kentucky Derby Future Wager bet. Owned by Repole Stable and St. Elias Stable, Forte was a $110,000 purchase at Keeneland September. After breaking his maiden at Belmont, he finished fourth in the GIII Sanford S. before winning the GI Hopeful S. Facing Cave Rock (Arrogate), who was sent off at 2-5, in the Juvenile, Forte bested the previously undefeated colt at 5-1.

Forte | Coady photo

Seeing RED? Click on a stallion’s name to learn more about them on their page on the farm’s website.
ARLINGTON MILLION COULD MOVE TO COLONIAL DOWNS

by Bill Finley

Churchill Downs Inc. has requested permission from the American Graded Stakes Committee to move the GI Arlington Million S., the GI Beverly D. S. and the GI Secretariat S. to Colonial Downs. The three races were fixtures at Arlington Park before that track closed in 2021. Last year, the Million and the Beverly D. were run at Churchill Downs.

The 2023 races are slated to be run on Aug. 12.

In November, it was announced that Churchill had acquired the assets of Peninsula Pacific Entertainment LLC, the owners of Colonial Downs.

“Churchill has made a request and the committee will review it,” said Andy Schweigardt, secretary for the American Graded Stakes Committee. “They hope to have a meeting before Christmas to make a decision.”

Approving Churchill’s request may not be a formality. Schweigardt explained that in order for the committee to grant approval to a track to move a graded race a number of factors have to be taken into account.

“They have a rule that covers this that was instituted many years ago,” he said. “We consider moves on a case-by-case basis. The basic requirements are that the new venue has to be in the same region as the old racetrack and the name, conditions, calendar date and purse of the relocated race have to be substantially similar to previous years.”

When asked if Colonial in Virginia is in the same region as Churchill and Arlington, Schweigardt said: “To me, no. But that’s just me. The previous tracks would be considered to be in the Midwest. I’m not sure Virginia would be considered the Midwest.” Cont. p13
FROM A GREAT PHIPPS FAMILY:
2nd DAM IS HEAVENLY PRIZE

A++

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G1 KENTUCKY DERBY
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The 2022 Secretariat was not run because Churchill was having issues with its turf course at the time and track officials wanted to limit the number of races run over it.

 Colonial’s turf course is a mile-and-an-eighth in circumference and is the widest grass course in North America.

TWELVE QUESTIONS: ERIC HALSTROM

by Margaret Ransom

Eric Halstrom is vice president and general manager of Caesar’s Horseshoe Indianapolis, a position he’s held since 2020. He previously served in several executive positions in horse racing, including vice president of racing at Canterbury Park, vice president and general manager of racing at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots, assistant director of racing at Prairie Meadows, and vice president of operations at Harrah’s Louisiana Downs.

Halstrom, who graduated from the University of Arizona’s Race Track Industry Program, is a native of Bloomington, MN, and is a die-hard fan of the Minnesota Vikings, Notre Dame Football and all teams for the University of Minnesota. He and his new bride, Kristine, live in Greenwood, IN, and share five children among their blended families.

TDN: What is your racing or bloodstock highlight of the year? Being at Keeneland for the Breeders’ Cup and seeing Flightline in person. I can’t believe what that horse was capable of doing.

TDN: Who is your value sire for the 2023 season? Coming at this as a horseplayer--I like seeing young Jimmy Creed runners. Feels like they’re all going to be fast. Cont p14
TDN: Name one positive change you’d like to see in racing next year?
More focus on two things: What’s best for the bettors and what’s best for retired racehorses.

TDN: If you could go back in time and see one race in person, what would it be?
Easy Goer’s win in the Belmont. I was a huge fan and had too much riding on him, both emotionally and financially, to keep Sunday Silence from sweeping the Triple Crown. Watching him win at my young age helped form my passion for the sport.

TDN: If you could only go to one track the rest of your life, where would it be?
Since I can’t answer Horseshoe Indianapolis - I’d say Keeneland. I love the area and the beauty of Lexington and the history at the track makes it my favorite place to watch racing.

TDN: Besides Rich Strike, what was the biggest surprise of 2022 in horse racing?
The biggest surprise in my world is that a little track, in the middle of cornfields, in Indiana did nearly a quarter-billion in handle in 2022. If you look back five years ago the thought of getting past $125 million was unrealistic. Lots to be proud of at Horseshoe Indianapolis.

TDN: What was your major takeaway from your successful meet at Horseshoe Indiana?
You can’t beat the power of having a great team. We have one at Horseshoe Indianapolis. They’re passionate about racing and enjoy working with each other. It’s a wonderful place to be as we continue our progression in the industry.

TDN: You can bring back one racetrack from the past, which one would it be and why?
Hialeah. I never had the chance to visit but the stories I hear and pictures I see are incredible. Feels like we probably lost a bit of racing’s character when it closed.

TDN: Who was your favorite TDN Rising Star in 2022?
Arabian Knight. Saw him at Keeneland and he has a real presence.

TDN: In the next 10 years, what do you think will be the most significant change in racetrack operations and management?
I think we’re sitting on technology improvements that will revolutionize racing. It’s been gradual but we’re now seeing things such as drones, GPS tracking and cameras to check the health of horses. The capital investments on these products and others that will help our sport is coming. It will have to in order to defend our current levels of business much less attract new customers.

TDN: Who is your favorite jockey of all-time?
I’ve met so many over the years that I now call friends that it’s difficult. So I’ll go with my dad’s favorite... Sandy Hawley. In the early days of Canterbury Downs my dad would bet him blindly and it was easy money. I saw Sandy this summer and mentioned this and he was very gracious and appreciative. A really nice man.

TDN: If you weren’t in track management, what would you be doing in horse racing?
No question - I’d be betting on horses. I love it. Wish I were better at it so I didn’t have to work so much! Going to the track, or just betting the races, with friends and family is my favorite thing in the world.

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A quick quiz...

1. Which country hosted more of the highest rated Group Ones than any other in the past three years?

2. Which country will host a race worth $1 million or more every four days in 2023?
The correct answer is, of course, Australia.

To learn why our industry is a world leader click through to this year’s Aushorse Investor’s Guide.
Keeneland has announced that 21 horses, including six stallions from Calumet Farm, are in the latest round of supplements to the 2023 January Horses of All Ages Sale. The auction will cover four sessions from Jan. 9-12, 2023.

Racing and broodmare prospects supplemented to the January Sale include:

- **Saucy Lady T (Tonalist)**, a 3-year-old filly who was third in the 2021 GI Spinaway, GII Adirondack and GIII Schuylerville. Out of stakes winner Fila Primera (War Front) she is from the family of Grade I winner Clairiere, who was third in the 2022 GI Breeders’ Cup Distaff. Saucy Lady T is consigned by Gainesway, agent.

- **Bipartisanship (GB) (Bated Breath {GB})** is a 4-year-old filly who was Group 3-placed in Ireland, a listed winner at Gulfstream Park and captured the Kathryn Crosby S. in Nov. at Del Mar. From the family of Grade I winner Quiff, she is out of the Oasis Dream (GB) mare Dream Wild. She is consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, agent.

- **Power Lunch (Into Mischief)** is a 2-year-old filly who posted a bullet four-furlong breeze on Dec. 8 at Palm Beach Downs. She is out of Grade III winner Stanwyck (Empire Maker), a half-sister to GI Kentucky Derby winner Giacomo and Grade I winner Tiago. Power Lunch is consigned by ELiTE, agent. 

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Other prominent supplements include daughters of Empire Maker, Liam’s Map and More Than Ready. Broodmares who have been supplemented include:

- **Ginga Ninja (Ghostzapper)** is a 4-year-old filly who is a half-sister to recent G1 Hollywood Derby Speaking Scout and is in foal to Vekoma. She is out of the Pleasant Tap mare Miss Scout. Ginga Ninja and her first foal, yearling filly by Bolt d’Oro (Hip 443), both are consigned by Stuart Morris, agent.

Additional supplements include six stallions from Calumet Farm consigned by Buckland Sales (Zach Madden), agent: champion Big Blue Kitten (Kitten’s Joy); multiple Grade III winner Hence (Street Boss); multiple Grade I-placed Mr. Z (Malibu Moon); multiple Grade III winner Optimizer (English Channel); Group 2 winner Producer (GB) (Dutch Art (GB)); and multiple Grade I winner Real Solution (Kitten’s Joy).

The stallion consignment will be stabled in Barn 11 near the back walking ring and will sell at the end of the Jan. 12 session. With these supplements, the total number of horses cataloged to the January Sale is 1,599. Additional supplements will be considered until sale date.

### CHRB SPAT Erupts Over Ferndale’s Future

**by T.D. Thornton**

In the wake of a recent embezzlement arrest and a spate of resignations by Humboldt County Fair Association executives, California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) commissioner Thomas Hudnut on Thursday questioned whether or not the Northern California half-miler better known as Ferndale would be able to operate its traditional late-August race meet in 2023.

Jim Morgan, the legal counsel for the Humboldt County Fair, immediately provided assurances that Ferndale’s racing would not be affected by the in-process criminal audit and management shakeup.

And another CHRB member, vice chair Oscar Gonzales, quickly leapt to Ferndale’s defense, accusing Hudnut of delivering a “low blow” simply for making his query about the fair’s level of financial and management fitness.

That testy exchange evolved out of a seemingly routine agenda item during the Dec. 15 monthly meeting.

Back in October, the CHRB voted in a 2023 race dates calendar for NorCal that largely mirrored the framework from the 2022 schedule.

The lone exception was that the board held off on a decision on whether Ferndale would once again have to run its second of two weeks of racing against overlapping competition from the commercial licensee Golden Gate Fields.

The CHRB was prepared to decide that issue on Thursday. But the license applicants jointly requested another month to try to reach a compromise so commissioners wouldn’t have to impose one. A chief issue relates to stabling.

But since that last CHRB meeting, Ferndale police on Nov. 15 arrested the fair association’s bookkeeper, Nina Tafarella, on charges of having embezzled from the fair and another nonprofit.

Then on Dec. 5, Rich Silacci, the fair association’s general manager, abruptly resigned from his position. He claimed that his stepping down was unrelated to the embezzlement arrest, and that he had already made his decision beforehand based on being burned out from the job.

According to a Dec. 6 story in the California-based news outlet North Coast Journal, "the fair’s books are currently being audited for evidence of embezzlement. Three long-time directors with the fair association have also stepped down in the last few weeks, leaving four open board positions."

The Journal wrote that according to Silacci’s final report to the board, auditors are still reviewing several years’ worth of transactions, but the association’s bank statements show a healthy balance of ‘just over a million dollars,’ which is close to or ahead of where the balance stood the prior year.

"Given the disarray at the Humboldt County Fair that we've read about in the press of late, is Humboldt County going to be able to mount a fair next summer?" Hudnut asked.

"Is it going to have sufficient personnel?" Hudnut continued.

"And maybe should Humboldt take the year off from horse racing?"

Morgan replied, "The answer is, we'll handle the disarray. I'm not sure of the extent of the issue once it shakes out. Humboldt is committed to have a fair this year, next year, and every year. "Members did resign, yes," Morgan explained. "And the general manager, that position is going to be up for renewal with a new individual. But the fair is functional and they're ready to move forward."

Hudnut said he trusts that next month Morgan will be able to back up those assurances with a more detailed plan for Ferndale’s race meet, especially considering the board still has to vote on how to handle the potential dates overlap with Golden Gate.

"Until otherwise, I will be skeptical of Humboldt’s ability to carry on effective racing next summer," Hudnut said.

Gonzales then spoke up.

"I don’t think it’s all that fair to ask whether Humboldt is prepared to race," Gonzales said. "Of course they're prepared to race. There's been some growing [pains]. Cont. p17
Forever Spring Farm is a 310-acre boutique thoroughbred nursery 30 minutes south of Keeneland near Danville, Kentucky. Since 1986 Forever Spring Farm has steadily increased its stature in bloodstock ownership and producing equine athletes. The owner, a Ph.D. animal nutritionist, resides on the farm for strong support to the manager.

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Please submit your expression of interest and resume to: dwilliams@foreverspringfarm.com
"The TOC just had some turmoil in their organization not that long ago," Gonzales continued, obliquely referencing the resignations earlier this year of both the Thoroughbred Owners of California president and a board member. "I don't see anybody asking whether the TOC is fit to represent. All organizations have some ups and downs. This is horse racing. And I don't appreciate those low blows there," Gonzales said, directing his remarks to Hudnut.

"I resent that," Hudnut retorted. "I don't think they're low blows when you ask legitimate questions about what's been in the press."

Gonzales replied, "They're fit to race, and they just need some time to sort some things out. That's all."

Chairman Gregory Ferraro, DVM, then stepped in to stem the spat.

"I don't think it's unreasonable to ask them to address the issues next month, to tell us what the status is," Ferraro said, declaring that the discussion is to be placed on the January agenda.

In conclusion, Morgan underscored that "Humboldt's clearly addressing the issues and resolving them. And I'm optimistic that we will solve it, and be a participant with live racing for many years to come."

LOUIS CELLA JOINS THE TDN WRITERS' ROOM PODCAST

Another Oaklawn meet is underway and with the Arkansas track offering the highest purse structure in the country during the winter months, expectations are that it will be another banner season in Hot Springs. To discuss the Oaklawn season, the TDN Writers' Room podcast presented by Keeneland called upon track president Louis Cella to explain why Oaklawn has become such a phenomenon. Cella was this week's Green Group Guest of the Week.

"It's because we don't charge $12 for a beer," Cella said when asked how Oaklawn continues to draw such big crowds. "We just gave away six tons of corned beef, two sandwiches and a Coke for a dollar last Saturday. To put that in perspective, we had thunderstorms and rolling electric blackouts all day Saturday. Yet we had close to 15,000 people giving away six tons of corned beef because that's their expectation. That's what they want to do. It's all part of having fun. It's part of the excitement of what we offer. We continually focus on affordability and the $2 bettor and more importantly, family."

Cella has made some changes since taking over as track president in 2017, including the building of a hotel on track grounds. Another is a longer meet. For this meet, Oaklawn will be open from Dec. 9 through May 6. Cella said the extended season has been a success.

"It is working," he said. "More importantly, our horsemen seem to love it. It fills in a gap. Equally important is that the city of Hot Springs and our community love it."

And when it comes to the question that always seems to come up whenever Oaklawn is involved...

"I get asked that all the time, when are you going to put in a turf course?" Cella said. "We're not going to put in a turf course. The time of year that we run, call it December to April to May, means we might have to start turf racing in April. It's just not conducive for us."

Elsewhere on the podcast, which is also sponsored by Coolmore, the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association, XBTV and West Point Thoroughbreds, Zoe Cadman, Randy Moss and Bill Finley discussed the latest chapter of the Jason Servis story. Servis is facing four years in prison, which Finley said would be a surprisingly light sentence considering that Jorge Navarro got five years. Other subjects included the announcement by the Federal Trade Commission that the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority cannot go ahead with plans to start its anti-doping and medication control (ADMC) program on Jan. 1 and the suspension handed down by the New York Gaming Commission to NYRA clocker Rich Gazer for changing the distance of a workout. Moss called Gazer's suspension "an absolute joke."

In on-the-track news, the crew took a look back at the win by Faiza (Girvin) in the GI Starlet S. at Los Alamitos and looked ahead to this weekend's action, which includes the GII Los Alamitos Futurity and the Springboard Mile at Remington Park.
TAAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTS SIX NEW MEMBERS

The Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) Board of Directors voted at its meeting Dec. 14 to add six new directors in 2023. For a second consecutive year, Jeffrey Bloom, managing partner of Bloom Racing Stable, will serve as president of the TAA.

The directors beginning service in 2023 are: Price Bell, general manager of Mill Ridge Farm; Dr. Bonnie Comerford, DVM, veterinarian at Tiegland, Franklin, & Brokken; Joe De Francis, HISA director and managing partner of Gainesville Associates LLC; Georganne Hale--returning for a second term--vice president of racing development of Maryland Jockey Club; Ric Waldman, president of Ric Waldman Thoroughbred Consulting, Inc, Kentucky Thoroughbred Association member; Mark Simendinger, former development manager and general manager of Kentucky Speedway, former member of Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, and former president of Turfway Park.

They join current TAA Directors: Bloom, Madeline Auerbach, Craig Bandoroff, Laura Barillaro, Dr. Jeffrey Berk, Simon Bray, Donna Brothers, Boyd Browning, Aidan Butler, Tom Cannell, Jack Damico, Terry Finley, Melissa Hicks, John Keitt, Chip McGaughey, Josh Rubenstein, Richard Schosberg, Tom Ventura.

TAA directors may serve up to five consecutive years and after five years are required to rotate off the board for a minimum of two years before being eligible for renomination. However, directors are still eligible to serve on TAA committees. James G. Bell, former president and racing manager of Godolphin, served as TAA president in 2014, 2021, and remained on the TAA’s board and executive committee for 2022 as immediate past president. After devoting five years of their time, expertise, and resources, Bell, Walt Robertson, Susie Hart, and Nicole Walker will rotate off the TAA Board of Directors come January 2023.

Bloom is joined on the executive committee by TAA Vice Presidents Craig Bandoroff, owner of Denali Stud and Madeline Auerbach, founding board member of the TAA, founder of the California Retirement Management Account (CARMA), and a Thoroughbred owner and breeder; TAA Treasurer Melissa Hicks, director of tax services at Dean Dorton; TAA Secretary Walter Robertson, attorney at Stites & Harbison; Aidan Butler, chief operating officer of 1/ST Racing and president of 1/ST Content; Terry Finley, founder and chief executive officer of West Point Thoroughbreds.

WE'LL PUSH FOR POSITIVE CHANGE, FLAWED HISA IS NOT ANSWER

The National HBPA was approached by trainers Wesley Ward and Larry Rivelli to help facilitate this open letter to the industry. While this is being distributed by the National HBPA, which also assisted in putting the letter together, the sentiments are those of trainers Wesley Ward, Larry Rivelli and the undersigned horsemen and racing participants. They encourage others who agree with this letter to add their name by using the link here and below. More than 400 have signed up in 24 hours just from word of mouth. Because of time constraints, not all the names have been uploaded to the document (linked to here and elsewhere)--but they will be.

We, the undersigned, commit to being part of the solution in making the industry we love better, safer and improved for the three entities that make it all possible: horseplayers, horse owners and especially the horses.

In that regard, we believe the Horse Racing Integrity & Safety Act and the private Authority to which it delegates governmental powers has too many flaws, missteps and costs that could have been averted with true inclusion and transparency in its development.

Time and time again over the last several years, trainers have been asked to change. When those changes were for the good of the horse and the industry, we changed and adapted without any questioning. We now need to rally together for additional true, positive and lasting change for the good then we are ready to do just that.

However, meaningful change cannot be accomplished until the leadership of all stakeholders have real representation at the table—and from the beginning. That includes the National HBPA, America’s largest organization representing Thoroughbred owners and trainers; the Association of Racing Commissioners International, whose years of hard work on model rules should be the starting point rather than largely ignored; the racetrack veterinarians, and the Jockeys’ Guild.

We have the opportunity now to get this right, with the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously ruling HISA unconstitutional and the Federal Trade Commission declining to approve HISA’s drug and medication rules that were to go into effect Jan. 1.

HISA is a wake-up call for the hard work of transformative change, though it is unfair to say there has been no change over the past couple of decades. There is far more uniformity than differences among racing jurisdictions. Cont. p19
Horsemen, including the National HBPA and its affiliates, have championed uniform rules based on science for years. Change in horse racing has come rapidly when it makes sense and truly is for the better of the industry. How quickly did it take us to get rid of anabolic steroids? Very.

We know horsemen can no longer sit on the sidelines, as many have done in the past, to now get this done right. We need to speak up, because we are experiencing the consequences when we do not.

We are extremely concerned about the price tag of HISA threatening to put small tracks and small stables out of business because, simply put, they cannot afford the cost. Horse racing cannot survive on only the largest circuits and with only the largest stables. We need venues for all classes of horses and all sizes of stables in order to support a healthy, sustainable Thoroughbred industry.

Small tracks and stables are a vital part of American racing’s fabric, developing race fans and generations of future horsemen, and should not be considered as simply collateral damage.

Among other things we believe should be part of the dialogue as we work together:

There must be transparency and representation in both developing and executing the rules.

We, too, want stiff penalties for those succeeding in or attempting to circumvent the rules. But we also believe in due process.

Drug and medication policies that reflect the world in which we live, including the reality of environmental transfer and contamination of impermissible substances in trace levels that don’t impact a horse’s performance. We need to take a page from human testing, with reasonable, science-based screening levels.

“Gotcha” chemistry—finding a substance in single-digit picograms (parts per trillion) because today’s advance testing can—that ensnares innocent parties is not helpful. One source of any negative public perception of racing is because some in leadership have conflated beneficial therapeutic medications with illegal drugs.

Horsemen and jockeys must have more say in developing safety rules, including crop regulations. While science is important, racing will only benefit from policies that allow for input from horsemen and veterinarians in the trenches.

We don’t need cost-prohibitive government overreach with burdensome paperwork that takes away from what should be our main focus: our horses.

We, the undersigned, are committing today to push our fellow horsemen, racetracks and racing regulators to unite for positive, inclusive change. We’ve gotten our wake-up call. We look forward to working with the other stakeholders in our great industry for change done right.
BRIDLEWOOD STALLION MANAGER LOSES LIFE IN CAR ACCIDENT

Saul Rosas with Stormy Atlantic | courtesy Bridlewood Farm

Saul Rosas, the stallion manager at Bridlewood Farm in Ocala, Florida, passed away as a result of a car accident on Dec. 11, his 65th birthday, according to a Tweet from the farm. He had worked on the farm for 42 years.

"Bridlewood has lost its favorite son today," said Bridlewood General Manager George Isaacs. "The farm vista and complexion will never be the same without him and a good chunk of the Bridlewood heart will forever be broken."

Isaacs said that Rosas had gone to help a friend in need and was returning home to his family when the accident occurred.

Rosas went to work at Bridlewood November 10, 1980 after stints at Mereworth Farm and Calumet Farm in Kentucky, starting as a stallion groom before being promoted to manager. He took care of Florida greats like My Gallant, Buckaroo, Silver Buck, Siberian Express, Frosty the Snowman, Jules, Wild Event, Forbidden Apple, Stormy Atlantic, Halo's Image, Put it Back, and others. At the time of his passing, he was caring for the Baoma stallions Chitu, Valiant Minister and Tunwoo.

"Saul always had a smile on his face and was there first to lend a helping hand to anyone that needed it on and off the farm," said Isaacs. "He epitomized the Good Samaritan. As a Christian, the consolation is knowing that he is now already working for Almighty God, the creator of the horse, helping take care of the mighty herd in Heaven. My dear friend Saul, I will look forward to seeing you again someday."

There will be a visitation and celebration of life for friends and family from 4-6 p.m. on Saturday Dec. 17 at Roberts Funeral Home Downtown Chapel, 606 SW 2nd Ave., Ocala, FL.

DEC 15: BOLT DETERMINEDLY DRAWING AWAY

by Margaret Ransom

It’s been a quiet week so far for the top stallions brawling it out to claim the title of 2022's leading first-crop sire, but the numbers for all three are likely to move with each having a number of runners over the next few days before the quiet of the Christmas holiday week sets in.

On Thursday, Bolt d'Oro’s (Medaglia d'Oro) daughter Bullock captured a $25,000 maiden claiming event at Gulfstream Park by a length and picked up a check for $28,400. In doing so, the filly padded her sire’s lead by $121,599 over his rivals with 16 days left on the 2022 calendar. With the win, Bolt d'Oro remains in front with total progeny earnings of $2,575,216, followed by Good Magic (Curlin) at $2,453,617 and Justify (Scat Daddy) with $2,383,960.

All three stallions have at least one entry on Friday, Bolt d’Oro showing the way with three runners. Two—Rocket and Roll and Communication Memo—are set to contest a $90,000 maiden event at Oaklawn Park carded as the afternoon’s 6th; and Pinfire will contest a $55,000 maiden event at Fair Grounds, which is also the 6th race. Justify’s Pappy Wolfe will tackle Bolt’s two in Hot Springs, while Miss New York will represent Good Magic in the 8th at Gulfstream Park, an $80,000 optional claiming event worth $71,000.

Note that Japanese earnings are added every Sunday night, and there may be delayed reporting from other countries, which could postpone the final results in a very tight race into early January. We will also be providing a preview of 2-year-olds entered the next day in North America and beyond.

Current Earnings Standings through racing of Dec. 7:
1st—Bolt d'Oro, $2,575,216
2nd—Good Magic, $2,453,617
3rd—Justify, $2,383,960

The TDN sire lists contain full-dollar earnings of Northern Hemisphere foals winning anywhere in the world. To view the current standings updated overnight, click here.
FAIR GROUNDS TURF RACING TO RETURN ON LIMITED BASIS DEC. 26

Turf racing will return to Fair Grounds for the track's “Road to the Derby Kickoff Day” card, to be held Monday, Dec. 26. With the portable rail set at 34 feet, fields will be limited to eight runners for the Blushing KD S. and Buddy Diliberto Memorial S. With the same parameters, turf racing will again be conducted Dec. 31 with the runnings of the Pago Hop S. and the Woodchopper S.

Officials at Fair Grounds previously suspended turf racing Nov. 25 to allow the Stall-Wilson course to recover from damage to its inner portion.

“Going forward from there, we will monitor the condition of the course and run a limited number of turf races as the course allows,” said executive director of racing Gary Palmisano, Jr. “If all goes well, as is expected, the racing office will look to add turf races to the new condition book, which starts Jan. 5.”

CHURCHILL DOWNS UNVEILS DERBY LOGO

Churchill Downs Racetrack has unveiled the official logo for the 149th running of the Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve, which takes place May 6, 2023.

Highlighted by the Kentucky Derby's color palette of red, black, gold and white, the Kentucky Derby 149 logo features diamonds intended to replicate the blocks in Secretariat’s blue and white silks as this coming year marks the 50th anniversary of his Triple Crown victory. Meanwhile, the specific number of 13 diamonds is reverence to the number of Thoroughbreds that won all three races in the historic series. The diamonds are set within a shield that projects the achievements, heritage, longevity and stability of the Kentucky Derby, which dates back to 1875.

The logo, designed by New York-based marketing agency SME, will be used on a wide variety of Kentucky Derby official merchandise that will be available online, at Churchill Downs Racetrack, the Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport, the Kentucky Derby Museum Gift Shop and other retail outlets.

DELWARE PARK DRIVE HELPS TOYS FOR TOTS

Delaware Park Casino & Racing presented Toys for Tots with a check for $7,000 Dec. 14, which was made up of proceeds from unused slot vouchers and a large cash supplement from company. Along with this contribution were toys from a six-week collection period that were donated by guests, as well as 50 make-up kits and 50 basketballs that were purchased by Delaware Park. Ron Baumann, President and General Manager of Delaware Park Casino & Racing said, "In the spirit of the season, our guest participation has been exemplary this month. We are so happy to help spread holiday cheer to local children via these gifts." This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the toy collection program.

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TERF AWARDS $4,000 TO MIDATLANTIC HORSE RESCUE

The Thoroughbred Education and Research Foundation (TERF) has awarded an award $4,000 to the MidAtlantic Horse Rescue Inc. (MAHR) for educational purposes. MAHR’s mission is to rescue Thoroughbreds from feed lots and kill pens and transition horses directly off the track. After quarantine and careful evaluation, horses are adopted into loving homes as sport horses and pets.

MAHR plans to continue their Thoroughbred-only clinic series at the farm with well-known professionals. These clinics are free for MAHR graduates and low cost for all other Thoroughbreds. This gives incentives to adopters to adopt a Thoroughbred from MAHR, as well as giving MAHR the opportunity to see adopted horses and their new owners on a regular basis. It also spotlights the many wonderful qualities of Thoroughbreds as sport horses.

To learn more about the Thoroughbred Education and Research Foundation and/or make a tax-deductible donation to support TERF’s mission and programs, visit www.terfusa.org.

MARYLAND STALLION SEASON AUCTION TO BE HELD JAN. 2-6

The Maryland Horse Foundation will host the annual online stallion season auction from Jan. 2-6. This year’s auction will feature no-guarantee seasons for 17 Maryland-based stallions: Divining Rod, Friesan Fire, Mosler, Bourbon Courage, Holy Boss, Long River, Fortune Ticket, Alliance, Kobe’s Back, Hoppertunity, Galawi (Ire), Irish War Cry, Madefromlucky, Uncle Lino, Blofeld, Rainbow Heir and Barbados.

All proceeds will benefit the Foundation’s educational programs and the brand-new Maryland Horse Library & Education Center, located at 321 Main St. in Reisterstown.

For more information, contact Becky Remsberg at bremsberg@marylandthoroughbred.com or 410-252-2100 x110.

New Belmont Park horse racing project would be a boon to the economy: Study

A newly published study claims that a new horse racing facility at Belmont Park would be a massive windfall for the state and local governments—as the proposed project would generate $1 billion in economic activity, and lead to the hiring of 3,700 construction workers. After completion, the facility would rake in $155 million annually for the economy, while creating 740 full-time jobs. The state and local governments would get an additional $10 million in new taxes per year, the survey claims.

Aidan Graham, amNewYork

UPCOMING MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN STAKES

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Click here to access the TDN graded stakes calendar.
## 2022 YTD Leading Second Crop Sires

for stallions standing in North America through Wednesday, Dec. 14

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

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For all TDN sire lists—including individual crop-year reports—visit www.thetdn.com/tdn-sire-stats/
### Saturday, Los Alamitos #4, post time: 5:00 p.m. EST

**LOS ALAMITOS FUTURITY-GII**, $200,000, 2yo, 1 1/16m

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**Breeders:** 1-Rockingham Ranch, 2-Peter E. Blum Thoroughbreds, LLC, 3-SF Bloodstock LLC & Henry FieldBloodstock, 4-Chad Brown & Head of Plains Partners, 5-Bonne Chance Farm, LLC
IN ORDER OF PURSE:
8th-Delta Downs, $35,420, Alw (NW2L)/Opt. Clm ($50,000), 12-14, 2yo, 5f, :59.58, my, 2 lengths.
DOUBLE EDGE SWORD (c, 2, Competitive Edge--Country Villa, by Gio Ponti) was a winner over this same surface and distance nearly one month ago Nov. 16 to break his maiden at first asking. Returning Wednesday to face winners with a 5-1 shot, he bobbed at the start and was outrun early, trailing the field before making up steady ground into the far turn. Fanned four wide at the top of the stretch, Double Edge Sword rallied to take over with a sixteenth to run and sprinted clear, hitting the wire two lengths ahead of the favorite Rithm Nic (Outwork). The winner has a yearling half-brother by Mo Town and his dam was bred to Uncle Chuck for the 2023 season. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, $41,400.

O/B-Marablue Farm LLC (KY); T-Brett A. Brinkman.

IN ORDER OF PURSE:
8th-Aqueduct, $85,000, Msw, 12-15, 3yo/up, 1m, 1:39.63, gd, 2 1/2 lengths.
CELESTIAL MOON (c, 3, Malibu Moon--Global Hottie (GSP, $168,490), by Dixie Chatter), off the board in two prior starts over Aqueduct’s turf course, switched to the main track given a mild 12-1 chance here. Racing grouped up in fourth down the backstretch, he began to advance while still four wide midway around the turn. Tipped out even wider as the field straightened for home, Celestial Moon was able to get away late, defeating 49-1 shot Mystical Curlin (Curlin) by 2 1/2 lengths. Global Hottie last produced a weanling colt by the late Laoban and was bred to Complexity for next season. Sales History: $160,000 Ylg ’20 KESEEP. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, $51,060. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.
O/B-Marablo blue Farm LLC (KY); T-Brett A. Brinkman.

4th-Aqueduct, $85,000, Msw, 12-15, 2yo, f, 6f, 1:12.83, ft, 6 lengths.
ROYAL POPPY (f, 2, Classic Empire--M’Dearest, by Macho Uno) broke her maiden in her fifth career start as the 2-1 favorite following a trio of on-the-board finishes over the Aqueduct main surface through the fall. Racing with blinkers for the first time, she showed the way a length to the good as Liam’s Champ (Liam’s Map) chased into the far turn. Still unchallenged past the quarter pole, Royal Poppy hugged the rail into the lane and drew off nicely to win by six lengths. Liam’s Champ filled out the exacta while the longest shot on the board, Risk Free (American Freedom), got up for third at 18-1. Out of a half-sister to MGISP Riveting Reason (Fus aichi Pegasus), Royal Poppy has a yearling half-brother by Bucchero still to race behind her. Sales History: $40,000 Ylg ’21 OBSOCT; $170,000 2yo ’22 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: 5-1-2-1, $96,000. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.
O-Adelphi Racing Club, Pavilion Racing, Zilla Racing Stables & Surrey Lane Stables; B-Orlyana Farm (FL); T-Raymond Handal.

5th-Aqueduct, $70,000, (S), Msw, 12-15, 3yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:18.66, ft, 5 1/2 lengths.
AWESOME NATIVE (c, 3, Practical Joke--Bella Kateri, by Tale of the Cat), one of only two first-time starters in the field and the 2-1 second choice, chased favored Fortune's Nephew (Bellamy Road) from fourth on the outside. Wide throughout, he ranged up from the five path as the field entered the stretch and was hard ridden down to the wire, besting Fortune’s Nephew by 5 1/2 lengths. His dam's first foal, Awesome Native has an unraced 2-year-old half-sister by War Dancer and a weanling half-brother by Twirling Candy. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $38,500. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.
O-Farone Stables LLC; B-Tom & Joan Farone (NY); T-Jorge Abreu.
9th-Gulfstream, $60,000, Msw, 12-15, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m (AWT) (off turf), 1:42.37, ft, 2 3/4 lengths.

WATCH IT (f, 4, Tapit--Aloof {Ire} {GSW-Ire, $170,939}, by Galileo {Ire}) reached the winner’s circle after a nine-month layoff here. She made two previous starts going long over this course, also in off-the-turfers, finishing second on debut Feb. 10 and a well-beaten fourth as the favorite Mar. 11. It wasn’t a completely smooth return for the chestnut, who broke awkwardly from the gate and took back early, stalking the pace through a half-mile in :47.43 set by Damanda (Liam’s Map) while traveling wide. She slowly inched up to challenge for the lead as the field began to straighten for the drive and was under strong handling pulling away to a 2 3/4-length victory as the 6-5 favorite. Her dam, who was a $3.9-million KEENOV purchase in 2014 in foal to War Front, is a daughter of GISW Airwave and hails from the family of MGISW Dream of Dreams (Ire) (Dream Ahead). Aloof foaled a yearling filly by Justify who was sent to Japan, and a weanling filly by American Pharoah. She was bred to Justify again for a 2023 foal. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-0, $49,250. Click here for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O/B-Whisper Hill Farm, LLC (KY); T-Todd A. Pletcher.

7th-Fair Grounds, $50,000, Msw, 12-15, 2yo, f, 6f, 1:11.40, ft, 1 3/4 lengths.

VARMLANDER (f, 2, Violence--Ms Knauss, by Malibu Moon), away at 4-1 for her afternoon debut, set a pressured pace inside of White Chocolate (City of Light), leading the field through an opening quarter in :21.93. Steered to the rail to repel an inside challenge at the quarter pole, she pulled clear inside the final sixteenth, beating home her closing stablemate, Blame Day (Blame), by 1 3/4 lengths. The winner’s yearling half-sister by Liam’s Map brought $250,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Yearling Sale earlier this year. She has a weanling half-sister by Maclean’s Music while Ms Knauss was barren when bred to Practical Joke for 2023. Sales History: $45,000 RNA Ylg ’21 KEESEP; $100,000 Ylg ’21 FTKOCT. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $30,000. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-Kat Kirk & Wayne Sanders; B-Castleton Lyons & Kilboy Estate (KY); T-Joe Sharp.

IN THE UAE:


FIRST-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

2022 Stud Fees Listed

Accelerate (Lookin At Lucky), Lane’s End Farm, $15,000 124 foals of racing age/14 winners/1 black-type winner 3-Gulfstream, 1:06 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Run Cory Run, 7-2 $32,000 KEE SEP yrly

Always Dreaming (Bodemeister), WinStar Farm, $12,500 127 foals of racing age/11 winners/1 black-type winner 8-Turfway, 9:25 p.m. EST, Msw 1 1/16m, Onasa, 4-1 $25,000 KEE SEP yrly; $140,000 OBS MAR 2yo

Bolt d’Oro (Medaglia d’Oro), Spendthrift Farm, $20,000 167 foals of racing age/25 winners/5 black-type winners 6-Oaklawn, 3:50 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Communication Memo, 8-5 $125,000 KEE NOV wnl; $235,000 RNA FTS AUG yrl; $340,000 RNA FTMAR 2yo; $370,000 RNA OBS OPN 2yo

FIRST & SECOND-CROP RUNNERS

sponsored by JUSTICE REAL ESTATE

O-Hip 456 - Half sis sells at KeeJan with Paramount Sales

2nd-Remington, $33,000, Msw, 12-14, 2yo, f, 7f, 1:24.98, ft, 5 1/4 lengths.

EL TOMATE (c, 2, Runhappy--Left a Message (SW-Can, GSP-USA, $214,922), by Mr. Greeley) broke cleanly and was unhurried early, content to sit in front of just one rival as O T C Wiz (West Coast) set the opening quarter in :22.95. By the time the frontrunner hit the far turn, the 3-1 winner had successfully woven his way between rivals and challenged for command, catching up to the leader just past the quarter pole. After being fanned five wide at the top of the lane, the gray colt drew away with every stride to score by 5 1/4 lengths over Pass It Around (Alternation). El Tomate’s dam has a yearling filly by Liam’s Map and a weanling filly by Unified. Sales History: $40,000 Ylg ’21 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 1:1-0-0, $19,698. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-Silva Racing LLC; B-Stone Farm (KY); T-Miguel Angel Silva.

IN THE UAE:

Bronze Star (Tapit)
10 foals of racing age/2 winners/0 black-type winners
8-Los Alamitos, 7:00 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Bronze One, 30-1

City of Light (Quality Road), Lane's End Farm, $60,000
101 foals of racing age/9 winners/3 black-type winners
8-Turfway, 9:25 p.m. EST, Msw 1 1/16m, Barrelhouse, 12-1
$150,000 KEE NOV wnl

Cloud Computing (Maclean's Music), Spendthrift Farm, $5,000
114 foals of racing age/14 winners/0 black-type winners
3-Gulfstream, 1:06 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Big Data, 6-1
$65,000 RNA FTK JUL yrl; $105,000 RNA OBS APR 2yo
6-Fair Grounds, 4:45 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Little Steven, 12-1

Far From Over (Blame), Gray's Farm
16 foals of racing age/3 winners/0 black-type winners
8-Los Alamitos, 7:00 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Charbonneau, 9-2

Good Magic (Curlin), Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa, $30,000
133 foals of racing age/21 winners/6 black-type winners
8-Gulfstream, 3:35 p.m. EST, Aoc 1mT, Miss New York, 9-2
$115,000 KEE NOV wnl; $145,000 FTS AUG yrl; €280,000 ARQ MAY 2yo

Justify (Scat Daddy), Coolmore Ashford, $100,000
176 foals of racing age/28 winners/6 black-type winners
6-Oaklawn, 3:50 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Pappy Wolfe, 12-1
$62,000 KEE SEP yrl

McCraken (Ghostzapper), Airdrie Stud, $5,000
39 foals of racing age/7 winners/0 black-type winners
6-Penn National, 8:16 p.m. EST, Alw 6f, Lord Uhtred, 7-2
$22,000 KEE SEP yrl; $50,000 OBS APR 2yo

Mendelssohn (Scat Daddy), Coolmore Ashford, $35,000
174 foals of racing age/24 winners/1 black-type winner
6-Fair Grounds, 4:45 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Golden Nugget, 6-1
$180,000 KEE SEP yrl; $350,000 OBS MAR 2yo

Mo Town (Uncle Mo), Coolmore Ashford, $7,500
102 foals of racing age/21 winners/2 black-type winners
6-Fair Grounds, 4:45 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Mo Hope, 8-1

Sky Flight (Sky Mesa)
6 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
6-Delta Downs, 8:15 p.m. EST, Msw 5f, Sky Tizzy, 10-1
$40,000 TTA APR 2yo

Tale of Verve (Tale of Ekati), Darby Dan Farm, $2,000
11 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
8-Turfway, 9:25 p.m. EST, Msw 1 1/16m, Accident, 5-1
$3,000 FTK OCT yrl

SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16
2022 Stud Fees Listed
El Deal (Munnings), Red River Farms, $2,500
52 foals of racing age/20 winners/3 black-type winners
3-Delta Downs, 6:51 p.m. EST, Msw 5f, Tdz What a Deal, 8-1

Gun Runner (Candy Ride {Arg}), Three Chimneys Farm, private
247 foals of racing age/77 winners/15 black-type winners
1-Aqueduct, 12:20 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Venge, 2-1

Mohaymen (Tapit), Shadwell Farm, $7,500
103 foals of racing age/47 winners/2 black-type winners
8-Los Alamitos, 7:00 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Logon to Win, 20-1
$17,000 RNA FTK OCT yrl; $8,000 FTC AYR 2yo
6-Fair Grounds, 4:45 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Silver Bull, 12-1
$145,000 OBS APR 2yo

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:
7th-Aqueduct, $75,000, (S), 12-15, (NW1$X), 3yo/up, f/m, 7f,
1:27.32, ft, neck.
CARAMOCHA (f, 4, Pioneer of the Nile–Rumors of Glory, by
Storm Cat) Lifetime Record: 18-3-3-3, $197,460. O-Richard
Greeley; B-Chester & Mary R. Broman (NY); T-Mitchell E.
Friedman. *$100,000 Ylg ‘19 FTSAUG.

Broken and Trained by Randy Bradshaw
6th-Turfway, $74,000, 12-14, 2yo, f, 1m (AWT), 1:38.18, ft, 1 1/2 lengths.

**BULSARA** (f, 2, Klimt--Queen Mercury, by Langfuhr) Lifetime Record: 5-2-0-0, $80,325. O-Commonwealth New Era Racing; B-Ellen B. Kill Kelley (KY); T-Michael J. Trombetta. *$20,000 Ylg '21 FTKOCT; $205,000 2yo '22 EASMAY.

7th-Turfway, $73,786, 12-14, 3yo/up, 1 1/4m (AWT), 2:03.08, ft, 3/4 length.

**VERSTAPPEN** (g, 3, War Front--Andromeda Galaxy {Fr} {SW & GSP-Fr, $139,553}, by Peintre Celebre) Lifetime Record: 9-2-2-2, $134,183. O-Andrew Farm, For the People Racing Stable & Windmill Manor Farm; B-Frank Hutchinson (KY); T-Brendan Walsh. *$325,000 Ylg '20 KEESEP.

5th-Turfway, $68,400, 12-14, (NW1$X), 3yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f (AWT), 1:17.35, ft, 1 1/2 lengths.

**STREET JAM** (f, 3, Street Sense--Sugarandice, by Dixie Union) Lifetime Record: 6-2-0-1, $129,158. O-Six Column Stables, Randy Bloch & John Seiler; B-Randy Bloch, et al (KY); T-Ian Wilkes.

6th-Fair Grounds, $52,000, 12-15, (S), 3yo/up, f, 6f, 1:09.94, ft, 3 lengths.

**BRON AND BROW** (g, 3, Gormley--Changing Vista, by Changeintheweather) Lifetime Record: SW, 9-3-3-1, $179,670. O-Gary Barber; B-J. Adcock & Hume Wornall (LA); T-Mark Casse. *$35,000 Ylg '20 ESLYRL; $200,000 2yo '21 OBSAPR.

5th-Fair Grounds, $51,000, (S), 12-15, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:09.94, ft, 3 lengths.


3rd-Fair Grounds, $51,000, 12-15, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11.72, ft, 8 1/2 lengths.

**DONYA KNOW IT** (f, 3, Treasure Beach {GB}--Donya, by Anabaa) Lifetime Record: 10-3-3-1, $112,785. O-Maggi Moss; B-Grasshopper LLC (FL); T-Thomas M. Amoss.
4th-Penn National, $29,854, 12-14, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11.58, ft, 1 1/4 lengths.

**TODO SOLA** (f, 3, Street Sense--Karate Gal, by First Samurai)
Lifetime Record: 9-3-1-0, $61,024. O-Patrick Waresk; B-Glendalough LLC (KY); T-Cody Beattie. *1/2 to Sully's Dream (Colonel John), MSW, $197,949.

4th-Mahoning Valley, $26,400, 12-15, (NW3L), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:42.65, my, 1 3/4 lengths.

**ITSALLABOUTTACTION** (f, 3, Empire Maker--Doe {MSW, $216,547}, by Forestry)
Lifetime Record: 7-3-2-2, $49,434. O-Jerry Jamgotchian; B-Gainesway (KY); T-Eric Reed. *$24,000 Ylg '20 FTKOCT. **1/2 to Arcadia Calls (City Zip), SP, $168,051.

7th-Mountaineer Casino & Resort, $23,324, 12-14, (NW4LX), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:12.22, gd, 5 lengths.

**PIRATE RICK** (g, 5, Liam's Map--Daddy Loves Gold {SW-PR, $160,558}, by Scat Daddy)
Lifetime Record: 18-4-3-1, $147,104. O-Built Wright Stables; B-Woods Edge Farm, LLC (KY); T-Norman Cash. *$350,000 Ylg '18 KEESEP.

5th-Turf Paradise, $21,900, 12-15, 3yo/up, f/m, 5f, :57.19, ft, 1 1/4 lengths.

**NOEL'S ANGEL** (f, 3, Rocky Bar--Lake Piru {SP}, by Salt Lake)
Lifetime Record: 6-2-2-0, $40,976. O/T-Gabriel Silva Rodriguez; B-Silva Racing LLC (MN).

6th-Mountaineer Casino & Resort, $20,564, 12-14, (NW3LX), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:07.01, gd, 1 length.

**STEINBECK** (c, 3, Frosted--Nickel, by Unbridled's Song)
Lifetime Record: 18-3-2-1, $174,904. O-Built Wright Stables; B-Woods Edge Farm, LLC (KY); T-Norman Cash. *$125,000 Ylg '20 KEENOV; $650,000 2yo '21 KEESEP.

5th-Mountaineer Casino & Resort, $20,352, (S), 12-14, (NW3L), 3yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:07.28, gd, neck.

**CATFISH** (g, 4, Declan's Warrior--Rite of Passage, by Prized)
Lifetime Record: 15-3-1-3, $68,170. O/B-O'Sullivan Farms (WV); T-John R. Shuler.

6th-Mountaineer Casino & Resort, $20,352, (S), 12-14, (NW3L), 3yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:12.45. O-Bloomfield Farm (OK). *$35,000 2yo '22 TTAAPR.

5th-Mountaineer Casino & Resort, $20,352, (S), 12-14, (NW3L), 3yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:12.45. O-Bloomfield Farm (OK). *$35,000 2yo '22 TTAAPR.

**Ranger Rex** (g, 2, Bird Song--Little Ariel, by Devil His Due)
Remington, 12-14, (S), 6f, 1:12.45. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-0, $32,000. B-Bloomfield Farm (OK). *$35,000 2yo '22 TTAAPR.

**Gonna Cut It** (f, 2, Broken Vow--All Day Lawn, by Bluegrass Cat)
Turfway, 12-14, 1 1/16m (AWT), 1:47.93. Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-1, $55,190. B-Bertrique Farms (KY). *$37,000 RNA Wlg '20 KEENOV; $45,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP.

**How Bout Me** (f, 2, Commissioner--Highest Quality, by Quality Road)
Remington, 12-14, 5f, :59.53. Lifetime Record: 5-1-0-0, $27,425. B-Turnley Farms of Louisiana (KY).

**When Judy Calls** (f, 2, Commissioner--When I’m Calling U, by Northern Afleet)
Remington, 12-14, (S), 6f, 1:12.94. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, $25,358. B-Miguel Angel Silva (OK).

**Rye Munny** (f, 2, Munnings--Stunning Ghost, by Ghostzapper)
Remington, 12-14, 7f, 1:29.61. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-2, $32,052. B-Taylor Mountain Farm (WV).

**Anna’s Iron Man** (g, 3, Fast Anna--I Am Iron Woman, by Any Given Saturday)
Zia, 12-14, 5f, :57.67. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-0, $28,185. B-Jim Volk (NM).

**Tout Ensemble** (f, 3, Practical Joke--Purr and Prowl, by Purim)
Charles Town, 12-14, 7f, 1:30.06. Lifetime Record: 7-1-1-0, $35,935. B-Parrish Hill Farm & Ashford Stud (KY). *$185,000 Wlg '19 KEENOV; 360,000gns 2yo '21 TATBRE; $21,000 3yo '22 KEENOV.

**Alternation**, Ballroom Blitz, f, 4, o/o Tanguerey Miss, by Cowboy Cal.
ALW, 12-15, Mahoning Valley

**American Freedom**, I’m Crenshaw, g, 3, o/o Quick as a Wink, by Broken Vow.
ALW, 12-14, Remington

**Broken Vow**, Gonna Cut It, f, 2, o/o All Day Lawn, by Bluegrass Cat.
MSW, 12-14, Turfway

**Classic Empire**, Royal Poppy, f, 2, o/o M’Dearest, by Macho Uno.
MSW, 12-15, Aqueduct

**Commissioner**, How Bout Me, f, 2, o/o Highest Quality, by Quality Road.
MSW, 12-14, Remington
**Commissioner**, When Judy Calls, f, 2, o/o When I'm Calling U, by Northern Afleet. MSW, 12-14, Remington

**Competitive Edge**, Double Edge Sword, c, 2, o/o Country Villa, by Gio Ponti. AOC, 12-14, Delta Downs

**Declan's Warrior**, Catfish, g, 4, o/o Rite of Passage, by Prized. ALW, 12-14, Mountaineer

**Denis of Cork**, Late in the Game, g, 3, o/o Charitable Carly, by Charitable Man. ALW, 12-14, Charles Town

**Empire Maker**, Itsallaboutaction, f, 3, o/o Doe, by Forestry. ALW, 12-15, Mahoning Valley

**Fast Anna**, Anna's Iron Man, g, 3, o/o I Am Iron Woman, by Any Given Saturday. MSW, 12-14, Zia

**Frosted**, Steinbeck, c, 3, o/o Nickel, by Unbridled's Song. ALW, 12-14, Mountaineer

**Goldencents**, Gold Punch, g, 4, o/o Reata's Quik Punch, by Two Punch. ALW, 12-15, Fair Grounds

**Gormley**, Bron and Brow, g, 3, o/o Changing Vista, by Changeintheweather. AOC, 12-15, Fair Grounds

**Kiltm**, Bulsara, f, 2, o/o Queen Mercury, by Langfuhr. AOC, 12-14, Turfway

**Liam's Map**, Pirate Rick, g, 5, o/o Daddy Loves Gold, by Scat Daddy. ALW, 12-14, Mountaineer

**Malibu Moon**, Celestial Moon, c, 3, o/o Global Hottie, by Dixie Chatter. MSW, 12-15, Aqueduct

**Munnings**, Rye Munny, f, 2, o/o Stunning Ghost, by Ghostzapper. MSW, 12-14, Remington

**Noble Mission (GB)**, Mission Belle, f, 3, o/o Bayou Breeze, by A.P. Indy. ALW, 12-14, Delta Downs

**Pioneerof the Nile**, Caramocha, f, 4, o/o Rumors of Glory, by Storm Cat. ALW, 12-15, Aqueduct

**Practical Joke**, Awesome Native, c, 3, o/o Bella Kateri, by Tale of the Cat. MSW, 12-15, Aqueduct

**Practical Joke**, Tout Ensemble, f, 3, o/o Purr and Prowl, by Purim. MSW, 12-14, Charles Town

**Rocky Bar**, Noel's Angel, f, 3, o/o Lake Piru, by Salt Lake. AOC, 12-15, Turf Paradise

**Runhappy**, El Tomate, c, 2, o/o Left a Message, by Mr. Greeley. MSW, 12-14, Remington

**Street Sense**, Street Jam, f, 3, o/o Sugarandice, by Dixie Union. ALW, 12-14, Turfway

**Street Sense**, Todo Sola, f, 3, o/o Karate Gal, by First Samurai. AOC, 12-14, Penn National

**Tapit**, Watch It, f, 4, o/o Aloof (Ire), by Galileo (Ire). MSW, 12-15, Gulfstream

**Too Much Bling**, Peek Factor, f, 4, o/o Slim's Secret, by Desert Secret (Ire). ALW, 12-14, Remington

**Treasure Beach (GB)**, Donya Know It, f, 3, o/o Donya, by Anabaa. ALW, 12-15, Fair Grounds

**Uncle Lino**, We'll See, f, 2, o/o Sweet Content, by Congrats.
Support the TAA Holiday Giving Campaign where one gift from you affects all 81 accredited charities and the thousands of horses that call them home. Join us and together, we can make a difference.

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PYLEDRIVER AIMING AT SHEEMA CLASSIC AS HE RETURNS TO FULL WORK

Dual Group 1 winner Pyledriver (GB) (Harbour Watch {Ire}) has returned to full work and will take another crack at the G1 Dubai Sheema Classic in March, according to co-trainer William Muir, who trains with Chris Grassick.

The 5-year-old entire took the G1 Coronation Cup last year, and was fourth in the Sheema Classic this March. Second in defence of his Coronation Cup back at Epsom in June, he was last seen taking the G1 King George VI And Queen Elizabeth S. by 2 3/4 lengths at Ascot on July 23.

Injury ruled out the bay from contesting the G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, as well as trips to the Breeders’ Cup at Keeneland and the Longines Hong Kong International Races in October, November and December, respectively.

Muir said, “He’s back on track now and we’re starting to get him ready for his Sheema Classic run. He started cantering back last week, he’s moving beautifully and looks a million dollars.

“It’s quite exciting to see him back up on the gallop as you know you’ve got another good one out there. He looks fantastic.

“I was gutted to miss those big races, but we had to do what was right for him and in the end we found he had something deep seated in his foot, which has now come out and everything is fine.” Cont. p3

MATHLETIC HAMMERS FOR €500k TO TOP ARQANA ONLINE

Kingman (GB)’s Mathletic (Fr) (lot 1), second by a neck in the G3 Prix de Fontainebleau, topped the Arqana Online December Sale at €500,000 from Ballymore Stables Australia/Paul Moroney Bloodstock. Also second in the Listed Prix Tantieme, the dual winner is a half-brother to GIII Seaway S. heroine Marbre Rose (Smart Strike), as well as the stakes-winning multiple graded-placed Gidu (Ire) (Frankel {GB}) and the Listed Prix de Saint-Cyr victress Aviatress (Ire) (Shamardal). The extended family features G1 Selene S. winner Zoftig (Cozzene) and her Grade I-winning daughters Zo Impressive (Hard Spun) and Zaftig (Gone West).

Triple group-placed Gregolimo (Fr) (Galiway {GB}) (lot 15) is also bound for Australia, after being picked up for €220,000 by Ballymore and Moroney, as well. Part of the Simone Brogi draft, the 4-year-old won the Listed Prix Nureyev as a 3-year-old.

Cont. p5

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

SPENDING A DAY AT AQUEDUCT WHILE WE STILL CAN

Joe Bianca chats with several Aqueduct regulars, with a view toward the future of Aqueduct, affectionately known as the Big A.
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12 QUESTIONS: LUKE BARRY

Luke Barry of Manister House Stud is the next subject of 12 Questions, as the TDN series continues.

MEDIA NARANJA TOPS TATTERSALLS ONLINE

Craon debut winner Media Naranja (Ire) (Yeats {Ire}) was knocked down for 110,000gns to top the Tattersalls Online December Sale.

APPLEBY SADDLES 1000TH WINNER IN BRITAIN

Trainer Charlie Appleby secured his 1,000th British winner with Glory Lily (GB) (Shamardal) at Lingfield on Wednesday.
Pyledriver Cont. from p1

Dubai will likely not be Pyledriver’s 6-year-old bow, as Muir and Grassick are mulling starts over the all-weather.

“There’s a possibility we could run in the Winter Derby Trial or the Winter Derby, depending how he comes,” Muir added. “I wouldn’t set that in stone, but it’s in the back of my mind.

“I know the Lingfield races are a mile and a quarter, but if he ran in one of those it wouldn’t be the be all and end all—it would be more of a prep run before he goes to Dubai.”

12 QUESTIONS

With Luke Barry, Manister House Stud

First job in the Thoroughbred industry?

Picking stones in Ashtown House Stud whilst being told I was getting invaluable experience.

Biggest influence on your career?

My parents, Frank and Liz Barry. One is very much missed and Liz still takes a strong interest in the goings on around here.

Favourite racehorse of all time, and why?

I’m not old enough to have seen Red Rum, but Sea The Stars was just immense as a 3-year-old. Istabraq has always been a favourite. Pure class.

Who will be champion first-season sire in 2023?

Such a deep year, and plenty have proper credentials. The broodmare band of both Tally-Ho and Yeomanstown should give each of their new horses (Inns Of Court and Invincible Army) a massive leg-up, whilst the first-crop foals of Ten Sovereigns were stand-outs.

Greatest race in the world?

The Grand National still stops our house every year. Most races can’t do that. Cont. p4
Thank you to all our clients for your support in 2022 - at the sales, at the races and in the covering barn. We wish you every success for 2023.
**12 Questions Cont.**

If you could be someone else in the industry for a day who would it be, and why?

Antoine Greizmann, French soccer international (I believe he has a large bloodstock portfolio). For one day? Saturday, Dec. 10. I’d have enjoyed being Antoine that day in particular.

Emerging talent in the industry (human)?

Harry Eustace and James Horton, literally the Blind Leading the Blind.

Horse *TDN* should have made a Rising Star, and didn’t?

Lark In The Mornin won a maiden in Listowel for Joseph O’Brien and has not seen since but I think we may hear more of him in 2023.

Under-the-radar stallion?

David Cox.

Friday night treat?

Summer evening barbecue, al fresco dining with entertaining company and some vin rouge.

Guilty pleasure outside racing?

David Futter told me recently he once asked my uncle did he play golf. “Good Lord man, you hardly think I’ve given up sex do you?” was the reply. I’m afraid to admit it’s golf in the evenings for me.
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JUDDMONTE
12 Questions Cont.
Race I wish I had been there for...

Astadash winning the 2021 Denny Cordell Lavarack and Lanwades Stud S. in Gowran Park.

Arqana Online December Sale Cont. from p1

Wertheimer et Frere consigned Ondulee (Ire) (Adlerflug (Ger)) (lot 2) went to Stroud Coleman Bloodstock. The €150,000 winning 3-year-old filly has been placed twice at listed level and is a daughter of listed winner Wanderina (Ire) (Manduro (Ger)). Hong Kong star Akeed Mofeed (GB) (Dubawi (Ire)) and two-time Group 1 winner turned sire Hernando (Fr) (Niniski) are also members of the family.

Second on the leaderboards on Thursday was a 1/50th share of rising sire Zarak (Fr), whose eldest foals are just 3-year-olds, that went for €450,000 to David Redvers Bloodstock. The son of Dubawi (Ire) and the Arc heroine Zarkava (Ire) (Zamindar) already has nine stakes winners to his name, five at the group level led by seven-figure auction darling G2 Prix de Sandringham heroine Purplepay (Fr), who was third in the G1 Criterium International.

Another lot to make six figures on the day was lot 11, a 1/50th share of Persian King (Ire). Success Bloodstock Agency shelled out €150,000 for an interest in the three-time Group 1-winning French Classic winner. Gestut Sohrenhof snapped up a 1/50th share of Group 1 sire Almanzor (Fr) for €70,000. The shuttle stallion’s Manzoice (Aus) claimed the G1 Victoria Derby earlier this year.

Listed winner and G3 Prix du Prince d’Orange third Epic Poet (Ire) (Lope De Vega (Ire)) (lot 18), offered by Jean-Claude Rouget, did not meet his reserve and was passed in at €370,000.

Cont. p6
Beat Earthlight, Hello Youmzain and Wooded in the G1 Prix Maurice de Gheest.

Beat the 2022 winner Kinross in the G1 Prix de la Forêt. Also defeated Highfield Princess in the G2 City Of York.

Space Blues

Started his final season winning the $1m 1351 Turf Sprint – finished it in style in the G1 Breeders’ Cup Mile.

Fast, tough, top class: the ultimate Dubawi. As you’d expect – because he’s also from the female family of Dubawi.
At the close of trade, 15 of the 19 lots changed hands for a gross of €1,845,500.

SALES TOPPERS

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APPLEBY SADDLES 1,000TH WINNER IN BRITAIN WITH GLORY LILY

Reigning champion trainer Charlie Appleby saddled his 1,000th British winner, Glory Lily (GB) (Shamardal), at Lingfield on Wednesday. The Godolphin conditioner sent out his first winner just nine years ago in July of 2013. He recently secured his second consecutive trainers' championship on the back of taking his first G1 2000 Guineas with Coroebus (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}). He also enjoyed a stellar Breeders' Cup meeting, sending out three winners--Modern Games (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}) in the G1 Breeders' Cup Mile, Rebel's Romance (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}) in the G1 Breeders' Cup Turf and Mischief Magic (Ire) (Exceed And Excel {Aus}) in the G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint.

“It is a great achievement for everybody at Godolphin to ring up the 1,000 in such a short time,” said Appleby. “I am proud to be a part of that and I am forever indebted to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed for appointing me to the job as a Godolphin trainer.

“His continued enthusiasm and passion for racing and his horses is what drives all of us every day. His inspiration and backing enables us to keep aiming high in what is such a competitive sport.”
NEW NEWMARKET BLOODSTOCK CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED BY TBA

A new bloodstock conference for bloodstock industry participants will take place on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, the Thoroughbred Breeders’ Association (TBA) announced on Thursday. Hosted by racing broadcaster Lydia Hislop, the one-day conference will feature interactive panel sessions, talks and presentations with leading industry experts on a number of topics including: business operations, race programming, sales, innovation and technology, accessible ownership and equine health. Tickets are free for TBA members and TBA Access subscribers. Non-members can sign up for TBA Access for £40 from today to Dec. 30. Information on non-member ticket options will be released in early 2023, and visit the TBA’s website for more details.

TBA Chief Executive Claire Sheppard said, “We are really excited to deliver this new event in 2023. The TBA is continually looking at ways in which we can improve our services to the industry and we hope the Bloodstock Conference will provide a great opportunity for people to get together, hear from leading experts and generate and share ideas on the future of the sector.”

HORSE RACING IRELAND LAUNCHES GUIDE

A health, safety and well-being guide for the horse breeding and racing sectors, meant as a resource for the industry covering legislation and detailing best practices was launched by Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) on Thursday.

As the first step towards fostering improvements in health and safety standards in the industry, HRI commissioned Red C Research in Spring 2022 to conduct a survey of a cross section of members of the industry, both online and by interview, to canvas attitudes on the subject.

The survey results revealed:
- As many as 41% of respondents did not feel well informed on the subject of health and safety (the problem being most urgent in smaller yards)
- A culture of risk assessment is lacking in the industry, with only 41% confirming that they risk assess at least once a year, and many prepared to admit that they risk assess only in response to a problem emerging
- No more than 50% of respondents said that they have a current safety statement
- Only 44% of respondents provide their staff with training, and of those, 58% would provide only informal training, and many are only training new staff members (and many felt the quality of this is declining)
- There are no uniform standards of health and safety practice in the industry, with the most obvious divide being differences in practice between large and small yards

Carol Nolan, HRI’s Director of People and equuip, said, “The results of the Red C Research survey was invaluable to help us create this guide for all of those who feel poorly informed about health and safety issues and don’t know where to turn for information. We hope, as a first step, it will help everyone in the industry, especially trainers and breeders, understand all the legal and moral obligations required and provide practical tools and advice to help meet those obligations.”

Visit equuip’s website for more information.
OBSERVATIONS
on the European racing scene

HOW THEY FARED

17.30 Chelmsford City, Nov, £13,999, 2yo, 8f (AWT)

Wigmore Street (American Pharoah), a son of Gl Matron S. heroine Marylebone (Unbridled's Song), was denied a debut run after the Essex venue's card succumbed to the icy weather.

FRANCE

Thursday’s Results:
PRIX ARCANGUES-Listed, €52,000, Deauville, 12-15, 3yo/up, 12 1/2f (AWT), 2:38.56, st.

1--BEHOLDING (GB), 125, f, 4, Le Havre (Ire)--Lady Darshaan (Ire) (G1SP-Eng, $123,743), by High Chaparral (Ire).

1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN. (575,000gns Ylg *19 TATOCT). O-H H Sheikh Isa Salman Hamad Al Khalifa; B-Newsells Park Stud (GB); T-Jerome Reynier; J-Gerald Mosse. €26,000. Lifetime Record: 7-3-1-2, €49,461. *1/2 to Let's Go (Street Cry {Ire}), SW-Eng.

2--Honor And Pleasure (GB), 128, h, 5, Oasis Dream (GB)--Holy Moon (Ire), by Hernando (Fr). 1ST BLACK TYPE. (55,000gns Wlg ‘17 TATFOA; 240,000gns RNA Ylg ‘18 TATOCT). O-Scuderia Dei Duepi, Alessandro Botti & Giuseppe Botti; B-Razza Del Velino SRL (GB); T-Alessandro & Giuseppe Botti. €10,400.

3--Behhtar (Fr), 125, c, 3, Kitten’s Joy–Behnasa (Fr), by Dansili (GB). 1ST BLACK TYPE. O-H H The Aga Khan; B-H H The Aga Khan’s Studs SC (FR); T-Francis-Henri Graffard. €7,800.


Also Ran: Panjaman (Fr), Stormy Pouss (Fr), Halimi (Ire), Qatar River (Fr), Up Helly Aa (Ire), Matauri Gold (GB), Lajoscha (GB), Maximus (Fr).

Former John and Thady Gosden trainee won two of five starts when based in Newmarket and opened up for Jerome Reynier with an Apr. 22 conditions second at Compiegne when last seen.

Sent forward from an early midfield berth to stalk the tempo in second after passing the judge first time here, she was asked to stretch at the top of the straight and stayed on strongly once launching her challenge with 300 metres remaining to assert for a career high.

Beholding is the sixth of 10 foals and one of fourth winners for G1 Fillies' Mile runner-up Lady Darshaan (Ire) (High Chaparral (Ire)), herself a full-sister to Listed River Eden Fillies’ S. victrix Tempest Fugit (Ire) and a half to G1 Prix de l’Abbaye-winning sire Total Gallery (Ire) (Namid {GB}). The February-foaled bay is a half-sister to Listed Churchill S. victor Let’s Go (Street Cry {Ire}), a yearling colt by Mastercraftsman (Ire) and a weanling colt by Siyouni (Fr). Her second dam Diary (Ire) (Green Desert) is a half-sister to G1 Pretty Polly S. heroine Ambivalent (Ire) (Authorized {Ire}). Video, sponsored by TVG.